

# CAMP ABLE OF BUFFALO GAP



THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER & EQUINE SANCTUARY

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## MID-YEAR REPORT

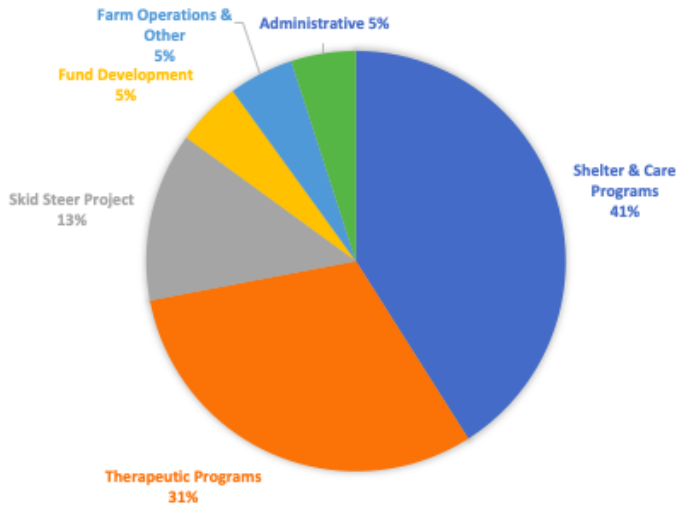


[WWW.CAMP-ABLE.ORG](http://WWW.CAMP-ABLE.ORG)



# Dear Friends,

Wow, what a strange year 2020 has been so far!" Camp Able started off the year with goals of continuing to build operational capabilities for its programs and to progress plans for new pastures and infrastructure at its new property, now called Camp Able at The Farm (or "The Farm".) Despite the challenges during the first part of 2020, Camp Able has succeeded in making great strides towards both of these goals. However, since so much has changed, Camp Able created this mid-year report to do two things: provide an update on its progress through the first part of the year and provide a comparison of its current forecast (given 5 months of actual results) with its original budget for 2020.



Camp Able's original 2020 operational budget was \$315,000

*This report was produced by volunteer members of Camp Able's staff, utilizing a free online graphic design program.*

## 2020 Started Out as Planned

Camp Able kicked off 2020 as planned, holding Winter Swim Camps in conjunction with the YMCA Redbud Center on Tuesday mornings and evenings, and on Friday



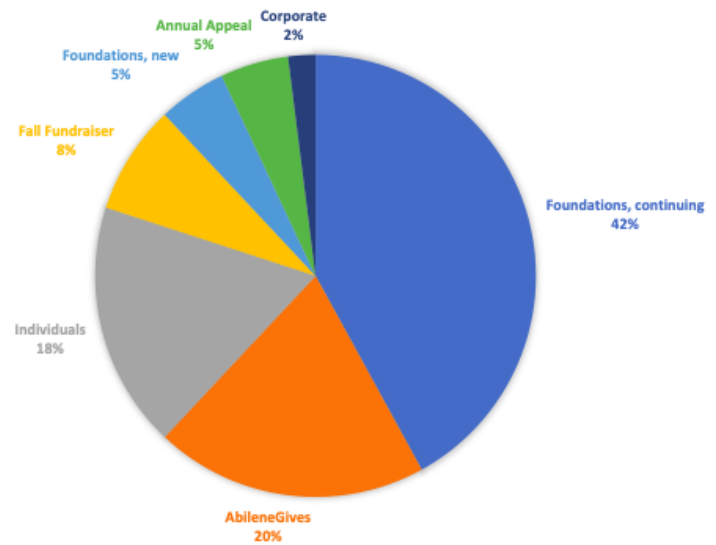
**CAMP ABLE HELPS PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS USING EQUINE THERAPY AND SKILLS-BASED TRAINING**



mornings for six weeks. The classes included life-skills student groups from Merkel ISD and Jim Ned CISD, as well as individual participants. Nursing students from Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing volunteered as part of their clinical observation requirements.

