



# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON REPORT TO COUNCIL

**SUBMITTED BY:** Wes Brassard, FireSmart  
Coordinator, Fire Rescue Services

**COUNCIL MEETING:** REG  COW  I/C   
**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** December 11, 2023  
**REPORT DATE:** November 24, 2023  
**FILE:** 1855-20

**SUBJECT:** UBCM COMMUNITY RESILIENCY INVESTMENT PROGRAM – 2024 FIRESMART  
COMMUNITY FUNDING & SUPPORTS

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## **PURPOSE:**

To receive Council authorization and support for a grant application for up to \$400,000 from the *UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2024 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports* to continue funding the FireSmart program and to implement wildfire resiliency strategies & projects in the City of Vernon.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council authorize Administration to apply for up to \$400,000 from the “*UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2024 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports*”, as attached to the Report of the same title, dated November 24, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the FireSmart Coordinator;

AND FURTHER, that if the grant application is successful, Council authorize Administration to assume overall grant management.

## **ALTERNATIVES & IMPLICATIONS:**

1. THAT Council not support the application for up to \$400,000 from the “*UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2024 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports*” and the proposed projects not be undertaken in 2024.

*Note: This grant requires a Council resolution to receive funding.*

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **A. Committee Recommendations:**

N/A

### **B. Rationale:**

1. The FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program provides for on-going FireSmart projects to build local wildfire resiliency through education, public engagement and fuel mitigation.
2. A successful grant application would enable the hiring of seasonal FireSmart staff and the continued hiring of summer students to undertake FireSmart activities.
3. The new allocation-based funding provides two years of funding through one application (attachment). It allows for the flexible and effective use of funds. This is an improvement to the application-based funding model which was a one-year grant with cumbersome application, tracking and reporting requirements.

**C. Attachments:**

- 1. UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program - 2024 FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Application.

**D. Council's Strategic Plan Alignment:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Organizational Excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> Livability     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation, Parks & Natural Areas      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrancy       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Leadership    | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

**E. Relevant Policy/Bylaws/Resolutions:**

- 1. N/A

**BUDGET/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The proposed initiative is 100% grant funded.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- None     
  Budget Previously Approved     
  New Budget Request  
 (Finance Review Required)

Prepared by:

Approved for submission to Council:

X 



Signer 1  
 Wes Brassard  
 FireSmart Coordinator, Fire Rescue Services

Patricia Bridal, CAO  
 Date: 12/05/2023

X 

Signer 2  
 Division Director

<b>REVIEWED WITH</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Works/Airport	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning & Sustainability
<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Building & Licensing
<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Development Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire & Rescue Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Services		<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development & Tourism
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTEE:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		

## Community Resiliency Investment Program 2024 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Allocation-based Funding Request Form

DRAFT

The 2024 FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program will have an open intake. Funding permitting, eligible recipients can submit one funding request form between October 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024.

First Nations and local governments with a higher risk of wildfire, generally demonstrated by WUI Risk Class 1 to 3, that have a FireSmart Position, participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee and have an acceptable Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan / Community Wildfire Protection Plan are eligible to receive FireSmart Community Funding and Supports funding for FireSmart activities only through the allocation-based program.

Eligible recipients are required to submit this form, and all required attachments, **but are not required to submit a full Application-based funding package.**

If you have any questions, contact [cri@ubcm.ca](mailto:cri@ubcm.ca) or (604) 270-8226 ext. 220.

SECTION 1: Recipient Information	Application #: <i>(administrative use only)</i>
Name of Local Government or First Nation: City of Vernon	Complete Mailing Address: 3401-30 <sup>th</sup> street, Vernon, BC V1T 5E7
Contact Person*: Wes Brassard	Position: FireSmart Coordinator
Phone: 250-241-7620	E-mail: <a href="mailto:wbrassard@vernon.ca">wbrassard@vernon.ca</a>
Secondary Contact Person*: Mike Walroth	Position: Deputy Chief Emergency Management
Phone: 250-306-5832	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mwalroth@vernon.ca">mwalroth@vernon.ca</a>

\* Contact person must be an authorized representative of the recipient (i.e. staff member or elected official).

