



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT April 11, 2024
MEETING TYPE & DATE Electoral Area Services Committee of May 1, 2024
FROM: Emergency Management Cowichan
SUBJECT: Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Grant 2024
FILE: 1855-40 FireSmart CRI 2024 CVRD

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to submit a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program to continue the implementation of several ongoing FireSmart projects throughout the CVRD from 2024 through to 2026.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board on May 8, 2024 that a grant application for up to \$1,300,000 be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), Community Resiliency Investment Program - FireSmart Community Funding and Supports, with the CVRD as the primary applicant that will apply for, receive and manage the grant funding.

BACKGROUND

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) is a provincial program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC. This is achieved through community funding for preparedness, planning and mitigation activities (e.g. FireSmart) within the region. Activities are guided by the regional Community Wildfire Prevention Plan.

ANALYSIS

The CVRD will submit an application for the electoral areas to include:

- FireSmart projects for residential areas (home ignition assessments and neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessments)
- Several FireSmart Critical Infrastructure mitigation projects
- Strategic Park Assessment – to develop a ten-year strategy for wildfire mitigation in electoral area parks
- Structural Protection equipment (phase 2 and 3) for one CVRD Fire Department (Malahat)
- Continuation of one (1) fulltime FireSmart coordinator position
- Two (2) supporting temporary FireSmart representative positions to lead project activities, coordinate home assessments, continue FireSmart educational outreach program, reporting and information sharing, etc.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities up to the maximum amount of \$1,300,000, resulting in no financial impacts to requisition. At this time, the CVRD program has eligible activities for approximately \$1,300,000. After reviewing the application, the UBCM grant review committee may suggest minor amendments to activities proposed, resulting in adjustments to the project and a decrease in the application total. For this reason, resolution requested is for the full value of \$1,300,000 to ensure these minor changes can be easily included.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Continued progress on the FireSmart program is a critical component of the future regional emergency management approach. FireSmart activities are not fiscally possible without leveraging grant funding annually/bi-annually.

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legislative Services*)
- ☐ Operations (*Utilities, Parks & Trails, Recycling & Waste Management*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Strategic Initiatives, Development Services, Building Inspection & Bylaw Enforcement*)
- ☒ Strategic Services (*Communications & Engagement, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Environmental Services*)

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Ryan Wainwright
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Clayton Postings
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Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

☒ Corporate Officer

Financial Considerations:

☒ Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – CRI Allocation-Based Application

Attachment B – Proposed Budget for 2024-2026 FireSmart Program