



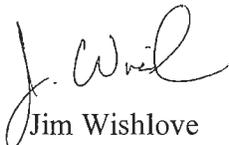
City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** August 9, 2023
From: Jim Wishlove, Fire Chief **File:** 99-Fire Rescue/2023-Vol 01
Re: **UBCM Community Resiliency Investment - Grant Application**

Staff Recommendations:

1. That staff be authorized to submit an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Fund for up to \$100,000 in grant funding as described in the report titled "UBCM Community Resiliency Investment –Grant Application" dated August 9. 2023 from the Fire Chief;
2. That should the funding application be successful, the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Community Safety be authorized to execute the agreements on behalf of the City of Richmond with the UBCM; and
3. That Should the funding application be successful, that the Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) be amended accordingly.


 Jim Wishlove
 Fire Chief
 (604-303-2715)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

Staff are seeking Council endorsement for an application to the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant program from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) focussed on public education and mitigation activities related to wildfire risk-management within the City of Richmond. In accordance with the UBCM Grant Application Guidelines, a Council resolution indicating support for the application and willingness to provide overall grant management are required to be submitted with the application. The current 2023 application deadline is September 2023.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.3 Ensure the community is collectively prepared for emergencies and potential disasters.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #4 Responsible Financial Management and Governance:

Responsible financial management and efficient use of public resources to meet the needs of the community.

4.1 Ensure effective financial planning to support a sustainable future for the City.

4.4 Work with all levels of governments for grant and funding opportunities.

Analysis

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program provides funding to local governments in BC to increase community wildfire resiliency by undertaking community based FireSmart education, planning and mitigation activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire. The grant may contribute 100% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000.

Background

The CRI program offers a number of the eligible activities and important initiatives that can be implemented by the City of Richmond to reduce our wildfire risk. With the recent spike in wildland fires, heat related occurrences and our natural and landscaped fuel sources, the wildfire risk continues to naturally increase within our city limits.

Benefits/Impacts:

As environmental fire risks increase, structure fire prevention and standard fire-life safety initiatives should be expanded to include wildfire risks, mitigation and prevention focusses. Including wildfire prevention in RFR programming will support the mitigation and prevention of fires that occur on public and private wildlands.

The 2023 intake includes funding eligibility for the development of a Community Wildfire Resilience Plan (CWRP) of up to \$32,000. This funding opportunity will allow the City to evaluate wildfire risk and implement the resiliency plan under subsequent grant funding. The \$32,000 request is to start Phase 1 and more grant opportunities will be forthcoming once we have produced the CWRP for implementation.

Financial Impact

Should the City be awarded the grant, staff recommend that the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) be amended accordingly.

Conclusion

As part of the submission process, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requires Council to endorse the application for funding. This project aligns with the City's goals and vision. Staff recommend the endorsement of the application to the CRI for grant funding.



Rachelle Ernst
Program Manager, Strategic Planning & Policy
Richmond Fire-Rescue
(604-303-2754)

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