



MEMORANDUM

To: GOCO Finance Committee
From: Josh Tenneson, Deputy Director
Christy Reeves, Controller
Date: May 7, 2026
Re: 2026-2030 Spending Plan Amendment and Fiscal Year 2027 Spending Plan

Summary

This memorandum to the GOCO finance committee proposes:

1. An Amendment to the 2026-2030 spending plan;
2. A Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Spending Plan for competitive grant programs (open space and local government purposes); and
3. FY 2027 Direct Expenditures.

Background

In conjunction with adopting the 2025 Strategic Plan, the board approved the FY 2026–2030 five-year spending plan at its March 2025 meeting through Resolution 2025-03 and subsequently amended the plan during FY 2026 to make strategic adjustments. The spending plan was intentionally designed to be dynamic, with the expectation that it would be amended as needed to respond to partner needs and maintain alignment with GOCO’s strategic plan. GOCO now has a land acquisition application before it that would require an amendment to the spending plan if a grant award is recommended. This memo also describes the adjustments necessary to close out FY 2026 and initiate FY 2027.

Proposed Amendment to the 2026-2030 Spending Plan

The attached draft 2026-2030 Spending Plan has been modified in the following ways from the current approved plan (see Attachment 1 for the current spending plan and Attachment 2 for the proposed amended spending plan):

1. Constitutional Cap Adjustment – GOCO’s share of lottery proceeds is constitutionally capped based on the Consumer Price Index. For FY 2027, the cap is just over \$90 million, which is approximately \$400,000 lower than previously estimated. As a result, staff has adjusted FY 2027 revenue projections and all subsequent fiscal year estimates accordingly.
2. Operating Expenses - Staff replaced the estimated FY 2027 operating expenses with the proposed expenses currently under committee consideration. The proposed amount is approximately \$130,000 lower than the estimate included when the five-year spending plan was originally approved. This reduction also carries forward to FY 2028-2030, as future operating costs are calculated based off the revised estimate for FY 2027.

3. Generation Wild Communications/Marketing Program – As outlined in the Operating Budget Memo included in this finance committee packet, staff proposes moving \$100,000 from FY 2026 to FY 2027. This amount represents an unspent FY 2026 balance that will be strategically deployed in FY 2027. The proposed reduction in FY 2026 spending is strictly a timing shift and results in no net change to Generation Wild expenditures over the five-year spending plan period.
4. Open Space Acquisition (Base Programs Adjustment) – For FY 2026, GOCO has already awarded/authorized all funds included in the approved spending plan. However, a high-priority land acquisition has been identified and is recommended for funding by staff. To accommodate this acquisition, the finance committee is being asked to consider augmenting open space funding by reallocating \$3,040,000 from future spending plan years. This would consist of \$760,000 in open space funds from each of the four subsequent fiscal years (FY 2027–2030). The Committee may also recommend using reserve funds in lieu of reallocating future-year funds, though staff does not recommend this approach. Given the elevated risk associated with the current year’s water shortage and fire danger, maintaining all available reserve funding is prudent. Preserving the reserve will ensure GOCO remains nimble and well-positioned to respond to potential disaster recovery needs.
5. Local Government (Base Programs Adjustment) – If the board approves the final round of FY 2026 grant recommendations in June, there will be a remaining local government purpose balance of \$130K. Staff recommends moving this balance into FY 2027.
6. Generation Wild Program – After the FY 2026 Generation Wild program grant awards, there are remaining local government and open space purpose balances that staff recommends moving to FY 2030, possibly for another community planning round to set the stage for the next strategic plan and spending plan. The local government balance is \$115,444, and the open space balance is \$399,100.
7. Deauthorizations – Staff has updated the FY 2026 grant deauthorizations to reflect actual amounts. Consistent with the five-year spending plan strategy, local government purpose deauthorizations will be retained in the reserve, while open space purpose deauthorizations will be added to FY 2027 base grants. As a reminder, this approach is grounded in the substantially equal requirement: local government is currently above 25 percent, while open space is below. Retaining local government funds in reserve and reallocating open space funds to base grants will help bring both purposes closer to 25 percent.

