

**Department of Public Safety
(All Divisions except Div. of Criminal Justice)**

**FY 2026-27 Joint Budget
Committee Hearing Agenda**

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

3:00 – 3:05 Introductions and Opening Comments

Presenter: Stan Hilkey, Executive Director

3:05 – 3:15 Department wide Questions

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Jana Locke, Deputy Executive Director

Supporting Presenters:

Topics:

- General Budget Questions: Page 1, Questions 1-4 in the packet, Slide 6

3:15 – 3:25 Executive Director's Office

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Jana Locke, Deputy Executive Director

Supporting Presenters:

- Christine Harms, Director, Office of School Safety

Topics:

- Death Benefit Fund: Page 4, Question 5 in the packet, Slide 7
- Office of School Safety: Page 4, Question 6 in the packet, Slide 7
- R3 – Statewide Access to RISS: Page 5, Questions 7-8 in the packet, Slide 7
- R7 – GF Reduction from CICJIS: Page 6, Question 9 in packet, Slide 7

3:25 – 3:55 Colorado State Patrol

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Matt Packard, Chief, Colorado State Patrol

Topics:

- HUTF “Off-the-Top”: Page 6, Questions 10-14 in the packet, Slide 8
- Motor Carrier Safety Fund: Page 9, Questions 15-16 in the packet, Slide 8
- Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority: Page 10, Questions 17-21 in the packet, Slide 8

3:55 – 4:25 Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Mike Morgan, Director, Division of Fire Prevention and Control

Topics:

- R6 – Consolidate DFPC Cash Funds Page 25, Questions 22-24 in the packet, Slide 9
- R8 – GF Reduction from the Fire Investigation Cash Fund: Page 27, Questions 25-26 in the packet, Slide 9
- Wildfire Cash Funds: Page 29, Questions 27-28 in the packet, Slide 9
- CO Firefighting Air Corps: Page 32, Questions 29-30 in the packet, Slide 9
- Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program: Page 35, Question 31 in the packet, Slide 9
- Disaster Emergency Fund: Page 37, Questions 32-33 in the packet, Slides 9-10

4:25 – 4:45 Div. Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Kevin Klein, Director, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Supporting Presenters:

- Michael Haney, Director of Office of Preparedness

Topics:

- R1 – Federal Backfill: Page 39, Questions 34-35 in the packet, Slide 10
- R2 – Threat Intelligence and Prevention Liaison: Page 41, Questions 36-38 in the packet, Slide 10
- Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise: Page 45, Question 39 in the packet, Slide 10

4:45 – 5:00 CO Bureau of Investigation

Main Presenters:

- Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
- Armando Saldate, Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Supporting Presenters:

- Lance Allen, Deputy Director Forensic Services

Topics:

- R10 – GF Reduction from the CO Crime Information Center: Page 51, Questions 40-41 in the packet, Slide 11
- Forensic Unit Audit and Sex Assault Kit Progress: Page 52, Questions 42-44 in the packet, Slide 11

Department of Public Safety

FY 2026-27 Joint Budget Committee Hearing

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

3:00pm-5:00pm

Department Wide Questions

General Budget Questions

1. *[Sen. Kirkmeyer]* Please provide a list of all cash funds within the Department along with:
 - How much of the fund balance originated as General Fund;
 - How much annually is appropriated into each fund from the General Fund;
 - How much is annually transferred from the General Fund into the fund;
 - A list of other 1-time or statutory transfers into each fund.

Please be sure to include the School Emergency Response Grant Cash Fund, The Offender ID Fund, and the Hazardous Materials Safety Fund.

Response: Regarding the list of all cash funds within the Department, please refer to [Appendix A](#), tab 1 for this information.

The Hazardous Materials Safety Fund and Nuclear Materials Transportation Fund are managed by DORA. These Schedule 9s were sent to JBC staff in an email dated Dec. 11, 2025. The Offender Identification Fund is managed by Judicial and therefore that agency would have submitted that Sch 9. Typically, these funds do not generate enough revenue annually to support the entire cash spending authority within the department. The School Emergency Response Fund was included in the Department's Sch 9 submission (see attached). [Schedule 9 - Google Drive](#)

2. *[Sen. Kirkmeyer]* Are there opportunities to combine cash funds and/or program lines and redefine how they can be used to ensure they are being fully expended? Specifically, can the information sharing pieces in the EDO, CSP, and CBI be combined?

Response: Efficiencies would be realized by combining Personal Services and Operating Expenses line items into program lines throughout the Department that would provide budget flexibility to absorb annual rising costs within existing spending authority. Not all cash funds are for similar services however, the department did find an area where cash funds could be combined and submitted a request to recognize efficiencies. Specifically, the Department's R-6 Consolidation of DFPC FLS Cash Funds budget request combines three similarly used cash funds (the Fire Suppression Cash Fund, Public School Construction and Inspection Cash Fund, and the Health Facility Construction and Inspection Cash Fund), which will allow the department to take advantage of the fluctuations in each individual fund to smooth out the overall revenue trend. This will help the department manage the funds to maintain compliance with reserve requirements and prevent the fund balances from growing uncontrollably or receding to a point of concern. In the interest of transparency, this request also proposes separating the Fire & Life Safety Section and Professional Qualifications & Training Section into program lines similar to the Wildland Fire Management Section.

The Department is always looking for ways to create efficiencies with the IT systems. Combining and sharing systems not only saves money but also reduces administrative effort and enables redundant employee expertise and cross-training. The Department is currently consolidating software accounts for communication tools and recently successfully merged two separate agreements for workflow software. In addition to consolidating existing software licenses, the Department is actively running a project to help prioritize IT projects more effectively and create additional opportunities to share across divisions and offices.

While the Department is actively working to integrate IT systems, existing criminal justice and law enforcement systems serve distinct purposes. While many of them share data, the systems themselves are highly specialized, preventing the Department from combining them into a single IT system. With some systems, segmentation is needed due to distinct missions, users, and requirements, such as the Colorado Crime Information Center. CBI is the facilitator of the system and CSP is a data contributor, but the system is accessed and used by every law enforcement agency in the state.

The CICJIS program within the Department acts as a conduit of information between the DA's Council (CDAC), the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC), the Judicial Branch, and CDPS. The system tracks offenders from arrest to disposition, based on the

inputs from the component agencies. CICJIS is run by a small staff of IT professionals. The proposed reduction to the program comes from the fact that fewer staff are doing the work relative to historical staffing levels.

The information-sharing component of the CSP-IT request is specifically for eCitations and records management, positioning the CSP to share information with its partners in the judicial districts, DOR, and others. The CSP request is not related to any other request put forward by the Department.

Within DHSEM, if the R-01 request is approved, combining the (A) Office of Emergency Management Program Administration line with the (C) Office of Preparedness Program Administration line would provide additional flexibility and simplify the administration since the two offices would operationally be combined.

Additionally within DHSEM, within the (B) Office of Prevention and Security, combining the personal services and operating lines would provide budget flexibility to absorb annual rising costs within existing spending authority

3. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please identify every MTCF appropriation in the Department and the use of those funds including how the funding originated.

Response: *The MTCF appropriations in the Department and the use of those funds are included in [FY27 JBC Hearing Questions Appendix A](#), tab 2.*

4. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please provide total revenue and expenditures over the last seven years by division and program. Include state and federal funding sources.

Response: *Total expenditures are reported annually in the Schedule 3A and Schedule 3B. Total revenues are reported annually in the Schedule 9. These can be found on the Office of State Planning and Budgeting website [Office of State Planning and Budgeting \(OSPB\) | Colorado Governor Jared Polis](#). The Department is happy to provide additional information that is available as requested.*

Executive Director's Office

Death Benefit Fund

5. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] How much interest has accrued in the Death Benefit Fund? Can that amount be swept annually?

Response: There is no interest accrued in the Death Benefit Fund. SB 25-310 specifies that interest from this cash fund is credited to the General Fund.

Office of School Safety

6. [Rep. Sirota] Explain the context behind the “double appropriation” for active shooter training and the history of the program.

Response: Enacted by H.B. 18-1413, the Enhanced School Safety Incident Response (ESSIR) Grant Program was appropriated a one-time amount of \$500,000 from the School Safety Resource Center (SSRC) cash fund. The Program provides funding to eligible local nonprofit organizations to use for training, develop best practices and protocols, conduct research and development, and upgrade technology and infrastructure used for training related to school safety incident response. Grant recipients are required to have the ability to serve school districts and personnel in providing school incident response training, addressing the psychological and mental health trauma affecting victims and first responders following school safety incidents, and providing recommendations to support mental health recovery after school safety incidents.

There have been several approved legislations that reference and/or appropriated funding to the ESSIR grant over the years. S.B.19-179 appropriated a one-time amount of \$1,150,000 from the SSRC cash fund. Since then, the SSRC cash fund no longer has sufficient cash balance to support the ESSIR grant program.

Regarding the double appropriation, it was an error that resulted from a miscommunication during the budget development process in 2022 and was not caught by the department, OSPB, or the legislature. During a review of General Fund programs leading up to the FY 2026-27 budget submission, the Department discovered the double appropriation and offered it as a budget offset.

R3 – Statewide Access to RISS

7. [Staff] Please explain which local agencies the Department anticipates funding with this appropriation. Include information about agencies that are already enrolled in the system versus those who would be added.

Response: *The requested amount is intended to pay one State fee that allows all agencies in Colorado to have membership and access to the investigative services of RMIN/RISS. That number fluctuates year by year, but for these current numbers it would pay for all of the 209 local agencies with current access and the 159 local agencies who do not have access.*

8. [Sen. Amabile] Please clarify what kinds of data would be shared across state lines, whom would receive that data, and how the Department would ensure security of that data.

Response: *All services and information provided by RISS/RMIN are for criminal and investigative use only. There is no sensitive or confidential data shared or stored because of immigration status. The following services would be provided by RISS/RMIN:*

- RISSafe National Event Deconfliction is a system where agencies input the suspects of their investigations or locations of their investigations into a system that everyone can use. The purpose is to prevent “blue on blue” scenarios. For example: the Lakewood police are doing surveillance on a house in Lakewood for suspected selling of drugs. The Grand Junction Police stop a vehicle bound for Lakewood with 10 kilograms of methamphetamine. The Grand Junction Police work with the DEA and attempt to further the case by sending undercover agents to Lakewood to deliver the drugs as if they were the original couriers. The Grand Junction Police have no knowledge that the Lakewood Police are also investigating the same house, creating a dangerous conflict of plain clothed and under-cover officers potentially assuming each other are armed bad guys and creating a tragedy of a shootout between agencies. Unfortunately, this scenario happens quite often. The system helps prevent that by having each agency input their identification information such as name and address into it. Once the system identifies the common interests, it connects the two agencies before they take action.*
- RISSIIntel is the only free nationally accessible LE criminal intelligence database that is 28CFR Part 23 compliant. RISS is more proficient at putting*

together the information packet for the investigator to further the investigation they are on.

- *Digital Forensic services in the areas of computer, video and audio analyses and making it presentable for court.*
- *Fraud/Crypto/Dark Web Analysis provides investigative support by finding the money, real or crypto used by criminals and criminal organizations and analyzing dark web materials for criminal intent to traffic drugs, people, etc.*
- *Other investigative support like providing cell phone analysis, camera and sophisticated tech support for technical investigations.*

R7 – GF Reduction from CICJIS

9. [Sen. Kirkmeyer/Rep. Sirota] Please speak to the possibility of reducing this appropriation beyond the Department's request and/or running legislation that would use some of this funding for the RISS.

Response: The Department would be in favor of a net neutral budget allocation from the CICJIS Personal Services and Operating Expenses line items to fund the RISS request. No legislative action is necessary for this technical adjustment.

Colorado State Patrol

HUTF Funding

10. [Sen Amabile] Please talk about the 6.0 growth of the HUTF “off the top” appropriation vs. the annual growth in CSP costs. Is that growth rate appropriate and is there more history than what was discussed?

Response: The HUTF off-the-top growth for the past 5 years has averaged 5.82% or \$10,859,570 annually. For the past few years, the salary survey has consumed approximately 50% of the 6% off-the-top growth. Increases in other areas, such as HLD, Digital Trunked Radio, Vehicle Lease, and Indirect Cost Allocation, account for almost all of the remaining 50%, leaving very little room for growth in CSP priority items. In FY 2024-25 and FY 2026-27, the combined costs for the salary survey, other common policy, and indirect cost allocation surpassed the 6% growth cap. This financial pressure has significantly impaired the ability to initiate other critical projects over the past couple of years.

11. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please provide a full breakdown of the CSP budget including:

- All funding sources for each line/program;
- FTE associated with each program; and
- cash fund revenue sources as appropriate.

Response: *This information can be found in the Schedule 4 submitted on Oct. 31, 2025 [CDPS FY 2026-27 Schedule 04 - Google Sheets](#) and the Department's FY 2025-26 Long Bill [R:\2025A\JBC\LONGBILL\Act\PUBSAF.act](#). The Department is happy to provide any additional detail requested.*

12. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please outline the full Records Utilization Project including past and future projected spending and the purpose of the funds. Highlight any differences between the original projections and actual costs.

Response: *The Records Utilization Upgrade (RUU) is a multi-year IT Capital Construction project for the CSP. The project modernizes current primary IT systems, specifically eCitation and records management, to improve data quality, interoperability, officer safety and efficiency, and public safety outcomes.*

The CSP was appropriated \$525,000 for Phase 1 in FY 2024-25 and \$1,635,581 for Phase 2 in FY 2025-26. Phase 1 has been completed, and Phase 2 is proceeding on schedule and within budget. The request for Phases 3 and 4 totals \$2,564,100. The combination of the requests for Phases 1 through 4 is actually \$319 less than the original request of \$4,725,000.

13. [Rep. Sirota] Please clarify why the Department anticipates the HUTF refinance to be a one time cost rather than an ongoing deficit.

Response: *The request for phases 3 and 4 of the Records Utilization Upgrade Project was submitted as HUTF before HUTF was balanced for the November 1 submission. This project accounts for most of the deficit and will be annualized out next year, resulting in an additional \$2,564,100 in HUTF space on top of the 6% increase over the FY 2025-26 base.*

14. [Staff] Please address the cash fund reversions identified in the line items shown below and whether the reversions could be used to offset General Fund and HUTF in other areas within CSP.

Response: Please note that the cash fund reversions listed in the chart represent spending authority reversions that cannot be used without sufficient revenue. The answers below address the appropriations with adequate revenue.

Sergeant, Tech, and Trooper: This line item reverted HUTF spending authority of \$71 in FY 2023-24 and \$70,231 in FY 2024-25. The FY 2024-25 reversion represents 0.08% of the appropriated amount. The remainder of the reversions on the chart represents empty spending authority. Excess HUTF spending authority is reverted to the HUTF at the end of the year and is not retained in a fund managed by the Department.

Civilians: This line item reverted HUTF spending authority of \$10,465 in FY 2023-24 and \$1 in FY 2024-25. The FY 2023-24 reversion represents 0.12% of the appropriated amount. The remainder of the reversions on the chart represents empty spending authority.

Operating: Various sources of cash funds had excess revenues in the amount of \$250,219 in FY 2023-24 and \$214,646 in FY 2024-25. This revenue is from court-ordered restitution and from providing copies of crash reports and other records requests. This revenue can be used to support various programs within the CSP, if needed. Any excess revenue from various sources is reverted to the General Fund at the end of the year. The remainder of the reversion, \$239,821 in FY 2023-24 and \$231,727 in FY 2024-25, was unspent HUTF of less than 2% of the HUTF Operating appropriation.

Safety and Law Enforcement: Of the \$1,596,571 spending authority reversion in FY 2023-24, \$414,121 is empty spending authority. The amount of empty spending authority in FY 2024-25 is \$34,203. The bulk of the cash fund reversions, \$1,182,450 in FY 2023-24 and \$1,289,038 in FY 2024-25, are related to the Motorcycle Operator Safety Training program. Revenue is generated by fees applied to driver's licenses with a motorcycle endorsement and a surcharge on motorcycle registrations. Per C.R.S. 43-5-504, money credited to the fund remains in the fund at the end of each fiscal year and is not transferred to any other fund.