### SECTION 2: For Regional District Recipients Only.

- Electoral Areas.** Please identify which electoral areas you would like to receive allocation-based funding for:

*Note: In order to receive an additional \$50,000 per electoral area, electoral areas must meet the risk class and eligibility criteria identified in Questions 2 and 4.*

### SECTION 3: Wildfire Risk & Additional Evidence

- 2. A. WUI Wildfire Risk Class.** Provide the WUI Risk Class (1 – 5) for the general area of interest of your community, including the WUI polygon name, from the risk class map. Refer to Appendix 2 of the [Allocation-based Funding Program and Application Guide](#).

Risk Class: 1

WUI Polygon name: N/A

*Note: for regional districts only, please provide the risk class and WUI polygon name for each electoral area identified in Question 1.*

**B. Additional Evidence.** If local assessments provide additional evidence of higher wildfire risk than the WUI Risk Class, provide specific evidence of wildfire risk (reference to [specific page](#) of a CWRP/CWPP).

#### SECTION 4: FireSmart Eligibility Criteria

- 3. Progress to Date.** If you were approved for funding under previous rounds of the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program, please provide the status of the previous project(s).

2021 project: final report submitted

2022 project: project completed

2023 project: Interim Report submitted with this application. Final report to be submitted February 4th, 2024

*Refer to the Allocation-based Funding Program and Application Guide for reporting requirements for previous projects.*

- 4. Required FireSmart Components.** To be eligible for allocation-based funding, all recipients must have the following FireSmart components developed and active in their community. CWRPs and CWPPs must be complete and acceptable to the BCWS, FNESS and/or, where applicable, BC Parks. To be considered acceptable, CWRPs must be developed in accordance with the template and guidance document; CWPPs must include assessment and identification of FireSmart and fuel management priorities.

FireSmart Position (title of position, length position has been in place, etc.):

FireSmart Coordinator, 1.5 years

CWRP or CWPP (type of plan, date). If not previously submitted to UBCM, submit plan: CWRP will be complete before application submission

Community FireSmart & Resiliency Committee (host or participate, participating agencies):

City of Vernon resiliency committee ( members from each department of COV) Regional FireSmart Committee( Vernon, Lake Country, Kelowna, West Kelowna, Peachland, Penticton, Summerland, RDCO, RDOS, Oliver)

*Note: for regional districts only, please provide information on required FireSmart components for each electoral area identified in Question 1.*

#### SECTION 5: Allocation-based Funding Submission Requirements

<input type="checkbox"/> Council, Board or Band Council resolution, indicating support for the request for allocation-based funds and willingness to provide overall grant management.
<input type="checkbox"/> If available, workplans, budgets or other documents with information on anticipated FireSmart activities
<input type="checkbox"/> If not previously submitted to UBCM, the completed CWRP/CWPP
<input type="checkbox"/> For fuel management activities, refer to the Application-based program. Worksheet 2 can be submitted with the Allocation-based Funding Request Form or at a later date.
Submit the completed Allocation-based Funding Request Form and resolution to <a href="mailto:cri@ubcm.ca">cri@ubcm.ca</a> and note “ <b>2024 CRI Allocation</b> ” in the subject line. Submit your application as either a Word or PDF file(s). If you submit by e-mail, hardcopies and/or additional copies of the application are not required.

<b>SECTION 6: Signature</b> – This form is required to be signed by an authorized representative of the recipient. Please note application materials may be shared with the Province of BC, First Nations’ Emergency Services Society and the BC FireSmart Committee.	
I certify that: (1) to the best of my knowledge, all information is accurate, (2) funded activities will only occur within the recipient’s jurisdiction (or appropriate approvals will be in place) and (3) I understand that funded activities may be subject to a compliance audit under the program.	
Further, for all funded activities, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge: all funded activities will meet eligibility and funding requirements as defined in the <a href="#">2024 Allocation-based Funding Program and Application Guide</a> .	
Further, for FireSmart Positions, I certify that: (1) I have read and understand the recommended Job Description(s) and (2) the primary focus of the position is to support eligible FireSmart activities but that other activities related to emergency management (i.e. EOC, ESS, evacuations), structural fire and/or forestry (i.e. Indigenous Guardians) are eligible as no more than 20% of job duties.	
Name:	Title:
Signature*: <i>A certified digital or original signature is required.</i>	Date:

\* Signatory must be an authorized representative of the recipient (i.e. staff member or elected official).