AGENDA INFORMATION Date: March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting Other: Date:

Dept. GM/ Manager Director

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 19, 2021

File: 14.7010.02/000.000

AUTHOR:

Conrad Breakey - Captain Public Safety

Brian Hutchinson - Fire Chief

SUBJECT: 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support the 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Grant Application entitled "2021 District of North Vancouver FireSmart Recovery and Resiliency Program".

REASONS FOR REPORT:

To update Council on the FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund (FERF) Grant Application that has been prepared collaboratively by Fire and Rescue Services, and the Parks Department. A Council resolution is required to support the 2021 FERF Grant Application.

SUMMARY:

District of North Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (DNVFRS) and the District of North Vancouver (DNV) Parks Department are committed to reducing risk and impact of wildfire in our community through enhancing our planning, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. Working together with staff from both departments, we will continue to mitigate our risks through expanding the summer Park Ranger program by creating seasonal work opportunities directly related to FireSmart programming. The FERF Grant supports the goals of the departments, and provides economic opportunities for new and existing staff, while building the resiliency of our community to wildfire. Through the Grant we would offer further development of education and outreach programs, supporting additional community groups to become FireSmart communities, as well, provide professional development and job creation to stimulate the local economy.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Resiliency Investment Program through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) was revised in January 2021 to break funding into three streams:

Stream 1: FireSmart Community Funding and Supports administered by the UBCM.

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- Stream 2: Crown Land Risk Reduction, administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development.
- Stream 3: FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund, administered by the UBCM.

For 2021, DNVFRS applied for a Stream 1 CRI Resiliency Grant. DNV received confirmation from the UBCM of acceptance of that DNVFRS 2021 CRI Resiliency Grant submission on February 4, 2021, in the amount of \$150,000. Planning is underway for the development of the 2021 DNVFRS programs to support the resiliency of the community to wildfire, as follows:

- Education (FireSmart Social Media, Door Hanger Campaign, Outdoor Burning/Fire Hazard Rating Cards, Community Workshop, Outdoor Wildland/FireSmart Demonstrations, FireSmart Community Projects - \$36,000
- Planning (FireSmart Assessments of Municipal, School District and First Nations Buildings) - \$12,500
- Interagency Co-operations (Regional Planning Group Annual Meeting, Interagency Training) - \$7,000
- Emergency Planning (Interagency Wildfire Exercise, Table Top, Pre-incident Wildfire Plans, Community Events) - \$89,500
- FireSmart Training and Cross Training (Local FireSmart Training) \$5,000

This new FERF Grant Application by DNVFRS and the DNV Parks Department is a collaboration on Stream 3. The intent of Stream 3 is to support immediate job creation in order to build local wildfire resiliency and assist communities in recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANALYSIS:

Timing/Approval Process:

As is required as part of the application process, the 2021 FERF Grant Application was submitted to Tony Botica, Wildfire Prevention Officer – Coastal Fire Centre, BC Wildfire Services. The FERF Grant submission is due to be submitted to the UBCM on March 19, 2021.

Concurrence:

The following DNV departments and external stakeholders have reviewed and concur with the report: Parks Department, Environmental Sustainability (Operations), Finance, Human Resources, and Fire & Rescue Services.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has provided \$10 million for this funding stream. The 2021 FERF Grant Application provides funding for the creation of four (4) new seasonal Parks Rangers positions, one (1) FireSmart DNVFRS Coordinator, and cost recovery for scheduling of DNVFRS FireSmart Liaisons in the total amount of \$127,050.

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LIABILITY/RISK

The FERF Grant Application supports completion of recommendations outlined in the current CWPP Update, which reduces liability by demonstrating an ongoing work plan and commitment to wildfire risk reduction. The programs provide ecological protection and 'urgent climate action' supporting Council's July 8, 2019 climate and ecological emergency declaration "THAT staff are directed to incorporate more urgent climate action and ecological protection into strategic and financial planning processes".

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Community Risk Reduction programming including social media, door-to-door information delivery, FireSmart assessments, community education, and Wildfire mitigation events are planned to take place. The FERF Grant will provide greater depth to the delivery of our programs, expand our community's capacity and resiliency, and provide professional development opportunities for new and existing employees.

SOCIAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Understanding, communicating and managing wildfire risk is integrated with community values of recreation, environmental protection, public safety and sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

FireSmart resiliency programming benefits the ecosystem by reducing the risk and potential impact of wildfire. Reducing the risk of wildfire will increase our community safety from wildfire.

