

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning and Community Development Committee – March 18, 2021

AUTHOR: Matt Treit, Manager of Protective Services

SUBJECT: FIRESMART ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND GRANT APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the report titled FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Grant Application be received;

AND THAT the regional grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' Community Resiliency Investment Program to build local wildfire resiliency and assist communities in recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT a request for letters of support be forwarded to the shíshálh Nation, Town of Gibsons, and District of Sechelt.

BACKGROUND

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program is a provincial program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC by funding a variety of activities. This specific stream of funding is also intended to create jobs in order to counteract the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Board resolution indicating support for the application is required before the application will be considered.

DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development has provided \$10 million for this funding stream. This funding is separate and distinct from any funding associated with the SCRDC Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

In cooperation with the shíshálh Nation, Town of Gibsons, and District of Sechelt, an application is being submitted in support of a regional, collaborative project. The total funding request for this regional project will be \$455,737, which will fund 100% of all activities.

The types of projects which are eligible for funding include FireSmart projects for both residential areas and public assets, as well as Fuel Management Demonstration projects. It is intended that a portion of the grant will be used to establish a Fuel Management Demonstration Project to demonstrate fuel mitigation work as well as to fund two FireSmart Coordinators who will work throughout the Sunshine Coast to do assessments on residential property and coordinate the removal of vegetation from those properties. In addition, there is a request for funding for the replacement of the cedar shake roof on GDVFD Firehall #1. The shíshálh Nation is requesting funds to complete fuel mitigation projects around two sites of critical infrastructure, as well as funding for skill development that will lead to increased employment of their staff.

Financial Implications

The scope of the activities associated with this grant will be adjusted to the amount of funding received so that in the event that the full grant amount is not received, there will be no need to access additional funding to complete a project.

The activities to be funded by this grant are not currently included in the Financial Plan. Should the application for funding be successful, a Financial Plan amendment will be required.

Timeline for next steps or estimated completion date

The application deadline for this grant is March 19, 2021. Results of the application are expected by June, 2021. As the application is regional, resolutions for support will be required from the District of Sechelt, the shíshálh Nation, and the Town of Gibsons.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

This project aligns with the Boards Strategic focus area of Working Together.

CONCLUSION.

An application to CRI will be prepared and submitted. A resolution of support from the Board is required for the application to be considered.

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X - M. Treit	CFO/Finance	X – T. Perreault
GM	X – I. Hall	Legislative	
CAO	X – D. McKinley	Other	