

Report to Council



Date: November 2, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Community Resiliency Investment Program Funding 2021
Department: Parks Operations

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the November 2, 2020 report from the Parks Operation Department with respect to 2021 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program funding;

AND THAT Council approves staff to apply for a grant from the CRI program to continue to support wildfire fuel mitigation initiatives;

AND FURTHER THAT upon confirmation of the grant award, the 2021 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of up to \$150,000 from the Community Resiliency Investment Program.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval towards an application for funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

Background:

The City of Kelowna has a well-established Community Wildfire Protection Program. Program priorities are determined by our current *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)*.

The CWPP is a document that defines the risk from wildfires in an identified area, identifies measures necessary to mitigate those risks and outlines a plan of action to be implemented.

Many prioritized recommendations of the current CWPP have been, or are being, addressed through operational and external funding. Our primary source of external funding is that of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program; a provincial initiative intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in B.C. through community funding, supports, and priority fuel management activities within municipal boundaries. In 2019 and 2020, the City of Kelowna received \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively, to complete activities related to CWPP recommendations.

Completed activities:

- Completion of wildfire fuel mitigation across the eastern parcel of Knox Mountain Park;
- Development of a wildfire fuel mitigation maintenance schedule for previously treated areas;
- Development of a landscaping standard for wildland-urban interface areas that meets FireSmart guidelines (including a requirement for a landscape plan to be included with a development permit application); and
- Amendment of our wildfire development permit process to implement activities and procedure that aligns with the goals of our CWPP.

Ongoing activities:

- An updated Terms of Reference document to be provided to developers and qualified professionals completing the assessments that lists all required elements of a basic wildfire hazard report.

The east Knox Mountain fuel mitigation project had a total cost of \$205,000, while allocation for the latter four activities above was \$45,000.

Discussion:

On October 9th, 2020 staff applied for 2021 CRI Program funding of \$150,000 (2021 maximum award).

Allocation of these funds are to be used for two activities:

- Update our existing CWPP which expires in 2021 (\$30,890).
- Complete fuel mitigation activities at 4295 Field Road (\$119,110).

The update to our existing CWPP will include a conversion to the new format called the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), which incorporates all successful components from the CWPP template with the seven FireSmart principles. This new format is strongly encouraged through the CRI Program as being more comprehensive and provides opportunity for greater regional resiliency by establishing connection with nearby communities and other agencies.

Fuel mitigation work at 4295 Field Road has been targeted as part of a large landscape-level fuel break project in conjunction with work currently underway by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Resource Development. We are seeking funds to treat only the TU1 Municipal portion, detailed on the supporting map. The portion of this area treated in 2014 requires no further intervention at this time. The TU1 area is identified within the CWPP as a priority area for treatment. If this application is successful, work is expected to begin in early 2021.

Conclusion:

Applications for CRI Program funding require a new Council resolution annually.

Internal Circulation:

Communications Advisor
 Divisional Director, Planning & Development Services
 Financial Planning Manager
 Fire Chief

Grants and Special Projects Manager
Infrastructure Operations Manager
Park Services Manager
Urban Forestry Supervisor
Utility Services Manager

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: T. Bergeson, Urban Forestry Technician

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager - Operations

cc: Kelowna Fire Department