



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Ganado Fire District to receive new fire trucks and ambulances with signing of resolution by President Nez



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined by Council Delegate Vince R. James, Ganado Chapter President Marcarlo Roanhorse, Ganado Fire District Chief Dewayne Woodie and fire fighters, and Ganado Fire District Governing Board members for the signing of CO-53-21 in Ganado, Ariz. on Nov. 2, 2021.

GANADO, Ariz. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CO-53-21 into law, approving \$2.6 million for the purchase of new fire trucks and ambulances for the Ganado Fire District, to help address the limited fire and emergency response services for multiple communities, which have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer were joined by Council Delegate Vince R. James, Ganado Chapter President Marcarlo Roanhorse, Ganado Fire District Chief Dewayne Woodie and fire fighters, and Ganado Fire District Governing Board members in Ganado, Ariz. to view the aging fleet of emergency response vehicles, including several that were purchased nearly 30 years ago.

The approved funding will allow the fire district to purchase new emergency response vehicles to support fire, rescue, medical, and emergency dispatching services for several communities including Ganado, Steamboat, Klagetoh, Kin Dah Lichíí, Cornfields, Woodsprings, Cross Canyon, and others.

“The men and women of the Ganado Fire Department are on the frontlines each day, many of whom serve on a volunteer basis, to help ensure the safety of our Navajo people. They also play a major role in mitigating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. They put their lives on the line for our people, each and every day. With the signing of this resolution, we are now able to provide more efficient equipment to help our firefighters and volunteers save lives and protect our communities from fires, natural disasters, and other emergencies,” said President Nez, who also thanked the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their unanimous support of the legislation.

Since 1982, the Ganado Fire District, a political subdivision of the state of Arizona, has operated 24/7 to provide fire protection, education, and medical services for the Ganado community, and surrounding communities through mutual agreements. Prior to the approval of the funding, the primary challenge for the district was inadequate funding for fire, rescue, and medical transport.

“The new fire and medical transports will assist the district with a quicker response to handle any accidents, disasters, or emergencies. Under the Nez-Lizer Administration, we are grateful to help address the needs of our first responders in rural communities. Having efficient trucks and equipment are essential tools for the safety and protection of Navajo citizens. In addition, this is a part of community building and making a stronger foundation for growth and economic opportunities by providing essential services for the communities,” stated Vice President Lizer.

In 2020, the Ganado Fire District responded to 724 emergency calls serving an area the size of approximately 1,000 square miles. The Ganado Fire District Governing Board also passed a supporting resolution for the funding in December 2020, which requested four new ambulances and six fire trucks.

“We worked hard, prayed hard, we shed tears that this would be a reality and today history was made for the Ganado Fire District. Community members can be at ease knowing that new equipment will make their way to the fire district for it to be utilized to serve the community members and surrounding areas of Ganado. Thank you very much President Nez and Vice President Lizer,” said Delegate James.

“We extend our appreciation to the 24th Navajo Nation Council, past and present chapter officials, and community members for working together to provide the most reliable and adequate emergency vehicles for our firefighters,” added President Nez.

The resolution was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council by a vote of 22-0 on Oct. 19. The funding will come from the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund.

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