



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Law and Order Committee Concludes Oversight Budget Hearings

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Law and Order Committee (LOC) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council began its Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget hearings as oversight on August 4th. They concluded on Tuesday with a consensus vote to adjourn the Budget hearings and called a Special meeting to order for action with the Judicial Branch and the following Navajo Nation Divisions and Departments; Labor Commission, Ethics and Rules Office, Department of Public Safety, Office of Public Defender, Department of Justice, and Office of Hearing and Appeals.

This comes after the LOC began their Oversight Committee Hearings with the Navajo Nation Division/Programs: Labor Commissions Office of Hearing and Appeals, Ethics & Rules, and Office of Public Defender whom are proposing for approval and recommending to the Budget and Finance Committee and the Proposed FY'2022 program budgets.

They recognized the Program Budget Exhibits and Summary(ies) preparation and review, by the Office of Legislative Services and Office of Legislative Counsel, as the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Principal Budget Analysts provide verbal presentations on detailed budget packets page by page.

“The budget process is such an important part of delivering efficient and effective government service by listening to the needs of departments and divisions that deliver services to our Navajo people,” said Honorable Madam Chair, Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock). “Hearing the shortfalls requires collaboration with delegates to find funds and as much as we want to help every division/department, the limited funds require we budget accordingly. It is a process but one that must be done each year.”

The LOC deliberated with Divisions and Departments of their proposed budgets for FY'2022 and passed all Legislations with amendments and recommendations to the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) for approval. The Divisions and Departments — with their OMB representatives — reported budgeted expenditure reports, General funds and/or (external funds), unmet needs, audit reports, shortfalls, and current Plan of Operations objectives, and accomplishments.

The Department of Justice attempted to discuss amending carry-over funds on budget forms however, Honorable Vice-Chair Otto Tso (Tónaneesdizi) stated, “We did not discuss Carry-over funds, perhaps we may forward the issue to the Budget and Finance Committee to entertain the Carry-over.”

In agreement, Honorable Madam Chair, Charles-Newton stated, “We did not discuss Carry-over for any of the other Divisions or Departments, it would not be fair to extend the time to one-program out of all that were discussed in detailed with amendments, revisions and finally passed with recommendations.”

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