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**MEETING TYPE:** Regular Council Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**AUTHOR:** Darren Lee, Fire Chief  
**DEPARTMENT:** Protective Services  
**ITEM TITLE:** Additional UBCM CRI-FCFS Grant Funding Application for 2024  
**DESCRIPTION:** Request for Council Decision to support the additional UBCM CRI-FCFS Grant Funding Application of \$100,000 for 2024

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## **PURPOSE**

Staff are seeking Council approval to apply to the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – Fire Smart Community Funding and Supports for an additional \$100,000 in 2024. This would allow the District of Lake Country to secure up to \$300,000 in 2024 and \$200,000 in 2025 to fund a suite of FireSmart related services and projects across the community.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT an application to the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment - Fire Smart Community Funding for an additional \$100,000 in 2024 for FireSmart related programs and services, be supported;  
AND THAT pending approval of the additional \$100,000 grant, staff be directed to amend the 2024 Financial Plan and administer the grant;  
AND THAT the District be responsible for providing overall management of the grant.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The District of Lake Country (District) and the Lake Country Fire Department (LCFD) have experienced numerous Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) emergencies over the past several years. The ‘Nighthawk Fire’ was widely regarded as the WUI incident of note for the District. This was until the ‘Clarke Creek Wildfire’ burned approximately 360 hectares, damaged private property, damaged public property and triggered the evacuation alerts and orders for approximately 2,354 properties.

At the regular Council meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Council received a report from staff titled ‘2024 and 2025 UBCM CRI-FCFS Grant Application’ which is included as ‘Attachment A’ to this report. Council directed staff to proceed with application to the combined 2024 and 2025 intake for the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – Fire Smart Community Funding and Supports (UBCM CRI-FCFS) for \$200,000 in 2024 and \$200,000 in 2025. This grant funding is intended to support a suite of FireSmart related services and projects over the next two years.

During the final reporting process for the 2023 UBCM CRI-FCFS and application to the combined 2024 and 2025 UBCM CRI-FCFS, staff learned that the District of Lake Country is now eligible to apply for an additional \$100,000 in 2024. Page 21 of the UBCM CRI-FCFS Program Guide defines the eligible activities for this additional funding and provides some background information.

[LGPS CRI-FCFS Allocation-based 2024 Program Guide 2024.02.pdf \(ubcm.ca\)](#)

The District of Lake Country was identified by the Province as one of the communities directly impacted during the 2023 wildfire season. This additional \$100,000 is intended to support the anticipated increase in demands for FireSmart related programs and services in 2024. Staff has observed an increase in the number of requests for FireSmart related services and supports since the Clarke Creek Wildfire. The rate of inquiry has been steady over winter months and staff anticipate this trend to continue.

Staff are planning to utilize the additional \$100,000 to increase FireSmart Assessments of private property and critical government infrastructure. Staff also plan to utilize additional funding for the continued delivery of public education at public events such as Fire Department Open House Day, School District 23 Programs, Live! in Lake Country and other events through 2024 and beyond.

[Assessments | FireSmart BC](#)

[Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is almost here | FireSmart BC](#)

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

At the regular Council meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Council received a report from staff titled '2024 and 2025 UBCM CRI-FCFS Grant Application.' That report is attached to this report as Attachment A. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Council directed staff to make application to the combined 2024 and 2025 intake for the UBCM CRI-FCFS to secure up to \$200,000 in 2024 and \$200,000 in 2025. Staff are required to provide the UBCM with an additional certified Council Resolution to support the District of Lake Country application to the UBCM CRI-FCFS for the additional \$100,000 in 2024.

## **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BYLAWS AND POLICY**

All First Nations and Local Governments in British Columbia are eligible to apply UBCM CRI-FCFS. Eligible applicants are allowed to submit one application per intake, including regional applications or participation as a partnering applicant in a regional application. Eligible applicants with a higher risk of wildfire, such as WUI Risk Class 1, 2 and 3, could apply for 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a typical maximum of \$200,000 per application. Staff had assessed the Districts WUI Risk Class using the available provincial mapping referenced in the application package.

