

Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
November 12, 2019

File Number: 1853

To: Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer
From: David Tomkinson, Fire Chief
Date: October 23, 2019
Subject: Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program – 2020 Grant Funding

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to submit grant funding applications to the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program;

AND THAT Council direct administration to provide overall grant management.

Background:

In 2016, the City adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. There are 28 recommendations listed in the CWPP ranging in priority between low, medium and high that are continually referenced as we work towards reducing our community's wildfire risks. From the beginning, efforts have been focused towards public education, fuel treatments, emergency response capability and planning aspects.

In 2018, the City received *Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI)* grant funding and was awarded \$20,250.00, covering 75% of project costs. These funds afforded the opportunity to enter into a contract with a Local FireSmart Representative to lead our public education program, helping to create a FireSmart presence in our community. Additionally, the grant funds allowed the City to consult a Registered Professional Forester to write fuel treatment prescriptions in high-hazard areas, in and around our City, previously identified in our CWPP. These prescriptions are now complete and ready for operational treatment, and in 2019 qualified for an additional \$71,500.00 in grant funding under the CRI Program.

With the City of Merritt Fuels Management Program formalized, application to the 2020 CRI Program will allow the City to implement the recently developed plan and perform maintenance of previously treated areas. This program funds treatments for 100% of the project cost and allows for communities to apply for up to \$150,000.00 per year. The

funding requests are anticipated to be annual in nature and maintains Council's commitment to addressing the recommendations of the CWPP.

Below is a summary of projects and funding requests for 2020, an additional \$105,500.00 in grant funding requests, as prepared by SID Forestry Services.

ID	Project Name	Project Type	Funding Request	Description
1	Education	FireSmart Program	\$ 10,000	Curriculum development, workshops, media campaigns, site visits and supplies.
5	Emergency Planning	Cross-jurisdictional Meetings EOC Training	\$ 2,000	Support cross-jurisdictional meetings of key responders. Identify command staff and section staff. Provide online training to members with a goal of conducting a tabletop exercise.
5	Emergency Planning	Incident Response Mapping	\$ 5,000	Mapping project to produce detailed response maps of addresses, streets, values at risk, critical infrastructure, resources etc. Focus of compatibility with Avenza mapping system for use by responding firefighters using tablets or cellular phones. A goal is inter-operability between responding fire departments.
6	Cross Training	S100 Firefighter Training	\$ 1,500	Basic wildland firefighting training for new firefighters.
6	Cross Training	Local FireSmart Representative Training	\$2,000	Provide Local FireSmart Representative Training to Planning & Development Services Manager.

9.	Fuel Management Treatment	Operational Treatment	\$ 85,000	Treat the remaining 17-hectare area, on the Bench - Block 1A above Allen Road. Space, prune, pile and burn to reduce stems per hectare. Treatment reduces fire intensity and improves responder safety and effectiveness. Also reduces the risk of a crown fire entering the community.
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Options / discussion

1. Council could resolve to support the grant proposals and in doing so agree to the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.
2. Council could reject the grant proposals.

Financial / Risk Implications:

These are 100%, Provincially funded CRI Program grant funding opportunities.

Strategic Plan Reference:

City of Merritt Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2015 Update

Others Consulted:

- Steve Doubinin, RFT – SID Forestry Services
- Dave Horne – Registered Professional Forester
- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & BC Wildfire Service
- First Nations and stakeholder information sharing was completed as part of the Fuel Management Prescription Program through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI), part of the fuel prescription approval process.

Attachments:

Map: Treatment Unit Summary

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Tomkinson
Fire Chief

Treatment Unit Summary: Block 1A - highlighted in green



