



MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Finance Committee
From: Josh Tenneson, Deputy Director
Christy Reeves, Controller
Date: October 30, 2025
Re: Five-year Spending Plan Amendment (Fiscal Years 2026-2030)

Summary

This memorandum proposes an amendment to the GOCO board's five-year spending plan (FY 2026-2030) to align it with the actual FY 2026 GOCO proceeds cap, actual FY 2026 operating expenses, actual FY 2025 deauthorizations, and concurrent grant recommendations.

Background

The board approved the five-year spending plan for FY 2026–2030 at its March 2025 meeting through Resolution 2025-03 and amended the plan in September 2025 to support two CPW requests with reserve funds. The spending plan was intentionally designed to be dynamic, with the board anticipating periodic amendments each year to respond to partner needs and ensure GOCO's funding remains aligned with its current strategic plan.

The proposed amendment outlined in this memorandum incorporates:

1. the actual GOCO proceeds cap for FY 2026;
2. the board-approved FY 2026 operating expenses;
3. the actual FY 2025 Local Government deauthorizations; and
4. strategic adjustments to allocations within the Open Space Base Programs and the Regional Partnership Initiative.

Proposed Amendment to the 2026-2030 Spending Plan

The attached draft spending plan has been modified from the current approved plan in the following ways (see Attachment 1 for the current plan and Attachment 2 for the proposed amended plan):

1. Constitutional Cap Adjustment – GOCO's share of lottery proceeds is capped by the Colorado Constitution based on the Consumer Price Index. For FY 2026, the cap is set at \$87,989,409, which is slightly lower than the amount projected when the spending plan was approved in March 2025. The FY 2026 cap amount shown in the spending plan is \$87,705,653, which is \$283,756 less than the constitutional cap of \$87,989,409. The difference reflects the Board's prior decision to move \$283,756 from FY 2026 to FY 2025 to accommodate a timing variance in the Generation Wild marketing campaign.
2. Operating Budget Adjustment – Similar to the cap adjustment described above, the original spending plan included an estimated FY 2026 operating budget. The amended plan slightly



reduces operating expenses across all five years to align with the actual, board-approved FY 2026 operating budget.

3. Local Government Deauthorizations – The amended spending plan has been updated with actual FY 2025 Local Government purpose deauthorizations, which are now included in the FY 2026 reserve.
4. Programmatic Adjustments:
 - a. Open Space Base Programs – In the current grant cycle, GOCO received a couple of large land acquisition requests that represent significant conservation opportunities aligned with GOCO’s strategic priorities and Colorado’s Outdoors Strategy. One proposal represents a Centennial-scale opportunity in both cost and impact. Recognizing the opportunistic nature of such acquisitions and GOCO’s continued prioritization of protecting lands of statewide significance, staff recommends investing the entire FY 2026 Open Space Base Program budget this cycle and allocating a portion of Open Space funds from future years (approximately \$500,000 per year) to support these high-impact projects. GOCO will continue to consider proposals for significant, urgent land acquisitions in FY 2026. If additional opportunities arise and advance to the board, staff may recommend reallocating funds from future years (as being proposed for this current cycle) or drawing from reserves.
 - b. Regional Partnerships Initiative – The board initially allocated \$2.5 million per purpose per year (a total of \$10 million annually) for the Regional Partnership Initiative, with the understanding that adjustments would be made each year based on actual grant outcomes. The amended spending plan updates allocations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 to reflect the current grant recommendations under consideration for the Regional Partnership Initiative.

Public Comment

The proposed amendment to the five-year spending plan will be available for public comment beginning November 7, 2025, with comments accepted through December 1, 2025.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the GOCO finance committee approve the five-year spending plan amendment and forward it to the board for consideration at the December 2025 board meeting.

Attachments

1. Current 2026-2030 Spending Plan
2. Proposed 2025-2030 Spending Plan Amendment



ATTACHMENT 1

2026 - 2030 Spending Plan (Approved 9/18/2025)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
GOCO Constitutional Cap	88,295,521	90,793,759	93,063,603	95,390,193	97,774,948	465,318,024
Add: LG Deauthorizations from Prior Year	203,549	384,504	280,379	287,804	295,408	1,451,644
Add: Reserve from Prior Year	3,520,238	-	-	-	-	3,520,238
Less: Net amount to Reserve Fund (See Details Below)	5,327,283	3,200,379	3,141,651	3,195,608	3,250,907	18,115,828
Less: Operating Expenses	4,673,294	4,860,226	5,054,635	5,256,820	5,467,093	25,312,068
Less: Generation Wild Communications Program	2,316,244	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	12,016,244
Total Available for Awards	79,702,487	80,767,658	82,747,696	84,775,569	86,852,356	414,845,766

Local Government Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	9,826,099	15,259,415	15,629,424	16,136,392	16,655,589	73,506,919
Partner Programs (CSC)	807,500	932,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	4,912,500
Generation Wild	12,500,000	-	-	-	-	12,500,000
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Local Government	25,633,599	18,691,915	19,186,924	19,693,892	20,213,089	103,419,419