Ports of Entry: The Ports of Entry reverted revenue collected in excess of expenses to the Hazardous Materials Safety Fund in the amounts of \$60,452 in FY 2023-24 and \$56,803 in FY 2024-25. The Ports of Entry also reverted HUTF in the amounts of \$60,679 in FY 2023-24 and \$201,104 in FY 2023-24. The HUTF reversions represent 0.55% and 1.72% of their HUTF spending authority, respectively.

Hazardous Materials Safety Program: The majority of the cash fund reversions, but not all, listed in the chart have empty spending authority. The actual FY 2023-24 reversions, where revenue exceeded expenses, consisted of \$134,691 in the Hazardous Materials Safety Fund and \$40,863 in the Nuclear Materials Transportation Fund. The FY 2024-25 Hazardous Materials Safety Fund reversion was \$137,821, and \$65,125 for the Nuclear Materials Transportation Fund. The HUTF reversions for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 were \$28,069 and \$141,410, respectively.

Cash Fund Reversions and General Fund Expenditures in CSP by Line Item

	23-24 GF Expenditure	23-24 CF Reversion	24-25 GF Expenditure	24-25 CF Reversion
Sergeants, tech, trop	\$1,765,218	\$1,584,360	\$2,040,434	\$996,872
Civilians	452,424	10,989	453,203	402,198
Operating	539,124	536,143	539,124	449,501
Safety and Law Enforcement Support		1,596,571		1,323,240
Ports of Entry		226,270		402,470
Hazardous Materials Safety Program		1,019,310		1,135,827
Totals	\$2,756,766	\$4,973,643	\$3,032,761	\$4,710,108

Motor Carrier Safety Fund

15. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Could legislation be run to allow this fund to be used across CSP?

Response: Legislation could be run as a one-time funding source to appropriate the remaining funds to CSP. The CSP is eligible to receive these funds only after the PUC balance exceeds a specified threshold. CSP and PUC have had initial conversations about the transfer of these funds, but the impact extends beyond the funding line (personnel, equipment, etc.). Alternative PUC funding sources have not yet been identified.

16. [Staff] Please address trends in revenue to this fund and why it has not been appropriated in recent years.

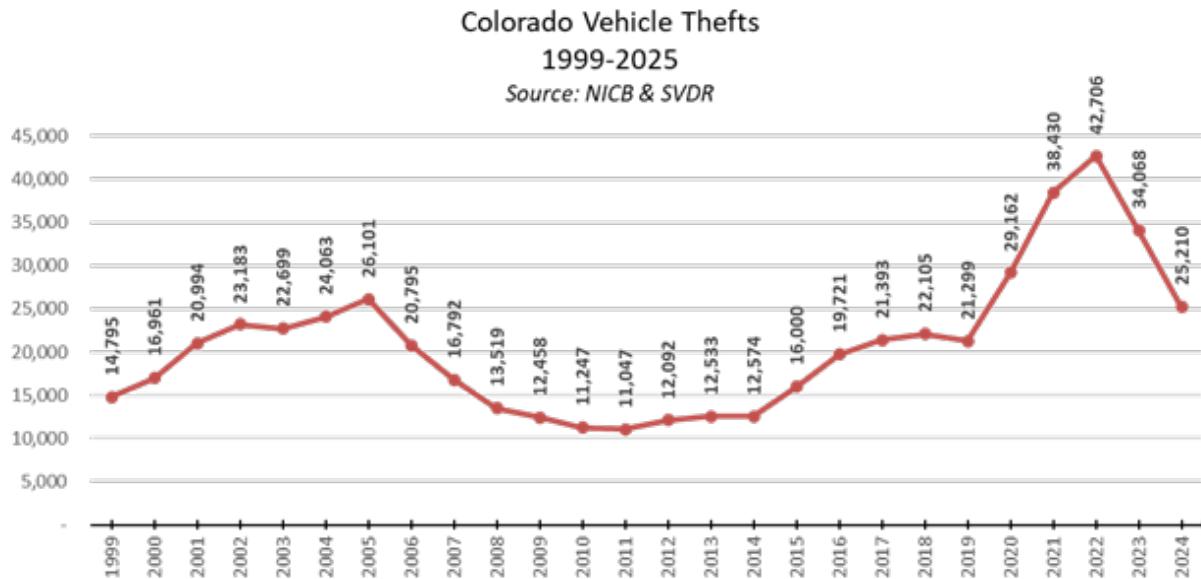
Response: The Motor Carrier Safety Fund was created by H.B. 14-1081 and the CSP received an initial transfer from the PUC's Motor Carrier Fund in FY 2014-15 of \$1,700,000. The General Assembly appropriated the \$1,700,000 in FY 2014-15 through FY 2016-17, but hasn't appropriated any funds since. The CSP fully

expended the initial \$1,700,000 by the end of FY 2016-17. The PUC transferred excess uncommitted reserves in the Motor Carrier Fund in FY 2018-19 through FY 2021-22 but the PUC hasn't had sufficient excess uncommitted reserves in the Motor Carrier Fund to trigger a transfer to the CSP Motor Carrier Safety Fund under 40-2-110.5 (9)(a), C.R.S. since 2022. The fund collects roughly \$20,000 in interest revenue annually. The General Assembly is tasked with appropriating the funds in the Motor Carrier Safety Fund for the purposes specified in section 42-4-235 (6)C.R.S.

Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority

17. [Sen. Amabile] Please clarify what actions have directly led to reductions in auto theft and what the Department predicts would happen if the appropriation was reduced or eliminated.

Response: Statewide reductions in auto theft. In 2019, there were 21,299 reported vehicle thefts statewide, compared to 25,210 reported vehicle thefts in 2024. As of 2024, auto theft in Colorado is 18.3% higher than pre-pandemic levels reported in 2019. In 2019, Colorado was ranked #5 nationally with the highest auto theft rate per capita, compared to 2024, when Colorado was ranked #4. Colorado experienced the highest volume and rate of auto theft since FBI crime records as far back as 1985, where Colorado reached 42,706 reported thefts in 2022, placing Colorado as the #1 worst-ranked US state per capita from 2020 through 2022.



We believe the reduction of statewide auto theft has many variables, complexities, and influences. Accordingly, the additional general fund appropriation provides the Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) with the ability to strategically respond with a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to crime prevention. Prior to the General Fund appropriation to CATPA, from 2015 through 2019, CATPA maximized its spending authority in awarding grant funding to programs using a strategy for multiagency cooperation with a multidisciplinary approach. However, during this period, statewide auto theft incrementally increased, landing Colorado in the top 10 worst US states per capita beginning in 2015. S.B. 23-257 and subsequent annual appropriations, statewide auto theft has reduced due to successes with:

- *Increased strategic operational enforcement in statewide regional high-risk terrain areas, expanding multiagency task force efforts.*
- *Enabling specialized and dedicated district attorney prosecution of auto theft offenders, using updated auto theft legislation (e.g., SB23-097), supporting multiagency task force investigations, and otherwise enabling prosecution of prolific offenders within judicial districts.*
- *Since 2023, enhancing and upgrading the statewide automobile theft tracking and reporting system has enabled all Colorado law enforcement agencies to share their records management for identifying automobile theft offenders, stolen and recovered vehicles, and criminal associations, and upgrading reporting and tracking systems for crime analysis.*
- *Creating and supporting a statewide victims support program for victims of auto theft, which has elevated awareness and prevention of continual auto theft victimization.*
- *Increased public education and awareness leveraging statewide media campaigns, reaching local citizens with local agency partnerships in public outreach events, distributing auto theft prevention devices to owners of high-risk theft vehicles, evaluating the effectiveness of programs, funding offender rehabilitation through Lived ImEmersion Experiences with high school youth, and seeking crime prevention through engagement (e.g., Police Activities League).*

Funding Reduction and Effect on Auto Theft. CATPA has worked with other US states having a statewide auto theft prevention authority (e.g., Washington, Louisiana, California, Georgia, New Mexico, Maryland, Texas, Virginia, etc.) and believes Colorado's multidisciplinary approach to crime prevention is effective and requires sustainability for moving Colorado out of the worst US states for auto theft rate. As observed in other states, Colorado has seen an increase in

criminal organizations involved in the theft of vehicles used in other crimes (e.g., DIA thefts with the ATM Crew, the Chauffeur Case, etc.). Interdicting these criminal organizations requires sustained support for CATPA's multidisciplinary approach to reduce statewide vehicle theft.

Each of the CATPA initiatives funded with the general fund appropriation is considered critical to Colorado meeting the Governor's Crime Prevention Working Group's goal "in an effort to make Colorado one of the top 10 safest states." Existing funds and spending authority for the CATPA Cash Fund (\$1 per insured vehicle under 10-4-617, CRS) are insufficient to support and sustain effective statewide reduction efforts. Reducing the general fund appropriation for CATPA's statewide reduction efforts will increase the likelihood that auto theft will begin to rise.

Although the statewide number of vehicle thefts has declined 41% since 2022, with continued General Fund support, Colorado's auto theft rate (estimated at 250 thefts per 100,000 residents) will likely keep the state among the 15 lowest in the US by the end of 2025.

18. [Sen. Amabile] Please address the relationship between a spike of auto thefts during the pandemic and the return to pre-pandemic levels vs. the increased investment in the CATPA.

Response: Please see the above response.

19. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please clarify the purpose of the grant and why such a large portion is granted to CSP rather than local agencies.

Response: Purpose of CATPA grants. *Consistent with §42-5-112, CRS, funding is to assist in improving and supporting automobile theft prevention programs or programs for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes through statewide planning and coordination.[1] Accordingly, the CATPA Board receives, reviews, and awards qualified applicants[2], giving priority to multijurisdictional programs, for theft prevention, training, enforcement, prosecution, offender rehabilitation, victim support, and technology enhancement.[3] The CATPA Board uses award criteria to ensure grant awards are in a variety of geographic areas of the state, where awards do not require a qualified applicant to provide additional money to operate the program.[4] To address dramatic increases in statewide automobile theft, placing Colorado as the worst US state for the automobile theft rate per capita, the CATPA Board was enabled with an additional \$5M one-time of grant funding in FY 2023-2024[5] from the General Fund, followed by an ongoing appropriation of \$7.3M GF in FY 2024-25 to sustain*

reduction efforts [6] and FY 2025-2026[7]. These additional funds are critical to statewide reduction efforts, as funding from the CATPA Cash Fund (averaging \$5.5M annually) has been maximized and otherwise limited to create significant impacts on crime reduction efforts. Working with the CDPS Executive Director's Office and the Governor's Crime Prevention Working Group, the general funds to support and sustain CATPA's effort are used in an effort to make Colorado a Top 10 Safest State by reducing the rate of auto theft by 10% during FY2023-2024, 20% during FY2023-2024, and 25% during FY2023-2025.

Why CSP has a large portion of CATPA grant funding. In 2015, the CATPA Board began efforts to centralize grant projects affected by multijurisdictional automobile theft prevention initiatives. This centralization was in response to the CATPA Board recognizing the complexities of impacting statewide auto theft, the need to create force multipliers with multiagency grant projects, minimizing duplication of funding and effort, continual increases in statewide theft from 2011 through 2015, and auto theft data demonstrating over 50% of all stolen vehicles are involved in multiple jurisdiction criminal events. Over the years, centralization and consolidation efforts have been implemented, prioritizing multiagency grant applications and ensuring grant projects demonstrate high levels of coordination, communication, deconfliction, cooperation, and attention to patterns, trends, and criminal associations or prolific offenders transitioning across multiple jurisdictions. CSP has been central to CATPA's efforts, with statewide jurisdiction and strong working relationships with local agencies, enabling it to create and strengthen multiagency initiatives.

CSP is the lead agency for the Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) project, which comprises more than 60 local law enforcement agencies. CSP has passed through 83% of all General Fund CATPA awards in the BATTLE project to those local agencies.

CSP is the lead agency for the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) project, which provides full-time specialized auto theft crime analysis support to all Colorado law enforcement agencies, including all CATPA grant projects, BATTLE, and the CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Team (C-MATT). ATICC also manages the Colorado Stolen Vehicle Database Repository, which provides all Colorado law enforcement agencies with access to assist in identifying and investigating reported stolen vehicles.

CSP is the lead agency for the CSP Victim Services project, which provides victim support services to auto theft victims. The CSP Victim Advocate Unit coordinates with local agency victim advocates to provide specialized services to auto theft

victims across Colorado. After the passage of S.B. 23-257, expanding CATPA's ability to provide funding to support victims of auto theft, CATPA has only received applications from Brighton PD and the CSP Victims Advocates Unit.

CSP is the lead agency for the CATPA Public Outreach Program, which is an internal CATPA Office grant. Since 2019, CATPA has not received applications for a statewide coordination project to provide centralized prevention, education, and awareness. In 2020, the CATPA Board worked with the CATPA Office to initiate the CATPA Public Outreach Program.

Portion granted to CSP versus local agencies. CSP has submitted applications to CATPA for funding multiagency grant programs that facilitate statewide, multijurisdictional, multiagency initiatives across Colorado. From FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26, the CATPA Board has awarded approximately 57% of CATPA grant funds to CSP applications. As the grant applicant, CSP is responsible for grant administration, serving as the designated fiscal agent, project leadership, supervision, reporting to CATPA, and accounting for performance standards.

Year	Funding	CSP Applicant	Local Applicant
FY 2022-23 (Cash Funds)	\$ 5,127,489.00	\$ 2,825,389.00	\$ 2,302,100.00
<i>% Total Funding</i>		55%	45%
FY 2023-24 Total Funds	\$10,727,238.00	\$ 6,775,136.07	\$ 3,952,102.93
<i>% Total Funding</i>		63%	37%
FY 2023-24 CATPA Cash Fund	\$ 5,732,238.00	\$3,245,919.50	\$ 2,486,318.50
<i>% Total Funding</i>		57%	43%
FY 2023-24 S.B. 23-257 General Fund	\$ 4,995,000.00	\$3,529,216.00	\$ 1,465,784.00
<i>% Total Funding</i>		71%	29%
FY 2024-25 Total Fund	\$12,840,353.45	\$ 7,176,874.54	\$ 5,663,479.91
<i>% Total Funding</i>		56%	44%
FY 2024-25 CATPA Cash Fund	\$ 5,522,803.00	\$2,981,922.00	\$ 2,540,881.00

<i>% Total Funding</i>			54%	46%
<i>FY 2024-25 General Fund</i>	\$ 7,317,550.45	\$4,194,952.00	\$ 3,122,598.45	
<i>% Total Funding</i>		57%	43%	
<i>FY 2025-26 Total Funds</i>	\$13,246,462.38	\$ 7,348,498.46	\$ 5,897,964.92	
<i>% Total Funding</i>		55%	45%	
<i>FY 2025-26 CATPA Cash Fund</i>	\$ 5,599,824.00	\$2,565,519.00	\$ 3,034,305.00	
<i>% Total Funding</i>		46%	54%	
<i>FY 2025-26 General Fund</i>	\$ 7,646,638.38	\$4,782,979.00	\$ 2,863,659.38	
<i>% Total Funding</i>		63%	37%	

However, as the CSP awarded grant applications are multiagency programs, only 24% of all CATPA awarded funds have provided support to CSP, where the remaining 76% of the funds have provided support to local agencies.

