

Original signed by: Byron Johnson, CAO

City Staff Report

Report Date: October 13, 2020**Meeting Date:** October 20, 2020**To:** City Manager**From:** Erin Robinson**Subject:** FireSmart Crews for Private Property

Purpose

This report is being submitted to request direction from Council on the City taking over the FireSmart private property (formerly ran by the United Way) crew-work that operated in Quesnel in 2018 and 2019 and was cancelled due to COVID in 2020.

Summary

Working with the United Way's former Project Manager (Monica Johnson), Project Supervisor (Steve Dodge) and Crew Boss' (Gary Horely and Ray Jungaro), City staff hope to duplicate this program in the 2021 field season. This program will be funded by the Jobs Creation Program ("JCP") through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The item that requires Council approval: 1) hiring the Project Manager (.25 FTE) as a short term staff position. The item that staff needs to look into further is a potential increase to liability and WorkSafeBC ("WSCB") coverage, however these are expected to be minimal; staff is looking into this.

Recommendation

THAT Quesnel City Council, subject to satisfaction with WorkSafeBC and liability issues, supports the FireSmarting on private property through the Jobs Creation Program, including the creation of a .25 FTE for the Project Manager.

Statutory Requirements

No known Community Charter, Local Government Act requirements.

Council Policy

There is no directly applicable Council policy, state this.

Strategic Objective

This report falls under the heading of Community Wildfire Protection and FireSmart heading of 2020 Strategic Plan.

Financial Implications

The funding envelope for the JCP covers all associated costs that we know of to date.

Background

Under the Job Creation Project, modeled after a successful project implemented by the United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo, the project participants (crew) will be EI eligible clients referred from Work BC, and receive living support funding through WorkBC for their work on the project. Crew would be trained in FireSmart residential assessments, gain work experience in the field of fire mitigation, given personal/professional development opportunities, and complete certifications to



enhance their employability while making a valuable contribution to the community. As a community-based project, it is rooted in the principles of community and social-development, and would be implemented in co-operation and collaboration with existing initiatives within the City and outlying communities within a defined boundary towards its wildfire prevention outcomes.

Attachments

None

Concurrence

None.

Options

To choose not to participate in the JCP.