Open Space Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	7,211,099	12,044,415	12,414,424	11,921,392	12,440,589	56,031,919
Partner Programs (CSC, RESTORE, TCAP)	3,422,500	4,147,500	4,272,500	5,272,500	5,272,500	22,387,500
Generation Wild	12,500,000	-	-	-	-	12,500,000
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Open Space	25,633,599	18,691,915	19,186,924	19,693,892	20,213,089	103,419,419

Outdoor Recreation Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Outdoor Recreation Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,691,915	18,186,924	18,693,892	19,213,089	90,919,419
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
Outdoor Equity Grant Program (from Reserve)	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
CPW Capacity FTE for RPI (from Reserve)	84,045	-	-	-	-	84,045
Total Outdoor Rec	20,717,644	20,191,915	20,686,924	21,193,892	21,713,089	104,503,464

Wildlife Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Wildlife Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,691,915	18,186,924	18,693,892	19,213,089	90,919,419
Regional Partnerships Initiative	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
CPW Capacity FTE for RPI (from Reserve)	84,045	-	-	-	-	84,045
Total Wildlife	19,717,644	20,191,915	20,686,924	21,193,892	21,713,089	103,503,464

Total Awards All Four Purposes	91,702,486	77,767,660	79,747,696	81,775,568	83,852,356	414,845,766
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Reserve Calculation:	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Reserve Carryforward from FY 25 Spending Plan	3,520,238	-	-	-	-	3,520,238
Cap Contingency (% of GOCO Cap)	1,771,586	1,815,875	1,861,272	1,907,804	1,955,499	9,312,036
Estimated Local Government Deauthorizations	203,549	384,504	280,379	287,804	295,408	1,451,644
Reserve Flat Amount	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	5,000,000
Reserve Used	(1,168,090)	-	-	-	-	(1,168,090)
Less: Net Change to Total Reserve	5,327,283	3,200,379	3,141,651	3,195,608	3,250,907	18,115,828

Annual reserve balance:	5,327,283	8,527,662	11,669,313	14,864,921	18,115,828	18,115,828
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ATTACHMENT 2

2026 - 2030 Spending Plan (Draft October 30, 2025)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
GOCO Constitutional Cap	87,705,653	90,409,118	92,895,369	95,449,992	98,115,606	464,575,738
Add: LG Deauthorizations from Prior Year	439,045	373,518	291,364	287,804	295,408	1,687,139
Add: Reserve from Prior Year	3,520,238	-	-	-	-	3,520,238
Less: Net amount to Reserve Fund (See Details Below)	5,545,306	3,181,700	3,149,271	3,196,804	3,257,720	18,330,801
Less: Operating Expenses	4,540,037	4,721,638	4,910,504	5,106,924	5,311,201	24,590,304
Less: Generation Wild Communications Program	2,316,244	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	12,016,244
Total Available for Awards	79,263,349	80,529,298	82,726,958	84,984,068	87,342,093	414,845,766
Local Government Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	9,826,099	15,259,415	15,629,424	16,136,392	16,655,589	73,506,919
Partner Programs (CSC)	807,500	932,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	4,912,500
Generation Wild	12,500,000	-	-	-	-	12,500,000
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	1,767,620	3,232,380	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Local Government	24,901,219	19,424,295	19,186,924	19,693,892	20,213,089	103,419,419
Open Space Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	9,175,000	11,553,440	11,923,449	11,430,417	11,949,614	56,031,919
Partner Programs (CSC, RESTORE, TCAP)	3,422,500	4,147,500	4,272,500	5,272,500	5,272,500	22,387,500
Generation Wild	12,500,000	-	-	-	-	12,500,000
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,717,345	2,282,655	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Open Space	27,814,845	17,983,595	18,695,949	19,202,917	19,722,114	103,419,419
Outdoor Recreation Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Outdoor Recreation Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,691,915	18,186,924	18,693,892	19,213,089	90,919,419
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,987,643	2,012,357	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
Outdoor Equity Grant Program (from Reserve)	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
CPW Capacity FTE for RPI (from Reserve)	84,045	-	-	-	-	84,045
Total Outdoor Rec	21,205,287	19,704,272	20,686,924	21,193,892	21,713,089	104,503,464
Wildlife Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Wildlife Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,691,915	18,186,924	18,693,892	19,213,089	90,919,419
Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI)	2,517,632	2,482,368	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	12,500,000
CPW Capacity FTE for RPI (from Reserve)	84,045	-	-	-	-	84,045
Total Wildlife	19,735,276	20,174,283	20,686,924	21,193,892	21,713,089	103,503,464
Total Awards All Four Purposes	93,656,627	77,286,445	79,256,721	81,284,593	83,361,381	414,845,766
Reserve Calculation:	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Reserve Carryforward from FY 25 Spending Plan	3,520,238	-	-	-	-	3,520,238
Cap Contingency (% of GOCO Cap)	1,754,113	1,808,182	1,857,907	1,909,000	1,962,312	9,291,514
Estimated Local Government Deauthorizations	439,045	373,518	291,364	287,804	295,408	1,687,139
Reserve Flat Amount	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	5,000,000
Reserve Used	(1,168,090)	-	-	-	-	(1,168,090)
Less: Net Change to Total Reserve	5,545,306	3,181,700	3,149,271	3,196,804	3,257,720	18,330,801
Annual reserve balance:	5,545,306	8,727,006	11,876,277	15,073,081	18,330,801	18,330,801