Wildfire Urban Interface Micro Grant Program for project from $200 to $2000 (Grant A)

Grant Category:

- **Fuel Reduction, Vegetation Management:** Projects that focus on reducing the accumulation of hazardous/flammable vegetation, such as tree trimming, mowing and weed removal. Projects must reduce wildfire risk on private properties and can include hiring contractors to complete work.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Individuals, community organizations and local nonprofits are eligible to apply
- Property owners and renters are eligible, for certain projects renters may be required to provide proof of landowner permission.
- Projects must be located within the City of Rufus's Urban Growth Boundary.
- Applicant's must demonstrate a clear plan and budget
- If it is a one-time equipment purchase, applicants must explain why the equipment is a good investment and will be **required to provide proof of purchase within 30 days of receiving funding.**
- Priority may be given to projects in high-risk areas.
- Priority may be given to projects that produce a broad impact.

Grant Amounts: For this program, micro-grant amounts may not exceed $2000 per property tax lot.

Grant timeline for 2025:

- Application Open: January 2, 2025 – February 17, 2025
- Grant Review: February 18 – March 1, 2025
- Grant awards: March 2025
- Grant activities & Expenditures: April – December 2025
- Final Reports Due: December 31, 2025

Application Process:

The Micro-Grant program will be open for application once a year and eligible applications will be able to apply through paper and/or online applications. Paper applications will be available at City Hall beginning January 2, 2025. An online application will also be available January 2, 2025. The link to the online application as well as a printable application will be posted on the City of Rufus Website as well as a hyperlink provided to interested community members.

The application will include contact information, project description, project location, project timeline, budget, and funding request, along with supporting documentation such as cost estimates and/or contractor bids.

Review Process:

A review committee consisting of local experts, government officials and community representatives will be created to score and award grants. The grant committee may consist of a maximum of 5 members and shall have a minimum of 3 members. The Committee will begin the review process after the application period has ended and will use the scoring criteria outlined below to score each grant application. Applications with the highest scores will be awarded. Exceptionally low scores will not be awarded.

Scoring Criteria:

1. **Project Description (Max Score: 20)**
   - Project is easy to understand and has a clear goal/objective. Goals can be simple, i.e. keep my lawn mowed, reduce the vegetation on my property, etc.
   - Project clearly supports Rufus's Weed Ordinance and aligns with wildfire mitigation and vegetation management goals within the city
   - What will this project accomplish? (Will it allow someone to mow their yard? Trim their trees? Hire a contractor because they are unable to complete the work?)
   - What benefit will this project provide to the whole community and to overall public safety? (Will it allow someone to maintain their own space and contribute to community safety overall?)
2. **Project Location (Max Score: 10)**
   - Is the project located within the City of Rufus or its Urban Growth Boundary?
   - Is property rented or owned? If rented, do they need landowner permission?
   - Project location with regards to high priority mitigation areas for the City of Rufus.
3. **Project Timeline (Max Score: 10)**
   - How long will the project take?
4. **Budget and Funding Request (Max Score: 20)**
   - Overall completeness and feasibility of the project budget.
   - Justification for the amount requested from the Micro-Grant Program, **including estimates from contractors**
   - Purchases must be listed out.

Overall Score: _____/60

Grant Disbursement:
Once the review committee selects grant recipients, the applicants will be informed and will be provided with a contract to sign acknowledging funds will be spent on what they have been allocated for. Payments will be issued directly to the pre-approved and selected contractor hired to complete the awarded work orders. **Use of pre-approved contractors is a requirement of the funding through Oregon State Fire Marshall and is unable to be waived.**

Reporting and Evaluation:
Grantees will be required to submit a final report. The final report will be required at the end of their project or December 31, 2025. The report must include before and after photos of their project, and follow the format outlined in this document.

Wildland Urban Interface Microgrant Program

Final Report for Projects Under $2000

Applicant Information	
Name	
Phone number	
Email Address	
Mailing Address	
Physical Address	

Grant Category: Select One

	Fuel Reduction
	Vegetation Management
	Defensible Space Enhancement
	Prescribed Grazing

Project Description and Accomplishments

What have you been able to accomplish with the money you received? Please be as detailed as possible.

Project Timeline

When did you start your project and when did you end it?

Budget and Funding Request

Total Project Budget	$

Amount Received from the Micro-Grant Program	$

Budget Details

Please list out exactly what was purchased with the money you received:

Challenges and Solutions

Share any lessons learned or insights gained through the implementation of your project that may be valuable for future projects related to wildfire mitigation and vegetation management.

Supporting Documents

Attach any relevant documents, photographs, or reports that provide evidence of the project's progress and impact.

This micro-grant has been funded through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program.