



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: October 2, 2019
Submitted by: Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division
Subject: 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community
Funding and Supports

Purpose

To seek Council approval to apply for grant funding under the UBCM 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program: FireSmart Community Funding & Supports.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff be directed to apply for grant funding under the UBCM 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports as recommended in the report dated October 2, 2019 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports.

Background

UBCM has announced the availability of grant funding to municipalities to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

The UBCM FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program is structured to fund FireSmart activities in all eligible communities throughout BC. Funding is scaled to offer eligible applicants with lower risk of wildfire to apply for 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$25,000 and eligible applicants with a demonstrated higher risk of wildfire can apply for a maximum of \$150,000. The 2020 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

For the 2019 intake year, City was successfully awarded grant funding under this program of \$49,000 which was used to update the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and provide education and emergency planning activities. Under the draft CWPP, the City now has a demonstrated higher risk of wildfire and, accordingly, staff are proposing that the City apply for the maximum funding amount of \$150,000 for the 2020 intake year. If successful, this funding will be used to accomplish the following three activities:

1. Create wildfire treatment prescriptions for two areas that were identified as extreme to high risk of wildfire in the draft CWPP; Bert Flinn Park and Hawthorne Drive.
2. FireSmart rebate program, under which residents would receive a rebate of 50% of every dollar they spend to reduce the risk of wildfire on their property under the direction of PMFR FireSmart staff, up to a maximum of \$500 (eg. tree removal or brush trimming)
3. FireSmart community outreach to provide wildfire education to residents, including activities such as neighbourhood blitzes, door hangers, and staffing an information booth at City events

Other Option(s)

THAT the report dated October 2, 2019 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program: FireSmart Community Funding & Supports be received for information.

Financial Implications

Should Council not direct staff to apply for 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program: FireSmart Community Funding & Supports funding, staff will either be required to scale back the proposed fire prevention initiatives, or seek out alternative funding sources. In addition, the 2020 Strategic Plan has a Strategic Priority of Healthy City that has identified objectives and actions that call for the City to have emergency preparedness plans and strategies in place to address natural disasters and other emergencies.

Communications / Civic Engagement

If the grant is awarded, the FireSmart rebate program would require a communication plan to promote the program to the community; and wildfire education outreach efforts would require the development of communications tools and products.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

By applying for grant funding, the City is better able to protect the natural environment, which supports the strategic plan objective of Environmental Leadership. Applying for grant funding also increases the City's ability to serve and engage the community, which supports the strategic plan objective of Exceptional Service.

Attachment(s)

1. 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program: FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Program & Application Guide.

Report Author

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Manager of Financial Reporting

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program - FireSmart Community Funding and Supports.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 8, 2019

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

Rosemary Lodge

Tyson Ganske

Paul Rockwood

Tim Savoie