[WUI RiskClass 36x48L 82L SW.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

The full amount of \$200,000 was awarded to the District of Lake Country in the 2023 intake and staff anticipate that the District of Lake Country is eligible to secure up to \$300,000 in 2024 and \$200,000 in 2025. It is unclear if additional UBCM CRI-FCFS funds will be made available to FireSmart communities directly impacted by wildfires in the future.

## **IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND STAFF CAPACITY (if applicable)**

The single biggest limiting factor in the delivery of FireSmart related programs and services is staff capacity. The addition of FTE's to the fire department in 2024 should help increase the ability to respond to requests from the community when those resources join the organization. It is important to note that paid-on-call firefighters continue to play a key role in supporting FireSmart and public education throughout the community.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None                       Budget Previously Approved       Other (see below)

Eligible applicants with a higher risk of wildfire, such as WUI Risk Class 1, 2 and 3, may apply for 100% of the cost of eligible activities under the UBCM CRI-FCFS. This creates an opportunity to make a positive impact on community resilience to wildfire without having to access funding from financial reserves or new taxation.

## **CONSULTATION (Internal referrals, External Agencies, Committees, Stakeholders)**

No specific referrals are required for the District of Lake Country to make application to the UBCM CRI-FCFS. All First Nations and Local Governments in British Columbia are eligible to apply UBCM CRI-FCFS. Once funding is awarded consultation is required for specific projects. One such example is the planning for the current Wildfire Risk Reduction Project on Spion Kop. Staff and the contracted Registered Professional Forester worked carefully with First Nations and the BC Forest Service to develop a plan that considers a wide range of cultural and environmental factors.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (if applicable)**

No specific communication is required for the District of Lake Country to make application to the UBCM CRI-FCFS. Once funding is awarded, effective communications are key to successful FireSmart programs and initiatives. District of Lake Country Communications staff and District of Lake Country Parks Recreation and Culture staff are an integral part of community engagement.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- Create and Support Opportunities for a Healthy, Active and Inclusive Community
- Create Infrastructure That Meets Community Needs
- Encourage Growth of the Downtown Core
- Ensure Sustainable Water Service Delivery for the Community
- Explore Opportunities to Engage With Regional Local Governments for the Betterment of the Community
- Honour Reconciliation by Strengthening Relationships and Inclusiveness With Our Indigenous Partners
- Identify and support improvements to the Development Process
- Implement the Agricultural Plan
- Preserve, Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment
- Secure long term wastewater service delivery for our community
- Support Opportunities to Diversify Lake Country's Tax Base

### **ALIGNMENT WITH MASTER PLANS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Plan                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Official Community Plan                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Action Charter             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2019    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Needs Report                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer System Map                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 1/2 Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Future Plan-Central Okanagan Region-DRAFT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McCoubrey Plateau Area Structure Plan         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation for Tomorrow                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Master Plan                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Master Plan                                 |

### **OPTIONS**

- A. THAT an application to the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment - Fire Smart Community Funding for an additional \$100,000 in 2024 for FireSmart related programs and services, be supported;  
AND THAT pending approval of the additional \$100,000 grant, staff be directed to amend the 2024 Financial Plan and administer the grant;  
AND THAT the District be responsible for providing overall management of the grant.
- B. THAT staff delay the application to the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment – Fire Smart Community Funding and report back to Council with additional details on the works and projects that are eligible to be funded by the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Fund.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Darren Lee, Fire Chief

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Additional UBCM CRI FireSmart Grant Funding Application for 2024.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A-Additional UBCM CRI-FCFS Grant Funding for 2024.docx
Final Approval Date:	Mar 14, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Feb 29, 2024 - 11:20 AM**

**Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Feb 29, 2024 - 11:36 AM**

**No Signature - Task assigned to Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer was completed by assistant Kelly McIntosh, Executive Coordinator**

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 14, 2024 - 2:58 PM**