THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: 0278-26 **SPONSOR: Titus J. Nez**

TITLE: **An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Approving $1,102,131 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance ("UUFB") for the Ramah Navajo Police Department to Support Critical Law Enforcement Operations, Officer Safety, Emergency Communications, Detention Operations, Fleet Readiness, Public Safety Technology, and Emergency Response Capabilities**

***Date posted*: November 13, 2026 at 8:10 PM**

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. *§374 et. seq*.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0278-26

DATE: October 30, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING $1,102,131 FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE ("UUFB") FOR THE RAMAH NAVAJO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT CRITICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, OFFICER SAFETY, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, DETENTION OPERATIONS, FLEET READINESS, PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

PURPOSE: This proposed resolution, if approved, will approve $1,102,131 from the UUFB for the Ramah Navajo Police Department.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced by:

(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0278-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING $1,102,131 FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE ("UUFB") FOR THE RAMAH NAVAJO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT CRITICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, OFFICER SAFETY, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, DETENTION OPERATIONS, FLEET READINESS, PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and may consider proposed action regarding an emergency matter. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (A) and 164 (A) (16).

B. "[M]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency

matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council." 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (16).

C. The Navajo Nation Council may adopt and approve supplemental appropriations to the Annual Comprehensive Budget during the fiscal year. Supplemental appropriations of General Funds within the current fiscal year are permitted, if and when additional sources of revenues above and beyond the initial or current revenue projections are projected and which are also in excess of the reserve amount set forth at 12 N.N.C. § 820 (J). 12 N.N.C. § 820 (L).

D. The restrictions on supplemental appropriations, including all amounts from the UUFB, include:

1. Payment of recurring government operating expenses shall be from recurring revenues, and payment of nonrecurring expenses shall be from nonrecurring revenues such as UUFB funds. 12 N.N.C. § 820 (E) and (F).
2. Specifically, the UUFB shall not be used for recurring government expenditures or operations. 12 N.N.C. § 820 (J) and (L).
3. Nonrecurring revenues such as UUFB funds may be used only after the Controller determines whether or not such revenues are subsidizing an imbalance between the Navajo Nation's recurring revenues and expenditures, and government expenditures shall only be authorized if a long-term (3-year to 5-year) forecast shows that the operating deficit will not continue; otherwise, nonrecurring revenues will be added to the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance. 12 N.N.C. § 820 (F).
4. The above provisions in Title 12 may be amended or waived by a two-thirds vote of the full Navajo Nation Council. 12 N.N.C. § 820 (F).
5. In compliance with 12 N.N.C. § 820 (F), all UUFB funding requests must be reviewed by the Controller. Such review is also required because the Controller determines which revenues and expenses are recurring and which are non-recurring. 12 N.N.C. § 820 (L).

6. In compliance with 12 N.N.C. § 820 (B) and (M), all UUFB funding requests must be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for a budget impact analysis.
7. Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820 (N)(4), UUFB appropriations revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year unless the Navajo Nation Council waives such reversion by a 7/8 vote.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Ramah Navajo Police Department ("RNPD") is requesting $1,102,131 in supplemental funding from the UUFB to support its Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Budget. The RNPD prepared a written report addressed to the Law and Order Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, dated July 1, 2026, that outlines the department's background and fiscal need. The report, titled "Supporting Report for Ramah Navajo Police Department FY2027 Budget Request", is attached as **Exhibit A.**

B. The RNPD serves as the sole law enforcement agency responsible for providing comprehensive public safety services to the Ramah Navajo community, that constitutes a non-contiguous southern exclave of the Navajo Nation. RNPD operates pursuant to a Public Law 93-638 Self-Determination Contract with the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS). Under this authority, RNPD is mandated to provide twenty-four (24) hour law enforcement protection, criminal investigations, emergency communications and dispatch services, adult detention operations, conservation law enforcement, traffic safety enforcement, emergency response, mutual aid services, and community policing initiatives.

C. The Ramah Navajo community encompasses a large, rural, and geographically isolated service area in which law enforcement personnel must routinely respond to emergencies across substantial distances while operating with limited staffing, aging infrastructure, and increasing operational demands. The remote nature of the community creates unique public safety challenges that necessitate dependable equipment, reliable communications systems, specialized emergency response

resources, and sustained operational readiness to effectively safeguard life and property.

D. Public safety is among the most fundamental governmental responsibilities of the Navajo Nation, and the continued ability of the Ramah Navajo Police Department to provide professional law enforcement services directly impacts the health, safety, welfare, and security of residents, visitors, employees, and all persons within the Ramah Navajo community.

E. RNPD has identified critical operational, equipment, communications, detention, fleet, technology, and emergency response needs that cannot be adequately addressed through its current operating budget or existing funding sources. This matter constitutes an Emergency under 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (16) as the lack of an operating budget will result in the cessation of direct law enforcement services to the Ramah Navajo Community populace.

F. The requested appropriation will enhance officer safety, strengthen public safety services, improve emergency communications, modernize law enforcement technology, improve detention operations, increase fleet reliability, and bolster the Department's capacity to respond to emergencies throughout the Ramah Navajo community.

G. The RNPD has provided the required Navajo Nation budget forms, along with the Appendix J – Supplemental Funding Proposal Summary, attached as **Exhibit B**.

H. The Office of the Controller provided a memorandum for the RNPD as required by 12 N.N.C. § 820 (L), indicating that the proposed expenditures are non-recurring. The Controller's Memo is attached as **Exhibit C**.

I. The Office of Management and Budget provided its memorandum for the RNPD as required by 12 N.N.C. § 820 (M), and is attached as **Exhibit D**.

J. The RNPD has provided the required Appendix F – Navajo Nation Grant Application, attached as **Exhibit E**.

SECTION THREE. APPROVAL OF $1,102,131 FROM THE UUFB TO THE RAMAH NAVAJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. The Navajo Nation hereby approves supplemental appropriation in the amount of $1,102,131 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to the Ramah Navajo Police Department for the purpose of supporting critical law enforcement operations, officer safety, emergency communications, detention operations, fleet readiness, public safety technology, emergency response capabilities, and related operational needs, as shown in the attached **Exhibit B.**

B. The Navajo Nation finds that the appropriation authorized herein is necessary to preserve the continued operation of an essential government public safety program and to ensure that the RNPD remains capable of providing professional law enforcement services, protecting life and property, maintaining public order, responding to emergencies, and fulfilling its Public Law 93-638 contractual obligations to the Ramah Navajo community.

C. This supplemental appropriation approved herein shall be from those funds that exceed the minimum fund reserve balance of the UUFB required by 12 N.N.C. § 820 (J).

D. Upon the effective date of this resolution, the approved UUFB funds shall be promptly transferred into those budget line items listed in the attached **Exhibit B.**

E. Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820 (N), any amount of the $1,102,131 approved herein that remains unspent or unencumbered at the end of FY2027 shall revert to the General Fund, unless Council waives such reversion by a 7/8 vote prior to the date in which the funds are scheduled to revert.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221 (B) and 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).

SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE

If any portion of this Action is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Action shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: 0278-26 **SPONSOR: Titus J. Nez**

TITLE: **An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Approving $1,102,131 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance ("UUFB") for the Ramah Navajo Police Department to Support Critical Law Enforcement Operations, Officer Safety, Emergency Communications, Detention Operations, Fleet Readiness, Public Safety Technology, and Emergency Response Capabilities**

***Date posted*: November 13, 2026 at 8:10 PM**
for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. *§374 et. seq*.