



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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September 3, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee amendments save 236 government jobs and cover \$2.2 million shortfall for Navajo Nation Chapters



The Budget and Finance Committee unanimously voted, with five members in favor, to accept the report, confirming their shared commitment to responsible, community-driven budgeting.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On August 26, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) received a formal report from the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) detailing critical amendments to the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026) Comprehensive Budget makeup in BFC Oversight Budget Hearings.

These strategic budgetary amendments were made to ensure government funding is aligned with the needs and priorities expressed by Diné citizens during public hearings across the Nation's five agencies and three states.

The report from OLS and OMB confirmed that the BFC reallocated a total of \$15,734,802 in General Funds to save 236 Navajo Nation government jobs and a \$2.2 million Navajo Nation Chapter shortfall created by an internal executive branch planning amount. These reallocations covered under budgeted personnel expenses, fringe benefits, insurance rates, and some operational costs.

Several divisions failed to adhere to sections of the FY2026 Budget Instructions Manual that outlined the prioritization of personnel budgeting. This effort was enforced by a memorandum from President Nygren on May 14, 2025, to the executive branch programs. However, programs

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still submitted budgets outside of these provisions, and these actions led to an unbalanced budget. The BFC led amendments to mitigate budget challenges, and here are the highlights:

- Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety overallocated \$2,173,559 from the executive branch planning base amount
- Navajo Nation Chapters received an internal reduction of \$2,177,431
- Department of Justice absorbed former fiscal recovery-funded employees to be Navajo Nation generally funded employees at a cost of \$2,7545,941
- The Office of Legislative Counsel received an internal reduction of \$601,407

The executive branch received a starting planning base amount of \$102 million, the legislative branch received \$16 million, and the judicial branch received \$14 million, respectively. After the amendments were passed at BFC, the executive branch received an increase of \$8,650,000 to cover budget imbalances.

“Every decision we made during the oversight hearings was informed by what we heard in the chapters,” said BFC Vice Chair Carl Slater. “These reallocations do more than shift numbers; they ensure that families have access to public safety, youth employment, and victim services. We prioritized people over bureaucracy.”

The reallocation process did not expand government spending; instead, it strategically moved funds to stabilize operations. Divisions such as Human Services, Health, Public Safety, and Natural Resources saw rebalanced budgets aimed at restoring functionality and avoiding program disruptions.

Each amended division budget was formalized through BFC resolutions, including BFJY-34-25 (Human Resources), BFJY-38-25 (Natural Resources), BFJY-49-25 (Public Safety), and BFJY-51-25 (Health). These actions fulfilled both statutory responsibility and the public trust placed in the committee during the budgeting process.

In total, the \$15.7 million reallocation effort ensured continuity of services, protected the Navajo Nation workforce, and addressed operating cost shortfalls in high-priority programs without incurring new expenses. The BFC’s unanimous vote with five in favor to accept the report confirmed their shared commitment to responsible, community-driven budgeting.

The full report will be available on the Budget and Finance Committee webpage on the Navajo Nation Council’s official website under the committee tab.

On Friday, Aug. 29, the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee advanced Legislation No. 0195-25, approving the Navajo Nation’s Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 with a unanimous vote of 15 in favor and none opposed. The legislation now moves to the 25th Navajo Nation Council for final consideration.

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