



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2026

Budget and Finance Committee approves FY2027 Budget Instruction Manual, advances data-driven budgeting



Budget and Finance Committee approved legislation adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Instruction Manual.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On April 30, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) approved legislation adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY2027) Budget Instruction Manual following a detailed report from the Office of the Controller focused on strengthening data-driven budgeting practices for the Navajo Nation.

BFC Chairwoman Shaandiin Parrish said the committee has worked to ensure future budgets are based on verified financial data and long-term fiscal accountability.

“This work is about strengthening data-driven budgeting and using real financial data to guide our decisions,” said Chairwoman Parrish. “By grounding our budget in actual spending trends, we are building best practices that improve accountability, protect essential services, and better serve the Navajo Nation. We also look forward to hearing from the public during budget hearings in June.”

Before voting on the legislation, the committee received a report from Controller Sean McCabe, who presented four years of audited and unaudited expenditure data from FY2022 through FY2025 across all three branches of government. The analysis provided a clearer picture of spending trends and helped establish a more accurate planning base amount for FY2027.

The revised budgeting framework relies on verified historical expenditures and prioritizes mandatory costs, including utilities, personnel, insurance, and chapter funding. The framework also introduces an unmet needs process that allows additional funding requests to be considered only after essential operational costs and direct services are addressed.

Following the report, the BFC reviewed and approved Resolution No. BFAP-09-26, formally adopting the FY2027 Budget Instruction Manual.

The resolution reflects a shift toward a more disciplined and data-informed budgeting system. The initial planning base amount was increased through committee amendments to better align with operational needs and direct service priorities.

The FY2027 Planning Base Amount includes:

- Fixed Costs Allocation: \$34,354,705
- External Fund Cash Match: \$5,500,000
- Executive Branch: \$101,933,403
- Legislative Branch: \$16,397,000
- Judicial Branch: \$14,552,000
- Chapters (Non-Administrative Costs): \$15,000,000
- Department of Information Technology: \$2,213,738
- Judicial Branch Probate Quiet Titles: \$1,300,000
- Chapter Veterans Fund (Fund 16): \$550,000
- Summer Youth Employment: \$1,000,000
- Office of the Auditor General Training: \$1,200,000
- Office of the Prosecutor White Collar Crime Unit: \$2,000,000
- Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Victim Services: \$5,500,000

The total FY2027 Planning Base Amount is \$201,500,846.

During consideration of the legislation, the BFC approved three amendments aimed at strengthening fiscal management, ethical budgeting practices, and funding for direct services.

Vice Chair Carl R. Slater introduced two amendments establishing that vacant positions remaining unfilled for 12 consecutive months will be eliminated unless reestablished through proper process. The amendments also updated definitions for LGA-certified and non-LGA chapters and replaced salary schedules and benefit rate appendices to reflect the compensation study.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty introduced a third amendment updating BFC-recommended planning base amounts for several priorities, including funding for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Unit, higher education, chapter veterans funds, Judicial Branch probate quiet titles, and youth employment initiatives.

The amendments reflect targeted investments in public safety, education, workforce development, and services for Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved the legislation with four votes in favor and none opposed. Public hearings for the FY2027 Comprehensive Budget will be held in June, and community members are encouraged to participate.

###