

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Fire Department

Date: April 7, 2025

Subject: 2025 Wildfire Fuel Mitigation Forest Professional

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council awards the 2025 Fuel Mitigation Project Forest Professional Work to Strategic Natural Resources in the amount of \$31,561.89 plus GST;

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

BACKGROUND:

Recent wildfire seasons in British Columbia have demonstrated the growing threat to communities situated within the wildland-urban interface, where residential, commercial, and critical infrastructure are located adjacent to flammable vegetation. In response to this risk, the District of Mackenzie submitted an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to fund FireSmart activities in Mackenzie, which includes a Fuel Mitigation Project as a proactive measure to reduce wildfire risk and enhance community resilience. This project aligns with the priorities outlined in the District of Mackenzie's 2022 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), which identifies high-risk areas and recommends targeted fuel treatment strategies.

The primary objectives of the project are to reduce forest fuel loads, modify potential wildfire behavior, and improve the effectiveness of emergency response in the event of a wildfire. Treatment methods may include mechanical thinning, pruning, removal of surface fuels, and other best-practice mitigation techniques. This project represents an important step toward building long-term community resilience and safeguarding both residents and infrastructure from future wildfire events.

Following a Request for Proposal, the District of Mackenzie received 3 bids to complete the Forest Professional Requirements of the project, as outlined in the Prescription and UBCM Final Reporting Requirements. Following a review of the proposals by District of Mackenzie staff and the Mackenzie Wildfire Advisory Committee (MWAC), staff would like to recommend awarding the contract to Strategic Natural Resources Inc. from Prince George. Strategic Natural Resources



bid was lower than other proponents, they expressed they have a strong working relationship with the McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB), and intend to utilize MLIB workers for Operations and Training on all avenues possible with the project.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

\$31,561.89 would be allocated from the 2025 Community Resiliency Investment 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