

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Fire Department

**Date:** April 4, 2025

**Subject:** BCAA Outreach Program Grant Application

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approves the grant application to the BCAA Outreach Program through FireSmart BC for up to \$11,000 plus GST;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the contract and any related documentation.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The BCAA FireSmart Outreach Program is an initiative aimed at increasing wildfire resilience across British Columbia, through Education on wildfire risks and preparedness, while equipping communities with the tools and knowledge to protect homes and surroundings. The BCAA Outreach Program provides financial support to property owners through the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program, which includes discounts on BCAA Home Insurance. Since it's start, the program has contributed to the safety and resilience of communities across British Columbia by fostering a culture of proactive wildfire prevention and proactive wildfire management.

This year, the BCAA FireSmart Outreach Program is offering a pilot program to select communities across the province, which will provide funding to communities in support of hiring youth or students between the ages of 16 and 30 as a Junior FireSmart Coordinator for 4 – 12 weeks over the summer. The Junior FireSmart Coordinator will work along side the FireSmart Coordinator to support the Mackenzie FireSmart Program through Public Engagement, Home Assessments, and Fuel Mitigation Planning and Supervision. The Junior FireSmart Coordinator may also assist the FireSmart Coordinator with Assessments on Critical Infrastructure in alignment with the 2022 District of Mackenzie Community Wildfire Resilience Plan (CWRP).

Should the District hire a Junior FireSmart Coordinator, this would allow the Deputy Emergency Program / FireSmart Coordinator to focus on growing the Mackenzie FireSmart Program while updating Emergency Plans as required by the 2022 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and the provincial Emergency Disaster Management Act (EDMA).

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

\$11,000 would be allocated from the BCAA Outreach Program Grant to support the recommendation.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

**Community and Social Development**

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- The way we operate has an impact on the environment. We are committed to integrating sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) into our decision making and business practices.

**Strong Governance and Finances**

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Micaiah Taylor, Deputy Emergency Program / FireSmart Coordinator

**Reviewed By:** Corporate and Financial Services

**Approved By:** Chief Administrative Officer