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**Item No. 9.1.2**  
**Grants Committee**  
**January 4, 2015**

**TO:** Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** **Original signed**  
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Chief Doug Trussler, Fire & Emergency Services

**DATE:** October 27, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Volunteer Search & Rescue Grants Program: Recommended Awards – Operating – Fiscal Year 2015-16**

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**ORIGIN**

February 3, 2015 – Council's approval of Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM that provides for annual operating and capital grants to recognized volunteer search and rescue organizations located within HRM.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*HRM Charter (2008) s.79 (av) respecting Council's authority to award grants and contributions.*  
*Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM Respecting Grants to Volunteer Search & Rescue Organizations.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend Regional Council approve the award of four (4) operating grants as described in the Discussion section of this report for a combined total of \$116,000 from Account C801-8004.

## **BACKGROUND**

Volunteer ground search and rescue teams provide assistance to all three levels of government in the event of a missing person search, an evacuation, natural or man-made disaster, or evidence search. Although the four (4) organizations formally recognized by HRM are based in predominantly rural locations their service areas cover the entire region and on occasion more than one unit may be called upon to provide volunteer personnel and equipment.

Administrative Order number 2014-018-ADM was approved by Regional Council at the February 03 2015 regular Regional Council meeting. Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM allows volunteer search and rescue organizations in HRM to apply for cash grants under three funding streams:

- 1) **Operating Grant:** To support general and on-going operational needs of the organization.
- 2) **Capital Grant:** to support purchase of real property, substantive structural repairs, expansion of facility or infrastructure or purchase of specialized or safety equipment, etc.
- 3) **One-Time Special Project Grant:** which supports an extra-ordinary expenditure not eligible for consideration as a recurring operation cost or a capital grant.

Joint Emergency Management (JEM) teams were created by Halifax EMO to increase community resiliency and are not incorporated non-profit organizations or societies. Goods and services acquired in support of these volunteer groups are procured by Fire & Emergency Services and the assets are owned by HRM. In 2015, an amount of \$5,500 has been allocated for the purchase of equipment and supplies for Joint Emergency Management Teams (JEM).

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2014, due to the timing of policy the program's budget allocation was distributed equally among the four eligible applicants on an interim basis only. In 2015, the value of a proposed operating grant is based on the average of 3 years actual expenditures for core operating expenses<sup>1</sup>. Any balance remaining may be allocated to project-specific capital grants.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Proposed Award</b>	<b>Status</b>
Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue	\$29,100	Registered charity. Property owner.
Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	\$42,500	Registered charity. Property owner.
Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$15,300	Society. Occupant of HRM property.
Sheet Harbour Ground Search & Rescue Team	\$29,100	Society. HRM land lease for garage.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$116,000</b>	

To avoid duplication or overlap other sources of municipal operating assistance have also been identified as shown below in Table 2.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Tax Relief<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rent Subsidy<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Other HRM Assistance</b>
Eastern Shore Ground Search & Rescue	\$3,427	n/a	Not stated

<sup>1</sup> The term "operating grant" is defined in Administrative Order 2014-018-ADM which is posted on-line at <http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/index.php>

Halifax Regional Search & Rescue Team	\$6,513	n/a	Not stated
Musquodoboit Valley Ground Search & Rescue Team	Not billed for tax	Unknown	Not stated
Sheet Harbour Ground Search & Rescue Team	Pending	\$419	Not stated
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,940</b>	<b>\$419</b>	<b>\$0</b>

1. Values listed are proposed awards pending Regional Council approval under Administrative Order 2014-001-ADM.
2. The value of "rent subsidy" is the difference between market value and actual rent paid.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In 2015, an amount of \$5,500 has been deducted from Account C801-8004 for Joint Emergency Management Teams. These volunteer groups are not registered entities: Fire & Emergency Services purchases equipment and supplies through HRM's procurement process and assets remain the property of the Municipality. Cost Centre C801 falls under the Fire and Emergency budget.

<b>C801-8004 Emergency Measures: Grants 2015 Budget</b>	<b>\$148,500</b>
Less JEM allocation	(\$5,500)
Less Proposed Operating Grants (4)	(\$116,000)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>

A balance of \$27,000 represents the budget capacity for capital grants in fiscal year 2015-16.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Grants Committee comprises four (4) members of Council and six (6) members of the general public. The Chair shall be appointed by the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Grants Committee could overturn or amend a staff recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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**Original signed**

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Financial Approval

**Original signed**

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