



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Ross Kotscherofski
Manager of Fire Services

DATE: November 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Resiliency Investment Program: 2021 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports (2020 Application)

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1

Purpose: To seek Board support to apply for grant funding from the UBCM – Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding & Supports to assist in reducing the risk of wildfires and enhance interface mitigation.

Executive Summary:

The Province of British Columbia has made funding available through UBCM to assist with mitigating wildfires and their impact on BC communities. Applications are being accepted under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program for those projects that will support FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

Regional District staff are requesting support for a grant application for FireSmart planning and activities. The FireSmart funding will support the Joe Rich Volunteer Fire Department in reducing the wildfire risk in the community. A Board resolution is required in support of the application. Accordingly, this matter is now before the Board for its consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board supports submitting a \$49,242.60 grant application under the Union of BC Municipalities – Community Resiliency Investment Program for Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments FireSmart planning.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Kotscherofski".

Ross Kotscherofski
Manager of Fire Services
Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK/K".

David Komaika
Director of Engineering

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Sustainable Living by ensuring healthy, high quality of life for our residents. Vision: Resiliency by anticipating and preparing for, and adapting to challenges and changing circumstances.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	Through the Emergency Program Act, the Province of BC requires all local authorities to be prepared for emergency situations, including response and recovery.

Background:

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impacts on BC Communities. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

CRI includes two funding streams:

- FireSmart Community Funding & Supports, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities
- Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction, administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development.

The Regional District has been fortunate to receive CEPF grants in the past for EOC Upgrades; ESS Equipment; Flood Plain Mapping and Fire Department Training and Equipment. The intent of the FireSmart funding stream is to provide funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire. To date, 175 First Nations and local governments have received funding.

The proposed project will include;

- The development of a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan, including a chipping program for residents;
- The development of programs to raise community awareness of FireSmart benefits;
- Workshops, cross-jurisdiction meeting and exercises;
- The development of a community wildfire preparedness plan;
- Fire Department training for wildfire response and incident command.

Base funding is scaled to offer eligible applicants with lower risk of wildfire, generally demonstrated by Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class 4 & 5 to apply for up to \$50,000.

The deadline for the submission of the grant application was October 9, 2020, however the Board support resolution can be submitted at any time prior to the grant results being announced in early February 2021.

Financial Considerations:

Annual operation and maintenance costs are not covered by the CRI grant.

Alternative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receives for information the report regarding the Union of BC Municipalities – Community Resiliency Investment Fund.