The five-year spending plan involves many moving pieces, and the end of the fiscal year is almost always the most complex period as GOCO prepares for the next fiscal year.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Spending Plan

The FY 2027 Spending Plan (see Attachment 3) outlines the funds allocated to the open Space and local government purposes, as well as the associated grant programs. Key highlights include:



- Increased funding for the Conservation Service Corps and RESTORE programs;
- Continued support for the Transaction Cost Assistance Program;
- Ongoing investment in Base Programs, which include Community Impact, Pathways, and Land Acquisition; and
- Second-year funding for implementation projects under the Regional Partnership Initiative.

Funding for Base Programs is grouped together which provides flexibility, allowing project needs to guide the allocation of funds across programs as opposed to setting artificial spending amounts per program. Base Programs will operate concurrently twice a year, with projects reviewed and evaluated as a whole. In each cycle, we aim to fund the most compelling projects that align with GOCO's strategic values.

Most funding for July 2026-June 2027 investments in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) was awarded by the board in March 2026 through the annual investment proposal process. As in prior years, we propose excluding CPW annual investment proposal funding from the FY 2027 spending plan to allow for continued discussions and refinement with the agency. The board will make final funding decisions for CPW in March 2027.

Direct Expenditures

According to GOCO Policy 2.11.E.2, GOCO may incur expenses that are necessary for the direct administration of board-approved grants and grant programs. Examples of these services currently include, but are not limited to, partner program administration costs, grantee workshops provided by GOCO, and reviews of due diligence items for land acquisition grants. These expenses are charged to the same constitutional purpose from which the associated grant or grants are allocated. Administrative overhead expenses, including staff salaries, office expenses, and utilities, are treated as operating costs and not direct expenditures.

GOCO staff estimates that FY 2027 direct expenditures will total \$520,000 (\$395,000 from Open Space and \$125,000 from Local Government). FY 2027 expenditures are relatively flat when compared to FY 2026, which was \$513,000.

Please see Attachment 4 for a breakdown of the proposed FY 2027 direct expenditures. The board is asked to use its discretionary authority to approve and authorize these expenses.

Next Steps

If the finance committee approves the 2026-2030 Spending Plan amendment, FY 2027 Spending Plan, and FY 2027 direct expenditures, the documents will be available for public comment May 15-June 5.



Recommendation

Staff recommends that the GOCO finance committee approve the following items as outlined in this memo and its attachments: the amendment to the 2026-2030 Spending Plan, the FY 2027 Spending Plan, and the FY 2027 direct expenditures. Staff further recommends forwarding these items to the full GOCO board for final consideration at its June meeting.

Attachments

1. Current 2026-2030 Spending Plan
2. Draft 2026-2030 Spending Plan Amendment
3. Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Spending Plan
4. Fiscal Year 2027 Direct Expenditure Summary



2026 - 2030 Spending Plan (Amended Res 2026-01)

	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)	3,126,306	3,181,700	3,149,271	3,196,804	3,257,720	15,911,801
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	81,682,349	80,529,298	82,726,958	84,984,068	87,342,093	417,264,766

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
Open Space Project & DE (from Reserve)	2,419,000	-	-	-	-	2,419,000
Total Open Space	30,233,845	17,983,595	18,695,949	19,202,917	19,722,114	105,838,419

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	96,075,627	77,286,445	79,256,721	81,284,593	83,361,381	417,264,766
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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)	1,754,113	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	(3,587,090)	-	-	-	-	(3,587,090)
Less: Net Change to Total Reserve	3,126,306	3,181,700	3,149,271	3,196,804	3,257,720	15,911,801

