







Dear Mayor and Board of Trustees,

The Town of Crestone's 2025 budget submission comes during a time of significant financial reconstruction. Since 2022, the Town has faced ongoing challenges stemming from inaccurate reporting and insufficient oversight, leaving our financial records in disarray. Addressing these issues has been a top priority for the Town, and we have taken critical steps to begin the process of reconciliation and improvement.

To this end, we recently brought on Andrea Buller of Buller Bookkeeping, whose expertise is helping untangle past errors, reconcile accounts, and reestablish a clear understanding of our financial standing. Andrea's progress has been substantial, but given the depth and complexity of the work, only an estimated 70% of the financial data for 2023 will be reconciled by year-end. Additionally, we are working with Ronnie Farmer, an experienced auditor, to ensure the accuracy and compliance of our financial practices moving forward.

These efforts, while essential, have placed limitations on our ability to produce an accurate and fully informed budget for 2025. Given these constraints, the Town has decided to submit the 2024 budget for the 2025 fiscal year as a provisional measure. We recognize this is not an ideal solution, but it allows us to meet filing requirements while continuing to rebuild the integrity of our financial systems. Throughout 2025, we will work to amend and supplement this budget as Andrea and Ronnie progress toward completing the reconciliation and audit process.

In addition to addressing historical inaccuracies, the Town is implementing new systems and controls to prevent future issues. This includes transitioning to digital payment processing, establishing clear accounting protocols, and streamlining financial oversight. These measures are designed to create a foundation of transparency, accuracy, and accountability that will serve the Town and its residents in the years ahead.

The Town of Crestone is fully committed to resolving these issues and improving its financial practices. While this submission reflects our current limitations, it also underscores the significant progress already underway. Updates will be provided as new information becomes available, and we are confident that these ongoing efforts will result in a more accurate and reliable financial framework for the Town.