EXISTING POLICY

The FERF grant directly supports goals and actions in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) by reducing risk and building community resilience to climate-related events such as wildfires (CCAS Goals 1 and 2, Objectives 3 and 5, and Required Actions 3.2 and 5.1). The FERF Grant supports the CWPP and the Wildfire Hazard Development Area (Objective 2 "proactively manage conditions affecting potential fire behaviour, thereby increasing the probability of successful fire suppression and containment, and thereby minimizing adverse impacts".

CONCLUSION

The DNV has been very successful to date with wildfire mitigation measures resulting from the collaboration, creativity, leveraging of external funding opportunities and community support. The DNV has a demonstrated capacity to continue to build resilience in our urban interface and in our forests that protect people, infrastructure, environmental and recreational assets from wildfire hazard. We continue to provide a regional leadership role in the assessment, mitigation and preparation of wildland-urban interface wildfire response planning.

Respectfully submitted,	1	111
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Conrad Breakey Captain - Public Safety Brian Hutchinson, MA, CEM®, ECFO

Fire Chief

Attachments:

1. "2021 District of North Vancouver FireSmart Recovery and Resiliency Program (eDoc #4702445)"

		REVIEWED WITH:			
□ Community Planning □ Development Planning □ Development Engineering □ Utilities □ Engineering Operations □ Parks □ Environment □ Facilities □ Human Resources □ Review and Compliance	WM RB	☐ Clerk's Office ☐ Communications ☑ Finance ☑ Fire Services ☐ ITS ☐ Solicitor ☐ GIS ☐ Real Estate ☐ Bylaw Services ☐ Planning	RD BH	External Agencies: Library Board NS Health RCMP NVRC Museum & Arch. NSEM	

Community Resiliency Investment Program 2021 FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund Application Form

Please complete and return the application form and all required attachments by March 19, 2021.

All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact <u>cri-swpi@ubcm.ca</u> or (250) 356-2947.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information	CRI-	(administrative use only)
Name of Eligible Applicant: District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services	Complete Mailing North Vancouver	g Address: 1110 Lynn Valley Rd. , BC, V7J 1Z9
Contact Person*: Conrad Breakey	Position: Captain	, Public Safety
Phone: 604-990-3696	E-mail: breakeyo	@dnv.org

^{*} Contact person must be an authorized representative of the applicant (i.e. staff member or elected official).

SECTION 2: Type of Application – Please identify the type of application you are submitting and provide the required information. Refer to Section 4 in the Program & Application Guide for eligibility.				
1.	Type of Application (select one only): ☑ Single applicant			
	Regional Project. Please list all of the partnering eligible applicants included in this application:			
2.	Rationale for Regional Projects (only). Please provide a rationale for submitting a regional project application and describe how this approach will support cost-efficiencies in the total funding request.			

SECTION 3: Project Summary

3. Name of the Project:

2021 DNV FireSmart Recovery and Resiliency Program

4. Project Summary. Please provide a summary of your project in 150 words or less.

District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (DNVFRS) is committed to reducing the risk and impact of wildfire in our community through enhancing our planning, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. Working together with staff from throughout our municipality

as well as our inter-agency partners, we will continue to mitigate our risks through expanding our summer Park Ranger program with increased numbers and training throughout the dry season months, create positions dedicated to FireSmart, and collaborate with staff outside the Fire Department to bolster our Community FireSmart efforts. In addition to this, we will offer further development of education and outreach programs, supporting additional community groups to become FireSmart communities, as well, provide professional development and job creation to stimulate the local economy. Through the FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund (FERF), District of North Vancouver (DNV) Parks Department would hire four (4) Auxiliary Park Rangers (FireSmart Rangers), and DNVFRS will create a new position of FireSmart Coordinator for May - September. In a threeday work week, the Parks Department would assign the FireSmart Rangers to support interdepartmental efforts to build wildfire resiliency. DNVFRS Public Safety Division will also provide interdepartmental liaisons on weekends to provide professional development and high-level oversight/coordination for the FireSmart Rangers. Fire Centre (use check boxes). Indicate which Fire Centre the proposed activities are located in (check all that apply). ☐ Northwest Fire Centre Cariboo Fire Centre Prince George Fire Centre Coastal Fire Centre ☐ Southeast Fire Centre ☐ Kamloops Fire Centre 6. Project Cost & Funding Request: Total project cost: \$140,850 Total project funding request: \$140,850 Have you applied for or received funding for this project from other sources? If yes, please provide details below. No Engagement Prior to Submitting an Application. If you engaged with a BCWS Wildfire Prevention Officer or FNESS Fuel Management Specialist before submitting this application, please indicate the name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) you engaged with and describe the extent of that engagement. Tony Botica, Wildfire Prevention Officer - Coastal Fire Centre **BC Wildfire Services** 250-951-4262 250-927-3311 Cell tony.botica@gov.bc.ca FERF Application form emailed to Tony Botica on February 19, 2021 for review and input prior to submission

