



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Budget and Finance Committee advances legislation to restore funding for missing persons efforts and operational support



The Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0264-25, sponsored by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) approved Legislation No. 0264-25, which seeks approval to reallocate funding from the Office of the President and Vice President's (OPVP) personnel budget to fund the 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue (4CK9SAR) to support missing persons search efforts, rental funding for the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO), and operational funds for OPVP.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish said the action was necessary to ensure the programs remain operational and accountable. "I support funding these programs so they can continue working with Navajo Nation leadership and providing critical services to our people. It is important that these resources are protected and used for their intended purpose," Parrish said.

The budget revision will provide approximately \$250,000 to support the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force's K-9 Response Contract with 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue, \$724,000 will be allocated to support OPVP's operational budget, and \$168,000 to cover NNWO's facility rent.

In October, OPVP redirected \$250,000 from 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue to cover OPVP's travel and other operational expenses. The current legislation, supported by the Budget and

Finance Committee, will restore the funding to ensure that missing persons efforts receive financial support.

The effort to restore the funding was led by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, sponsor of the legislation and Chair of the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force. "I want to thank the committee and the Council for their patience and support to ensure this funding goes to 4 Corners K9 Search and Rescue, who have been deployed to help our people, because any delay in services sends the message that our safety does not matter," Crotty said.

Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie sponsored an amendment to place restrictions on the use of the funds and to prevent any Executive Branch program from redirecting these funds for other purposes, including executive travel.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved the legislation with four in favor, and none opposed. On Thursday, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee unanimously supported the legislation. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the bill.

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