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Law and Order Committee approves report from Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety regarding improvements to their fleet management

WINDOW ROCK – The Law and Order Committee approved a report during a special meeting on Thursday, from the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, regarding its initiative to make improvements to their fleet management administration.

According to the report, NDPS purchases fleet vehicles in addition to paying rental fees to the Navajo Nation Fleet Management Department, which is used for services/repairs of all tribally owned vehicles.

“Annually, fleet management costs deplete 59-percent of NDPS General Fund Allocations, and does not include applicable insurance costs and the 5-percent general sales tax,” said Billison. “Why should we be paying rental fees on top of a vehicle that we flat out purchase and own?”

Billison stated that NDPS is proposing an amendment to the Navajo Nation Budget Instructions and Policies Manual, seeking to add new language that would benefit Navajo divisions that currently purchase and own their program vehicles.

“NDPS is proposing an amendment that would exempt program-owned vehicles from being bound to Fleet Management Department rental fee rates,” said Billison. “And the programs would be able to negotiate procurement of any FMD services and rates through outsourcing cost-efficient services.”

LOC members praised Billison and NDPS for spearheading the proposed cost-saving plan.

“The amendment will save the Navajo Nation additional yearly funds, which can go towards other Navajo agencies and will maximize the Nation’s dollars,” said LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat).

Billison presented a Business Case Analysis for the NDPS vehicle fleet that proposes to address financial concerns and said he hopes this progressive initiative will evolve the administration into a more independent and autonomous business that specializes in fleet services.

“Once the BIPM has been amended, we can expect to save more than half of what we spend from the General Fund allocations we receive each year,” said Billison. “Then we can begin to hire additional police personnel and save mileage costs.”

LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) stated, “I commend NDPS for addressing these financial concerns that have been plaguing the department for many years, and we look forward to seeing this initiative implemented.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, Billison stated, “We need your help to push this forward, and this committee will be recognized as one of the driving forces that will assist us in its success.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC voted 2-0 to accept the report.

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