Year	Funding	CSP Support	Local Agency Support
<i>FY 2022-23</i>	\$ 5,127,489.00	\$1,314,792.00	\$ 3,812,697.00
<i>% Total Funding</i>		26%	74%
<i>FY 2023-24</i>	\$10,727,238.00	\$2,857,158.91	\$ 7,870,080.09
<i>% Total Funding</i>		27%	73%
<i>CATPA Cash Fund</i>	\$5,732,238.00	\$1,714,513.61	\$ 4,017,724.39
<i>% Total Funding</i>		30%	70%
<i>S.B. 23-257</i>	\$4,995,000.00	\$ 1,142,645.00	\$ 3,852,355.00
<i>% Total Funding</i>		23%	77%
<i>FY 2024-25</i>	\$12,840,353.45	\$ 2,710,096.86	\$ 10,130,257.59

% Total Funding		21%	79%
CATPA Cash Fund	\$5,522,803.00	\$ 1,779,520.39	\$ 3,743,282.61
% Total Funding		32%	68%
General Fund	\$7,317,550.45	\$ 930,576.15	\$ 6,386,974.30
% Total Funding		13%	87%
FY 2025-26	\$13,246,462.38	\$ 2,828,386.30	\$ 10,418,077.08
% Total Funding		21%	79%
CATPA Cash Fund	\$5,599,824.00	\$1,688,971.00	\$ 3,910,853.00
% Total Funding		30%	70%
General Fund	\$7,646,638.38	\$ 1,139,415.00	\$ 6,507,223.38
% Total Funding		15%	85%

BATTLE Project funding Local Agency Overtime. The CSP is the fiscal agent for the Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) project, which is a statewide multi-jurisdictional law enforcement grant program designed to provide support to over 60 local law enforcement agencies. In meeting with statewide agencies at local, county and state levels, it was determined the best course for delivering the centralized effort was to award the CSP with responsibilities of the lead fiscal agent of the grant project, with streamlining and alleviating local agency burden with grant management, and providing an ability for the CSP to coordinate all local and regional efforts performed with the grant funding activities. As the fiscal agent of the BATTLE project, CSP facilitates partnerships with local and county agencies (utilizing a Memorandum of Understanding) and leads multiagency auto theft enforcement operations with administrative and operational oversight for continuity and coordination. The BATTLE project provides funding to support six (6) regional BATTLE teams: (1) Northern Colorado, (2) Southern Colorado, (3) Western Colorado, (4) Eastern Colorado, (5) Southwest Colorado, and (6) Denver Metropolitan Area. Each of these BATTLE teams are led by a CSP Investigative Services Section Sergeant to work cooperatively with all local and county agencies, alongside other CSP Investigators for operational effectiveness and jurisdictional authority for working multi-jurisdictional team operations. Since FY 2022-2023, the following CSP partnership agencies have been provided overtime funding with the

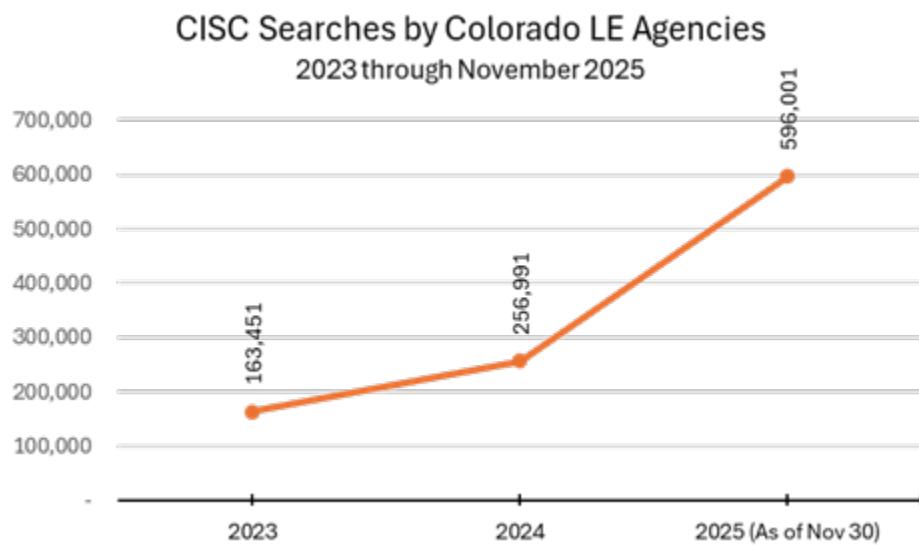
BATTLE Project:

<i>Agencies</i>	<i>FY2022-23</i>	<i>FY2023-24</i>	<i>FY2024-25</i>	<i>FY2025-26</i>
<i>Alamosa PD</i>			\$ 62,996	
<i>Ault PD</i>		\$ 3,600	\$ 28,036	\$ 9,400
<i>Boulder COSO</i>	\$ 28,571	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
<i>Boulder PD</i>	\$ 16,000	\$ 39,978	\$ 44,062	\$ 40,100
<i>Brighton PD</i>			\$ 17,761	
<i>Canon City PD</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 18,550
<i>Colorado Springs PD</i>	\$ 178,443	\$ 180,977	\$ 164,920	\$ 160,000
<i>Colorado State Patrol</i>	\$ 336,704	\$ 484,678	\$ 603,401	\$ 851,065
<i>Cortez PD</i>	\$ 600	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,274	\$ 13,000
<i>Custer COSO</i>		\$ 2,200		
<i>Dacono PD</i>	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000
<i>Durango PD</i>	\$ 1,600	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<i>Eagle COSO</i>	\$ 67,813			
<i>El Paso COSO</i>	\$ 100,676	\$ 130,400	\$ 70,000	\$ 108,200
<i>Erie PD</i>	\$ 750		\$ 33,036	\$ 31,709
<i>Evans PD</i>		\$ 13,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000
<i>Firestone PD</i>				\$ 5,000
<i>Florence PD</i>	\$ 10,000			
<i>Fountain PD</i>	\$ 35,848	\$ 49,016	\$ 66,955	\$ 65,000
<i>Frederick PD</i>				

<i>Fremont COSO</i>			\$ 19,011	\$ 16,000
<i>Ft. Collins PD</i>	\$ 70,516	\$ 52,800	\$ 149,801	\$ 54,200
<i>Ft. Morgan PD</i>		\$ 10,262	\$ 9,444	\$ 10,100
<i>Grand Junction PD</i>	\$ 96,112	\$ 26,155	\$ 25,000	\$ 80,988
<i>Greeley PD</i>	\$ 134,900	\$ 105,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 198,843
<i>Hudson PD</i>				\$ 15,000
<i>Johnstown PD</i>		\$ 5,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 10,000
<i>Kit Carson COSO</i>		\$ 1,500		
<i>Larimer COSO</i>	\$ 12,455	\$ 10,165	\$ 12,000	\$ 16,000
<i>Limon PD</i>		\$ 6,000	\$ 3,815	\$ 15,300
<i>Longmont PD</i>	\$ 4,910	\$ 4,914	\$ 4,915	\$ 14,030
<i>Loveland PD</i>	\$ 21,334	\$ 18,168	\$ 65,261	\$ 117,456
<i>Mead PD</i>			\$ 1,500	
<i>Mesa COSO</i>	\$ 130,090	\$ 169,195	\$ 165,000	\$ 181,400
<i>Montezuma COSO</i>		\$ 7,000	\$ 10,000	
<i>Montrose COSO</i>		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
<i>Montrose PD</i>			\$ 10,000	
<i>Palisade PD</i>		\$ 6,000		
<i>Pueblo COSO</i>	\$ 17,964	\$ 47,128	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
<i>Pueblo PD</i>	\$ 112,871	\$ 125,461	\$ 160,000	\$ 19,150
<i>Sterling PD</i>			\$ 28,114	\$ 11,860
<i>Timnath PD</i>				\$ 5,000

Weld COSO	\$ 10,480			
Windsor PD	\$ 8,050	\$ 3,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,000
Yuma COSO		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 1,409,187	\$ 1,548,097	\$ 2,061,302	\$ 2,215,351

BATTLE Project funding Local Agency Information Sharing. CATPA awarded funding to the BATTLE Project to provide all Colorado law enforcement agencies with the capability to share information and report statewide motor vehicle theft and related crimes. This funding enables all Colorado law enforcement agencies to share their local records management data and obtain user licenses for all agency personnel through the Colorado Information Sharing Consortium (CISC). This information-sharing capability enables Colorado law enforcement officers to use analytical platforms supported by the CISC, such as Lumen Analytics and the Accurint Virtual Crime Center. Annually, the grant provides about \$2.6M to support all Colorado law enforcement agencies, representing a large portion of the CATPA general fund award to BATTLE.



[1] 42-5-112(1), C.R.S. There is hereby created in the department of public safety the automobile theft prevention authority, referred to in this section as the "authority". Under the authority, a law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant may apply for grants to assist

in improving and supporting automobile theft prevention programs or programs for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes through statewide planning and coordination.

[2] *8 CCR 1507-50(3.9) Qualified Applicant: A Colorado law enforcement agency, a state agency, a local unit of government, an independent school district, or a not-for-profit or for-profit organization that can demonstrate its proposed program addresses some aspect of automobile theft prevention.*

[3] *42-5-112(3)(a) The board shall solicit and review applications for grants pursuant to this section. The board may award grants for one to three years. The board shall give priority to applications representing multijurisdictional programs. Each application, at a minimum, shall describe the type of theft prevention, enforcement, prosecution, offender rehabilitation program, victim support program, or technology enhancement program to be implemented.*

[4] *42-5-112(3)(b) and 8 CCR 1507-50 Subject to available moneys, the board shall approve grants pursuant to this section. In selecting grant recipients, the board, to the extent possible, shall ensure that grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies or other qualified applicants in a variety of geographic areas of the state. The board shall not require as a condition of receipt of a grant that an agency, political subdivision, or other qualified applicant provide any additional moneys to operate an automobile theft prevention program or a program for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes.*

[5] *Senate Bill 2023-257 - Provided an additional one-time funding of \$5M for statewide automobile theft prevention grants.*

[6] *CDPS R-01 Decision Item.*

[7] *CDPS R-03 Decision Item.*

20. *[Rep. Sirota/ Sen. Amabile]* What specifically is the grant to CDAC paying for? How is that different from the funds going to the AG's office? Please provide a general description of all grants and what actions are funded by them and how it differs from local responsibilities to prosecute car theft.

Response: The grant awarded to CDAC specifically funds four attorneys and four investigators (i.e., a total of 8 persons), working in two-person regionally focused teams, situated as grant-funded employees within four geographically diverse DA Offices across the state. They do not work for, or at, CDAC. The regional teams focus on improving investigative approaches to Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT) and Attendant Crimes cases that occur across judicial districts, with a primary objective to identify, investigate, and prosecute prolific offenders and complex organized criminal activity. The teams are responsible for conducting training for law enforcement investigators and other prosecutors and advising and prosecuting more complex MVT and attendant crime cases. MVT as a crime does not happen in isolation from other criminal activity, such as drugs, weapons, and violent crime offenses. Since the "regional prosecutor" model/concept is innovative in its approach and application - present nowhere else in the country - the program is unique and distinct from traditional prosecution activities occurring at the local jurisdiction. Operating across traditional boundaries meets the crime where it happens, and the CDAC program establishes a regional-prosecution approach that, over time, can be applied to other cross-county or regional crime. The grant provides resources to support training, travel, and IT infrastructure costs for regional training, investigation, and prosecution, enabling attorneys to serve as Special Deputies in multiple

judicial districts. This program is collaborative with, but different from, the AG program, since all cases originate at the local level and provide for more capacity to address the conduct that is occurring regionally and statewide that cannot, or should not, be handled through the Department of Law.

Program objectives focus on cases and investigative support for law enforcement agencies to further reduce the incidence of auto theft and related crimes in communities across the state. Where appropriate, the prosecutors and investigators will support multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional efforts involving complex cases that may arise to the level of presenting evidence and cases to grand juries, resulting in stand-alone and/or Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) cases in coordination and collaboration with the Attorney General's (AG) office and its CATPA funded program, as well as coordinating and collaborating with the AG's program to ensure no contradiction in each agency's CATPA funded program. Prosecutors and investigators will also undertake a training component to educate local DAs and law enforcement agencies that are not accustomed to vehicle theft investigations or are unaware of emerging practices, including the relevant law, case elements, and strategies for effective investigation and prosecution, and recommended approaches identified by CDAC's recently completed auto theft assessment.

Some of the major successes highlighted for this project include the solid working relationships between the Denver and Colorado Springs metro areas and local law enforcement and CATPA Task Forces. Additionally, the Denver office has begun partnering with neighboring jurisdictions to assist with their auto theft cases and continues to build relationships to promote the project.

Funding for the Attorney General's Office funds a full-time vertical prosecutor and a full-time auto theft investigator to work with the CATPA auto theft task forces. As noted above, the CDAC is working with local DAs and local law enforcement agencies, which in turn work with the AG's office to bring these cases for full prosecution both at the local and state levels.

21. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please clarify the purpose of the two CSP grants related to technology and how these systems differ from other technology funding related to information sharing and CSP programming.

Response: CSP is currently funding two specific technology grants:

Since 2023, CSP has used pass-through funding in the BATTLE grant to support all statewide law enforcement agencies to access the Accurint Virtual Crime Center (AVCC) and Lumen Analytics upon joining the Colorado Information Sharing

Consortium. This is a centerpiece \$2.6M effort to fund and engage the Colorado Information Sharing Consortium (CISC). This program will enhance local, county, and state law enforcement by sharing their records management systems and elevate searching capabilities for law enforcement investigations. The CISC utilizes the AVCC as a Criminal Justice Information Sharing Compliant platform, sharing Colorado law enforcement data consistent with 28 CFR Part 24. As CATPA has recognized, findings from the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center indicate that over 50% of stolen vehicles are recovered outside the jurisdiction of the place of theft, making auto theft inherently a multi-jurisdictional crime. To assist agencies with identification, interdiction, and investigation, providing information-sharing capabilities to local, county, and state law enforcement is essential to combating statewide auto theft. The CISC was provided funding to enable all Colorado law enforcement agencies to access the Accurint Virtual Crime Center and Lumen Analytics to search for and analyze member agency records within the CISC. This effort enabled participating law enforcement agencies with accelerated, centralized data capabilities to identify prolific offenders, track stolen-vehicle events, link auto-theft crimes to adjacent stolen-vehicle-related crimes, and leverage these capabilities for agency-to-agency information sharing. 97 Agencies benefiting from this funding include:

1) 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office	50) Grand Junction Police Department
2) 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office	51) Greenwood Village Police Department
3) 1st Judicial District Attorney's Office	52) Hudson Police Department
4) 20th Judicial District Attorney's Office Investigation Unit	53) Idaho Springs Police Department
5) 21st Judicial District Attorney's Office	54) Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
6) 23rd Judicial District Attorney's Office	55) Johnstown Police Department
7) Adams County Sheriff's Office	56) Keenesburg Police Department
8) Alamosa Police Department	57) La Plata County Sheriff's Office
9) Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office	58) Lafayette Police Department
10) Arvada Police Department	59) Lakewood Police Department

11) Aspen Police Department	60) Larimer County Sheriff's Office
12) Aurora Police Department	61) Lasalle Police Department
13) Avon Police Department	62) Limon Police Department
14) Basalt Police Department	63) Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
15) Black Hawk Police Department	64) Littleton Police Department
16) Boulder County Sheriff Office	65) Lochbuie Police Department
17) Boulder Police Department	66) Lone Tree Police Department
18) Breckenridge Police Department	67) Longmont Police Department
19) Brighton Police Department	68) Louisville Police Department
20) Broomfield Police Department	69) Loveland Police Department
21) Castle Rock Co Police Department	70) Mead Police Department
22) Cherry Hills Village Police Department	71) Mesa County Sheriff's Office
23) City Of Evans Police Department	72) Moffat County Sheriff's Office
24) Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office	73) Montrose Police Department
25) Colorado Bureau Of Investigation	74) Monument Police Department
26) Colorado Information Analysis Center	75) Northglenn Police Department
27) Colorado Springs Police Department	76) Parker Police Department
28) Colorado State Patrol	77) Pueblo Police Department
29) Commerce City Police Department	78) Rangely Police Department
30) Cortez Police Department	79) Regional Transportation District
31) Dacono Police Department	80) Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office
32) Denver District Attorney	81) San Miguel Sheriff's Office

33) Denver Police Dept	82) Severance Police Department
34) Douglas County Sheriff's Office	83) Sheridan Police Department
35) Eagle County Sheriff's Office	84) South Fork Police Department
36) Edgewater Police Department	85) Thornton Police Department
37) Elbert County Sheriff's Office	86) Timnath Police Department
38) Englewood Police Department	87) Town Of Elizabeth Police Department
39) Estes Park Police Department	88) Town Of Erie Police Department
40) Fairplay Police Department	89) Town Of Firestone Police Department
41) Federal Heights Police Department	90) University Of Colorado
42) Fort Collins Police Services	91) Boulder Police Department
43) Fort Lupton Police Department	92) Vail Police Department
44) Fort Morgan Police Department	93) Weld County Sheriff's Office
45) Frederick Police Department	94) Westminster Police Department
46) Garfield County Sheriff's Office	95) Wheat Ridge Police Department
47) Glendale Police Department	96) Windsor Police Department
48) Golden Police Department	97) Woodland Park Police Department.
49) Grand County Sheriff's Office	

CSP, through the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) program, funds a program that supports a vehicle crime analysis project that has proven to be a national model in acquiring, analyzing, disseminating, and supporting law enforcement investigators with timely and reliable statewide vehicle theft information. This project supports the implementation, use, and innovation of a unique statewide database for stolen and recovered property. This innovative information technology database is supported with funding of six (6) full-time

vehicle crime analysts to provide tactical and strategic support to statewide law enforcement agencies. The crime analysts provide real-time analysis to identify and disseminate information on statewide vehicle crime patterns, geographic mapping of hotspots, investigative analysis, and responses to requests from local, county, state, and out-of-state law enforcement agencies.

