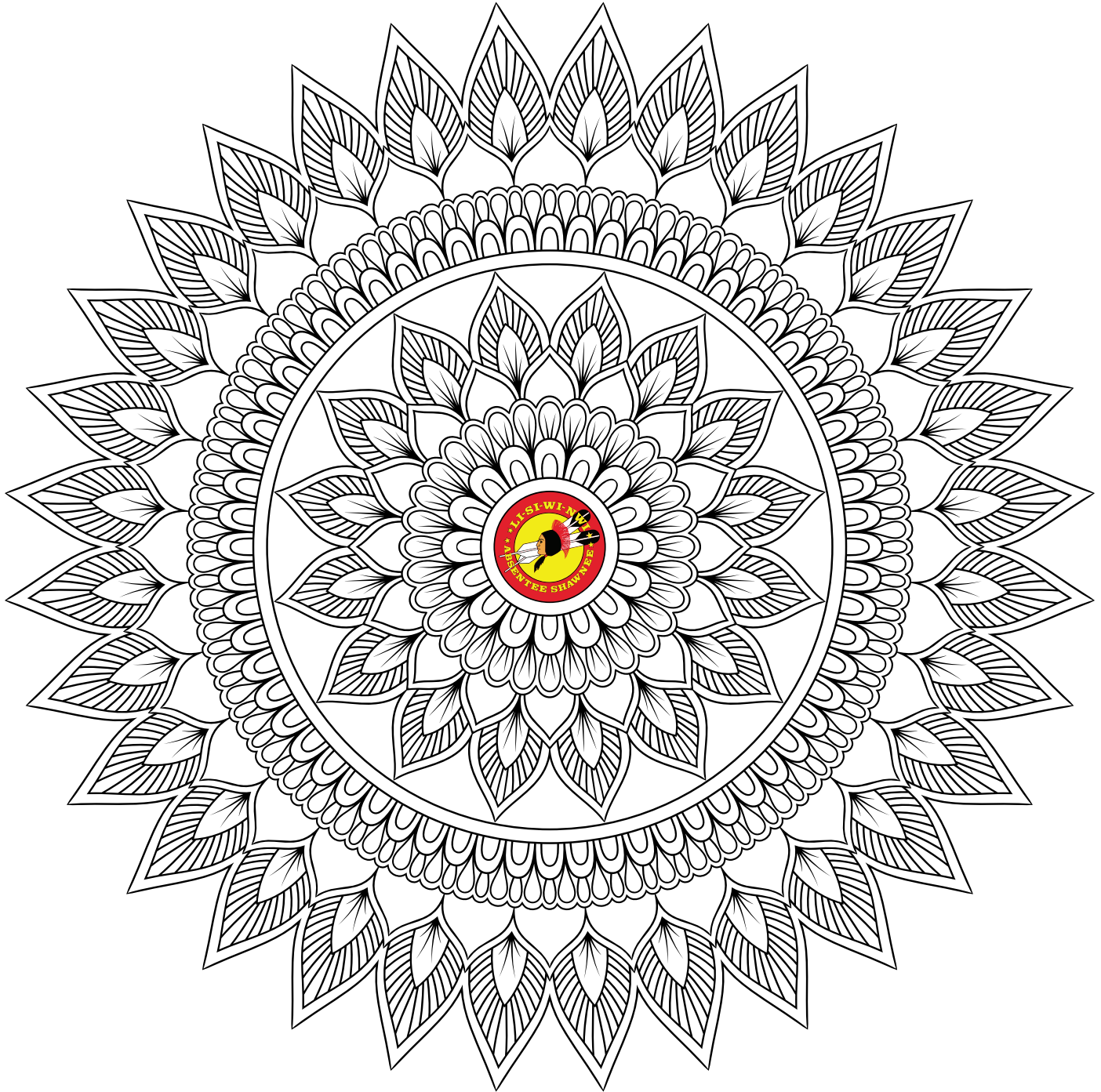


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA



**94TH SEMI-ANNUAL
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025**

**AST MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
SHAWNEE, OK**



TABLE OF CONTENTS



| | |
|-----------|--|
| 3 | Executive Committee |
| 4 | Agenda |
| 5 | Organizational Chart |
| 6-13 | Minutes |
| 14 | <u>Office of the Governor</u> |
| 15-30 | Department of Public Safety/Tribal Police Department |
| 31 | Food Pantry |
| 32 | <u>Office of the Lt. Governor</u> |
| 33 | BIA Self-Governance |
| 34-37 | Office of Environmental Health & Engineering (OEH&E) |
| 38 | Agriculture Department |
| 39 | <u>Office of the Secretary</u> |
| 40-42 | Enrollment |
| 43-46 | Human Resources |
| 47-50 | Indian Child Welfare (ICW) |
| 51-52 | Domestic Violence |
| 53 | <u>Office of the Treasurer</u> |
| 54-59 | Finance |
| 60-61 | Procurement |
| 62-65 | Realty |
| 66-68 | Social Services |
| 69-73 | Grants |
| 74 | <u>Office of the Representative</u> |
| 75-77 | Education |
| 78-82 | Cultural Preservation |
| 83-84 | Tribal Youth Program |
| 85-86 | 477 Program |
| 87 | Building Blocks |
| 88-95 | AST Health Systems & Title VI |
| 96-101 | AST Housing Authority |
| 102-106 | Tax Commission |
| 107 | AllNations Bank |
| 108 | Media |
| 109 | Enterprise Content Management |



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



GOVERNOR
John Johnson



LT. GOVERNOR
Diane Ponkilla



SECRETARY
Misty McGirt