SECTION 4: Detailed Project Information

8. Proposed Activities for Job Creation for FireSmart Projects & Fuel Management Demonstration Projects

Please refer to Table 1 in the Program & Application Guide for eligible activities and complete each section only if you are applying for funding in that category. For each, please describe how the proposed activities will support local recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note that the purchase of FireSmart supplies and equipment required for FireSmart projects or fuel management demonstration projects is limited to no more than \$3,000 of the total grant request.

a) Fire Smart Projects for Residential Areas. Refer to Appendix 2 in the Program & Application Guide for additional information.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures, limited to labour costs:

Total Section 8a - \$92,490

Total Section 8a Labour - \$89,490

The addition of FireSmart Rangers would bolster existing planned DNVFRS outreach into the residential areas of our Wildland Urban Interface, allowing for an increase in the quantity of FireSmart scheduled events and the number of residents reached in this high risk area of the community. Creating a DNVFRS FireSmart Coordinator position for May-September would allow for efficient and effective management of all FireSmart events and activities, scheduling of existing staff, supporting new FireSmart Rangers, tracking expenses, and coordinating with FireSmart Community Champions. The LFR Liaisons (existing staff) to lead and process FireSmart Community Assessments, and support the professional development of the FireSmart Rangers. The FireSmart Rangers will spend 50% of their 3-day week (1.5 days) focused on these efforts.

Activities in the residential areas will include: Delivering FireSmart messaging to the 7200 residential homes located in the DNV Wildfire Development Permit Area (DPA), planning and participation in community outreach and education events, interface construction protocols and inspections, completing Community FireSmart Assessments for properties in the Wildfire DPA, assit in community clean up days, and fuel treatment/mitigation.

- 4 FireSmart Rangers (\$40/hr) x 8 hours x 1.5 (of 3) days x 18 weeks = \$34,560
- 2 Public Safety LFR Liaisons (\$800/day) x 2 days x 15 weeks = \$48,000
- FireSmart Coordinator (Seasonal Bump-up) \$11/hour x 8.75 hours x 4 days x 18 weeks = \$6,930

Total Section 8a Supplies & Equipment - \$3,000

FireSmart supplies and equipment (as per above): In addition to above labour costs include \$3,000 for equipment and materials: lopers, rakes, bins, etc.

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Total Days in Section 8a - 240 Days

- 4 FireSmart Rangers x 1.5 (of 3) days/week x 18 weeks = 108

- 2 Public Safety LFR Liasons x 2 day/week x 15 weeks = 60
- 1 FireSmart Coordinator x 4 days/week x 18 weeks = 72

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

Outcomes/Targeted performance measures include:

- Complete Door Hanger program by delivering to all 7,200 properties in Wildfire DPA
- Complete 72 FireSmart Assessments to priority properties in 11 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update
- Conduct 18 Community Education and Wildfire Mitigation Events
- Identify and provide fuel treatment/mitigation support to properties in need
- **b)** FireSmart Projects for Farms & Ranches. Refer to Appendix 2 in the Program & Application Guide for addition information.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures, limited to labour costs: n/a

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

FireSmart Projects for Community Assets. The maximum funding request for building materials and labour is \$50,000 per eligible structure. Refer to Appendix 3 in the Program & Application Guide for additional information.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures, <u>including labour and building material costs</u>: n/a

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

c) FireSmart Projects for Critical Infrastructure. The maximum funding request for building materials and labour is \$50,000 per eligible structure. Refer to Appendix 3 in the Program & Application Guide for additional information.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures, <u>including labour and building material costs</u>: n/a

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

d) Fuel Management Demonstration Projects. All fuel management demonstration projects are required to have a completed prescription and to include educational signage. Refer to Appendix 4 in the Program & Application Guide for more information.

