

# Design Work Session Held for the Navajo Public Safety Training Academy Facility

**Flagstaff, Arizona**—Arrington Watkins Architects facilitated the initial work session for the Navajo Division of Public Safety on April 9 and 10, 2015. Over 40 key Navajo public safety representatives gathered to represent all departments within the Division of Public Safety. Over this two-day meeting, valuable insights were shared that helped initiate the formation of the design foundation and that will shape the final master plan for this important future facility.

Division Director John Billison developed this initiative and has requested roughly \$40 million from the Judicial/Public Safety Fund for facility construction. Current project funding includes \$1.7 million identified for planning and design of this state-of-the-art facility. Currently, 80 of the 120 acres of land needed for the project have been withdrawn.

Located in Chinle, Arizona, this facility will serve as the professional training academy for all public safety departments. The overall plan includes educational and technical support for all public safety by providing academies for police, emergency medical services, emergency management, fire and rescue; as well as tactical

villages, indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, helicopter landing pads and a dive tank for dive teams.

In addition to training public safety personnel, this facility will eventually house other critical capabilities such as:

- Serving as the primary 911 Public Safety Answering Point.
- Providing a Data Fusion Center that serves as the focal point within the Navajo Nation and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information.
- Providing, when required, the technology and capabilities to deliver a certified Emergency Operations Center including the interoperability nerve center for large-scale disasters.

The division is seeking an additional \$48 million from various sources including federal agencies for the overall project that will bolster the local economy through job creation, a major focus of the Shelly-Jim Administration since taking office in 2011.

Director Billison has also contacted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency seeking additional funding to be applied to the overall construction costs. This would provide the Emergency Management Institute, which is the training body of FEMA, a west coast presence at the training academy. In addition, the BIA has expressed interest in using this facility as a Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).