

LFP SFI GRANT BUDGET

Drue Epping

12/18/2025

This grant request is to support part-time internal city personal to complete this project. Drue Epping is an ISA-certified Master Arborist and ISA-Certified Municipal Specialist with a degree in Arboriculture from MATC. She has 8 years of experience in urban forestry operations and has been serving as a municipal urban forest planner for 3 years making her qualified to do the reporting.

Budget Category	Request	Narrative
STAFF – LFP Urban Forest Planner (Drue Epping)	\$18,324	364 hours of staff time at \$50.34/hour (7 hours of work once a week for a year). 19% of total staff time.
FRINGE BENEFITS – health insurance, pension contribution, etc.	\$2,749	15% of total compensation for additional staff time. 15% used based on best estimate of impacts based on previous contributions.
SUM OF TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$21,073	
De minimis 7% of STDC	\$1,475	
ORIGINAL REQUEST	\$22,548	
Addition Funding for SFI Audit		
Consultant Services	\$45,000	Contracting with appropriate consulting companies to complete preaudit assessment including certification body services, and other environmental services related to pre-audit review.
SUM OF TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$45,000	
De minimis 7% of STDC	\$3,150	
ADDITIONAL REQUEST	\$48,150	
TOTAL REQUEST	\$70, 698	

Having the information from the completed SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard will help inform our future municipal code and comprehensive plan updates as a city. Our city council and legal department strive to make policy changes that are based in review of needs for the community, best science, and best management practices. Having this SFI standards review would give us a starting point for building out better policy and

long-range urban forest planning for our city. We are also working specifically on review of our climate element right now which urban forest health is an essential part of. Lastly, this completed document is a jumping off point to developing a comprehensive forest plan for the city aimed at providing tree equity and accessibility to all residents.

We have limited budget and staff time for completing work like this due to our small size. I am only a part-time position with the city currently so this grant would have a huge impact on our ability to dive more into long-range planning and examining where we need to improve. Our tree board is very motivated to take on code update projects and anything else that is aimed at improving our city.

Updated to include the additional funding for the pre-certification audit which will provide additional benefits to our long-range city planning.