



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: March 18, 2021
Submitted by: Fire and Rescue Services
Subject: UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund

Purpose / Introduction

To seek Council approval to apply for grant funding under the Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund administered by the UBCM.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff be directed to apply for grant funding under the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund as recommended in the report dated March 18, 2021 from Fire and Rescue Services regarding UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund.

Background

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is the grant administrator for the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program, a program that was introduced by the provincial government in 2018 to support local authorities in reducing the risks of wildfires and mitigating wildfire impacts on their communities.

The FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund is one of three streams under the CRI program and is intended to support immediate job creation in order to build local wildfire resiliency and assist communities in recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$150,000. The 2021 Program and Application Guide is included as **Attachment 1**.

Grant monies will be paid at the completion of a project and when final reporting requirements have been met. The City is not required to match grant funding. If successful, the City will be required to complete its approved activities within one year of grant approval. In order to be eligible for the grant, UBCM requires the City to provide a Council resolution indicating support for the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

Discussion

In 2007 and 2019, the City retained B.A. Blackwell and Associates to assist in the development of the City of Port Moody Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP put forth a number of recommendations to mitigate fire risk to the community. As resources and funding have allowed, staff have been implementing attainable recommendations, including FireSmart initiatives; however, some recommendations have yet to be initiated.

As part of the 2019 update to the CWPP, it was determined that Port Moody is now demonstrating a higher risk of wildfire. As such, there is greater urgency to complete attainable CWPP recommendations while continuing to grow and expand the FireSmart program. To assist with these goals, staff are seeking approval to apply for the FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund which would be used to fund a temporary Wildfire Resiliency Coordinator position for one year.

If the City is successfully awarded grant funding, part of the incumbent's work plan would include:

- the development of a fuel management plan that takes technical prescriptions into consideration and is informed by consultation with First Nations and other key stakeholders;
- the development of communications and implementation strategies for a FireSmart fuel management demonstration project;
- facilitating and delivering existing FireSmart activities and expanding the scope of the FireSmart program, including community engagement and education;
- a review of the 2019 CWPP to initiate attainable recommendations and plan completion of all others; and
- the development of implementation and communications strategies for all prescriptions and all aspects of community wildfire mitigation and protection.

Further information can be found in the completed application form included as **Attachment 2**.

Staff are proposing that the City apply for the maximum funding amount of \$150,000 for the 2021 intake year.

Other Options

THAT the report dated March 12, 2021 from Fire and Rescue Services regarding UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund be received for information.

Financial Implications

Should Council not direct staff to apply for the 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund, staff will be required to scale back the proposed fire prevention initiatives or seek out alternative funding sources.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives associated with the recommendations in this report.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

By applying for grant funding for FireSmart initiatives, the City is better able to protect the natural environment, which supports the strategic plan objective of Environmental Leadership. If the City is successful, this grant funding would also increase the City's ability to serve and engage the community, which supports the strategic plan objective of Exceptional Service.

Attachments:

1. UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Program and Application Guide.
2. UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Application Form.

Report Author

Ron Coulson
Fire Chief

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program - 2021 Firesmart Economic Recovery Fund.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - UBCM CRI Program - 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Program and Application Guide.pdf - Attachment 2 - UBCM CRI Program - 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Application Form.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 29, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Mar 23, 2021 - 1:36 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Mar 23, 2021 - 3:27 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Mar 23, 2021 - 7:06 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Mar 29, 2021 - 4:46 AM