



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Budget and Finance Committee Supports \$2.2 Million Appropriation for Summer Youth Employment



Council Delegate Lester Yazzie (Baahaali, Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) and Dominic Beyal, Director of OMB

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the Budget and Finance Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council convened to address Legislation No. 0120-24, approving \$2.2 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) for Chapter Summer 2024 Youth Employment Programs. This essential funding provides high school and college students with summer employment opportunities, helping them gain work experience and earn money for school-related expenses.

Legislation No. 0120-24, sponsored by Delegate Danny Simpson and co-sponsored by Delegate Lester Yazzie, includes a waiver of specific provisions under 12 N.N.C. §820 to ensure the timely allocation of these funds, which are crucial to providing employment opportunities to Navajo youth.

The Committee focused on the annual need for UUFB requests to support the Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP). An amendment was proposed to ensure that youth employment funds were not limited to summer months, allowing for flexibility during winter and spring breaks. The legislation distributes funds among chapters of the Navajo Nation, each receiving enough funding to bring their current summer youth employment balance up to \$50,000.

Delegate Norman Begay reiterated the importance of the youth employment programs, stating, "Providing our youth with employment opportunities not only supports their educational goals but also helps them gain valuable work experience and contribute to our Nation's future."

The Budget and Finance Committee voted three in favor and two opposed, in support of Legislation No. 0120-24 and moving it forward to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee. The approval of this legislation marks the 25th Navajo Nation Council's investment in the youth of the Navajo Nation, fostering educational and professional development while addressing immediate financial needs related to their schooling.

BFC also heard an update report on the FY25 Comprehensive Budget from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Dominic Beyal, OMB Budget Officer Alva Tom, and Navajo Nation Controller Sean McCabe.

Key points included general fund revenue projections of \$222.4 million, fixed cost allocations of \$30.1 million, and external fund cash match options ranging from \$5.4 million to \$10.8 million. The personnel lapse fund was projected at \$27.8 million with a recommendation to use \$31.4 million for budgeting purposes.

Discussions included budget adjustments due to underrealized indirect cost (IDC) recovery funds, cash match grants, and contracts which may not be fully funded due to unresolved variables. BFC also examined fixed costs, budget recommendations, and scheduling issues with Controller McCabe and Budget Officer Tom.

Delegate Crotty emphasized, "Incorporating public testimony into our budget process is crucial for ensuring that community needs are adequately addressed and that our budget reflects the priorities of our people."

The Budget and Finance Committee voted four in favor and zero opposed to accept the FY25 Comprehensive Budget report.

The Budget and Finance Committee remains committed to enhancing the financial management of the Navajo Nation, ensuring transparency and accountability in budget allocations, and addressing the needs of the community through careful planning and collaboration among the three-branch government. The Committee's next steps include finalizing budget recommendations and preparing necessary legislative amendments to support ongoing programs.

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