



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: August 17, 2010

From: Phyllis L. Carlyle  
General Manager, Law & Community Safety

File: 09-5125-01/2010-Vol  
01

Re: Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) Funding Cuts

Staff Recommendation

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Public Safety Canada, with copies to Richmond's Members of Parliament, expressing the City's concern for the reduction in funding in the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).

Phyllis L. Carlyle  
General Manager, Law & Community Safety  
(604-276-4104)

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES CVC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

Public Safety Canada has announced a reduction of their Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) funding for fiscal year 2011/2012 by 35% to \$3.25 million across Canada or \$266,500 for British Columbia. The City of Richmond has greatly benefited from funding from this program for a variety of emergency preparedness initiatives. This report provides some background on JEPP and the benefits the City has received in recent years.

### Analysis

#### Background

JEPP was established by the Government of Canada in 1980 to encourage and support co-operation among the federal and provincial/territorial governments in working towards a national capability to meet emergencies of all types with a reasonably uniform standard of emergency response. Through JEPP, the Government of Canada provides financial contributions to assist in meeting the costs of projects aimed at enhancing the national emergency response capability. While this program is funded by Public Safety Canada, it is administered through the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP).

JEPP contributes up to 50% to municipal emergency preparedness projects and initiatives in the following priority order:

- Training and education
- Emergency exercises
- Emergency plans
- Telecommunications
- Emergency Operations Centres
- Specialized vehicles and equipment

This shared investment is aimed at reducing injuries and loss of human life, property damage, and assuring the continuation of our critical services in an emergency.

#### JEPP Grants Received by the City of Richmond, 2001 - 2009

Year	Description	Claim Amount
2009	Hazmat AHURA First Defender XL	\$ 35,600.00
2008	Pandemic Plan	\$ 35,750.00
2008	Hazmat Equipment - Smith Sabre 4000	\$ 19,348.22
2008	Hazmat Equipment - Inflatable Decontamination Tent	\$ 15,465.67

2008	Hazmat Equipment - PROENGIN4C	\$	11,600.00
2006	UHF Commercial Radios	\$	11,395.50
2005	Emergency Exercises	\$	24,875.00
2005	Base Station Antennas in Reception Centres	\$	14,622.30
2004	CBRN Incident Response Module Development	\$	45,750.00
2003	EOC Equipment	\$	17,654.15
2002	Emergency Plan Update	\$	10,793.13
2002	Communications Equipment Phase 1	\$	16,446.09
2002	Emergency Response Training	\$	8,061.46
2002	Emergency Call Centre	\$	38,039.59
2002	CBRN Incident Response Equipment	\$	14,614.24
2002	CBRN Incident Response Equipment	\$	50,423.13
2001	Emergency Public Information Plan	\$	13,673.28
2001	Reception Centre Kits	\$	4,537.51
2001	Emergency Resource Management Database	\$	31,456.26
2001	Resource Inventory	\$	7,575.00
Total funding received 2001 – 2009		\$	427,680.53

### Current Situation

In 2009, as part of the Federal government's Strategic Review Process, Public Safety Canada, along with 19 other federal departments, agencies and crown corporations, undertook a strategic review of their direct program spending. Annex 2 of Budget 2010 states that "Public Safety Canada is refocusing its program and service delivery to ensure its resources are efficiently addressing the current national safety and security priorities of Canadians." and, furthermore, "Ensure efficient programming focused on current public safety priorities." As part of this strategic review, Public Safety Canada determined that in the 30 years since the inception of JEPP, "much progress has been made to improve the state and level of emergency preparedness within the provinces, territories and local governments." As a result, Public Safety Canada has indicated that they will be reducing their JEPP funding for fiscal year 2011/2012 by 35% to \$3.25 million across Canada or \$266,500 earmarked for British Columbia. (Historically, BC projects have received funding in excess of the allocation as a result of the reallocation of funds from approved projects across Canada that were either withdrawn, cancelled or used less than what was approved.)

JEPP had undergone two previous reviews, one in 2003 for the period 1980 – November 2003 and a second one in 2008 for the period November 2003 – December 2007. Key findings of this second review indicate:

- JEPP continues to be consistent with government-wide priorities related to emergency preparedness.
- There is evidence that there is a need for the federal government to continue contributions to build capacity and capability for emergency management organizations at the provincial and, especially, the municipal levels.
- Emergency management officials across the country agree that emergency preparedness at the community level would be significantly and negatively impacted by the absence of JEPP.

In the 2003 – 2008 period, the number of applications received by Public Safety Canada increased by approximately 50%, further supporting the continuing need for the program.

It is interesting to note that in 2008, the Federal government's own review of the effectiveness of program saw a continuing and increasing need for the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program and one year later, a review with a focus on budget resulted in the funding cut now facing local governments across Canada.

This program has been extremely valuable to the City of Richmond Law and Community Safety Department in providing funding that is crucial to the development of new programs and acquisition of equipment and materials to serve and protect the community.

### **Financial Impact**

No impacts on existing budget, but this funding cut will likely mean a reduction in new initiatives, projects, and equipment for the City in the future.

### **Conclusion**

JEPP has effectively been leveraged by the City in past years to enhance its emergency preparedness program through funding for training, exercises, plan development and the purchase of equipment. It is has been of tremendous value to the City and the reduction in funding without consultation with the provinces or local authorities is unfortunate since the impact to local authorities will be significant.



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DP:dp