Annual reserve balance:	3,126,306	6,308,006	9,457,277	12,654,081	15,911,801	15,911,801
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2026 - 2030 Spending Plan (May 2026 Committee)

	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
GOCO Constitutional Cap	87,705,653	90,003,454	92,478,549	95,021,709	97,634,806	462,844,171
Add: LG Deauthorizations from Prior Year	439,045	369,842	291,035	286,700	295,142	1,681,764
Add: Reserve from Prior Year	3,520,238	-	-	-	-	3,520,238
Less: Net amount to Reserve Fund (See Details Below)	3,126,306	3,169,911	3,140,606	3,187,134	3,247,838	15,871,795
Less: Operating Expenses	4,640,037	4,592,086	4,775,769	4,966,800	5,165,472	24,140,164
Less: Generation Wild Communications Program	2,216,244	2,450,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	12,016,244
Total Available for Awards	81,682,349	80,161,299	82,453,209	84,704,475	87,016,638	416,017,970

Local Government Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	9,696,451	15,237,473	15,555,802	16,118,619	16,656,620	73,264,965
Partner Programs (CSC)	807,500	932,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	1,057,500	4,912,500
Generation Wild	12,384,556	-	-	-	115,444	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	24,656,127	19,402,353	19,113,302	19,676,119	20,329,564	103,177,465

Open Space Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Base Programs (Including Centennial Projects)	12,215,000	10,641,850	11,089,827	10,652,644	10,831,584	55,430,905
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	12,100,900	-	-	-	399,100	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
Open Space Project & DE (from Reserve)	2,419,000	-	-	-	-	2,419,000
Total Open Space	32,874,745	17,072,005	17,862,327	18,425,144	19,003,184	105,237,405

Outdoor Recreation Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Outdoor Recreation Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,540,325	18,113,302	18,676,119	19,254,160	90,717,505
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	19,552,682	20,613,302	21,176,119	21,754,160	104,301,550

Wildlife Purpose	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	TOTAL
Wildlife Annual Investment	17,133,599	17,540,325	18,113,302	18,676,119	19,254,160	90,717,505
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	20,022,693	20,613,302	21,176,119	21,754,160	103,301,550

Total Awards All Four Purposes	98,471,435	76,049,733	78,202,233	80,453,501	82,841,068	416,017,970
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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)	1,754,113	1,800,069	1,849,571	1,900,434	1,952,696	9,256,883
Estimated Local Government Deauthorizations	439,045	369,842	291,035	286,700	295,142	1,681,764
Reserve Flat Amount	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	5,000,000
Reserve Used	(3,587,090)	-	-	-	-	(3,587,090)
Less: Net Change to Total Reserve	3,126,306	3,169,911	3,140,606	3,187,134	3,247,838	15,871,795

Annual reserve balance:	3,126,306	6,296,217	9,436,823	12,623,957	15,871,795	15,871,795
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FY 2027 Spending Plan (updated Mar-26)	
Local Government Purpose	
Colorado Service Corps	932,500
Regional Partnerships Initiative	3,232,380
Direct Expenditures	67,500
Base Programs	15,169,973
Total Local Government	19,402,353

Open Space Purpose	
Colorado Service Corps	932,500
RESTORE	2,115,000
Transaction Cost Assistance Program	1,100,000
Regional Partnerships Initiative	2,282,655
Direct Expenditures	122,500
Base Programs (includes current year deauthorized \$352,599)	10,871,949
Total Open Space	17,424,604

DIRECT EXPENDITURES FY 2027		
PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
OS	OS Transaction Costs	\$60,000
OS	Generation Wild	\$62,500
OS	CYCA, RESTORE, & TCAP	\$272,500
	OPEN SPACE TOTAL	\$395,000
LG	LG Transaction Costs	\$5,000
LG	Generation Wild	\$62,500
LG	CYCA Admin	\$57,500
	LOCAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	\$125,000
	GRAND TOTAL	\$520,000