Division of Fire Prevention and Control

R6 Consolidate DFPC Cash Funds

22. [Sen Amable] Please clarify and explain the fee process for the three funds involved in this request. Include any barriers to adjusting the fee payment timeline.

Response: The revenues impacting the funds included in the decision item are primarily derived from fees collected for the purposes of funding construction plan review and inspection activities. The construction projects subject to these fees include construction of new facilities, ongoing renovations, repairs, and improvements to existing buildings, additions to existing buildings, and repairs, reconstruction or initial construction of life safety systems, such as fire suppression systems. These projects are ongoing and cannot easily be forecasted from fiscal year to fiscal year. Further, these projects do not occur within the confines of any one fiscal year and very often carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

Following extensive stakeholder outreach, it was determined that the way in which DFPC is to collect the fees for these projects that would best serve all entities involved is 50% at the time of application for initial plan review and the remaining 50% at the time the permit for the work is issued. This results in all the fees for any project being collected at or near the onset of the project and the expectation is that the funds will be utilized throughout the life of the project, which often extends past the end of one or more fiscal years. It is necessary to maintain a reserve in these funds and use them to finance the project's activities throughout its life.

As such, DFPC is continuously collecting fees and adding them to these funds throughout the fiscal year, making it nearly impossible to meet the maximum reserve limitations outlined in 24-75-402, C.R.S. This results in the need for DFPC to constantly adjust fees, based not on the reimbursement of time and resources utilized to conduct the work necessary to accommodate its stakeholders' needs, but based on limiting revenue intake so as not to end the fiscal year with excess

uncommitted reserves. In doing so, DFPC is caught in an endless cycle of reducing and then increasing fees to meet the limitations of 24-75-402, C.R.S., resulting in inconsistent fees being applied to stakeholders.

The alternative to collecting fees in this manner would be to adjust the manner in which DFPC collects fees. If DFPC were to collect fees as services are rendered, the fund balance and fee setting would not be an issue; however, this approach would be cumbersome, at best, resulting in additional fees subjected to stakeholders to cover the work necessary to support this fee collection approach. Further, this approach would place an unnecessary burden on stakeholders, requiring them to receive, process, track, and reconcile multiple invoices throughout the life of a project. Not to mention the aggregate workload added to DFPC employees associated with tracking down and ensuring these invoices are paid. Extensive stakeholder outreach confirmed that this approach would produce a tremendous burden on them and is an extremely undesirable approach.

23. [Rep. Brown] Please clarify how the Department's request would address the excess fund balance problem posed. How does the Department propose to keep transparency into the programs if they are all combined.

Response: Although the request would not solve the problem, it would begin to help mitigate it by leveraging the fluctuations experienced in each program to reduce volatility. For example, a lull in one program can potentially be offset by increased activity in another. As stated above, the projects associated with these funds cannot be easily forecasted and oftentimes come in waves, such as when public school capital improvement bonds are passed. Therefore, by diversifying the fees that feed into a single fund, we believe we can start to level-out some of the more extreme revenue peaks and valleys to support consistent ongoing expenses. Fee adjustments, while responsive to increased or decreased expenditure, can take a long time to have their intended effect on fund balances, so leveling out this challenge across different revenue streams can be very helpful in managing the fund.

Transparency of the revenues and expenditures of each of the three programs will be accomplished through smart coding in the state financial system, which will allow us to track associated revenues and expenses for each program. This approach is used with several cash funds statewide.

24. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] How often has the Department requested waivers for these funds or roll-forward authority?

Response: Since 2017, with the implementation of H.B. 15-1261, which determined that these funds were no longer exempt from the 16.5% Maximum Reserve requirement established in 24-75-40, C.R.S. DFPC has twice requested waivers for funds 22S0 and 27K0. The first request, which resulted in a three-year alternate reserve of 30% for the Health Facility Construction and Inspection Fund and 40% for the Public School Construction and Inspection Fund, was made in 2020 for the FY 2020-21 - FY 2022-23 operational years. The second request, which again involved funds 22S0 and 27K0, was submitted for the FY 2024-25 - FY 2026-27 years and was denied because neither fund was in danger of exceeding the carryover limitations at the time of request, owing to the volatility of both funds. Additionally, the Department engaged the Office of the State Controller in August 2024 to implement the multi-year average fund balance calculation allowed in statute, 24-75-402 (7.5), C.R.S., and learned that this was not a viable solution for these funds because applying the calculation increased the out-of-compliance amount.

R8 GF Reduction from the Fire Investigation Cash Fund

25. [Rep. Sirota, et. al] Please explain the Fire Investigation program including why it has reverted funding and how the Department hopes to increase utilization of the program.

Response: The Fire Investigation program exists to support local jurisdictions, both fire and law enforcement, with conducting comprehensive fire origin and cause investigations. Due to the complexities of determining the origin and cause of any given fire, many of our local jurisdictions do not have the manpower, expertise, or resources needed to perform the in-depth analysis essential to solving many fires. Since the passage of S.B. 23-013, which increased DFPC resources to support local jurisdictions with fire origin and cause investigations, the program has:

- *Investigated 344 fires, including structure, wildland, industrial, and vehicle
 - Over 40 of which were Fatal Fires*
- *Responded to over 130 requests for canines, including accelerant detection, human remains location, and search and rescue tracking.*

- Placed into service two (2) arson trailers; one of which was used as the command post for an ATF National Response Team call out in Nederland.
- Processed evidence for 69 Cases
 - So far resulting in 15 arrests
 - Current costs for these services: \$54,845.00
- Provided heavy equipment, such as excavators, board-up services, and scene security: \$71,469.63
- Arranged and attained forensic engineering services: \$10,299.30
- Provided investigation kits for evidence collection supplied to over 30 agencies, both Fire and Law Enforcement: \$81,402.62
- Provided fire investigation education and training to over 230 new and existing investigators, statewide.

Additionally, the program has been tasked with developing regional teams, made up of both local and state investigators, that can continue to provide support to local jurisdictions in need. Program funding includes the opportunity to reimburse local jurisdictions whose investigators assist DFPC. The appropriation for the first two years of the program included considerable amounts intended for this use; however, establishing a program such as this and gaining full participation from local jurisdictions takes time. As such, the funding provided for this purpose has not yet been used to the full extent that DFPC expects to use in future years.

Currently, program staff are focusing efforts on building out these regional teams, which includes outreach to over 450 local fire and law enforcement agencies. The current fund balance can be attributed, almost entirely, to the underutilization of the reimbursement program; however, we expect that utilization of the funding will increase substantially in the coming months and will be sustained once fully implemented, resulting in considerably more communities being served because of this force-multiplying initiative.

26. [Sen. Amabile] Could this appropriation be reduced further? Why or why not?

Response: Reducing the appropriation further will adversely impact the fire investigations program and would limit the division's ability to support local fire jurisdictions. However, \$1.5M of the current fund balance cannot be utilized by the division due to the spending authority established in the long bill, and could be repurposed for other needs.

Wildfire Cash Funds

27. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please provide a full breakdown of how funding from SB 22-206 was spent including the process used to build the hangar and any other capital portion.

Response: Section 7 of S.B. 22-206 required the Division to establish and maintain a statewide fire dispatch center for rapid responses to wildfires and all-hazard incidents. The rationale and support for this came from Colorado Fire Commission recommendation 21-01. This is a holistic approach to fire resource coordination addressing: 1) resource coordination needs during times of mutual aid and surge capacity to address rapidly expanding incidents; 2) effective dispatching of year-round fire and aviation resources; 3) updating wildfire dispatching capacity to meet current and future needs; and 4) strategic movement and pre-positioning of resources in preparation for periods of higher wildfire potential and activity in different areas of the State. As the number of wildfire and all-hazards incidents increase across Colorado, so too does the need to effectively move state and local resources to effect the greatest response in the least amount of time.

In order to meet the fire service needs on a year-round basis, the State Coordination Center provides a one-stop shop for incident commanders, counties, local fire agencies, and 911/PSAP (Public Safety Answering Points) systems that need fire resources from beyond the local area. The State Coordination Center not only aids in the year-round movement of fire-based resources during initial attack and large events, but also:

- Supports the Colorado Coordinated Mutual Aid System (CCRMAS) created through S.B. 21-166, by expanding the historically seasonal interagency wildfire dispatching system to a 365-day-per-year system;
- Supports the dispatching and tracking of all State fire resources including fire inspectors, fire investigations, training resources, etc., which have grown significantly since 2012 without any corresponding increases in dispatch capacity or support to existing systems;
- Supports the interagency wildfire dispatching system by adding non-federal dispatchers with local knowledge to the three Interagency Dispatch Centers (IADC);
- Supports resource coordination through the integration of IADCs and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC); and
- Supports year-round aviation dispatching to meet Colorado's increasing year-round wildfire problem.

In calendar year 2025, the Dispatch Centers supported by these new State resources supported over 600 wildfires, and processed 27,483 Resource Orders for overhead, equipment, crews, aviation, and supplies.

Section 8 of S.B. 22-206 provided one-time funding to:

- *To contract for additional firefighting aviation resources in 2022 based on prep-season outlooks and fire potential forecasts issued that spring. Direction to DFPC from bill sponsors, House/Senate leadership, and OSPB was that this was one-time funding and for DFPC to submit a Decision Item the following year for funding to add these additional assets to the DFPC aviation program on an ongoing basis. Based on that direction, DFPC did submit proposals for an expanded, on-going aviation fleet. Much of that proposal was not funded, but it did result in the purchase and addition of the second Firehawk helicopter.*

Sections 9 and 12 of S.B. 22-206 provided the authority and one-time funding to:

- *Acquire a hangar for Firehawk #1. An existing hangar was purchased at the Rocky Mountain Regional Airport in Broomfield at considerably less cost than building a new one. The \$2.7 million was transferred from the DEF to the Capital Construction fund for this purchase.*

Section 8 of S.B. 22-206 provided one-time funding for the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control's Center of Excellence (CoE) to develop and implement the Colorado Team Awareness Kit (COTAK) (www.cotak.gov).

Using this funding, and building on years of prior testing, the CoE leveraged internal staff expertise and engaged contract software developers to expand upon the Team Awareness Kit (TAK) mobile applications originally developed by the U.S. Department of Defense. Enhancements included robust user authentication and integration of multiple operational datasets—such as fire perimeters, CAD System information, and real-time video—providing secure, real-time location awareness for public safety personnel at a multi-agency level.

The CoE also used this funding to develop comprehensive, professional training materials to ensure efficient and effective statewide adoption and use of the system. Funding was also used to create effective marketing and communications materials to ensure agencies are aware of COTAK's existence.

COTAK delivers interoperable, real-time situational awareness to an estimated 650 public safety agencies across Colorado, regardless of agency size or budget.

The platform is provided at no cost, enabling broad adoption and establishing a shared common operating picture for multi-agency incident response.

COTAK was developed, tested, and deployed by October 1, 2024. Since deployment, 397 agencies have adopted the system, protecting 4,720 first responders statewide. Following initial widespread adoption, COTAK now has a more sustainable growth rate of approximately six new agencies per month.

S.B. 22-206 Expenditure Summary for Aviation and Dispatch:

S.B. 22-206 One Time Funding Allocation Breakdown	S.B. 22-206 Expenditures
<i>Additional Firefighting Aviation Resources</i>	<i>\$11,819,293.51</i>
<i>Establish Statewide Fire Dispatching</i>	<i>\$3,180,706.49</i>
<i>Center of Excellence (COE)/Colorado Team Awareness Kit (COTAK)</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$15,500,000</i>

28. [Staff/ Sen. Kirkmeyer] The table below includes the breakdown of fire funds included in the briefing document. Please include any additional information regarding revenue sources and balances that are missing and clarify fund balances.

Response: Please see the associated table [linked here](#) for DFPC Cash Funds. FYE 2025-26 fund balances are based on projected revenue received and expenses incurred estimated in October 2025 for the Schedule 9 submission.

Fire Related Cash Funds in DPS

Fund Name	FY 2025-26 Approp.	Proj. FY 25-26 Fund Balance	Note	Primary Revenue Sources
Various Wildfire Response Cash Funds	4,477,080	25,202,475	[1] [2]	Fees for services, taxes on insurance premiums, federal grants, any funds transferred from the Disaster Emergency Fund or General Fund.
Colorado Firefighting Air Corps Fund	4,136,376			
Emergency Fire Fund	242,857			
Wildland Fire Equip. Repair CF	1,736,774			
Wildland Cost Recovery Fund	15,774,157			
Wildfire Emergency Response Fund	1,821,789			

Fund Name	FY 2025-26 Approp.	Proj. FY 25-26 Fund Balance	Note	Primary Revenue Sources
Prescribed Fire Claims Cash Fund		200,000		
Wildfire Preparedness Fund		1,290,522		
Various fire safety and training funds	2,354,280	2,338,673		Fees collected for participation in training programs and/or for fire investigation or suppression services
Fire Service and Education and Training Fund		123,590		
Fire Suppression Fund		42,332		
Fire Investigation Fund		1,573,957		
Firefighter, HazMat responder, and Pres. Fire Training and Cert. Fund		144,528		
Red. Cigarette Ignition Prop. Standards		127,889		
Fireworks Licensing Fund		43,527		
Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program CF		54,608		
Wildfire Resiliency Board CF		130,286		
Local Firefighter Disease and Prevention Fund		97,956		

CO Firefighting Air Corps

29. *[Sen. Kirkmeyer]* Please provide a full list of aerial fire resources including aircraft and utilization in the state.

Response:

List of DFPC Fixed-Wing Resources		
Resources	Operating Model	Missions
Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) - SF327	Year-round. Agency-owned aircraft, contractor operated and maintained	Wildfire and Multi-Purpose. Fire detection, fire mapping, intelligence gathering, also supports SAR, floods, and other all-hazard incidents.
Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) - SF328		
Two (2) Single Engine Airtankers (SEAT)	240 Day Exclusive Use (EU) contracts. Contractor owned and operated	Wildfire response - delivery of fire retardant, suppressants, and/or water.
One (1) Large Air Tanker (LAT)	110 Exclusive Use (EU) contract. Contractor owned and operated.	Wildfire response - delivery of fire retardant, suppressants, and/or water.

List of DFPC Rotor-Wing Resources		
Resources	Operating Model	Missions
Type II / Medium Helicopter - 3803C	Operated seasonally based on historical budgets, available staffing levels, and fire conditions. Agency-owned, contractor operated and maintained.	Wildfire and Multi-Purpose. Wildfire response (delivery of water, suppressants, personnel, and supplies), All-Hazard support (SAR, floods, etc.), and project support (wildlife habitat, remote radio and comms towers, etc.).
Type II / Medium Helicopter - 3804C		
Type I / Firehawk Helicopter - 3811C	Year-round. Agency-owned aircraft, contractor operated and maintained	Wildfire and Multi-Purpose. Wildfire response (delivery of water, suppressants, personnel, and supplies), All-Hazard support (SAR, floods, etc.), and project support (wildlife habitat, remote radio and comms towers, etc.).
Type 1 / Firehawk Helicopter - 3802C <i>(delivered to DFPC and in service Sep 8, 2025)</i>		

List of DFPC Unmanned Aircraft System Resources		
Resources	Operating Model	Missions
52 UAS (Drones)	Agency-owned and operated.	Incident support (situational awareness, intelligence gathering, mapping, and prescribed fire operations), building and fire inspections, fire investigations, testing, training, and development.

