

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL REPORT

Finance

For the June 24, 2024 Council Meeting

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DATE: June 19, 2024 File No.

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Adam Goodwin and Kelly Mercer, Director of Operations

RE: \$1M Grant Opportunity from the Green Municipal Fund (Federation of Canadian Municipalities)

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### **RATIONALE:**

To bring forward an opportunity to Council for a grant/funding of up to \$1M from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA).

### **OPTIONS:**

This report is to introduce a \$1M funding/grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) under the Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA). Council is not being asked to make a decision on a specific project at this time – staff will return to the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting with a more detailed application overview, should Council generally support the Town applying for this funding opportunity.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council direct staff to return to the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting with a high-level overview of the Town of Oliver's application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA).

### **RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:**

The region is experiencing a number of emergencies, such as extreme heat, floods and wildfires. Some of the Town's infrastructure may be at risk during emergencies due to the lack of redundant power supplies.

## BACKGROUND:

### *Background about the grant/funding*

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) provides up to a maximum of \$1M for municipalities to implement projects designed to support communities with the impacts of climate change. The program includes the following:

Grant element	Grant parameters
Maximum grant	\$1M
Maximum contribution	60% of eligible project costs, with an extra 10% for communities under 10,000 and 10% if the project can be shown to positively contribute towards a more equitable community (total of 70-80% with the other 20-30% contribution from the Town)
Deadline	August 14, 2024
Project duration	Maximum of three years
Examples of eligible projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooling and warming centre upgrades</li><li>• Enhancing municipal service levels to respond to climate risks</li><li>• Installing back-up power on critical infrastructure</li><li>• Upgrading public structures to reduce the risks associated with climate hazards</li><li>• Installing green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens)</li><li>• Can include mobile assets</li></ul>
Alignment with municipal climate-related plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town of Oliver Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan: <a href="#">Oliver Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan, 2024.pdf</a></li><li>• Town of Oliver Community Energy and Emissions Plan: <a href="#">Oliver Community Energy and Emissions Plan, 2024.pdf</a></li></ul>
More grant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding overview: <a href="#">Implementation projects: Adaptation in Action   Green Municipal Fund</a></li><li>• Funding guidelines: <a href="#">Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (fcm.ca)</a></li></ul>

Table 1. Grant overview

## Potential projects

When staff received information about this funding opportunity, Town staff reviewed potential projects that would:

- Align with the funding, and
- Have general alignment with Town plans and needs.

## Potential Project # 1 – Mobile Generator for the Town’s Water System

The Town of Oliver relies on a number of lift stations and pump houses along its water infrastructure to deliver water to residents and agriculture users. The critical pumphouses along the systems include:

- Buchanan Road pumphouse
- Black Sage and Miller Road pumphouses
- Rockcliffe and Tucelnuit pumphouses
- Fairview and Miller Road pumphouses

A fuller overview of the Town’s domestic and irrigation water system is available starting on [page 6 of the 2023 Town water report](#).

During an interruption of power at the pumphouses (e.g., electrical outage), the Town can typically continue to deliver water for some amount of time to water customers. However, with increasing rates and intensities of disasters and emergencies (e.g., wildfires, extreme heat), the loss of energy to and at these critical infrastructure could create challenges for the Town to deliver water to customers.

For example, there have been two recent wildfires near the Town of Oliver’s boundaries:

- June 11, 2024 Burnell Lake Wildfire (see Figure 1), and
- September 11, 2023 Tower Hill/Oliver Mountain wildfire (see Figure 2).

These emergencies could have led to the loss of power lines to the pumphouse buildings, which would have interrupted power supply at these buildings for an unknown amount of time. This would lead to considerable challenges for Town operational staff to maintain the operations of the system to deliver water to households. The Town may lose the ability to deliver water to fire fighting infrastructure (e.g., hydrants) during the loss of energy to pumphouses. Additionally, during power outages in the community, there are limited options for operational staff to keep pumps operating.

The funding specifically allows the installation of back-up power on critical infrastructure. Additionally, the project funding allows for the purchase of *mobile assets*. Therefore, staff recommend that a potential project include the purchase of a mobile generator trailer that can be transported to a pumphouse if it loses its electrical supply (e.g., due to a power outage, a wildfire). This will allow operational staff to continue to operate pumphouses during the interruption and decrease the likelihood of the Town not being able to deliver drinking water.

If Council is generally supportive of this option, staff will return with a more developed financial plan during the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting. It is anticipated that a mobile generator trailer

would cost approximately \$325,000 plus \$65,000 for connections between the generator and each pumphouse (total of \$390,000). The grant would provide funding of \$273,000, with the Town needing to contribute \$117,000. As projects can be over three years, the Town could budget \$58,500 in the 2025 financial plan, and \$58,500 in the 2026 financial plan for its contribution. The trailer would then be purchased in early 2026. This would provide staff with 2025 to continue to research different options to ensure the Town receives the best value for the purchase.

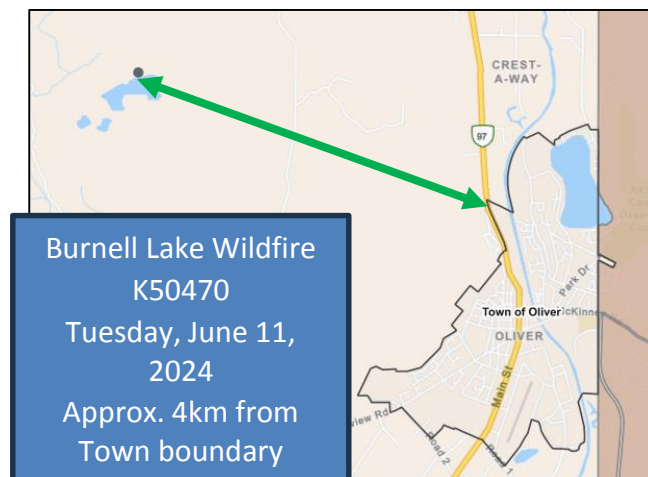


Figure 1. Map from BC Wildfire Service showing the location of the Burnell Lake Wildfire (K50470) on Tuesday, June 11, 2024



Figure 2. Screenshot of a [Castanet](#) article about the Tower Hill/Oliver Mountain wildfire in September 2023

## Potential Project # 2 – Temporary Staff Position to Implement Town Plans

Another potential project/initiative to use the funding could be to enhance municipal service levels to respond to climate risks through a temporary, dedicated role for implementing projects in the recently Council-approved climate related plans:

- Town of Oliver Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan: [Oliver Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan, 2024.pdf](#)
- Town of Oliver Community Energy and Emissions Plan: [Oliver Community Energy and Emissions Plan, 2024.pdf](#)

The FCM funding would provide 70% of the wages for the role, while the Town's 30% contribution could come from the annual provincial funding under the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). This role could help oversee complementary projects such as the water ambassador program.

## Next steps

Depending on the direction of Council, staff will return to the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council with a final outline of a project for the Town of Oliver to submit to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) program.

*General:* N/A

*Organizational:* N/A

*Financial:* The Town of Oliver relies on external funding and grants to fund important initiatives and projects to support the safety and well-being of the community of Oliver.

*Legal/Statutory Authority:* N/A

***Strategic Plan:*** Good Governance

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	\$1M Grant Opportunity from the Green Municipal Fund (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).docx
Attachments:	- June 24 2024 FCM Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 20, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Rochelle Lougheed - Jun 20, 2024 - 8:28 AM**

**Wayne Anderson - Jun 20, 2024 - 9:21 AM**