

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: August 22, 2023
 General Plan Element: Public Services & Facilities
 General Plan Goal: Provide a safe environment for all citizens, visitors and private interests

ACTION

If awarded adopt Resolution No.12898 authorizing:

1. The acceptance of the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant, if awarded, in the amount of up to \$500,000 to be spent over three 12-month periods beginning FY 2023/24.
2. A budget transfer of up to \$200,000 from the adopted FY 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or Grant Contingency to a newly created cost center within the Fire Department's operating budget to record the first year of activity related to the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant.
3. A 30 percent grant match requirement to be a combination of in-kind through hours of various staff members associated with the projects for the grant and funded fire mitigation projects by various departments within the City of Scottsdale.
4. Fire Chief or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant.

BACKGROUND

The Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve (SMSP), an area of over thirty thousand (30,000) acres is one of the largest metropolitan preserves in the United States and permanently protects Sonoran Desert open space owned and operated by the city of Scottsdale. In addition, and near the SMSP in the center and north part of the city is expansive open space lands identified as State Trust Lands. This area containing these lands are surrounded by communities, businesses, critical utility infrastructure, and a communications site responsible for valley wide 9-1-1 dispatching. Currently, these lands have dense overgrowth and tremendous fire fuel loading from invasive grass and weeds. The wildfire potential and severity of fire is high/very high according to the Arizona Wildfire Risk Assessment (AZ WRAP) managed by the State of Arizona's Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). The Maricopa County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has also identified these lands to be at high risk for severe wildfire potential. Under the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant, the City of Scottsdale will treat approximately 150 acres of land on, and adjacent to, the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve (SMSP) and State Trust Lands. These treatments would occur in three parts: Part 1 focuses on mechanically treating right-of-way, roads, trails, and trailheads; Part 2 focuses on communities at risk and utilizing the National Firewise program to help protect communities located in the wildland urban interface (WUI).; and Part 3 ongoing maintenance and pre-emergent applications where needed.

Action Taken See Marked Agenda - Adopt Resolution No. 12898 - YES - 7/0

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

Recent Staff Action

Key internal stakeholders from the Fire Department and Community Services have collaborated with local, state, federal, and private partners to identify the most vulnerable areas within approximately 150 acres in North Scottsdale and created the three-phase approach and treatment plan for fuel reduction and mitigation.

A grant application was submitted to the State of Arizona for the 2023 Healthy Forest Initiative, and the department is actively researching additional grants to support the fuel reduction program.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

Budget Implications

The Healthy Forest Initiative Grant will fund up to \$500,000 of fuel mitigation projects that can span up to 3 years to complete. Budget appropriation for years two and three of the grant will be requested to be included in the FY 2024/2025 and FY 2025/2026 adopted budgets.

There is enough grant/future grant contingency appropriation to support the transfer requested in this action.

As in the past, 30 percent grant match requirement will be a combination of in-kind through hours of various staff members associated with the projects for the grant, and funded fire mitigation projects by various departments within the City of Scottsdale.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach

If awarded, adopt Resolution No. 12898 authorizing:

1. The acceptance of the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant, if awarded, in the amount of up to \$500,000 to be spent over three 12-month periods beginning FY 2023/24.
2. A budget transfer of up to \$200,000 from the adopted FY 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or Grant Contingency to a newly created cost center within the Fire Department's operating budget to record the first year of activity related to the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant.
3. A 30 percent grant match requirement to be a combination of in-kind through hours of various staff members associated with the projects for the grant and funded fire mitigation projects by various departments within the City of Scottsdale.
4. Fire Chief or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

Fire Department

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Dave Ramirez, Community Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator (602-622-9964)
djramirez@scottsdaleaz.gov

APPROVED BY

E Valliere

Tom Shannon, Fire Chief
480-312-1821 tshannon@scottsdaleaz.gov

8/2/23 12:46 MST
Date

Ana Lia Johnson

Ana Lia Johnson, Acting Budget Director
480-312-7893 anjohanson@scottsdaleaz.gov

8/2/23 12:46 MST
Date

Jim Thompson

Jim Thompson, City Manager
480-312-2811 jthompson@scottsdaleaz.gov

8/2/23 12:46 MST
Date

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 12898

RESOLUTION NO: 12898

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING, IF AWARDED, THE ACCEPTANCE, OF A FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsdale has applied for a \$500,000 over three, 12-month periods beginning FY 2023/2024 from the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant for fuel mitigation; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant, if awarded, will enhance the City's ability to chemically and/or mechanically treat approximately 150 acres of land on, and adjacent to, the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve (SMSP) and State Trust Lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. Authorize, if awarded, acceptance in FY 2023/24 the spending of the Healthy Forest Initiative Grant funds, in the total amount of \$500,000 over three, 12-month periods beginning FY 2023/24.

Section 2. Authorize a \$200,000 budget transfer from the adopted FY 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or Grant Contingency to a newly created cost center within the Fire Department's operating budget to record the related Healthy Forest Initiative Grant activity. The transfer is to cover fuel mitigation projects for the first year to be funded by the grant.

Section 3. The 30 percent grant match requirement will be a combination of in-kind through hours of various staff members associated with the projects for the grant and funded fire mitigation projects by various departments within the City of Scottsdale.

Section 4. Fire Chief Tom Shannon or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of a Healthy Forest Initiative grant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Scottsdale this ____ day of August 2023.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an
Arizona municipal corporation,

ATTEST:

David D. Ortega, Mayor

Ben Lane, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sherry R. Scott City Attorney

By: Luis Santaella, Deputy City Attorney