### Horse Sanctuary

In January, Camp Able took in eight mustangs that had been rescued from kill pens and that were being temporarily housed at the Hendrick Home for Children (HHC). HHC serves as a foster home for rescued mustangs and needed to make room for more. Since then, three of those horses have been adopted by loving homes, one passed away, and four are adapting to the Camp Able herd. In addition to these eight mustangs, Camp Able has given sanctuary to an additional 15 horses and found adoptive homes for seven more. One other horse so far in 2020 has passed away. As of this writing, Camp Able has 58 horses and 7 donkeys at its sanctuary.



Funding for Camp Able's 2020 operations were anticipated to come from both new and ongoing sources.



**CAMP ABLE PROVIDES  
SANCTUARY TO UNWANTED  
HORSES, A MAJORITY OF WHOM  
ARE USED IN THERAPEUTIC RIDING**



### Activity Suspensions

Before the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic, Camp Able experienced an outbreak of strangles among its herd. Strangles is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi*. It affects horses, donkeys and ponies of all ages, breed and gender. The bacteria often infect the lymph nodes around the jaw, causing them to become swollen. In severe cases they can become so swollen that horses struggle to breathe properly, hence the name 'strangles'. Camp Able had 26 horses show symptoms of strangles, but had no fatalities and only a few horses showed severe symptoms. During this outbreak, Camp Able suspended all therapeutic riding activities until after spring break. Thankfully, all the horses were symptom-free by mid-March.

Just as Camp Able's horses were coming out of quarantine for strangles, the entire U.S. went into shutdown due to COVID-19.

This caused Camp Able to suspend therapeutic riding until further notice. No spring riding sessions were held, including school groups, horse lovers camps, or special events. Camp Able also canceled its summer overnight camps (called Explorer Camps), but did provide modified "drive through" versions of its Pathfinder Camps in July for those families and riders who wanted to see their favorite horses.

### Ongoing Activities

Despite the suspension of therapeutic riding programs, Camp Able has continued to care for its herd. Camp Able's staff has taken the opportunity to work extensively with the horses, especially the new ones, to determine suitability for therapeutic riding. Camp Able participated in the Paycheck Protection Program and received a loan that covered eight weeks of staff compensation. Camp Able has already submitted its application for forgiveness of that loan.



**CAMP ABLE'S PROGRAMS  
CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN  
THE FIRST HALF OF 2020**



In mid-May, Camp Able began conducting an experiment with a small number (less than 10) of its special needs clients who are able to ride independently. This group of riders was selected based on their history of therapeutic riding with Camp Able, the ability and presence of their parent/ guardian to be actively involved in each session, and the ability of the client to adjust to new processes. No new clients are involved in this group.

The purpose of this experiment is to determine the safest way possible to “reopen” Camp Able and conduct individual and group therapeutic riding sessions going forward. Camp Able’s instructors, staff and volunteers are working through a “no touch” approach to tack. This approach requires the rider to do everything, with only their parent/ guardian helping as needed. This new approach has required Camp Able to make several adjustments, including modifying the labeling and accessibility

of equipment to facilitate both the tacking up and down of the horse.

Camp Able has had a long-standing process of sanitizing riding helmets after each session. Now, it is developing sanitization processes for all equipment. There are many considerations for these new processes (e.g., possible allergic reaction of riders and/or horses) that must be both effective and efficient.

Based on the learnings from this experiment, Camp Able is hopeful that it can safely resume therapeutic riding sessions on a more normal schedule in the fall if schools resume with in-person instruction. Camp Able recognizes that this may change based on recommendations from public health authorities as the uncertainty about the COVID-19 pandemic continues.



