

Date: November 20, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council**

Name and title: Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

Subject: Community Resiliency Investment Program - Structure Protection Unit (SPU) Purchase

Attachment(s): None

## Recommendation(s):

That Council APPROVES a budget and scope amendment to the financial plan for Project # 3448 - "Structure Protection Unit Trailer New for the addition of \$195,000 funded from the Community Resiliency Investment Program grant funding as follows:

Title: #3448 - Structure Protection Unit Trailers New

Description: To purchase a (two) Structure Protection Units (SPU) trailer to aid in defense of critical infrastructure during a wildfire event. First unit purchase in 2024 from funds donated to City of Prince George for this purchase. Second unit to be purchased in four different phases from 2024 to 2027, using funding provided through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program;

as described in the report dated November 20, 2024 from the Director of Planning and Development titled "Community Resiliency Investment program – Structure Protection Unit Purchase".

## Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to request City Council's approval to purchase additional Structure Protection Unit (SPU) equipment as outlined in the 2024 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program Application Guide.

## Background:

In October 2023, the Emergency Programs Division worked with the Prince George Community Foundation and Miracle Theatre to identify a suitable project to benefit from the fundraising efforts of the 2024 Miracle Theatre production "A Comedy of Tenors." Based on recommendations provided in the City's Wildfire Mitigation Strategy and 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the purchase of a Structural Protection Unit (SPU) was completed with these funds.

SPU's are trailers used by fire departments, BC Wildfire Service and trained structure protection specialists across the province. They contain equipment such as pumps, hose, sprinklers and water

delivery attachments for defending structures and other sites against wildfire by creating a “humidity bubble” around a structure, or by establishing a “wet line” around a property to slow or stop an advancing wildfire.

As part of the initial SPU purchase funded by Miracle Theatre, the City agreed to complete the purchase of a second SPU. This second SPU is to be funded by the CRI Program through a phased intake spread over a period of 4 years. Current funding structure within the program allows for a maximum of \$45,000 per year for an SPU. The City has been successful with the first year of the application and has been awarded \$45,000 towards purchasing the first phase of an SPU.

### Strategic Priorities:

The purchase of a second SPU aligns with myPG Communities Goals and Priorities, Council’s 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and the Climate Forward Implementation Strategy:

- **myPG Community Goal:** Adapting to Climate Change
- **Strategic Plan:** Social Health and Well-Being Priorities & Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action Priorities
- **Climate Forward Implementation Strategy:** Reduce community vulnerability to wildfire risk through implementing recommendations identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2018.

### Financial Considerations:

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant program will fund up to 100% of eligible costs for approved projects on municipal lands in high-risk communities to a maximum of \$200,000 per year per community. Of the \$200,000, a maximum of \$45,000 can be allocated towards the purchase of an SPU.

The City has already been successful in the 2024 CRI Program application intake and the first \$45,000 is available to be used for the purchase of SPU equipment. The SPU will be purchased in four different phases, each containing pre-determined equipment outlined in the 2024 CRI Program Application Manual. Each of the four phases will be entirely covered under CRI Program and will not require any additional funding.

The total cost of the SPU will match the amount of grant funding available through the CRI program, ensuring that this program fully funds the SPU. For the 2025 application intake the funding allocation for an SPU has increased to \$50,000. The application guidance for 2026 and 2027 is not yet available, so the final cost is limited to an estimate at this time. Based on currently available guidance there will be at least \$195,000 available to fund the SPU, with each subsequent application for later phases to be applied for. Administration will continue to apply for future phases and will only spend up to the amount of grant money that we receive. The SPU will have some functionality even in the first phase with improved functionality on each successive phase. If the City is unsuccessful with future phase applications, Administration will come back to Council with other funding options to complete the remaining phases, or simply continue to use the SPU at the level of functionality in the current phase it is at.

### Summary and Conclusion:

Administration recommends that Council approve the use of CRI Program funding to purchase SPU equipment and to amend the existing Financial Plan as follows:

Title: #3448 - Structure Protection Unit Trailers New  
Description: To purchase a (two) Structure Protection Units (SPU) trailer to aid in defense of critical infrastructure during a wildfire event. First unit purchase in 2024 from funds donated to City of Prince George for this purchase. Second unit to be purchased in four different phases from 2024 to 2027, using funding provided through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

The use of CRI program funding to begin the SPU purchase will enhance community safety in the event of a wildfire, meet City climate adaptation objectives and move forward on the agreement with Miracle Theatre to purchase a second SPU.

### Respectfully Submitted:

Deanna Wasnik, Director, Planning and Development

Prepared by: Jesse Labatiuk, Environmental Specialist

### Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/12/16