

Report to Council



Date: June 3, 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: 2024 Community Resilience Investment Funding
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office dated June 3, 2024, with respect to the 2024 Community Resilience Investment Funding;

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for provincial grant funding from the 2024 Community Resilience Investment grant program, administered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM);

AND THAT Council authorizes staff to execute all documents necessary to complete and manage the grant;

AND FURTHER THAT upon confirmation of the grant award, the Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of funds.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the 2024 Community Resilience Investment Funding, and to receive support to apply for the grant funding.

Council Priority Alignment:

Climate & Environment

Background:

The Community Resiliency Investment program, funded by the Province of BC’s Ministry of Forests and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), includes a FireSmart Community Funding and Supports funding stream. The FireSmart funding stream intends to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community’s risk from wildfire.

Discussion:

The City is pursuing two streams of funding through the FireSmart funding stream for 2024 and 2025: allocation-based funding, and one-time additional funding to address the 2023 wildfire impacts on our community. FireSmart efforts and activities will focus on supporting homeowner and residential wildfire resiliency throughout our community.

Allocation-based funding

The City of Kelowna is eligible for allocation-based funding under this program, and will request funds to support ongoing FireSmart activities, assessments, community collaboration efforts, and educational materials to support residential and private properties in advancing the FireSmart principles at their homes. The City is requesting the maximum allocation of \$200,000 per year, for 2024 and 2025, totaling \$400,000.

Additional funding for those directly impacted by 2023 wildfires

The City was directly impacted by two wildfires in the 2023 season: the Grouse complex wildfires in August of 2023, facing structure losses, major evacuations, and evacuation alerts; and the Knox Mountain wildfire in July of 2023, which forced the evacuation of residents. Due to the impact of those wildfires, funding will support the City in administering the Homeowner Rebate Program, supporting local homeowners to increase the wildfire resiliency of their properties. The City is requesting the maximum amount of \$100,000 in one-time additional funding for 2024.

Conclusion:

The City actively pursues grants to reduce municipal taxation and to leverage City funding for infrastructure, services, and programs to support Council, corporate and community priorities.

This funding opportunity will bolster the resiliency of our community to the risk of wildfires, focusing on supporting local homeowners and residential wildfire resiliency efforts.

Internal Circulation:

Fire Department
Parks Services

Considerations applicable to this report:

N/A

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

N. Cantley, Partnerships Coordinator

Approved for inclusion: M. Kam, Acting Partnership Office Director

cc:

D. Craig, Assistant Chief Fire Mitigation & Planning