



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee concludes Fiscal Year 2026 Comprehensive Budget public hearings across all five agencies



The Budget and Finance Committee concludes their public hearing for Fiscal Year 2026 Comprehensive Budget.

CHINLE, Ariz. — On Wednesday, June 11, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) officially concluded its public hearings across all five agencies, which began on June 4 in the Eastern Navajo Agency.

The hearings brought together chapter officials, veterans, elders, business owners, and concerned community members to provide critical feedback, submit chapter resolutions, and highlight unmet needs that will help shape the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Comprehensive Budget.

“Throughout these public hearings, the BFC has heard real issues with funding not being spent by the Executive Branch and the Divisions,” said BFC Chair Delegate Shaandiin Parrish. She noted that many community members expressed frustration over the lack of services, delays in using available funds, and confusing processes for requesting support, particularly for elders and vulnerable families.

Public testimony emphasized widespread priorities: enhanced support for veterans, greater investment in infrastructure and public safety, and expanded economic development and local governance initiatives.

Community leaders called for targeted support to improve veterans’ services, including funding for home renovation materials and establishing a veteran resource center to provide day-to-day assistance.

Vice Chair Carl R. Slater reiterated the committee's commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of Navajo society. "Our elders and youth are the head and tail of our society," said Delegate Slater. "Our elders teach the traditions and keep our language alive, and our youth will be the next leaders. We must ensure our budgeting allows them to thrive in strong, self-sustaining communities."

Infrastructure improvements were another top concern. Community members urged the BFC to fund clean water projects for rural homes, build solid waste centers, and support long-overdue road construction and maintenance. These needs remain unmet for many chapters, making infrastructure one of the BFC's ongoing budget priorities.

Public safety also emerged as a central issue. Local leaders described delayed emergency response times due to jurisdictional gaps in law enforcement and emergency medical services. Many rural communities, particularly in remote areas, continue to face serious risks when police or ambulance services are slow to respond.

In the Northern, Central, and Utah Navajo Agencies, small business owners shared urgent concerns about economic hardship.

They requested that the BFC allocate more funding to assist local entrepreneurs with rent relief, essential supplies, and improvements to the business site lease process. Tourism-dependent communities such as Chinle, Tuba City, Shiprock, and Kayenta also called for upgrades to tribal parks, welcome centers, and transportation infrastructure to support business growth.

The Office of the Speaker will provide a resolution template for chapter leadership to use when submitting their budget priorities. Chapters can contact Marcarlo Roanhorse at <mailto:marcarloroanhorse@navajo-nsn.gov> for more information on the template.

The BFC is actively compiling all public comments, resolutions, and documented unmet needs for inclusion in the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget legislation.

Public input will continue to be accepted until the end of July and may be submitted to Legislative Advisor Rodney Tahe at rodneytahe@navajo-nsn.gov

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