DFPC Aviation Resource Utilization - Calendar Year 2025	
Resource Group	2025 Utilization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total missions: 362

Air Tankers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flight hours: 322 Gallons delivered (retardant, water, and water enhancer): 657,537
Helicopters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total missions: 97 Flight hours: 464 Gallons delivered (water): 396,750 Pounds of cargo transported: 67,991
Multi-Mission Aircraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total missions: 371 Flight hours: 590 New fire detections: 87 SAR incidents: 9

30. *[Sen. Amabile, Sen. Kirkmeyer]* Are the helicopters being deployed and operationalized? Please address the concerns brought up in the recent 9News report.

Response: *The helicopters are operational (see above). DFPC leadership intentionally commissioned that workplace assessment to obtain an independent analysis of potential issues and areas for improvement in the helicopter program. DFPC has established an internal working group that is currently developing alternatives and recommendations for future program improvements.*

Helicopter maintenance was a point of emphasis in that report. All helicopters have required maintenance that cannot be delayed past established mandatory limits. The 480 hour maintenance requires a team of mechanics and has to be scheduled months in advance. DFPC chose to proactively schedule that maintenance early due to the manufacturers projected delivery of Firehawk #2 in June and to ensure that Firehawk #1 would have uninterrupted availability in late July and all of August. Delivery of Firehawk #2 to DFPC was delayed until August and there was a short period where Firehawk #1 was unavailable, but there were numerous other interagency helicopters available across the State during that time.

Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program

31. [Rep. Sirota] Please address the status of this program and whether there is federal funding that could be distributed through this program. How was the initial \$100,000 appropriation used?

Response: To answer this, it is helpful to first explain the history and the timelines associated with the Wildfire Resiliency Homes Grant program (WRHGP) to fully understand the results and how the initial \$100,000 appropriation was used. The original bill (H.B. 23-1273) proposed allocating \$2 million to the WRHGP and authorized spending authority until July 1, 2024; however, during the legislative process, the funding was reduced to \$100,000. Governor Polis signed the revised bill into law on May 12, 2023, and the \$100,000 was transferred to the Fund on August 15, 2023.

Concurrently, the WRHGP was introduced alongside changes within the DFPC's Fire and Life Safety Section (FLSS). The FY 2023-24 budget led to the creation of the Community Risk Reduction and Education (CRRE) Branch within FLSS, which absorbed the existing Professional Development Unit (PDU) and established a new Community Risk Reduction Unit (CRRU). The management of the WRHGP was assigned to this new branch.

The new CRRE Branch Chief was appointed on August 1, 2023, and initial planning for the WRHGP commenced shortly thereafter. An initial rule-making planning took place on October 3, 2023 and rules for the WRHGP were drafted in October and November 2023, with a rule review discussion held on November 29, 2023. The proposed rules were introduced on November 30, 2023, and were set to take effect on March 1, 2024.

To gather input, three virtual stakeholder meetings were conducted on December 12, 14, and 19, 2023, via Zoom. Participants, including representatives from wildfire councils and Fire Adapted Colorado, provided feedback on the WRHGP rules. A public hearing on January 4, 2024, resulted in the adoption of the WRHGP rules, effective March 1, 2024. The application period ran from March 4, 2024, to the end of business on April 15, 2024. CRRE staff assisted applicants throughout the period to ensure compliance with application criteria.

A total of 118 unique applications were received, and reviewed on April 24, 2024. Based on location and income criteria, 35 applicants were initially awarded grants. Notification letters were sent to grant recipients and non-recipients on April 25, 2024. Due to the high demand for grant funding exceeding available

resources, most eligible applicants were awarded \$3,000 each, with three smaller projects receiving lesser amounts based on their specific costs.

Due to the fact that the spending authority allocated to the WRHGP would not carry over from FY24 into FY25, grant recipients were instructed to complete their projects by June 30, 2024. Unfortunately, these tight timeframes and fiscal limitations resulted in nearly half of the grant recipients turning down the funds in the end, leaving insufficient time to award the funds to other applicants. At the conclusion of the grant cycle, a balance of \$50,521.41 remained in the WRHGP Cash Fund, which has continued to gain interest. There has not been a renewal of spending authority.

WRHGP 2024 Data Summary:

- *Total applications received: 118 (8 duplicates removed)*
- *Total funds requested for home hardening projects: \$2,548,789.62*
- *Initial Grant Awardees: 35*
- *Total funds requested by Initial Grant Awardees: \$1,581,806*
- *Total WRHGP funds initially awarded: \$99,200*
- *Applicants who initially accepted awards: 23*
- *Total amount accepted by awardees: \$65,200 (with \$34,000 rejected)*
- *Awarded applicants reimbursed: 21*
- *Applicants who later declined funds or did not provide documentation: 2*
- *Total funds paid out: \$49,478.59*
- *Remaining funds in the WRHGP Cash Fund: \$50,521.41. The FYE 2025-26 projected fund balance is \$54,608, which could be repurposed for other needs.*

Examples of Funded Projects:

- *Replacing single-pane windows with double- or triple-pane windows*
- *Replacing worn siding*
- *Installing non-combustible landscaping material within 5 feet of structures*

There are potential federal funding opportunities that could be distributed through this program; however, the opportunity to apply for them has not been made available since the conclusion of the 2024 grant cycle.

Disaster Emergency Fund

32. [Sen. Kirkmeyer] Please provide a robust overview of the mechanics of the fund from both the DHSEM and the DFPC perspectives. Include any information missing from staff's briefing document and further context around transfers that have occurred out of the fund.

Response: *From the DFPC perspective, funding transfers from the DEF to DFPC are spent according to the intended purpose associated with the transfer. Transfers out of the DEF are typically a result of an executive order or legislative action, which includes specific direction on spending the funds. Please see the attached [CDPS DEF process document](#) for additional information.*

DHSEM Response: *From the DHSEM perspective, the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) is the crucial mechanism underpinning the State's emergency and response capabilities. It represents the sole funding source that can be mobilized with sufficient speed to ensure the safety of Coloradans is not jeopardized while awaiting alternative financial resources. The operational procedures are clearly defined in 24-33.5-706, C.R.S. While the legislature retains the authority to appropriate additional funds to the DEF, this authority has not been exercised since FY 2018-19 in H.B. 18-1322. Since that time, all subsequent funding transferred into the DEF has been based on the governor's statutory authority.*

DHSEM utilizes the fund to ensure prompt mobilization and procurement of resources during any eligible event. In the context of federally declared disasters, DHSEM has employed the DEF to address short-term needs while simultaneously pursuing federal obligations and subsequent reimbursement.

For instance, if the estimated cost to the State during a disaster is \$60 million dollars, DHSEM personnel would evaluate the timing of these expenditures (i.e., whether they are required immediately or distributed over time) and coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish a reasonable timeframe for the obligation of the federal cost share. DHSEM then submits a request to the Governor's office for funding to be added to the DEF based on that projection. If the entire \$60 million were required within the first month, DHSEM would likely request the full \$60 million in DEF funding to guarantee that no critical services or supplies are neglected due to a lack of available funding. DHSEM would make this request because it is improbable that a federal obligation would be received within the first month of a disaster. Conversely, if the expenditure is distributed over a three-month period, it is possible that DHSEM could secure an obligation from FEMA by the third month

and subsequently utilize the federal spending authority. In this scenario, DHSEM would likely only request \$40 million in spending authority to cover the first two months of expenditures, anticipating that FEMA funding would become available by the third month.

Assuming a federal cost share of 75%, DHSEM would then request that the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) finance section reclassify \$25 million in expended costs from the \$40 million originally drawn from the DEF to the federal funding source. This action would appropriately balance the total expenditure across the DEF and the Federal funding source, resulting in \$45 million from federal funding and \$15 million from the DEF. This financial adjustment would leave an unencumbered balance of \$25 million remaining within the DEF.

33. [Staff] Please address staff recommendations related to management of the DEF including:

- Potential guidelines around closing out disaster emergencies and including those close-outs in quarterly reports; and
- Identification of a maximum level of funding that can remain in the DEF without being encumbered for a disaster and the best way to track that total.

***Response:** The DEF is not managed by DFPC staff (Please see the [CDPS DEF process document](#) to see roles and responsibilities). Additionally, a copy has been provided to the [Office of the State Auditor DEF Audit Report](#) which provides context to the DEF process, the reasoning behind the recommendations, and the action items agreed to by the responsible parties.*

The recommended guideline is to close out Executive Order funding availability three years after the completion of any associated federal disaster declaration. This timeframe aligns with the federal government's three-year window for completing program audits, after which they are legally prevented from clawing back funds. For non-federally declared disasters, five years for the end of the incident period is recommended; however, if FEMA increases the indicator for major disaster declarations, as planned, the timeline should be eight years from the end of the incident period to allow for time to complete large, complex infrastructure projects.

There are often instances where funds are not encumbered, but the State is obligated to pay expenses when they come due. This situation may occur when the State requests "direct federal assistance" from a federal agency. The federal government will respond with resources, and then after a year(s) of

reconciliation and negotiation, they will bill the State. States are then obligated to pay those costs within 30 days of being billed by the federal government. However, until invoices are sent to the State, the funds need to be in the DEF and unencumbered. This also happens in other types of disasters where the State needs to have financial balances sufficient to cover incoming invoices in an emergency situation.

If the State can track these obligated expenses and change the ‘maximum level’ based on both these obligations and encumbrances, the recommendation can be \$0.00. However, if the JBC would like the State to track actual encumbrances only, the recommended amount needs to be set high enough to account for several large fires and other disasters, and thus should be set at \$200 million.

Div. Homeland Security and Emergency Management

R1 Federal Backfill

34. [Rep. Brown] How is the Department determining what the minimum level of emergency preparedness is? How do we know this request is the right amount?

Response: DHSEM believes the R-01 request is conservative. Currently, the state is divided into 10 service areas, each of which has five or six counties, with one that includes both tribes. DHSEM has one field manager assigned to and living in each of these service areas, developing strong relationships with local and tribal governments and providing technical assistance, training, and planning support. This level of support works well when there is a full-time staffed and dedicated local emergency manager and a supported emergency management program. The issue is that many of the local programs are one-person programs that rely on the pass-through federal grants, which have not been awarded to DHSEM.

In Colorado, local emergency management programs are required by statute. Each county is required to have an identified emergency manager, as well as an adopted emergency operations plan (24-33.5-707, C.R.S.) that includes all phases of emergency management and includes provisions for evacuation, alert, and warning. These requirements are difficult to develop and maintain in well-resourced programs, such as those in Boulder and Denver, let alone a rural jurisdiction with one person who could be less than full-time.

During disasters, the rural jurisdictions require more support. This summer and fall, DHSEM had half of its field staff, along with its recovery staff, assigned to

the western slope fires, and then the Southwestern floods in La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties. During the recent wind event and associated power outages, DHSEM provided staff to a county whose emergency manager was on vacation. In these circumstances, the DHSEM staff member is working at the direction of the county.

DHSEM provides additional staffing for county emergency operations centers, conducts damage assessments, and assists communities with their recovery. When determining the minimum level of preparedness, it is not just what is in statute; it encompasses all of the basic emergency management standards built around the core cycle of Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. These standards are guided by [FEMA's National Preparedness Goal](#) and formalized operational planning guides (like [CPG 101](#)), and the [National Incident Management System](#) certifications. The minimum level of community preparedness is when a local program can plan, train, and exercise these basic emergency management standards.

Local jurisdictions notified DHSEM that they would have to reduce or eliminate their emergency management staff without the pass-through federal funding DHSEM provides. Particularly for the smaller, more rural programs, DHSEM can take advantage of economies of scale to backfill programs that lose staff. The number and cost of the additional staff is less than what would be required to provide funding to counties to continue the equivalent of the loss of the pass-through federal funding. The additional staff will provide planning training and exercise support, as well as response and recovery operations to the impacted communities. During disasters, all of these positions will be deployable and able to staff local emergency operations.

35. [Staff] Please offer updates on the status of federal funding including what has been obligated and awarded since Nov. 1.

Response: *No grants requested for backfill in the R-01 request have been awarded to the state since the November 1 submission. The only grant recently awarded to the State is the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, which is a pass-through grant, and not one that impacts R-01. The two primary grants included for backfill in the R-01 request are the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The State won summary judgement against DHS on the EMPG and HSGP awards on December 23, 2025. This judgement provides the relief sought for both awards. The Department is currently awaiting updated agreements from DHS to ensure there are no more issues and that we can accept the awards. After acceptance*

we will then need to request reimbursement of eligible expenses. DHS continues to withhold millions of dollars in reimbursement nationally (<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5656887-fema-backlog-grants-noem-review/>) and just because we can sign agreements, it does not guarantee reimbursement of eligible expenses.

R2 Threat Intelligence and Prevention Liaison

36. [Rep. Brown] Why is this a relevant program now? Have the threats changed? What is different that is requiring this additional investment?

Response: The threat environment has changed, for the worse. Trends for political violence in the United States indicate a general increase in threats and harassment against public officials, and an upward trend in vigilante activity. Recent examples include:

- *Two members of the West Virginia National Guard were ambushed while on patrol near the White House on Nov. 26, one member was killed and the other wounded.*
- *Charlie Kirk was assassinated on Sept. 10.*
- *On June 14, 2025, Minnesota state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were shot and killed in their home in Brooklyn Park, and state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, were shot and wounded in their home.*
- *In May, two Israeli Embassy staffers were shot to death outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC.*
- *Brian Thompson, CEO of UnitedHealthcare, was assassinated.*
- *On July 13, 2024, Donald Trump was wounded in an assassination attempt in Butler, PA.*
- *In April, the residence of the Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro was firebombed.*
- *Another Trump assassination attempt was thwarted in September.*

After the Kirk shooting, Reuters reported the first half of 2025 saw roughly 150 “politically motivated attacks,” nearly double the previous year’s number for that period.¹

Threats and harassment against local, state, and federal officials are intensifying. The U.S. Capitol Police were on track to investigate over 14,000 threats against lawmakers in 2025, up from 9,474 in 2024.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/nation-edge-experts-warn-vicious-spiral-political-violence-after-kirk-killing-2025-09-11/>

Acts of extrajudicial violence perpetrated by unaffiliated individuals or loosely organized groups in response to a perceived crime or social infraction are becoming more common. This trend is expected to continue upward, especially targeting Black, Jewish, Arab, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ communities.

There is also a resurgence of organized groups like militias and neo-Nazi networks, primarily around flashpoint issues such as immigration. The Islamic State is also making a resurgence as was seen in the December 14, 2025, mass shooting at Bondi Beach during a Hanukkah celebration.

Unfortunately, dehumanizing political rhetoric, partisan polarization, online radicalization, and a sense of fear are contributing to the spread of extremist ideologies on social media, thereby blurring the line between posturing and actual physical violence. There is also a greater acceptance of violence. Surveys from 2024 and 2025 indicate a concerning trend of increased acceptance of political violence as a justified tool for achieving political goals among a significant minority of young adults (ages 18-29), compared to older generations.²

These findings are consistent with the findings of the Bridging Divides Initiative at Princeton University trend analysis, which found that:

- 1. Vigilante activity is becoming a more common form of political violence;*
- 2. mobilization by organized, violent groups is set to resurge;*
- 3. public trust in law enforcement may come under further strain amid high rates of deadly force;*
- 4. the rise in threats and harassment will continue to undermine local civic engagement; and*
- 5. national narratives and amplification mechanisms will likely fuel conflict at the local level.³*

Violent extremist actors now meet on mainstream platforms, then move to encrypted channels, dark-web forums, and fringe networks. These shifts lead to:

- Faster radicalization and mobilization online - ideological narrative spreads rapidly due to social media algorithms;*
- threat actors moving to harder-to-monitor platforms (private servers, encrypted apps); and*

² <https://news.gallup.com/poll/697745/youth-loneliness-political-violence.aspx>

³ <https://bridgingdivides.princeton.edu/key-political-violence-and-resilience-trends-2024>

- increased political violence linked to online discourse.

In addition to the ideological threat actors, there is an increase in non-ideological violent extremists. Of particular interest are the trends surrounding 764, Gore, and Nihilism in youth violent extremism. This is a shift away from traditional, ideology-driven radicalization toward a disorganized, chaotic subculture rooted in suffering, reputation, and “aesthetic violence.”

