

## Memorandum

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Tom Baker, Town Administrator

**Date:** December 3, 2013

**Re:** 2014 Grant Strategy

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this item is to clarify our grant strategy for 2014 so that staff can begin information collection and drafting over the winter.

**Discussion:** Based upon the retreat discussion and recent efforts to secure police vehicles, we have developed the following table for discussion.

### Schedule of Grant Opportunities

2014

<b><u>Granting Entity</u></b>	<b><u>Spring</u></b>	<b><u>Mid-Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fall</u></b>
<b>GFMLD – Mini (\$25k)</b>	Sidewalk		Community Center (if sidewalks complete)
<b>GFMLD – Traditional (\$1M)</b>	Downtown: streets, alleys, sidewalks		TBD
<b>GOCO – Mini (\$45k)</b>			
<b>GOCO – Traditional (\$350)</b>	Sports Park		Sports Park (if needed)
<b>DOLA</b>			Water Treatment Plant, Raw Water System, Red Rocks Ditch
<b>State Parks and Trails</b>			LOVA trail planning
<b>CDOT??</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pedestrian Bridge</li><li>• Roundabout</li></ul>	

Things for us to consider:

- Are we trying to write these grants in-house or will we hire assistance? This goes to our capacity to write more than one grant at any one time.
- Be strategic. Use existing budgeted line items to match a grant request – PW streets budget can be used to match downtown streets, alleys, sidewalks grant and Utility budget can be used to match WTP improvements.
- The WTP plant work will not be undertaken until the fall of 2015. We have the potential for a significant match. Submitting this grant in the fall of 2014 works well for the timing of the project and to spread out the grant writing load.
- GOCO has a very competitive mini-grant cycle (Larry was a reader for GOCO last summer). We have not pursued this grant in the past. Staff is exploring what project we have that may be a good fit for this grant.
- Larry received specific feedback from GOCO on our recent, unsuccessful Sports Park grant. Our grant was ranked 36 of 72. GOCO funding went to the top 10 applications. The comments from GOCO were:
  - The need for the project is vague. The applicant references the lack of such facilities but doesn't elaborate on the impact this has on programming.
  - It is unclear how many users currently participate in sports leagues at the facility or how this project will increase usage.
  - While the information regarding the sport court component is detailed, much of the detail regarding the playground is not included. (*We can detail the tot lot play equipment and materials.*)
  - The public process seems a bit top down. The discussion should focus on the public's requests and how they determined these components were important. (*We can hold chat sessions and utilize our very vocal pickleball advocates to rally all court users – volleyball, tennis, pickleball – and submit petition to Council.*)

These comments will help us write a grant more suited to GOCO's desires.

- Perhaps we should begin brainstorming on a Plan B for the Pedestrian Bridge. Currently, we have funds committed to the construction of this project: \$1M from Garfield County Commissioners and \$231,000 committed from GFMLD. This last commitment has a \$99,000 match from the Town and an October 2014 deadline for completion. The Commissioners are also seeking an IGA with the Town regarding the \$1M commitment. The question for Council is, if we do not receive DOLA funding (mid-December notification) do we have a plausible Plan B to spend the funds committed (so that we don't lose this opportunity)? The total project is estimated to cost \$2.031M and this includes over \$200k in contingency funding. In total we currently have \$1.331M in funding (this includes the town's \$99k).

**Request:** Council discussion on grant priorities and resources. Council discussion on Plan B for Pedestrian Bridge.