Description of project location, fuel reduction objectvies, treatment type (mechanical vs manual) including proposed hectares, visibility and accessibility, and estimated number of visitors per year: n/a

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures:

- Prescription development:
- Operational treatment:
- Education and media (e.g. signage etc.):

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

9. Proposed Activities for Job Creation for Sustained Wildfire Resiliency

Please refer to Table 1 in the Program & Application Guide for eligible activities and complete this section only if you are applying for funding in this category. Please describe how the proposed activities will support local recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures:

Total Section 9 - \$34,560

An unanticipated effect of COVID19 has been a dramatic increase in outdoor public usage of DNV trails and parks. The FireSmart Rangers will not only bolster existing planned FireSmart events and outreach in the Wildland Urban Interface with 50% of their 3-day week focused on engagement in the residential areas of the DNV Wildfire DPA, and they will also provide greater depth of coverage into the DNV parks and forests with foot and bike patrols to actively engage with residents and visitors conducting FireSmart outreach to utilize the other 50% of their 3-day week. In a total of a three-day work week, Parks will assign the FireSmart Rangers to support inter-departmental (DNVFRS) efforts to build wildfire resiliency.

Proposed responsibilities for these FireSmart Rangers would focus their time and efforts on the high traffic weekends throughout the dry summer months in the DNV. Activities will include: Delivering FireSmart messaging to the public in the parks and trails (as well as the Wildland Urban Interface as noted in Section 8), sharing fire danger rating with the public, and patrolling for unsafe activities.

Supporting the job creation of the FireSmart Rangers, a FireSmart Coordinator, and the professional development of existing staff LFRs, will increase the personnel in the DNV who are knowledgable about FireSmart and allow DNV to impact more residences, job sites, and both residents and visitor to the DNV thus creating a foundation of sustainable resiliency. Having FireSmart Rangers out in our community during the busiest and most risky times for wildfire is proactive and demonstrates the DNV commitment to continuous improvement. This job creation will benefit the community and provide economic recovery for four (4) new employees, professional and skill development, as well as create additional opportunities for internal employees.

- 4 FireSmart Rangers (\$40/hr) x 8 hours x 1.5 (of 3) days x 18 weeks = \$34,560

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation:

Total Days Section 9 - 108 Days

- 4 FireSmart Rangers x 1.5 (of 3) days/week x 18 weeks = 108 Days

Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

Training and Professional Developments:

- 11 days of Training for each FireSmart Ranger (details in section 10)
- Additional Public Safety staffing on summer weekends for FireSmart specific activities in the Wildland Urban Interface
- Distribute DNVFRS FireSmart door hangers to homes in Wildfire DPA
- Complete LFR training and increase number of FireSmart Community Assessments
- Assist in Community Clean up days in Urban Interface increase capacity
- Assist Parks Staff in Fuel treament in Urban Interface increase capacity

10. Proposed Activities for Skills Development that Leads to Employment

Please refer to Table 1 in the Program & Application Guide for eligible activities and complete this section only if you are applying for funding in this category. Please describe how the proposed activities will support local recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Detailed proposed activities and expenditures:

Total Section 10 Training Costs - \$13,800

Training and Professional Development for FireSmart Rangers:

- Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques 1 day x 2 instructors x \$750 = \$1,500
- Course Materials Chainsaw Course 4 x \$75 = \$300
- S100 & S185 2 days x 2 instructors x \$750 = \$3,000
- SPP-115 1 day x 2 instructors x \$750 = \$1,500
- Standard First Aid 2 days x 2 instructors x \$750 = \$3,000
- FireSmart 101 1/2 day online (no cost)
- FireSmart LFR Training 2 x 1/2 day (no cost)
- Additional Park Ranger Training to include: Radio Communications, Swiftwater Awareness, Low-Slope Rescue, Public Education, etc) = 3 days x 2 instructors x \$750 = \$4,500

Cost to Deliver Training = \$13,800

Estimated per person days for this activity, including calculation: 44 (11 days x 4 Ranger) Other proposed outcomes and performance measures:

Job training and education provided for:

- Four (4) new seasonal FireSmart Rangers
- Four (4) additional LFRs for DNV

11. Total per person days per project. Please include the proposed per person days for the overall project.

Section 11 Total - 392 Total Days for Overall Project

- 4 FireSmart Rangers x 3 days/week x 18 weeks (May September) = 216 Days
- 4 FireSmart Rangers x 11 training days = 44 Days
- 2 Public Safety LFR Liasons x 2 day/week x 15 weeks (May September) = 60 Days
- 1 FireSmart Coordinator x 4 days/week x 18 weeks (May September) = 72 Days
- 12. Capacity Building. Please describe how the proposed activities will lead to increased capacity in your community. This may include information on increased employability of local populations, improved capacity for future wildfire risk reduction activities, etc.