**CAMP ABLE REVISED ITS  
BUDGET IN RESPONSE TO  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

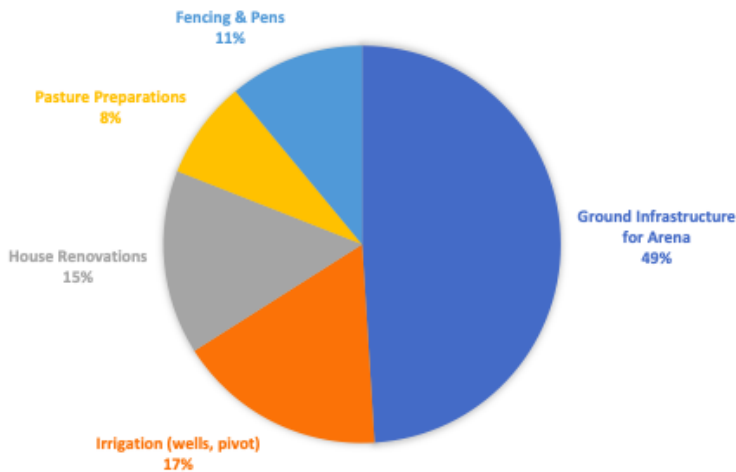


# Vision 2020 Update

As you may recall, Vision 2020 is Camp Able's multi-year capital campaign to add additional grazing pastures and to build a therapeutic riding center that includes an enclosed riding arena. As it did for the operating budget, Camp Able revisited its forecast for this campaign at the mid-year mark to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the suspension of therapeutic riding programs, Camp Able has been able to devote more attention to the activities planned for Vision 2020 so far this year, which is reflected in the financial adjustments seen in this report.

## Property Update

Camp Able continued to make progress with clearing and cleaning up the 82.83 acres of farmland purchased in 2019. The major focus in 2020 was two-fold: to prepare the land for pasture and to renovate the farmhouse. During the first



Camp Able's initial 2020 budget for its multi-year capital campaign was \$215,000.

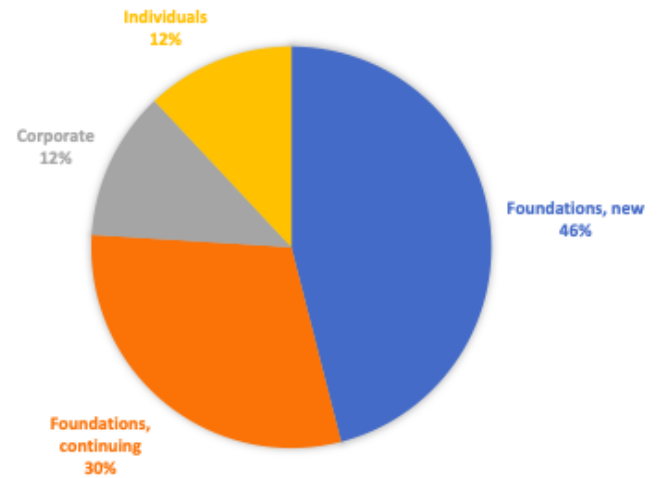




half of 2020, Camp Able completed the farmhouse renovations and made good progress on pasture preparedness.

### Compensation Adjustments

Camp Able changed the compensation status for two key staff members, Renee Hicks and Brittney McGuire, from part-time hourly to full-time hourly. Not only are Renee and Brittney PATH-certified therapeutic riding instructors, they also are primary caretakers for Camp Able's herd, with Renee at the Trails End Ranch location (approximately 40 horses) and Brittney at The Farm (approximately 15 horses). Further, since therapeutic riding programs were suspended, Camp Able took advantage of Brittney's considerable general contracting skills during the late winter and spring to help renovate the caretaker's quarters at The Farm, which was completed by April.



Original funding for Vision 2020 was anticipated to come from both new and ongoing sources





### Land Enhancements at The Farm

Camp Able's team has learned a great deal about water wells and farm operations, and has made progress toward getting the new pastures in place. After drilling two wells (with Leonard Water Services), that have a combined flow of 230 gallons per minute, Camp Able now has adequate water to run its center pivot irrigation system. Work is planned to begin in July to trench electrical and water lines, as well as reconstruct the pivot from a new center pad.

