

Staff Report to Council

Emergency Program

FILE: 14-7130-01/21

REPORT DATE: April 06, 2021

MEETING DATE:

April 13, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Barbara Morgan, Manager of Emergency Program

SUBJECT: Community Recovery Investment Program – FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Grant Application Approval

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S): THAT Council:

- A. Direct staff to make an application to the Community Recovery Investment Program - FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund, in the amount of \$48,800 to fund the development and implementation of a FireSmart Plan for Farming and Agriculture; OR
- B. Other.

PURPOSE

To secure a Council resolution of support for a new grant opportunity to fund components of the City's Emergency Program.

☐ Information Report

☒ Direction Report

☐ Decision Report

BACKGROUND

FIRESMART PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Currently the City has hired a consultant to make recommendations for new FireSmart bylaws and policies to be included in the new Official Community Plan. This same consultant will revise the current Wildfire Plan which accounts for the actual processes in fighting the fire, into a Wildfire Resiliency Plan which also adds components of wildfire risks and reduction of impacts to the community.

Document Number: 168402

Also, the hiring of a FireSmart Coordinator will see the implementation and education of the FireSmart program in Pitt Meadows, as participation from the locals is a key element to its success. Wildfire strikes fast! When it spreads into urban areas (the wildland/urban interface) not every home can be defended by firefighters. However, communities whose residents take steps to reduce their vulnerability have a greater chance of surviving a wildfire.

The FireSmart program using its seven disciplines, is a matter of living with and managing wildfire in our area. Becoming a wildfire resilient community is all-encompassing, extending from the individual homeowners to a landscape land management level. FireSmart principles, which are backed by a vast amount of field, laboratory and wildfire modelling research, have shown that they are effective at reducing the risk to life and property in the most extreme wildfire conditions.

With the 2021 funding stream we will be able to see the development of a FS plan for Farming and Agriculture. Agriculture faces unique challenges from wildfire so this portion of the program will see plans that include equipment lists, water sources, livestock protection, operational mapping and communications for those farms that wish to take advantage.

Chief Larson is supportive of this program and will provide Firefighters from the City's Fire Rescue squad to perform site assessments with recommendations to bring existing properties into FS compliance. This compliance is purely voluntary and to the home/farmer's benefit. A second visit will validate the FS compliance and a certificate will be issued.

The hiring of a temporary, part time FS Coordinator (or extension of the previous hire) will see attendance at workshops, trade shows and home shows encouraging citizens to take part in the FS program. This person will also arrange and possibly assist with site assessments by the Fire Rescue squad. This CUPE position will be activated for the duration of the grant which is normally 12 months.

The FS Coordinator will also supervise up to 4 temporary part time labourers that will assist seniors and disabled in bringing their properties into FS compliance with the removal of debris, firewood and any other items identified by the site assessment. These CUPE positions will be activated for approximately four summer months.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

☐ Principled Governance ☐ Balanced Economic Prosperity ☐ Corporate Excellence
☒ Community Spirit & Wellbeing ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure Initiatives

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

☒ None

POSITION	TYPE	COST
CUPE FireSmart Coordinator	Temporary Part Time	\$20,000 (approx. 400 hours) Total includes ancillary costs
CUPE Labourers	Temporary Part Time	\$17,000 (approx. 130 hours each) Total includes ancillary costs
Contract Wildfire Consultant	Temporary	\$10,000
In House Communications		\$800
Supplies, Equipment for labourers		\$1,000
TOTAL		48,800

The activities mentioned above will be 100% covered by grant funds

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☒ Yes ☐ No

As an important part of the community, Katzie First Nation is considered in all aspects of emergency planning. The Emergency Program Coordinator for KFN and the City's Emergency Program Manager work closely together on emergency response and plans.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Barbara Morgan
Emergency Program Coordinator

Reviewed by:

Mark Roberts
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.