TREASURER
Joseph Blanchard



REPRESENTATIVE
Anthony Johnson

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

94th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL

AST HEALTH MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING

SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

10:00 A.M.

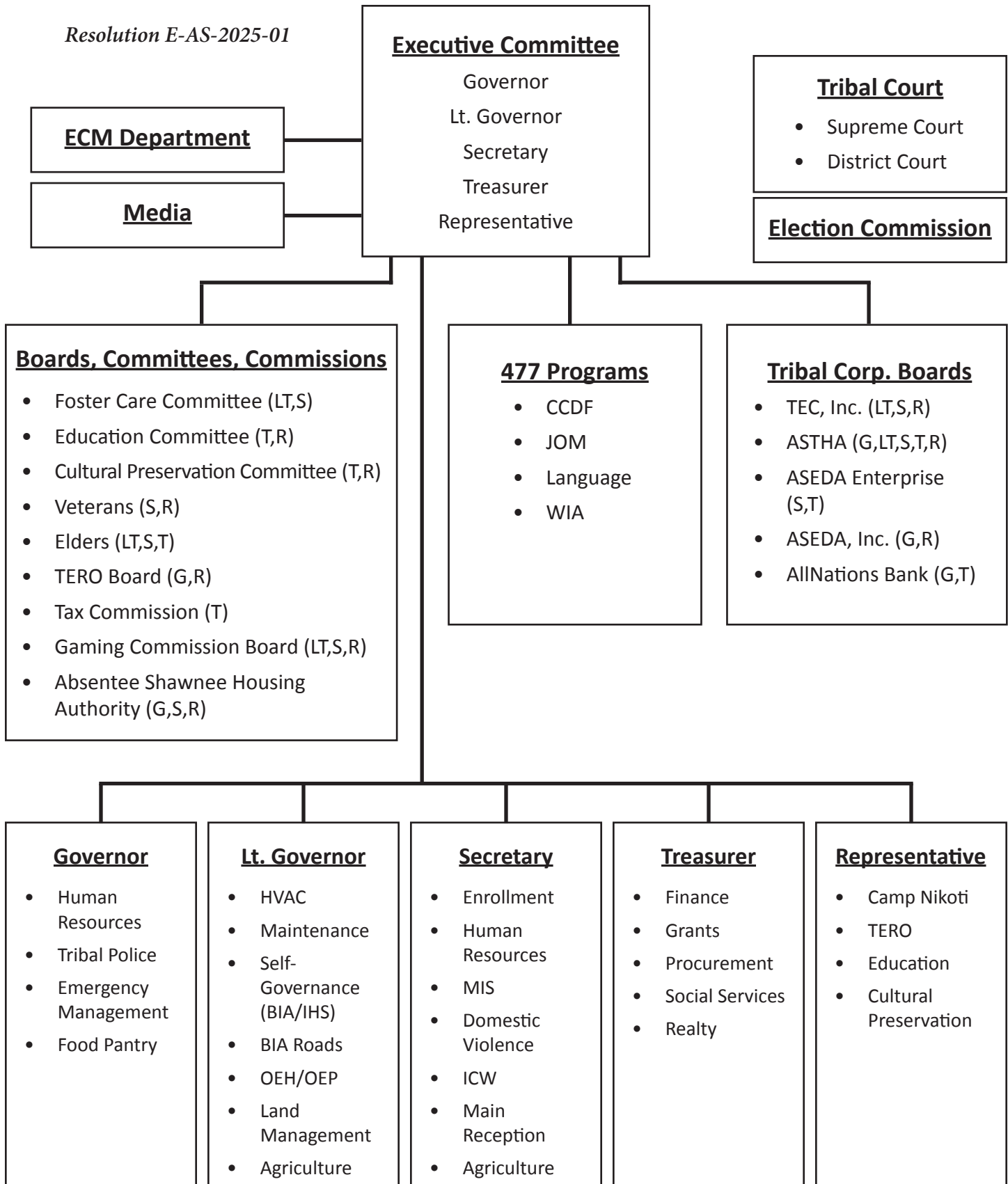
AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| I. | CALL TO ORDER | Governor John Johnson |
| | a. POSTING OF COLORS | AST Color Guard |
| | b. INVOCATION | Jerry Little Axe |
| II. | CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM | Secretary Misty McGirt |
| III. | DECLARATION OF QUORUM | Secretary Misty McGirt |
| IV. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES <i>(October 2024 GC Meeting)</i> | Secretary Misty McGirt |
| V. | SPECIAL REPORTS-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | |
| | a. Governor John Johnson | |
| | b. Lt. Governor Diane Ponkilla | |
| | c. Secretary Misty McGirt | |
| | d. Treasurer Joseph Blanchard | |
| | e. Representative Anthony Johnson | |
| VI. | THUNDERBIRD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. | Che Downs, GM |
| VII. | AST TRIBAL HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY, INC. <i>(both locations)</i> | Chris Larkin, Director |
| VIII. | ALLNATIONS BANK | Jill Maple, CFO |
| IX. | TRIBAL MEMBER QUESTIONS/ANSWERS-OPEN DISCUSSIONS | |
| | <i>(Tribal Members are respectfully limited to 3 minutes at the podium)</i> | |
| X. | ADJOURNMENT | |