Camp Able has been working on a plan with Lanny Vinson at Abilene Ag to get the pastures plowed, fertilized and planted. With the help of neighboring farmers, Camp Able hopes to be ready to plant oats in September as soon as the pivot is ready to irrigate. Camp Able then plans to plant bermuda in Spring 2021.

Lots of fencing work has been done, including: a boundary fence with neighbors to the north; complete revitalization of old pens and the construction of new ones under an existing shed. Additional work on outdoor pens are anticipated to get underway in the last half of the year.



**SPECIAL EVENTS PARTNERED  
WITH OTHER NONPROFITS  
SERVING SPECIAL NEEDS  
INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN  
SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19**



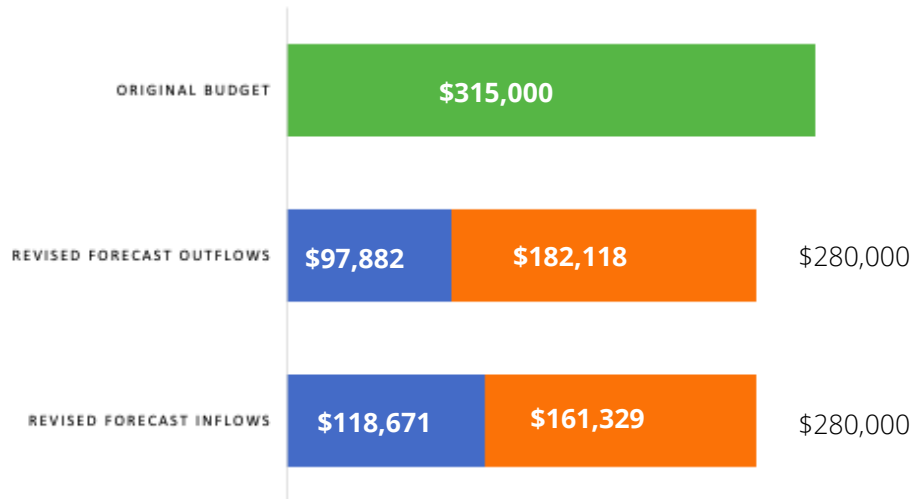
# SUMMARY OF REVISED BUDGETS AND CURRENT FUNDING STATUS

Camp Able has revisited its original 2020 budget for both operations and its Vision 2020 Capital Campaign. Camp Able expects to reduce operating expenditures from its original budget of \$315,000 to the current forecast of \$280,000, largely due to the suspension of therapeutic riding and cancellation of Explorer Camps.

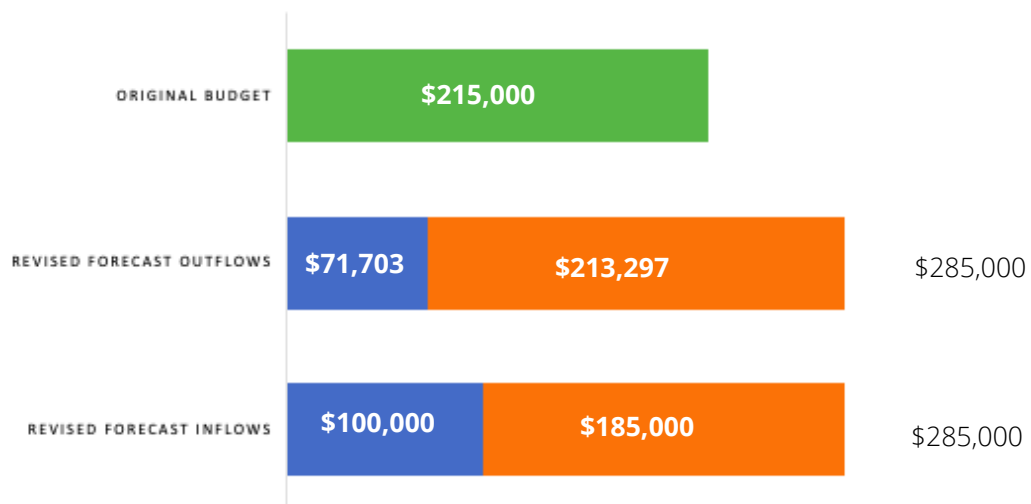
For Vision 2020, Camp Able expects to increase project expenditures from its original budget of \$215,000 to the current forecast of \$285,000, primarily due to gaining a better understanding and estimates of completing farmhouse renovations and developing the irrigation infrastructure.

