



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0520, Version: 1

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATING BUDGET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION:

Section 1. Title and Codification

This act shall be titled and codified as "The Comprehensive Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024".

Section 2. Purpose: To comply with the Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation, to authorize funding for governmental operations and to provide full disclosure of finances, expenditures and revenues.

- A. The purpose of this enactment is intended to review, authorize, approve and ratify appropriations and planned expenditures from all sources in compliance with the specific laws governing appropriations (62 CNCA 31 & 32).
- B. The use of such funds shall be subject to public disclosure.
- C. The funding sources are to provide budget authority for expenditures of the Cherokee Nation's Executive, Judicial and Legislative Departments (Branches), including any authorized Commissions, Boards, Authorities and Enterprises operated by the Nation.
- D. The funding sources include funds from compacts, grants, contracts, miscellaneous sources and contributions, dividends, revenues of enterprises, taxes, special and general fund sources, indirect costs or trust funds.
- E. This enactment shall govern the proper use of all funds during the course of business for Fiscal Year 2024. No other expenditure or use is authorized except as provided herein or as provided by subsequent amendments to this authorization, with only exception to the "Cherokee Nation Capital Appropriations Bill of Fiscal Year 2024".

Section 3. Policy of Accountability:

- A. All funds under the care of the Cherokee Nation shall only be expended as authorized by this enactment unless amended.
- B. Any official who intentionally and willfully misuses, misapplies, diverts or embezzles the application or use of any public funds entrusted to the care of the Cherokee Nation from any sources may be prosecuted according to applicable criminal statutes.
- C. The enactment of this Act or any part thereof, does not ratify, condone or legalize any prior expenditure which may be incurred contrary to Cherokee law. Any unauthorized expenditures, misappropriations, or other illegal acts involving the finances of the Cherokee Nation or any of its subsidiaries may be prosecuted under applicable law or other appropriate administrative or legal remedies.

Section 4. Legislative History

- A. The Constitution and laws (Title 62 of the Cherokee Nation Code) provides the requirements for appropriations, review and authorization for the use of all funds.
- B. The budget estimates of revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 to document funding availability and provide justifications for expenditures are incorporated herein.
- C. All previous resolutions, statutes and relevant Court Decisions as may be applicable are acknowledged.

Section 5. Legal Authorities Governing the Use of Funds.

- A. The Constitution of the Cherokee Nation.
- B. Applicable Cherokee Nation Statutes and the Cherokee Nation Code Annotated (CNCA).
- C. Applicable Federal law and regulations regarding contracts, compacts, grants and use of trust funds.

Section 6. Funding Allocations and Justifications

- A. The allocations from all sources of revenues have been proposed as estimates and justified by the Principal Chief for the Executive, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Judiciary and by the Speaker of the Council for the Legislative Branch.
- B. These proposed allocations for funding are hereby approved and incorporated herein as set forth in

the justifications contained in the “Comprehensive Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2024” submitted by the Treasurer as revised and approved by the Council of the Cherokee Nation after hearings before the Executive and Finance Committee. The approved allocations from all sources are subject to the availability of funds as projected and estimated.

Section 7. Amounts Authorized and Required Reports to the Council.

- A. The budget authority for the Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget is \$3,034,528,366. The Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches are authorized to expend such funds as set forth in the justifications subject to the continued availability of revenues.
- B. The Executive Branch shall provide monthly and annual financial reports in compliance with the Cherokee Constitution and laws and as the Tribal Council directs.
- C. Budget authority is also provided for financial obligations associated with debt service that are not shown as expenses in the Budget Justifications. Total budget authority is set forth and documented in the Principal Chief’s budget estimates-incorporated herein, as revised (if any) by the Tribal Council through budget hearings and attached as “Exhibit - A” incorporated herein. Authority to expend grant funds as a result of future awards during Fiscal Year 2024 is authorized, provided that budget amendments adding new accounting units or adjustments to existing accounting units incorporated in the Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 are submitted to the Council within thirty days of the receipts of any such award or notice of funding adjustment.
- D. Indirect cost pool expenditures are limited to a rate negotiated with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center.
- E. The Tribal Council hereby gives authority to the Treasurer to request to re-appropriate any and all necessary unencumbered Fiscal Year 2023 appropriated fund balances and unexpended encumbrances of the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget.

Section 8 Severability

The provisions of this act are severable and if any part or provision hereof shall be held void the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts or provisions of this act.

Section (code section) 8. Emergency declared

It being immediately necessary for the welfare of the Cherokee Nation, the Council hereby declares that an emergency exists, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force after its passage and approval.