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Resolution E-AS-2025-01



() Indicates *Ad Hoc* for board meeting purposes. All EC will have oversight of all boards, committees and commissions.

**ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
93rd SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
THUNDERBIRD EVENT CENTER
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
Saturday, October 5, 2024**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The 93rd Semi-Annual General Council Meeting of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma was called to order by Governor John R. Johnson on Saturday, October 5, at 10:07 a.m.

INVOCATION AND POSTING OF THE COLORS

Posting of Colors: AST Color Guard
Invocation: Jerry Little Axe

II/III. CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Secretary McGirt called for a quorum from the Election Commission. Secretary McGirt confirmed a quorum was present with 92 Tribal members present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Governor Johnson asked if there were any comments or discussions. Secretary McGirt pointed out corrections on page 17 and 30 of the General Council Book. Governor Johnson entertained a motion to approve the April 27, 2024 Minutes:
Motion to approve with corrections: Walter Larney
Second Motion: Eastman Switch
The Following vote was recorded: 94 Yes, 0 No, and 2 Abstentions.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. **GOVERNOR JOHN JOHNSON-Reported on the following: (Report on page 32)**
- **Police Station's Grand Opening was completed in April 2024, with Emergency Management and the Police department now in a central location on the complex.**
 - **Little Axe Clinic had their ceremony on May 1st for their expansion of 40,000 square feet, adding 47 treatment rooms and a drive-thru pharmacy.**
 - **CCDF Horseshoe Bend Afterschool Program is progressing well to be completed at the end of this year so we'll be able to start taking children at the first of the year.**