## Operations

■ First Five Months of 2020  
■ Final Seven Months of 2020



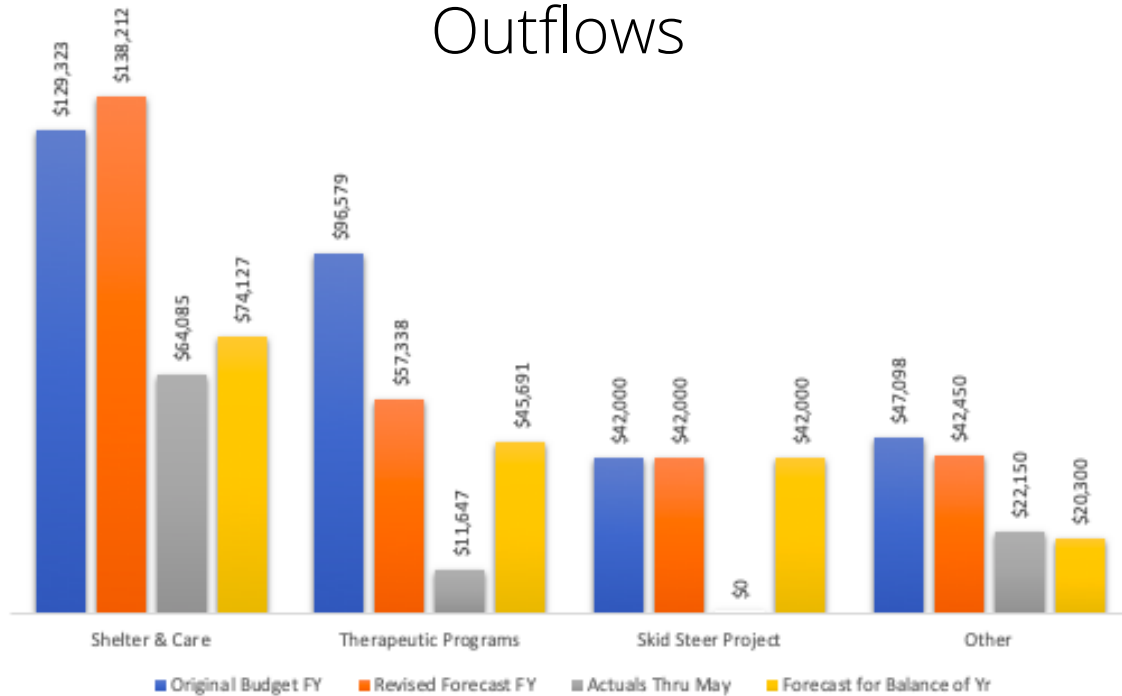
## Vision 2020 Capital Campaign