Historically, violence associated with these youth was digital (swatting, doxxing, remote sextortion). The alarming trend in 2025 is the transition to physical violence. Influential members, safe behind screens, manipulate vulnerable minors to commit arson, shootings, and assaults. Violence is framed as a “quest” or “mission,” and young recruits are dared to commit acts of random violence to prove their loyalty or nihilistic bona fides.⁴

While still under investigation, this may have played a role in the shooting that occurred at Evergreen High School on September 10, 2025, where a 16-year-old student shot and wounded two classmates before dying by suicide. The preliminary investigation shows the shooter was radicalized by an extremist network and had a deep fascination with mass shootings.

37. [Sen. Bridges] What are they classifying as these threats? What are they looking at? How are they looking out for free speech and where are the lines they are drawing?

***Response:** It is important to remember that, in addition to protecting people from threat actors, the Division has an obligation to protect civil rights, including First Amendment-protected speech. The program explicitly protects the right to “live, work, and speak freely without fear of violence.” This emphasizes the program’s framing: protecting free speech, not policing it. The program looks at threat indicators (behaviors), not viewpoints.*

It is also important to understand that the program’s monitoring functions generally occur following a report or tip concerning a specific threat. Monitoring online threats while protecting First Amendment rights requires establishing a criminal predicate and distinguishing “true threats” from protected speech using recent legal standards, including Counterman v. Colorado (2023). Under Counterman v. Colorado (2023), a statement is only a “true threat” (and thus unprotected) if the speaker had some subjective understanding of the

⁴ https://www.isdglobal.org/digital_dispatches/from-sextortion-to-violence-the-evolving-threat-of-the-764-network-in-the-us/

threatening nature of their words. It is not enough that a reasonable person would feel threatened; the speaker must have acted recklessly regarding the risk that their words would be perceived as a threat of violence.

Open source monitoring of individuals is not generalized or continuous. It is only initiated when there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, including harassment (Kiana Arellano's Law, 18-9-111 C.R.S.) and stalking (Vonnie's Law, 8-3-602 C.R.S.).

Continuous monitoring of threats against specific victims does occur. For example, systems are programmed to look at threats to specific elected officials. When the system detects a threat to that individual, it is then reviewed to determine if there is a criminal predicate. If no criminal predicate is found, that post is discarded.

Items of interest include:

- *Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE)*
- *Targeted political violence (e.g., recent assassination attempts)*
- *Extremist mobilization online*
- *Issue-based radicalization relevant to Colorado (anti-government, anti-abortion, environmental extremism, hate-based violence)*
- *Threats to public officials*
- *Threats against minority communities and faith communities*
- *High-risk school threats and youth-influenced extremism*

38. [Rep. Sirota] Are any other states starting similar programs? Have any others been taking on this monitoring?

Response: Many states have similar or evolving programs:

- *New York [Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services \(DHSES\)](#) TAM Teams (Threat Assessment and Management Teams) are local, multi-agency groups, established under state mandate (Executive Order 18), to prevent domestic terrorism and targeted violence by identifying at-risk individuals, assessing threats, and intervening early, using a whole-community approach involving law enforcement, mental health, schools, and social services to manage those on the pathway to violence. These teams coordinate information, provide intervention options, and reduce risk by bridging gaps between agencies.*
- *The Hawaii Office of Homeland Security (HIOHS) runs programs for civic engagement (through community outreach) and threat assessment (Targeted Violence Prevention), focusing on partnerships, training for*

threat teams, and integrating federal guidance to build community resilience and prevent violence, as detailed in their strategy and training initiatives.

- *The Texas DPS Behavioral Threat Assessment, Intervention, and Prevention (BETA) Program uses a proactive, evidence-based approach to stop violence by identifying concerning behaviors, assessing risks through teams (including law enforcement, mental health, and educators), and implementing interventions.*
- *North Carolina established the Office of Violence Prevention under the Department of Public Safety. The Office coordinates with other state agencies and local communities in a whole-of-government and public health approach to violence reduction.*
- *Several state-level fusion centers, like Colorado's, monitor similar threat indicators, conduct threat intelligence, monitor extremist trends, receive and triage digital threats, and support law enforcement response. All while ensuring that the state fusion center supports First Amendment-protected activities and does not collect or disseminate related information for investigative purposes.*

Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise

39. [Rep. Brown] Please provide an overview of this Enterprise including its revenue; grants awarded; and general implementation of HB 21-1208.

***Response:** The Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise (NDME) provides support to reduce the negative impacts from future disasters on lives, property and the economy. Grants are awarded to local governments to undertake mitigation projects that directly reduce risks to lives and property, are cost-effective, technically feasible, science-based, ecologically sound, and environmentally sound, and allow the strategic investment of limited resources. The NDME collects a \$2.00 per policy fee on specific lines of property insurance.*

The increased need for wildfire mitigation work in Colorado and the reduction in Federal funding contribute to increased NDME grant applications year over year. Established in 2023, the NDME has recruited a diverse 13-member board of directors that meets quarterly. NDME has collected the required fees for most of 2022, and all of 2023 and 2024. Fees are collected in the year following the policy year, meaning fees for policies held in 2022 were collected in 2023. As such, policies held in 2022 are assessed and fees collected in 2023, creating a grant opportunity using those fees in 2024. Two rounds of grants have been

distributed using the fee collections for 2022 and 2023. The fees for policies held in 2024 will be used to fund grants in 2026 and so on. A small amount of funds from fee collections has been used to support the NDME Administrator position and the NDME Board functions. The number of policies increased slightly year over year, and the minimal payment by each property owner has been acceptable to Coloradans.

NDME Finances

A summary of fees collected, administrative funds spent, and grant dollars awarded is as follows:

<i>Fee Collection Year</i>	<i>Amount of Fees Collected</i>	<i>Administrative Funds</i>	<i>Number of Grants Awarded</i>	<i>Grant Dollars Awarded</i>
2023	\$4,873,214*	\$39,391	8	\$4,779,486**
2024	\$5,665,816	\$191,018	10	\$5,348,577
2025	\$5,980,304	\$210,500***		

**According to legislation, partial fees were collected for policies held in 2022 due to the timing of the passing of the legislation.*

***Grants are awarded based on the amount applicants request. Grants are scored by the board and awards are made from the top-scoring grants down until there are not enough funds to award the next grant application. Unawarded grant funds are rolled into the next grant opportunity.*

****This is the budgeted amount for administrative purposes. Unspent funds will be rolled into the next round of grants.*

NDME Grants

The NDME Board developed the grant program to support mitigation projects that might otherwise be difficult to find funding for. The grant program is intended to be straightforward, transparent, and to award funds to projects that have the potential to do the most good in the communities they serve. The initial grant opportunity garnered 26 applications requesting a total of \$17,714,905 in funding with the majority of the applications requesting funding for wildfire mitigation projects. Eight applications were awarded, totaling

\$4,779,486 in grant funds. Seven grants focused on wildfire mitigation and one focused on flood mitigation. The first eight grants awarded are summarized in the table below.

<i>Grant Recipient</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>
<i>City of Commerce City</i>	<i>The Fire Break and Wildland Maintenance Project aims to (1) Hire a contractor to build a fire break on open space land in Commerce City; and (2) Hire a contractor to mow, or utilize animals, to maintain open space vegetation between 4 - 6 inches in seasons of high fire risk.</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
<i>City of Glenwood Springs Fire Department</i>	<i>The project will implement 368 acres of fuels reduction, including mastication, thinning, and roadside clearing, while also conducting up to 170 home wildfire risk assessments, and up to 100 defensible space plans to reduce structural ignitability.</i>	<i>\$641,286</i>
<i>Dolores School District</i>	<i>By securing NDME grant funding, the district will be able to implement critical stormwater mitigation improvements that will not only protect school property and reduce flood-related disruptions but will also enhance the resilience of the entire community.</i>	<i>\$850,000</i>
<i>Evergreen Fire/Rescue</i>	<i>EFR's Fuel Reduction Project is a request for funding 72 roll off dumpsters to be utilized throughout our fire district for our Community Chipping Program and for multiple organized communities and HOAs for pine needle and juniper removal.</i>	<i>\$49,200</i>
<i>Jefferson Conservation</i>	<i>Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) requests \$700,000 in partial matching funds for the Indian</i>	<i>\$700,000</i>

Grant Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
<i>District-Indian Creek 2</i>	<i>Creek 2 Wildfire Mitigation Project on private land in southeast Clear Creek County (west of Evergreen).</i>	
<i>Mancos Conservation District</i>	<i>Funding will support wildfire mitigation activities including improving defensible space around homes, small-scale community fuel breaks and forest thinning on mid- and large-sized parcels in the lands between the Towns of Mancos and Dolores.</i>	\$850,000
<i>Platte Canyon Fire Protection District (\$850k)</i>	<i>Evacuation Route Mitigation Project: Targeted fuel treatment initiatives in the proximity of and adjacent to roadways that have been identified as critical ingress and egress routes in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.</i>	\$850,000
<i>Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority</i>	<i>This project aims to mitigate wildfire risk across 2,315 acres near Basalt by implementing a combination of forest thinning, mastication, and prescription burning to reduce hazardous fuels, protect homes and infrastructure, improve forest health, and safeguard critical watersheds.</i>	\$539,000

The NDME Board revised the grant program based on the initial applications and funding process to more clearly lay out the scoring criteria and simplify the application. The second grant opportunity garnered 49 applications requesting a total of \$27,914,452 in funding with the majority of the applications requesting funding for wildfire mitigation projects and a significant increase in requests for planning projects due to changes in federal funding opportunities. Ten applications were awarded totaling \$5,348,577 in grant funds. Six grants focused on wildfire mitigation, two focused on water security to support wildfire mitigation, one focused on landslide mitigation, and one focused on watershed restoration. The second ten grants awarded are summarized in the table below.

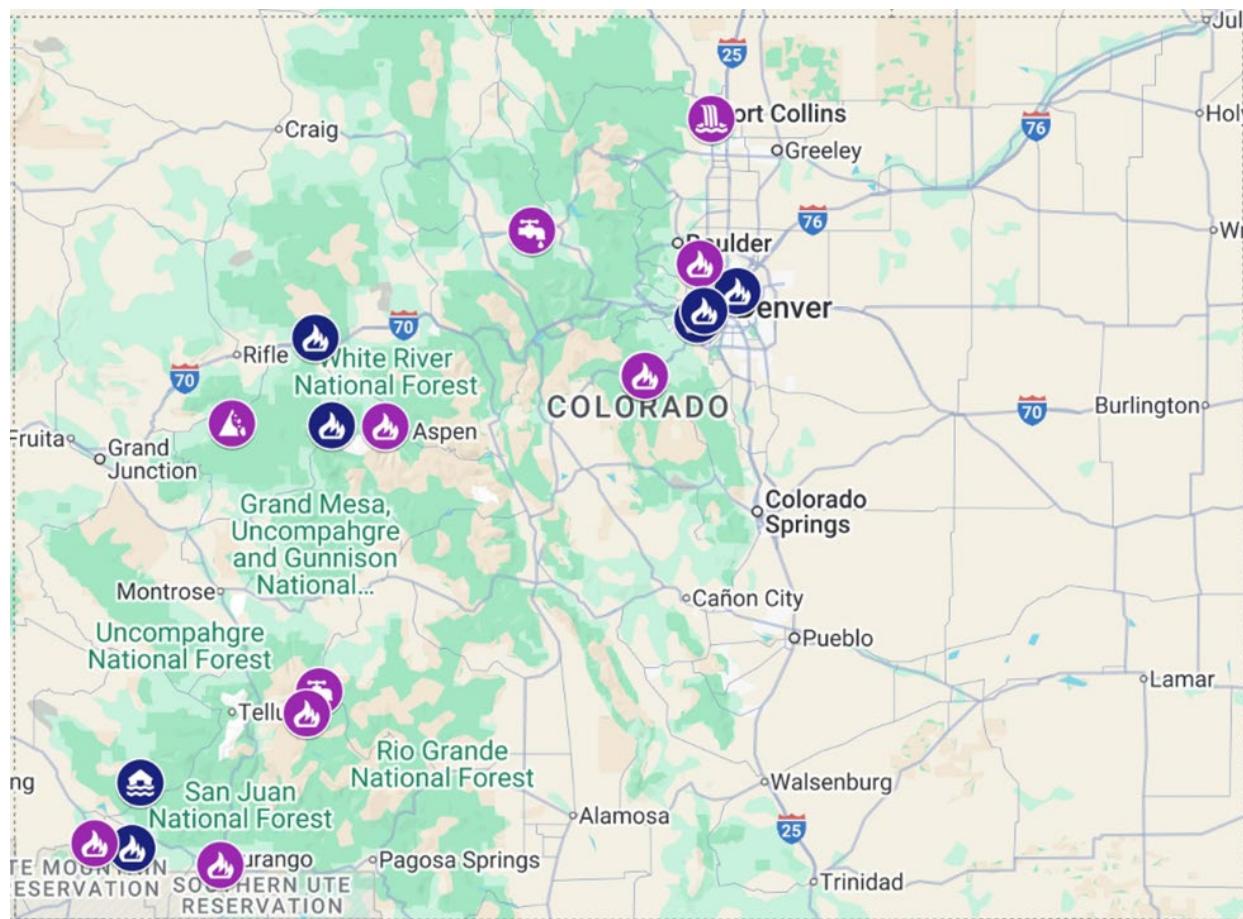
Grant Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
<i>Collbran Conservancy District</i>	<i>Parker Basin Landslide Mitigation Project: Modernizing a section of canal threatened by landslide to ensure water security and drought resiliency for agriculture, hydropower, and domestic use in Mesa County.</i>	\$339,760
<i>High Desert Conservation District</i>	<i>West Fork Wildfire Risk Reduction: The project will convert up to two miles of overhead powerline to underground electric infrastructure in high-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) lands along the residential corridor of County Road 38, which runs adjacent to the West Fork of the Dolores River.</i>	\$770,545
<i>Hinsdale County</i>	<i>Hinsdale County Wildfire Mitigation Community Chipping Program: The community chipping program provides a reduced fee for dumping slash, brush and other wildfire mitigation debris at the county transfer station. When the mitigation pile reaches its capacity, the county rents a tub grinder and chips all the materials and makes them available to the community for free.</i>	\$60,000
<i>Town of Hot Sulphur Springs</i>	<i>The Town of Hot Sulphur Springs sought funding for two emergency power generators to provide backup power for the town's drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities. These generators will ensure uninterrupted delivery of fundamental services during power outages caused by emergencies such as wildfires or severe weather events.</i>	\$144,840
<i>La Plata Conservation District</i>	<i>Reduce community and infrastructure wildfire risk at multiple scales: (1) defensible space around homes; (2) small-scale community fuel breaks, common space treatments, and roadside thinning; (3) forest thinning on mid-sized private parcels. The project area focuses on lands along HWY 160 from west to east and HWY 550 from north to south.</i>	\$850,000

Grant Recipient	Project Description	Grant Amount
Town of Lake City	<i>Lake City WWTP Generator & Transfer Switch. Purchase and Installation of a Standby Generation System & Automatic Transfer Switch for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Located at 1000 Hotchkiss Street, Lake City, CO 81235, Latitude N 38.035363 Longitude W 107.306398</i>	\$250,000
Larimer Conservation District	<i>LCD's North Larimer County Landscape Resilience Project will restore up to 598 acres of overstocked forest and 4.7 miles of degraded streams in north Larimer County.</i>	\$850,000
Platte Canyon Fire Protection District	<i>Bailey Evacuation Routes Mitigation Phase II: Targeted fuel treatment initiatives in the proximity of and adjacent to roadways that have been identified as critical ingress and egress routes in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.</i>	\$850,000
Town of Snowmass Village	<i>This project will implement fuels reduction within the Town of Snowmass Village (Pitkin County, Colorado) to reduce wildfire intensity, improve evacuation safety, and protect critical water supplies.</i>	\$850,000
Town of Superior	<i>Match support for wildfire mitigation: hazardous fuels reduction in Superior open space and hardening of critical Town facilities.</i>	\$383,432

Map of Funded Grants:

Blue Icons = first grant opportunity (8)

Purple Icons = second grant opportunity (10)



Colorado Bureau of Investigation

R10 GF Reduction from the CO Crime Information Center

40. [Staff] Could the units sustain a further General Fund reductions? Are there any barriers to fully utilizing the balance of the Identification Unit Cash Fund?

