



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Agenda Item Number: 8.1

Meeting Date: 6/25/2024

Author: W. Aigro

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Fire Department

SUBJECT: Funding Application Community Resiliency Investment Program

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support the application for up to \$200,000 in funding from the 2024 Community Resiliency Investment Program; and,

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to provide overall grant management specific to Union of British Columbia Municipalities funding under the 2024 Community Resiliency Investment Program.

PURPOSE

A Council resolution is required to show support to apply for the maximum allowable grant amount under the 2024 Community Resiliency Investment Program.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

This request is brought forward to Council annually to support the District's FireSmart program.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS COMMENTS

Approved for Council's consideration.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRIP) replaces the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI). This program allows for a wider variety of eligible tasks than SWPI did and through one application but, there is a maximum of \$200,000 available to Local Governments that are deemed High Risk.

In addition, to qualify for funding:

- Projects must be primarily located within the District of Peachland's administrative boundary.
- Activities must be new (retroactive funding is not available).
- Proposed activities must be capable of completion within two years of the date of grant approval.
- Activities that fall under the practice of forestry must be developed, and where applicable, signed/sealed by a forest professional that is accredited by the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

- Fuel management activities must:
 - Be identified as a priority in an existing CWPP, supported by an appropriate rationale, and supported by the Wildfire Prevention Officer or the FNESS Fuel Management Liaison/Specialist.
 - Ensure compliance with applicable legislation and regulations: Federal (e.g. Fisheries Act and Migratory Birds Act); Provincial (e.g. Forest and Range Practices Act, Open Burning Smoke Control Act, and Wildfire Act) and local authority (e.g. burning by-laws or other bylaws or plans).
 - Where applicable, be eligible for required approvals, authorizations and/or permits.
 - Where applicable, for resource values assessments, be developed and signed/sealed by a qualified professional (e.g. terrain stability assessment must be signed/sealed by a professional engineer).

DISCUSSION

This application will focus on FireSmart programs such as a partnership with departments from Penticton to Vernon for TV commercials and other FireSmart education events, hosting of a multi-agency planning meeting for fuel management, training for the Home Partners Program, off-site vegetative debris management for FireSmart recognized neighborhoods and to establish a local rebate program for residential properties that complete eligible FireSmart activities. Other initiatives include a rebate program for yard waste disposal fees at the transfer station in West Kelowna, wage coverage for Wildfire Mitigation Specialists and a FireSmart Labourer, as well as educational events.

IMPLICATIONS/RELATED ISSUES/RISK

The 2024 Community Resiliency Investment Program allows Local Governments to apply for funding to cover 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$200,000.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Choose an item.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

CONCLUSION

Grant funding will help increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community’s risk from wildfire.

REVIEWED & APPROVED BY Joe Creron, CAO