- Building #3, there is challenges with the courtroom building include asbestos and mold removal, concrete mortar issues and a leak that's leaking into the basement. It's time for us to build a new facility for the courtrooms.
- It's time to start looking for land out of our catchment area. We're not able to get our land into Trust. We have made two attempts and nothing has happened yet. Had various entities that want to sell their land. It's been 38 years that we haven't been able to do anything because of our neighbor next door.
- Attended the OGI, Gambling Indian Association. Things that are coming about are Sports betting. He also discussed about Micro betting.
- Attended a Summit for Energy. DOE came up with Energy Solar Panels and Governor briefed his experience with the panels. Would like to get these Solar Shields put on our tribal homes because it does cut down on Electricity.
- Was asked when will there be an Electric Charge Station at the C-Store. Had it checked out and the structure will need an update.
- Another thing that is coming about is Geothermal System and would like to see it in our new buildings and houses.

We have a Presidential election coming up and I encourage everyone to register and vote. That's all for my report. Thank You

B. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DIANE PONKILLA- Discussed her role in Emergency management and Housing repairs. Reported on the following: (Report on page 58)

- HVAC Department is almost through with their training and preparing for licensing exams.
- Emergency Housing Repairs Program we are working on redoing policies and procedures for housing repairs.

She emphasizes the need for guidance and support from the community to improve services.

C. SECRETARY MISTY MCGIRT-Reported on the following: (See inserted Report before page 65)

- Domestic Violence, provided updates on Domestic Violence Awareness. Upcoming events include; a Purple Day on October 17th, a walk on the Little Axe Clinic and the Shawnee Complex.
- Enrollment department has grown to 4695 members as of October 2024 with three dedicated staff members working on research and growth.
- Human Resources are working on improving processes and understanding their role better. We currently have 612 employees as of October 2024.

- MIS department is dealing with a server issue transmitting information to the state with efforts to resolve it.
- Agriculture department has hired Sebastian Pasillas, the new Agriculture Coordinator.
- ICW department is doing well, with ongoing projects and a need for Christmas gifts for children and adults. Upcoming events and activities are mentioned, with a focus on supporting the Tribe's children and elders.

D. TREASURER JOSEPH BLANCHARD-Report on the following: (Report on page 78)

- Acknowledged all the directors in attendance. They're here to answer any questions about programs.
- New Courts Building, the EC voted and agreed to create this location on campus. An announcement will be made to the people about the company that'll be selected.
- Finance and Procurement has worked with the new elected leaders to provide information about budgets and new guidelines.
- Email in regards for the tribe to create a museum. I'm very supportive of the idea.
- Survey for Tribal Members is an opportunity for tribal members to tell us what things that you want, things that you see, things you dislike, things that you think are great. We need to hear because it's always better when you have the support of the people.

E. REPRESENTATIVE-(Report on page 95)

Talked briefly over what his oversights are doing; Cultural Preservation, Education, TERO, Youth Camp and 477 Program.

VI. CASINO REPORT: Lisa Frazier reported on the following:

- Introduced the Directors
- Discussed the impact of a recent cyber incident and the ongoing recovery efforts.
- Reported on the Yearly Anniversary Celebration.
- The casino is working on improving systems and procedures with a focus on resiliency and growth.

VII. AST TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, INC REPORT: Chris Larkin, Executive Director of Health, reported on the following:

- Provided an update on the Health System, highlighting its financial strength and growth.
- The Health System is the first tribe in the state of Oklahoma to become part of the Accountable Care Organization.
- We are the first in the nation to have a 3D printer for dental work.

- The Health System is also the first Tribe in history to receive NIH funding for research on pain and opioid abuse in Native American population.
- Pediatric Adolescent Behavioral Health will be opening up soon at the Plus Care building.
- PRC Guidelines have been updated.
- New Shawnee Clinic, hoping to have groundbreaking in December.

VIII. ALL NATIONS BANK REPORT: Stephen Smith reported on the following:

- Presented updates on asset and loan growth, highlighting the bank's success and community impact.
- The bank has grown significantly, with a 35% annualized growth rate in assets and a 2.5 million increase in loans in the last seven months.
- The bank is paying above-market rates for deposits and has a high return on equity, with a focus on financial literacy and community engagement.
- He announces his retirement as CEO, with Jill Maple taking over as CEO and Bruce Dawson as Chief Credit Officer.
- Emphasizes the importance of community engagement and the bank's commitment to serving the Tribe.
- The bank is planning to roll out new financial literacy resources and a dedicated landing page for the Tribe.
- Expresses gratitude for the opportunity to service and looks forward to retirement, with confidence in the bank's future leadership.