Response: The Identification Cash Fund was statutorily created for the purpose of providing funding to perform civil fingerprint-based background checks for criminal history records related to professional licensing, such as for teachers, police officers, real estate agents, and similar professions. The General Fund appropriation is provided to the Biometric Identification and Records Unit to perform the review and updates of the criminal records for arrested offenders. Utilization of the cash funds to perform arrested offender criminal history record updates would be an inappropriate use of the cash funds, since feepayers would be subsidizing other background checks with their fees.

41. [Sen. Amabile/Kirkmeyer] Is there potential to consolidate funding for the various information sharing program within the Department to increase efficiencies? If not, why? If so, how might that work?

Response: *The CBI only has two cash funds that are managed/regulated by the CBI. They are the Identification Cash Fund and the Instant Criminal Background Check Cash Fund. These funds provide funding for very specific and services that are statutorily performed by the respective Units and therefore unable to be consolidated. The CBI works with both internal and external partners whenever possible to maximize efficiencies through resource and systems' sharing. Related to systems, that can be challenging due to the distinct functions, mission-specific roles and specialized expertise needed for systems that are designed to meet specific statutory, security, and compliance requirements.*

Forensic Unit Audit and Sex Assault Kit Progress

42. [Staff] Please address the recommendations in the audit by providing a breakdown between:

- Recommendations that have been initiated or completed;
- Recommendations that are anticipated to be addressed through FY 2026-27
- Recommendations that may be addressed later alongside the reasoning for waiting on those recommendations.

Response: *The CBI is committed to aggressively addressing and implementing the recommendations provided by the 3rd party assessor Forward Resolutions. Forensic Services has been extremely transparent in the effort to create a blueprint to address the recommendations. Please see the complete list of recommendations and the phased progress report here.*

The Forward Resolutions report stated, "...it is essential to note that this report establishes a strategic roadmap that spans approximately five to ten years, depending on resource availability." CBI received 52 recommendations, and is committed to evaluating all 52 recommendations and implementing as many as possible. In order to strategically address them, CBI divided the recommendation into 3, 18 month phases. This allows CBI to thoughtfully address each recommendation while also acknowledging that some of the recommendations are foundational and must be completed first to allow the other recommendations to build upon them.

Phase 1 Recommendation Completed: #2, #6, #36

Phase 1 Recommendations in progress: #1, #3, #4, #5, #9, #10, #12, #16, #18(positions already funded), #20, #21, #23, #25, #32, #35, #37, #41, #45, #48, #51

Phase 1 is scheduled for July 2025 - December 2026. CBI's goal is to fully implement 75% of Phase 1 recommendations by December 2026. Many of the recommendations will take longer to fully implement so 100% implementation of all Phase 1 recommendations is planned by December 2027.

Phase 2 will run from January 2027 to July 2028. Work on Phase 2 will begin in January 2027, but any fiscal requests for these recommendations will be requested in the 2027 legislative session and begin in FY 2027-28.

Phase 2 Recommendations not started: #7, #8, #11, #18(additional positions), #19, #24, #26, #27, #28, #29, #33, #34, #38, #39, #40, #42, #43, #44, #46, #47, #49, #50, #52

Phase 3 Recommendations not started: #13, #14, #15, #17, #22, #30, #31

43. [Staff] Please provide an analysis of the recommended FTE from the audit in relation to vacancies remaining from previous CBI right-sizing. Are there recommended role that are already being funded?

Response: *Listed below are the recommended FTE from the audit as well as how the FTE relates to current vacancies remaining from the CBI right-sizing request.*

Laboratory Managers

-Recommendation #8 recommends an additional 1-2 managers in each of the Arvada, Grand Junction, and Pueblo laboratories.

-2.0 FTE funded by auto theft plan and not yet filled: 1.0 FTE slated for Grand Junction and the other slated for Pueblo labs to be filled this fiscal year. 1-2 managers in the Arvada and possibly additional managers in Grand Junction and Pueblo still remain.

Training Group

-Recommendation #28 recommends positions for a centralized training group for the biological sciences unit. This would be extremely beneficial in the biological sciences unit and other units. The number of FTE was not specified, but CBI states this would require 3-7 FTE.

-0 funded by Right Sizing plan

Dedicated IT staff

-Recommendation #19 calls for IT staff to be embedded within CBI Forensic Services to help manage LIMS and other data reporting functions. Forward Resolutions does not specify the number of positions needed. Any dedicated IT FTE would be a significant benefit, and 2-3 FTE would be ideal.

-0 funded by the Right Sizing plan

Ombudsman

-Recommendation #13 recommends 1 FTE for this position. This has not been filled

-0 funded by the Right Sizing plan

Dedicated Legal Counsel

-Recommendation #15 recommends dedicated in-house legal counsel. This has not been filled.

-0 funded by the Right Sizing plan

Trace, DNA, toxicology, and firearms scientists

-Recommendations #18 and #46 suggest that more scientist and support positions may be needed. Recommendation #18 also recommends a possible expansion of the Firearms section to the Pueblo lab. This would require construction to add a Firearms lab and cost about \$1.5 million. Specific positions recommended in Recommendations #18 and #46:

- *Case Coordinators*
- *Firearms Examiners*
- *DNA Analysts,*
- *Toxicologists*
- *NIBIN Technical Leader or Lead Worker*
- *Trace Chemistry Analysts*

-Positions Funded by Right Sizing DI, and filled.

- *Firearms Examiners*
- *DNA Analysts*

- *Trace Chemistry Analysts*

-Additional Positions Recommended and Currently Not Funded

- *Case Coordinators*
- *Toxicologists*
- *NIBIN Technical Leader or Lead Worker*
- *Trace Chemistry Analysts*

Forensic Service Administrative Staff

-Recommendation #16 recommends establishing CBI Forensic Services as an independent division.

This separation will require the eventual funding of a full administrative staff to provide the administrative function currently provided by the CBI administrative team. Two of these positions, the Forensic Services Director and Program Assistant, are part of the current plan. Additional positions will be needed in the future.

44. [Sen. Amabile] Please explain the \$400,000 cost of relocating the forensic unit outside of CBI.

Response: The Department requests an increase of \$391,436 General Fund and 1.8 FTE in FY 2026-27 and \$387,954 General Fund and 2.0 FTE in FY 2027-28 and beyond to fund administrative positions necessary to support the new Forensic Services Division within the Department. The FTE positions are for a Division Director and a FTE Program Assistant. Additional required costs for the Division Director include training, statewide travel expenses, fleet vehicle lease costs as well as mileage costs associated with the vehicle (10,000 miles per year), and cell phones for both positions. Please note that additional support roles will be requested in the future when funding is available.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DISASTER EMERGENCY FUND MANAGEMENT PROCESS GUIDE

Created June 2017

Revised June 2023

Revised December 2025

Effective June 6, 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 About the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF)

When a disaster occurs in the state, and the response and recovery costs exceed what local governments can cover on their own, the Governor of Colorado has the power to declare the occurrence a State disaster.

With the State disaster declaration, the Governor may issue an Executive Order to provide State funds to assist local governments with the disaster. The Executive Order makes this funding available specifically from the Disaster Emergency Management Fund (DEF).

The DEF, established by Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-335-706, is a fund dedicated to helping State and local entities respond to and recover from a disaster. The DEF consists of monies appropriated by the General Assembly. If the money available from the disaster emergency fund is insufficient, the governor may transfer to the fund and expend money appropriated for other purposes. The fund also includes money to reimburse expenditures from the fund that are transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the fund, which the Governor's Office then directs toward specific disasters via Executive Orders.

Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-77-104, establishes the State Emergency Reserve (SER) which is expended upon declaration of a state emergency and funds the DEF. Beginning July 1, 2021, if any money expended by the SER subsequently receives a reimbursement for the expenditure, the reimbursement shall be deposited into the fund that was the source of the original funding. For CDPS, this means all reimbursements must be credited back to the DEF with the Governor's Office being responsible to ensure the credit is applied to the initial funding source. We received clarification from OSPB, through legal interpretation, that this also means FEMA reimbursements do not equate to additional spending authority and instead, subsidize the DEF spending authority.

1.2 CDPS' Role in DEF Management

The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) coordinates aid for disasters through its Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). The DHSEM and DFPC Financial Services Units play key roles in DEF management including:

- Establishing accounting structures for disaster spending.

- Approving and paying reimbursement requests from local entities, Federal agencies, vendors and contractors for valid disaster expenditures out of the DEF.
- Billing the Governor's Office for disaster expenditures (to reimburse DEF).
 - Securing Federal reimbursement for DEF expenditures (when eligible).
 - Reconcile DEF balances and produce reporting as requested.

DHSEM and DFPC have differing processes in managing disaster spending and reimbursement, which this guide describes in detail below.

A Note on This Guide

This DEF Process Reference is meant to document the financial management of the DEF and its reimbursement processes at the time of publication. As processes evolve over time and CDPS develops new best practices, this guide may require updates. On a periodic basis, EDO Accounting will review the Guide and coordinate with DHSEM's State Emergency Operations Center, DHSEM's Office of Grant Management, and EDO Procurement as necessary to make any revisions.

Date Notes

1.3 Key Contacts

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1.4 Executive Orders Overview

DHSEM and DFPC require an Executive Order to give them spending authority for the DEF. DHSEM and DFPC gathers the following information from the Executive Order:

- The spending authority for the DEF (the amount encumbered for the DEF) ●
- Direction on how the DEF funding must be spent
- The funding expiration date.

Each Executive Order for disaster spending has an end date – typically four years from the date issued. If the Executive Order is not closed by then, the Governor's Office may issue another Executive Order to extend the end date.

The following two pages include an example of an Executive Order. 5 **EXECUTIVE**

ORDER EXAMPLE (D 2021-123)



D 2021 123

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County, enabling State agencies to coordinate for fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as "the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire." C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

The Muddy Slide Fire started on June 20, 2021, in Routt County, on United States Forest Service Land west of Kremmling, Colorado. On June 22, 2021, the fire grew to over 3,000 acres, expanded onto state and private land, and roughly 25 homes were evacuated. The Muddy Slide Fire was 0% contained. At approximately 10:00 AM on June 23, 2021, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Muddy Slide Fire had exceeded county capacity and was eligible for state responsibility per the Emergency Fire Fund criteria. The Emergency Fire Fund currently has sufficient resources to pay for the State share of suppression costs since June 23, 2021.

On June 23, 2021, at approximately 4:34 PM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

As of July 12, 2021, the Muddy Slide Fire burned 4,093 acres and was 50% contained.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Muddy Slide Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of June 23, 2021, declaring a disaster emergency, is hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if it were contained within this Executive Order.

B. The State Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated. All State departments and agencies shall take whatever actions may be required and requested by the Director or Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to the Emergency Support Function 5 Annex of the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from June 23, 2021, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this
sixteenth day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor

2. DHSEM and the DEF

The following section describes the general process that DHSEM may follow when coordinating payments and reimbursements out of the DEF for a non-fire disaster or emergency. The narrative also describes funding sources besides the DEF that may factor into the payment/reimbursement process for these incidents.

For a detailed description of the DFPC process for coordinating payment/reimbursement involving the DEF, refer to the DFPC DEF Reimbursement Process section.

2.1 DHSEM DEF Reimbursement Process

1. Local disaster occurs; local entity declares emergency/disaster.
2. If resource needs or costs exceed local and mutual aid capacity, the local entity may request State assistance.

3. When the Governor declares a State disaster, the estimated amount of money to be spent on response and recovery (i.e., the spending authority) for the disaster is specified in an Executive Order. Response and recovery may be included in the same Executive Order that authorizes the response funds, although the recovery portion of the disaster may have its own Executive Order. Executive Order recovery funding has included items such as provision of funds to hire a recovery manager for a local entity. In addition, for major disasters, the Governor may elect to participate in the recovery.
4. The States Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) emails a Memorandum for Record that documents the Governor's verbal declaration of an Executive Order. Accounting creates a unique cash appropriation for each Executive Order using the SEOC incident number as the last 4 digits of the appropriation unit. A shared crosswalk will be maintained between the Governor's Office and DHSEM that aligns each Department's appropriations by incident. Accounting creates a \$0 budget document in the State Financial System that activates the appropriation for spending and communicates to the EDO Accounting team, DHSEM finance liaison, DHSEM purchasing, and DFPC staff as needed with the coding information. DHSEM will spend against the \$0 appropriation as we are unable to establish legal spending authority until the written Executive Order is issued, this requires budget overrides in the state's accounting system, Core Operations Resource Engine (CORE), and the use of event type PR07 on encumbrance documents.
5. When the written Executive Order is issued, which can be up to 30 days after the verbal declaration, Accounting updates the appropriation to reflect the spending authority authorized by the Executive Order. The appropriation is also set with an end period based on the end date of the executive order. Once spending authority is established, any encumbrance documents set up with event type PR07 will need to be modified to close out the PR07 lines and create PR05 (accounting encumbrance) comm lines so the funds are shown in CORE as encumbered.
6. The Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) uses its WebEOC network to track missions it launches, along with cost estimates associated with the missions. By recording this data, DHSEM remains aware of how much of the Executive Order is being spent over time. The responsibility for tracking spending against the authorized amount per the Executive Order is the responsibility of State Emergency Operations Center finance staff. EDO accounting will provide CORE reporting that details the remaining spending authority per EO. This reporting will only reflect expenditures and encumbrances posted in CORE and the SEOC will need to adjust for any known expenses not yet processed. This reporting will

itemize spending between DFPC and DHSEM so both divisions can track department wide spending.

7. The Governor may request a declaration from the President for any incident. FEMA will create a report, after the Preliminary Damage Assessment, that the emergency/major disaster should be eligible for Public Assistance (PA). The President may declare the incident a Federal major disaster or emergency and make PA and/or Individual Assistance (IA) funds, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds available to the State. FEMA administers the PA, IA and HMGP per the regulations for those programs. If the incident is eligible for PA, FEMA will pay 75 percent of disaster response and recovery costs it deems eligible for reimbursement. The Federal Government may, at its discretion, elect to pay more than 75% but that is a rare occurrence.

NOTE: Unlike State disaster declarations, it may require a month or longer for a flood (or other non-FMAG disaster) to receive a Federal disaster or PA declaration. DHSEM proceeds as if all costs incurred for the disaster will be paid out of the DEF; no expenditures are ever made contingent upon Federal funding being available.

8. DHSEM travels to affected local entities and briefs them on how to document their eligible expenses for State reimbursement (and FEMA reimbursement, if applicable) and how to request reimbursement from the State. Local entities submit requests for funding. DHSEM enters an agreement with the local entity on the funding provided, which includes a breakdown (by percentage) of the State, Federal and local government shares of each expenditure.

9. After entering into the funding agreement, local entities, or subrecipients, enter their expenditures in Colorado's incident financial management and tracking system. Local entities may also submit invoices.

10. DHSEM reimburses subrecipients out of the DEF and Federal funds when applicable for their eligible expenditures according to the subaward/contract between DHSEM and the Subrecipient entity. (Refer to the DHSEM Disaster Cost Shares section for more information.)

EDO Accounting pays subrecipients, upon approval from DHSEM, by issuing them a payment via the State financial system that pays directly from the DEF or appropriate/applicable Federal line of coding. DHSEM may also pay vendors directly through purchase orders or contracts. As SEOC missions associated with the disaster recovery are completed, DHSEM gathers all of the documentation

and inputs that data into WebEOC. DHSEM pays vendors and agencies owed for missions launched through the SEOC, such as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for Colorado National Guard deployment.

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11. As the DEF cash appropriations incur expenses for reimbursements, Accounting begins a quarterly process to bill the Governor's Office for those expenses. First, accounting pulls the DEF's expense and revenue data for the disaster from the State financial system. Then Accounting initiates an ITI to bill the Governor's Office against the spending authority for the Executive Order.

12. DHSEM receives the Governor's Office's reimbursement to the DEF via an ITA to transfer cash.

13. On a Project Worksheet (PW), FEMA determines the total amount eligible for each project and the Federal share of that total, which comprises the award to DHSEM. When DHSEM signs off on each PW, FEMA begins awarding funds for its share of the recovery expenditures. With each FEMA obligation, EDO Accounting creates a unique program code based on the PW # and sets up spending authority in the DEF federal appropriation for the amount of the FEMA obligation. Expenses are allocated between the DEF cash and DEF federal appropriations as appropriate.

