

**DATE:** February 17, 2021

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Ian Wells, Acting Deputy City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal – Addition to the 2021-2025 Financial Plan

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. 2020 CRI Program Grant Approval Meeting Form and Checklist;
2. Certified Minutes – Wildfire Mitigation Actions Oct 2019;
3. 2020 CRI Grant Approval Agreement – Signed;
4. CRI-255 Prince George Approval Amendment

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council APPROVES the addition of the Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan for a total project budget of \$639,425 with \$555,625 funded by the Union of BC Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2020 FireSmart Communities Funding & Supports and the remaining \$83,800 funded through the City of Prince George Crown Land Forest Reserve.

**PURPOSE:**

Administration is seeking Council’s authorization to add the Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project to the 2020-2024 Financial Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

In October 2019, Council approved Administration’s request to submit an application under UBCM’s *Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2020 FireSmart Communities Funding & Supports*. The application was successful and will contribute \$555,625, or approximately 87%, towards the total project budget of \$639,425. The remaining \$83,800, 13%, will come from the City’s internal reserve dedicated to urban forestry management on City lands.

The Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project will undertake strategic vegetation removal in three priority areas within Prince George that were identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The works must be complete by March 2022.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

The Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project address the goals of the 2020 Work Plan to implement the recommendations and actions identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2018. Reducing wildfire risk also aligns with the myPG goals of Safe Environment and Adapting to Climate Change.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project involves strategic fuel removal in three priority locations in Prince George: Malaspina, Broddy and Pidherny. Prescriptions prepared by a Registered Professional Forester for the three locations were completed using previous UBCM funding streams. The Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project will involve implementing these prescriptions.

The total project budget is \$693,425, of which \$555,625 will be covered by UBCM's *Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2020 FireSmart Communities Funding & Supports* and the remaining \$83,800 will come from the City's internal reserve dedicated to urban forestry management on City lands.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration is seeking Council's authorization to add the Wildfire Mitigation Fuel Removal project to the 2020-2024 Financial Plan. The project will reduce wildfire risk through strategic removal of vegetation in 3 priority areas of Prince George – Malaspina, Broddy and Pidherny. Approximately 87% of the project's budget will be funded by UBCM's *Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2020 FireSmart Communities Funding & Supports*.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Ian Wells, Acting Deputy City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Andrea Byrne, Environmental Coordinator, Development Services

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/03/08