

Request for Decision

File No: Ehh 680 001

Date December 11, 2019
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Subject CBT Community Wildfire Program Grant Application

REQUEST

To approve the submission of a CBT Community Wildfire Program grant application.

OPTIONS

1. That an application be submitted to CBT for \$25,000.00 under the Community Wildfire Program for FireSmart educational activities within the RDEK and further, that the RDEK will support the project and provide overall grant management if the application is successful
2. That a CBT Community Wildfire Program grant application not proceed at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Columbia Basin Trust is offering Community Wildfire Education grants through their Community Wildfire Program to support community projects that help reduce the risk and impact of wildfires to communities in BC through funding and supports.

The CBT Community Wildfire Program provides funding to local governments and First Nations in the CBT region to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

In a recent Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability study conducted for the RDEK, interface wildfire risk was assessed as the number one priority for the Regional District (Downey 2011).

The grant application will be submitted to address concerns around overall FireSmart coordination within the RDEK, allow communities to be more educated in FireSmart and to start working towards becoming more resilient to wildfire risks.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

The total amount requested is \$25,000. Any grant funds received will be used as indicated above, largely through the use of a contractor or contractors. There is no expectation that additional funds will be required from the RDEK.

Previous Board Action

The Board has previously approved submission of a grant application under UBCM's 2020 Community Resiliency Investment Program (FireSmart Community Funding and Supports) for \$150,000. This will be the second grant application for 2020 FireSmart activities.

Financial Budget

The total amount being applied for is \$25,000.

Purchasing Policy

As per the current RDEK Purchasing Policy:

- Tenders and/or Proposals, if required will follow a competitive selection process.
- Service Contracts, if required shall include a requirement to produce evidence of liability insurance.

Process

If this grant application is successful, the next steps in the process will be:

- Develop a work plan for 2020 to complete the items listed in the grant application.
- RDEK staff and consultants (Request for Proposal, Service Contract) work together to complete the stated works.
- RDEK submits the final report to CBT.