- If FEMA obligates prior to expense recognition, we allocate when initially recorded in CORE.
- If expenses are obligated after expense recognition, we process a JV to move from the DEF cash appropriation to the DEF federal appropriation. In order to maintain consistent coding elements, we do a JV to add the FEMA program code to the DEF cash appropriation line and then subsequently move those same lines to the DEF federal appropriation. Spending authority in the DEF cash appropriation must be reduced by the amount of the transfer.

Moving expenses from the DEF cash appropriation to the DEF federal appropriation will create a refund to the Governor's Office in the next regular billing cycle.

The PWs are all usually written and obligated during the first year after the Presidential declaration, but due to environmental and other reviews it sometimes is a longer period. DHSEM is the grantee for the Federal funds. It administers the Federal programs and makes subawards to all eligible subrecipients

14. The Accounting unit makes a Federal drawdown from the award as expenses are incurred by the State. The drawdown is for expenditures in the federal appropriation, including those within the DEF fund.

NOTE: The PW process can be repeated as additional expenses are incurred. 10

2.2 DHSEM Disaster Cost Shares

When FEMA provides program assistance (a PA Grant) for the recovery from a disaster, the Federal government is responsible for a percentage of eligible expenditures. The state determines how the remaining percentage of the cost is to be paid, which could include using state funds or passing expenditures on to the subrecipient.

3. DFPC DEF Reimbursement Process

When a fire is declared a State disaster, the fire response is handled by DFPC, and the consequence management/recovery portion is handled by DHSEM.

Depending on the scope of the fire and its expenditures, the response and recovery funding could come from the same Executive Order or be split into separate Executive Orders. (The recovery funding could also come from a grant as opposed to an Executive Order.)

The DEF is the funding source for the majority of expenses that are covered by an executive order. DFPC may use other funding sources as well, such as the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF), Enhanced State Assistance (ESA) and the Cost Recovery Fund, when applicable to offset DEF funding for a fire. The Executive Order will state the authorized funding source(s). The responsibility for tracking spending against the authorized amount per the Executive Order is the responsibility of the EDO Fire Billing Team in conjunction with DFPC Wildland staff but, because DFPC expenditures are often reimbursement based, over spends may not be evident until after the expense is incurred at which time a request to increase the EO funding may be necessary.

EDO accounting will provide CORE reporting that details the remaining spending authority per EO. This reporting will only reflect expenditures and encumbrances posted in CORE and DFPC will need to adjust for any known expenses not yet processed. This reporting will itemize spending between DFPC and DHSEM so both divisions can track department wide spending.

Other government jurisdictions may share responsibility for fire expenditures. DFPC invoices these agencies out of the Cost Recovery Fund based on responsibility as outlined in a fire's cost share agreement.

DFPC FMAG Process

This section relates to state responsibility fires that are FMAG eligible as some

fires are not.

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When a fire is declared a Federal disaster, or eligible for reimbursement under the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG), DFPC handles the Federal reimbursement process with FEMA for suppression expenditures.

FEMA reimbursement for fires does not function like a typical grant, which awards money up front to be drawn down as expenditures are incurred. For fires, Federal reimbursement comes after the money is spent. FEMA does not award funds for a fire until it approves the eligible expenditures in a project worksheet (PW).

Once DFPC receives an approved PW from FEMA, the PW serves as the award of Federal funds for the FMAG. When DEF funds from fire suppression are left unspent, they are not automatically made available for consequence management to use for that fire unless the Executive Order states otherwise.

1. DFPC receives notification of the fire from the county jurisdiction(s). If the fire exceeds the county's capabilities to manage the fire and meets the required criteria, then the fire will be declared a State Responsibility Fire (SRF).
2. If DFPC has insufficient funds to cover the estimated fire expenditures, it submits a request to the Governor's Office to declare the fire a State disaster and make funds available from the DEF. When the Governor declares the fire a State disaster, the Governor will issue an Executive Order specifying the amount of money (i.e., the spending authority) to be spent on suppression response and/or consequence management and recovery for the disaster. DHSEM receives notification of the approval and shares that information with DFPC. EDO Accounting creates the accounting structure for the Executive Order.

NOTE: While DFPC uses DEF funds for fires that have an Executive Order, only DHSEM can actually be awarded funds from the DEF.

3. DFPC Fire Billing audits and approves expenditures from governmental entities, cooperators, and contractors and reimburses the valid expenditures. DFPC pays the invoices based on the cost share agreement and determines expenditures eligible for FEMA reimbursement, if any.
4. FEMA sends DFPC the completed PW with the award amount, which is typically 75 percent of the total eligible expenditures. Once DFPC has reviewed, approved and signed the PW, the PW serves as the Federal award letter for the fire response.

5. With each FEMA obligation, EDO Accounting creates a program code based on the PW #, transfers spending authority from the DEF cash appropriation to the DEF federal appropriation for the amount of the obligation, and moves any obligated expenditures from the DEF cash appropriation to the DEF federal

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appropriation. In order to maintain consistent coding elements, we do a JV to add the FEMA program code to the DEF cash appropriation line and then subsequently move those same lines to the DEF federal appropriation.

Moving expenses from the DEF cash appropriation to the DEF federal appropriation will create a refund to the Governor's Office in the next regular billing cycle. Once the expenditures are in the federal appropriation they will be drawn down on the next drawdown cycle.

NOTE: The PW process can be repeated as additional expenses are incurred.

4. DEF Close Out Procedures

A disaster is considered complete and closed once the Executive Order expires and all known transactions have been accounted for, unless deemed appropriate to close sooner by the Department and in consultation with the Governor's Office. An Executive Order cannot be closed if a PW is still open with FEMA as it's possible FEMA may issue adjustments. If we are awaiting additional invoices or FEMA reimbursements, and the executive order is near expiration, the program shall request an executive order extension.

For DHSEM incidents, SEOC program staff will initiate the closure of the Executive Order by notifying EDO Accounting within 60 days of when they determine an Executive Order meets the requirements for closure. For DFPC incidents, EDO Fire Billing, in mutual agreement with DFPC Wildland program staff, will notify Accounting within 60 days of when they determine an Executive Order meets the requirements for closure. EDO Accounting will verify all transactions are complete in the State Financial System before initiating Executive Order Closure. If an Executive Order includes both suppression and consequence management, closure will not be initiated by EDO Accounting until both sides meet and submit a request for closure to DHSEM Accounting.

EDO Accounting completes the Certification of Closed Disaster for Executive Orders and submits to the Governor's Office OSPB and Governor's Office Accounting within 30 days of receiving the request for closure from the program.

Once all coordination with the Governor's Office is complete, EDO Accounting in coordination with the Governor's Accounting Office will complete budget documents to reduce DEF spending authority in the State Financial System appropriation down to \$0 for both departments.

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5. DEF Review and Reconciliation

EDO Accounting maintains a DEF reconciliation worksheet to track expenditures, reimbursements and spending authority against the Executive Orders. Current Executive Orders each have a unique appropriation assigned which provides easy monitoring within CORE.

Common question For Department Hearings (Written-only Response)

1. Please provide a breakdown of your department's total advertising budget for the current and prior fiscal year. Specifically:

- What is the total amount budgeted and expended on advertising and media placement type?

Response: *The chart below includes all funding sources, to include General Fund, Cash Funds, Reappropriated Funds, and Federal Funds.*

Media Type	FY2024-25	FY2025-26
Radio	482,620	383,717
Television	60,000	86,000
SEM/Digital	354,264	212,719
Social Media	40,099	107,500
Print	42,926	38,500
Podcasts	10,000	0
Streaming Service	22,000	20,000
Physical (billboards, bus stops, etc.)	0	20,000
Sponsorships and Events	164,450	185,000
Total	1,176,359	1,053,436

DHSEM does not advertise, therefore is not included in the amounts detailed above.

- How are those advertising dollars allocated across different media types (e.g., television (national/local/cable), radio (terrestrial vs streaming), SEM, digital (display, YouTube), connected TV, social media, print, outdoor, etc.)?

Response: *The media type is determined by the goal of the individual advertising and marketing campaigns. Some campaigns may be targeted to a specific geographic area or user group, while others may be trying to reach a broader audience. A diverse population receives information from many sources, so the CSP strives to reach its target audience through multiple channels. For example, CATPA uses a Colorado-based market research firm to help determine the most effective media type and geographic dispersion for specific media campaigns.*

- How much of that spending is directed to Colorado-based or local media outlets?
How is the media currently purchased?

Response: *All public outreach campaign media (100%) directed to Colorado-based or local media outlets. Media is purchased through a variety of media vendors,*

prioritizing existing State Price Agreement vendors for ease of use. Non-State Price Agreement vendors are selected based on unique assets (sponsorship opportunities, demographic reach, geographic distribution). All media reach is directed within the State of Colorado.

For example, CATPA's advertising and marketing campaigns aim to reach underserved populations in high-volume auto-theft areas. CATPA has worked with State Price Agreement vendor Se2, a local Colorado-based company, to conduct market research, including public polling. Market research was combined with CATPA-specific auto theft data to quantify public perceptions of auto theft and perceptions of the effectiveness of basic theft prevention techniques. This led to "Persona" outcomes, demonstrating how CATPA could make strategic investments in marketing to maximize the likelihood of behavioral change. The ultimate purpose of this strategy is to influence apathetic factors leading to auto theft. This guiding study has enabled CATPA to make substantial traction in known high-volume theft areas through targeted marketing aimed at addressing at-risk behaviors (leaving cars running unattended, leaving cars unlocked, etc.). These strategic areas have shown reductions in theft, a core measurement of program effectiveness.

- What performance metrics or evaluation tools does the department use to measure the effectiveness of these advertising campaigns? What are the goals of the campaigns, and what key performance indicators are measured for success?

Response: *The metrics or evaluation tools will vary based on the campaign: it can be to get desired applicants to apply to a job opening, it can be to advise the public of an enforcement operation in their area, it can be to encourage safe driving behaviors (e.g. wearing a seatbelt, putting down their cell phone, lock their car, etc) and it could be educating people about a new law (e.g. lane splitting, Colorado chain law, etc.). While the Patrol monitors indicators such as auto theft rates, crashes, and job applicants, it's difficult to determine whether a marketing campaign prevented a car from being stolen or a crash from occurring. However, the Patrol can and does measure the total number of citizens reached by the message and the number of conversions (e.g., citizens scanning a QR code, clicking a link to the job application). Often, these ads include a QR code or a link to a landing page with more information or to an application for a job opening. Radio and TV stations provide a running order sheet showing the frequency at which the ads aired. These stations also report the number of listeners or viewers of their programs. Digital platforms have dashboards we can log in to collect performance data, including the number of citizens reached, conversions, and whether a person engaged with the digital ad. And newspapers have circulation numbers.*

- . If any portion of advertising is managed through third-party vendors (or 'partners') or media buying firms, please provide any available data or reporting from those companies on campaign performance and spending. How often do the departments discuss media placements with these vendors?

Response: *No media is coordinated or managed through any third-party vendors or firms. While the CSP may have agreements with large national media companies such as iHeartMedia or Bonneville, the CSP selects the specific local outlet where the advertisement will appear. Department public outreach coordinators regularly communicate with and otherwise authorize all media placements with all media vendors.*

- . Monthly or quarterly reporting - how is reporting delivered?

Response: *All CATPA public outreach reporting is delivered monthly to the CATPA, recorded on a Governor's WIG tracking form, then reported monthly to the CATPA Board of Directors and the Governor's Office. Media reports for specific campaigns and earned media are provided monthly and upon completion.*

The CSP Strategic Communications and Outreach Office receives monthly reports from radio and television stations. They also receive a report from the print media when the ad purchase is finished. They can generate a report from digital ads at any time by downloading the data from the provider. For their purposes, they create a comprehensive campaign report after the campaign ends. Meaning they report out to CSP leadership every marketing tactic used and show how many people saw each ad. Then they share conversion numbers (if applicable) and break down the cost per person reached. They use this information to determine what tactics perform better over time for each goal. Campaigns are selected based on policy direction and priorities of the Governor. For the Colorado State Patrol, the campaigns are tied directly to the top fatal-crash causal factors, traffic-law changes, recruiting needs, etc.

DFPC does not utilize or implement advertising as described in the questions. The Division does incur some social media expenses to promote hiring efforts, programs, campaigns, and public information. In addition, the DFPC purchases some supplies related to its programs to provide to members of the public and partner agencies. Costs for the above efforts in FY25 and FY26 are \$26,280.96.

2. Can you please outline a detailed plan for shifting 5.0 percent of General Fund salaries to cash and/or federal fund sources. Please include the following information:

- a. A list of positions and associated funding that can be shifted to cash/federal fund sources without any action from the General Assembly.
- b. A list of positions and associated funding that can be shifted to cash/federal fund

sources but would require legislation to do so.

What other changes could be made – programmatic or otherwise – that would allow your department greater flexibility to use cash/federal fund sources in place of General Fund for employee salaries?

Response: *State agencies are already incentivized to maximize non-General Fund fund splits for all positions. Where costs can be billed directly to a non-General Fund source, the department is already billing those fund sources. If an agency cannot bill a fund source directly for general support and administration (e.g. accounting, budgeting, leadership positions), costs are billed through indirect cost plans (internal or statewide). In many instances, the indirect cost model is the most efficient way to recover these expenses. Finally, state agencies must be able to draw a line between the work that individual positions execute and the funds that support that activity - the executive branch cannot just choose to fund an employee with federal funds or cash funds based on desire. There must be a business reason.*

3. How many hires happened across the Department after the hiring freeze was implemented and why? (e.g., because the position was posted beforehand; an exemption, etc.) Please provide job classification, division, and fund source (General Fund vs. other funds) for each position hired.

Response: *The Executive Branch had an exception process that required agencies to submit positions it wanted to exempt from the hiring freeze for review and approval with the following broad exemption categories:*

- *non-administrative 24/7;*
- *non-administrative public safety; and*
- *fully federally funded positions.*

Agencies that wanted to post/hire a position outside of these broad exemption categories had to submit the position to the exception process. To qualify, the position had to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- *a position that is essential to the day-to-day function of the state;*
- *a position that is critical to a department's wildly important goal(s) (WIGs); or*
- *a position in a unit or work group that was experiencing significant vacancies.*

The department hired a total of 34 positions during the hiring freeze. Of these positions 32 qualified under broad exemption categories and 2 were approved through the exception process.

The following table provides position specific information that is responsive to this request.

FY 2025-26 CDPS Hires During the Hiring Freeze

Division	FTE	Job Classification	Fund Source	Rationale
Executive Director's Office	1.0	SES-LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	RF	Exemption Process
Colorado State Patrol	1.0	POLICE COMMUNICATION TECH	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	1.0	POLICY ADVISOR IV	POLICY ADVISOR IV	Exemption Process
Colorado State Patrol	2.0	PORT OF ENTRY I	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	1.0	PORT OF ENTRY INTERN	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	2.0	STATE PATROL ADMIN I	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	1.0	STATE PATROL ADMIN II	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	5.0	STATE PATROL TROOPER I	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	2.0	STATE PATROL TROOPER III	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado State Patrol	2.0	TECHNICIAN III	CF	Broad Exemption
Division of Fire Prevention and Control	1.0	FIRE MARSHAL IV	GF	Broad Exemption
Division of Fire Prevention and Control	2.0	FIREFIGHTER I	GF	Broad Exemption
Division of Fire Prevention and Control	1.0	TECHNICIAN III	GF	Broad Exemption
Division of Criminal Justice	1.0	PROJECT COORDINATOR	FF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	ADMINISTRATOR IV	GF	Broad Exemption

Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	DATA MANAGEMENT III	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	DATA MANAGEMENT IV	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	FINGERPRINT EXAMINER I	CF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	FORENSIC SCIENTIST AGENT V	GF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	1.0	PROGRAM ASSISTANT I	GF	Broad Exemption
Colorado Bureau of Investigation	3.0	SPECIAL AGENT III	GF	Broad Exemption
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	1.0	ANALYST III	FF	Broad Exemption
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	1.0	MKTG & COMM SPEC III	FF	Broad Exemption