IX. QUESTIONS/ANSWERS- OPEN DISCUSSION

Phyllis Johnson-Thanked Lt. Governor Diane for doing a wonderful job in regards to her air conditioner.

Question for: Representative Johnson-the Education department needs to hire some help. Representative responded with a yes.

For the Health Programs-Thanked Dr. Lofgren and Chris they are doing a very good job. I have tried using the neurologist, he is awesome and very good and I want to thank them for bringing them to our clinic.

Eastman Switch-

Question: Is the Tribe still consulting with the 2021 contract with CopperBear for 1.5 million dollars? What duties are they doing? Governor responded that the intent was to put Fee land into Trust and it did not happen. Treasurer responded on when the contract expired. All the requirements of the contract have been completed.

Question: What are the plans for Tecumseh Square? 1.1 million dollars was put in for Tecumseh Square for what? Governor responded that the 1 point was for the new roof on top of the building which had to be replaced. A portion of the building was supposed to be for the food pantry but not able to

according to USDA. So it was given to 477 to take over that project for the future.

Last question: The Grid Resilience for formal Grant was \$336 million dollars. In the book, I was seeing that work for \$336 million. How are you going to allocate that money or spend your money? Treasurer responded that was a feasibility study that began two years ago but for the grant that you're talking about our percentage is not 330 million dollars that's how much is being allotted to tribes to apply to implement those programs within their jurisdictions

Bobby Neash-

Question: who has oversight of our Tribal Paper? Governor responded that EC does. I have a suggestion in reference to the Tribal paper, there a lot of photographs of our tribal members but there's no names attached so no one knows who they are. Request that names be added. Governor responded Okay we will start with it now.

Suggestion: In the past years our financial status reports were published in our tribal paper. Is there a reason for Financial Status reports not in the paper? Treasurer responded that he made a suggestion to the tax administrator and tax commissioners that we were publicizing information that wasn't pertinent. There was a meeting and they voted to not put that information in the public newspaper because when it comes to negotiating power we lose leverage because now everybody knows how much we generate. You can see that report in the tribal member's only section on the website.

Delana Deer Ayers-

Question for the Treasurer: You calculated the cost for the museum and I would like to know how you came up with the calculation. Treasurer explained the research and it was a massive facility and we looked at how much it would cost per square feet.

Question: the Shawnee Cultural Center in Miami has a 6,000 square foot building and they paid \$2 million dollars for it. So we can start small and grow into something big with the museum. This would be a great opportunity to be able to preserve a lot of people's artifacts.

Stated that she has research to give to the General Council who is interested in knowing what the Visionary group has discussed on a museum possibility.

Glenda Sullivan-

Question: Who do I need to contact in regards to the mechanical equipment that the tribe has? Governor responded that you can talk to Lt. Governor or maintenance.

Alicia Onzawah-

Question: Concerns about our court and our records. In 2009, I received guardianship over three grandchildren. Was informed by ICW that there was a law passed in regards to non-AST kids and my guardianship was no longer valid. Secretary interrupted that we will be checking into this and we can meet and discuss. Treasurer commented that due to the sensitivity of your information and what you're discussing, can we discuss this privately

with the executive committee that way we can get to the bottom of the situation. Alicia responded with yes.

Kristen Allen-

Commented that she utilized the 477 Program and there were some issues. Also made comment on Education and Social Services that she was not able to utilize due to income but would like to Thank Everybody that did help. Thanked Chris for the Health System.

Edwina Butler Wolfe-

Responded after Governor's comment that General Council is for the people and this is our time to ask our questions. There's no time limit. It is General Council for the people it's not your meeting, it's our meeting.

Thanked Chris Larkin for the PRC department at the clinic.

Question: for Lt. Governor. You can into an office that was disarray and your budget has been really stricken from funds for emergency repairs. Will you be getting more money for that department for new applications coming through? Lt. Governor responded that she'll have to finish out the year with budget mods. Elderly are the main priority at this time. We'll be having budget meetings and wish list in a couple of weeks.