The DNV has 7200 homes in the Wildland DPA and significant Wildland area in and around it's borders, yet our staff capacity dedicated to FireSmart is currently limited. We have planned and scheduled a significant program for 2021, but require additional staff time, specifically on weekends through the high hazard summer months in order to be successful. The proposed activities will produce a dramatic increase to our planned community events, community assessments, Public Education, Fuel Treatments, and Community Clean up days.

By creating 4 new seasonal FireSmart Rangers, and providing education and training to them, we aim to expand the capacity of our current FireSmart project for the busy and dry summer months with the goal of creating a permanent need and staff supply for these new roles. The total number of Local FireSmart Representatives would also be increased.

The knowledge, skills and abilities that the FireSmart Rangers will gain through wildland/wildfire related training, as well as being trained as Local FireSmart Representatives provides professional development for additional members of our local population. Every effort will be made to collaborate with our local First Nations communities to provide employement opportunity to Indigenous peoples.

13. Rationale. What rationale or evidence is there for undertaking the proposed project? This may include information on local wildfire risk, economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, etc.

It was discovered through our 2020 FireSmart program that dedicated staff through the summer months, and on weekends is limited, yet essential to success. COVID-19 has limited public gatherings, contacts, and access to the spaces required to host events. The solution is to increase the number of events held, as well as increase the variety of locations to allow for increased access and contacts to our communities. The DNV CWPP Update lists 11 FireSmart priority areas, with 35 neighbourhoods to focus our efforts. This can be achieved with increasing our staff numbers and focus on FireSmart projects during our busiest months.

14. Increasing Wildfire Resiliency. Please indicate how the proposed project will increase community wildfire resiliency.

Increase in Wildfire Resiliency will be achieved through an expanded public education campaign, increase in FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessments, mitigation activities, and

FireSmart specific community events in high risk areas. Prevention efforts will also be focused through patrols and education in our parks and trails. We would plan to host public awareness events every weekend in various DPA communities and in public outdoor areas, and assist residents to recognize and clear fire hazards from their properties.

15. Partnerships & Collaboration. Please identify any other authorities you will collaborate with on the proposed project (e.g. community or resident organizations, First Nation or Indigenous organizations, or other local governments) and outline how you intend to work together.

DNVFRS will partner with DNV Parks to jointly run this program. DNV will collaborate with both the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to offer seasonal positions to Indigenous peoples. The knowledge, skills and abilities gained through this new FireSmart Ranger program could better serve all of our communities and help align our fire safety programs across the DNV.

16. Additional Information. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

Through the FERF Grant we would provide employment opportunities for four (4) new seasonal staff, as well, new opportunities for existing staff. This would allow further development of education and outreach programs, supporting additional community groups to become FireSmart Communities, as well to provide professional development and job creation to stimulate the local economy. This program supports an increase in sustainable wildfire resiliency for the DNV.

SECTION 5: Application Check List. Refer to Section 7 of the Program & Application Guide for more information.
Application Form.
☐ Detailed budget for each component identified in the application. This must clearly identify the funding request, applicant contribution, and/or other grant funding.
Resolution or motion indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.
For FireSmart projects for community assets only: evidence that the building is owned by a legally incorporated society-run fire department, local non-profit group, or community association.
For fuel management demonstration projects only: PDF map and Google Earth compatible KML file, at appropriate scale, outlining the location, proposed treatments units, and if not phased, the signed and sealed prescription.
For regional projects only: Resolutin or motion from each partnering community that clearly states approval for the applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf
Legally incorporated society-run fire department applicants only: Current Certificate of Good Standing

Submit the completed Application Form and all required related attachments as e-mail attachments to cri-swpi@ubcm.ca and note "2021 CRI FERF" in the subject line. Submit your application as either a Word or PDF file(s). If you submit by e-mail, hardcopies and/or additional copies of the application are not required.

SECTION 6: Signature – Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant. Please note all application materials will be shared with the Province of BC and the BC FireSmart Committee.

I certify that: (1) to the best of my knowledge, all information is accurate and (2) the area covered by the approved project is within the applicant's jurisdiction (or appropriate approvals are in place).

Name: Brian Hutchinson

Title: Fire Chief

Date: February 24, 2021

An electronic or original signature is required.

^{*} Signatory must be an authorized representative of the applicant (i.e. staff member or elected official).

