



STAFF REPORT

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
FROM: ELIJA ELLISON
SUBJECT: FIRESMART PROGRAMME
MEETING DATE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, SEPTEMBER 9TH

PURPOSE

To discuss highlights of Firesmart in the community and to advocate to continue funding for this programme and position.

BACKGROUND

The Firesmart community funding and support grant began in 2024 and will end in 2026. A two-year programme designed to educate, build awareness and create a safer place to live. I feel, as the Firesmart Coordinator, that I am finally getting our community to start thinking proactively about wildfire preparedness and the principals that come with Firesmart. We need this funding to continue in our community, as it is an important tool and very resourceful information. We have 7 Firesmart recognized neighborhoods, held chipping events, I have implemented the Firesmart Library Program, begun to introduce the Firesmart Education Program at our local elementary school, worked and supported along side Biology classes at LCS doing some blackberry clearing at Olson Manor, mitigated Friendship Forest (continuing to work on removing all invasive species) completed the Type 2 SPU trailer, benefiting our community and other regions, completed home ignition zone assessments, wildfire mitigation assessments, building a connection with Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation and hoping to collaborate with them in the future with mitigation projects, hired 2 summer student contractors who mitigated a lot of areas around the community that have elder population, held preparedness and Firesmart events around town.



ANALYSIS

IMPLICATIONS

a. Financial:

The current funding for the Firesmart Program is going to be exhausted in 2026. To continue the beyond current funding allotment, the Town should apply for grants for 2026-2028 period with the next intake being October 1, 2025.

b. Policy/Legislation:

N/A

c. Strategic Priority:

N/A Firesmart program is not listed as a direct priority within the Strategic Plan.

d. Sustainability:

N/A

e. Communication:

Communication about the Firesmart Program is ongoing.

f. Staffing Implication:

Staffing is contingent on the continuation of funding for this program. Current funding commitment is in place to cover staffing up to July 12, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommend that the FireSmart Programme report be received as information; AND

THAT the Director of Finance be directed to bring this forward for future discussions during the 2026-2030 5 year Financial Plan.

Signed:

Elija Ellison

Elija Ellison
Firesmart Coordinator

Concurrence:

John T

John Thomas
Chief Administrative Officer