

Subject: Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) 2020 Grant Application**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Administration be directed to apply for Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) funding to assist with the 2020 vegetation management projects being undertaken by the Municipality within the Region.

Summary:

The Municipality will, on behalf of The Regional FireSmart Advisory Committee, apply for up to \$300,000 of funding for the 2020 vegetation management programs through the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) grant. The projects proposed to start in 2020 will take place in Conklin, Fort Chipewyan and 2 locations within the Urban Service Area. Council's support is a key element to the grant application process.

Background:

Establishing a comprehensive FireSmart program is an essential and necessary endeavor, as indicated by the KPMG Lessons Learned report. The 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Strategy outlines a practical and operational approach and includes recommendations to create a FireSmart culture within the Municipality that is based on community responsibility, multi-agency collaboration and an outcome-based approach to implementing FireSmart projects. One of these strategies includes vegetation management. Vegetation management looks at reducing the amount of vegetation that can fuel a fire. The 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Strategy identified high risk areas that should be treated with FireSmart prescriptions to reduce the amount of fuel in the forest.

Previously, the Municipality received \$750,000 in grant funding from FRIAA which funded one FireSmart vegetation management program in Anzac. The 2020 FRIAA grant request will assist in completing the remaining vegetation management programs that have been identified in the 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Strategy. Additional grant funding received from the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Red Cross is being utilized for additional FireSmart programs and activities.

Budget/Financial Implications:

The intent of this request is to seek Council support to allow the Municipality on behalf of the Regional FireSmart Advisory Committee to apply for funding through FRIAA to assist with the cost of completing these vegetation management projects.

Should grant funding through FRIAA not be awarded, a request for operating funds would be submitted for approval.

Rationale for Recommendation:

FireSmart programs rely heavily on grant funding in order to successfully carry out the FireSmart program. The funding opportunity offered through FRIAA is a viable way to complete these vegetation management projects.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

2020 Vegetation Management Plan Conklin

2020 Vegetation Management Plan Fort Chipewayn

2020 Vegetation Management Plan Stoney Creek

2020 Vegetation Management Plan Wood Buffalo