



City of Port Moody

Report to Finance Committee

Date: October 16, 2020
Submitted by: Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division
Subject: 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports

Purpose

To seek Council approval to apply for grant funding under the UBCM 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff be directed to apply for grant funding under the UBCM 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports as recommended in the report dated October 16, 2020 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports;

AND THAT the City of Port Moody provide overall grant management for the proposed activities.

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 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. 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 2020 intake year, the City was successfully awarded grant funding of \$150,000 under this program, which was used to: create wildfire treatment prescriptions for six areas that were identified as extreme to high risk of wildfire in the draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), including Bert Flinn Park and Hawthorne Drive; build the FireSmart rebate program, under which residents will receive a rebate of 50% for every dollar they spend (up to a maximum of \$500) to reduce the risk of wildfire on their property (e.g. tree removal or brush trimming) under the direction of Port Moody Fire and Rescue FireSmart staff; and establish the FireSmart community outreach program to provide wildfire education to residents, including activities such as neighbourhood blitzes, door hangers, and staffing an information booth at City events.

Under the draft CWPP, the City is demonstrating a higher risk of wildfire and staff are proposing that the City apply for the maximum funding amount of \$150,000 for the 2021 intake year. If successful, this funding will be used to accomplish the following activities:

1. staff FireSmart informational booths at select City events to provide the community with education and awareness on the benefits of the FireSmart Program;
2. develop, promote, and distribute educational material to the citizens of Port Moody in order to reduce local human-caused fires;
3. hold a functional, specific interface tabletop exercise involving neighbouring communities and other local stakeholders;
4. inventory and test all City of Port Moody Structural Protection Equipment;
5. perform FireSmart Neighbourhood Blitzes in high-risk areas of the City, including home assessments that will be eligible for rebates; and
6. create a preliminary plan for fuel management in select areas of the City.

Other Option(s)

THAT the report dated October 16, 2020 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports be received for information.

Financial Implications

Should Council not direct staff to apply for funding under 2021 Community Resiliency Investment Program – FireSmart Community Funding and Supports, staff will either 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 this report.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

By applying for grant funding, the City is better able to protect the natural environment, which supports the Council 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 Council Strategic Plan objective of Exceptional Service.

Attachment(s)

1. 2021 FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program and Application Guide.

Report Author

Trina Peters

Senior Accountant

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	UBCM Grant Funding - Community Resiliency Investment Program.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - 2021 Program and Application Guide.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 26, 2020

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

Lorena Miat, Manager of Financial Reporting - Oct 21, 2020 - 2:40 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Oct 22, 2020 - 9:27 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Oct 22, 2020 - 3:18 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Oct 25, 2020 - 12:03 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Oct 26, 2020 - 9:16 AM