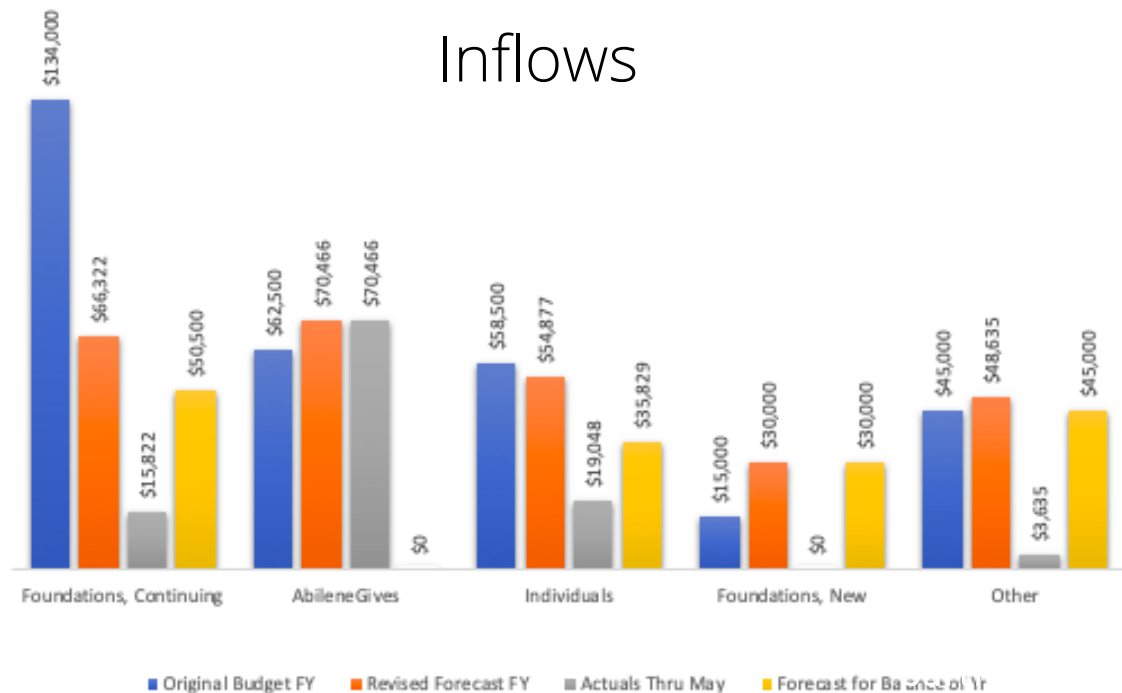


# MID-YEAR REPORT ON OPERATIONS

## Outflows

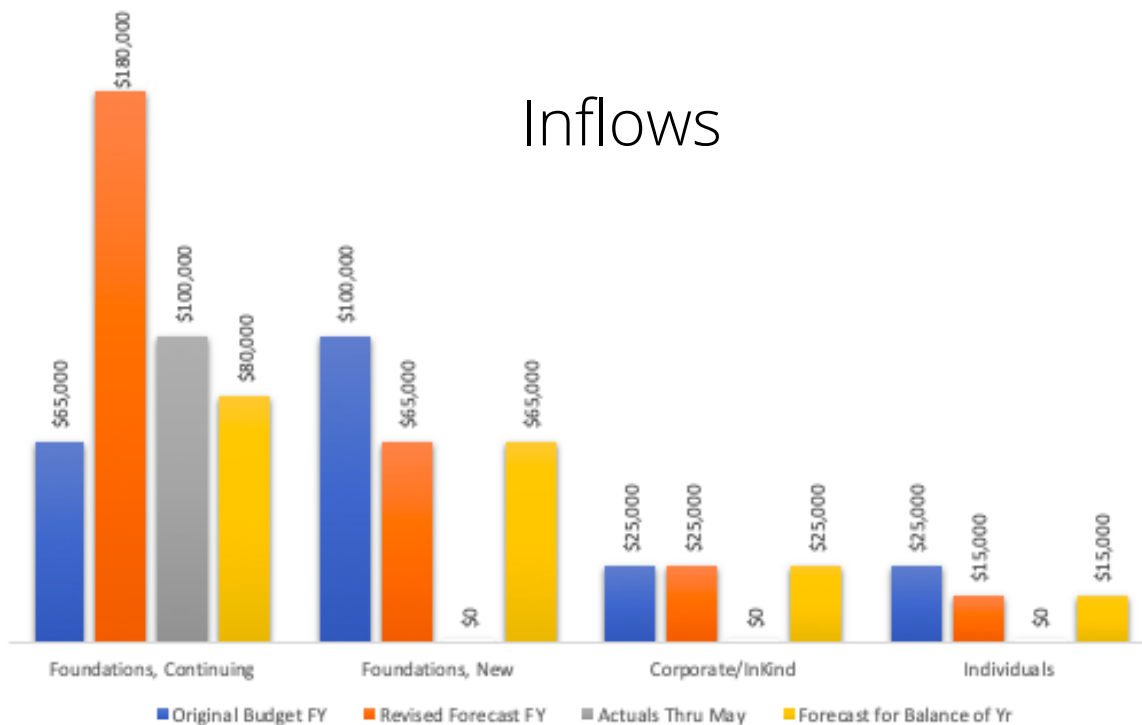
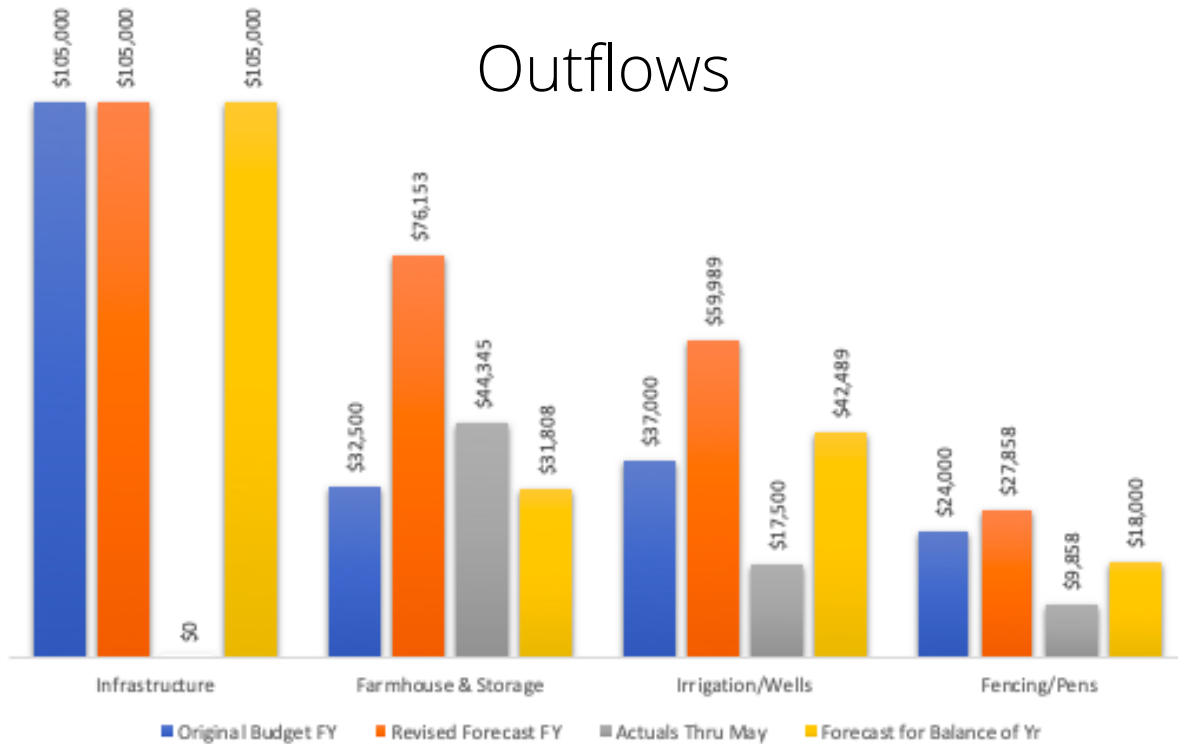


## Inflows





# MID-YEAR REPORT ON VISION 2020







## CAMP ABLE OF BUFFALO GAP 2020 MID-YEAR REPORT

# MAGIC HAPPENS HERE

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