Question: Do you think that you'll get some funds to December or get with Treasurer to do some modifications? Lt. Governor responded that she'll have to get with treasurer and she can't say yes. As a new Lt. Governor I can't make that decision.

Treasurer commented that there is no report on the tiny homes and wanted to see where they are at.

Question: for Representative: See that you are over Education and are you aware of some of the eligibility changes that the BIA is putting in for Johnson O'Malley? Representative responded that we are talking about helping out more with education.

Question: Wanted to see how my tribe is going to have a stance on that because there are some concerns on that eligibility for Johnson O'Malley. The solicitor from the BIA from Washington is putting into where the child does not have a tribal membership card or CDIB then they could use their parents. There's a problem with going back further to grandparents that requires birth certificates to prove that those children have Native American. They are implementing adoptions where a child could not have any Indian blood in their body and still be eligible for Johnson O'Malley. These are some of the things I wanted to see how our Absentee Shawnee tribe is going to look into that and uphold your sovereignty right as a tribe what your laws are or go by with this other area? Brianna 477 Director responded that what we have for Johnson O'Malley and the eligibility is the participant is the parent at this point. So, if the parent is an enrolled member then they are eligible. We have an additional form that includes the child and if they're not enrolled because they are descendant or related to a tribal member then will be eligible for JOM funds only so they won't be eligible for the other services that we do provide for our enrolled participants. At this point for 477, the children are the participants. They are the ones who get the ISPs and go

through the process and we support them as much as possible through services. A lot of the services are non-monetary and some of them are. We do school supplies. If the parent is a participant and they have a child that's not enrolled, they will receive school supplies. Children will still receive school supplies if the grandparent is an enrolled member and the parent or child is not. They are eligible for JOM services. This would be the limit that we would provide. As 477 we have the right to modify our plans.

Edwina commented it's good to see our Absentee people in those meetings.

Thank You

Treasure did comment on the Tiny Homes and the report came in late before the submission of the deadline. There are 6 to 10 units still available. Those are kept available to our tribal members for emergency situations. Housing Authority has theirs that they contracted through us.

Janene Alford-

Question: We have talked about eyeglasses for a year and half for the people that are out of the catchment area. Nothing has been done and there has been an increase of \$400 dollars. What happens to this money if members are out of the area and cannot use it? Treasurer responded that this is a Health question. When they prepare their budget yearly they make the anticipation base on the previous year's data. Janene asked; where does that money go to that I'm entitled to? Treasurer responded that it should stay in that account and then it carries over.

Janene asked why I am not entitled to use the money where I live. Treasurer responded because you're out of jurisdiction.

Janene commented that benefits state that we can come down here and utilize. Treasurer commented correct, so you can schedule an appointment.

Janene questioned: If I'm out of jurisdiction then how are we able to vote? Treasurer responded that is a good question, that's Election Commission. Janene recited the Constitution states that Absentee Shawnee Indians of Oklahoma not Shawnees within the five counties for the catchment area. The Constitution states that it allowed for tribal members to hold office and live outside the catchment area. Treasurer commented that is not true. Election Ordinance specifies the counties.

Janene commented that Governor did talk to her. Governor stated that he did talk to Dr. Lofgren and they can't give you the money because you are out of jurisdiction the catchment area.

Janene questioned: there are other tribes that have coordination of benefits for tribal members to go anywhere. Why is it that we can't do that? Treasurer responded there's nothing saying that we can't but that money has to come from general funds and that's the problem we run into. I've said this before that why we need new business, that's why we need new revenue, that's why we have to increase taxes because we only generate enough funds for all our programs. IHS is compacted through IHS. The tribe receives those monies and then it passes through us to ASTHA program.

Suggestion: Can we go back to gift cards for Christmas or checks? Governor replied we can do that.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Donna Kay Johnson

SECOND MOTION: Phyllis Johnson

ALL IN FAVOR: All in favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 12:43 PM

SECRETARY MCGIRT, Tribal Secretary
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians
Oklahoma
Dated this th day of April , 2025.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



94th Semi-Annual General Council Governor Report

November 2024: Mayor Larry Heikkila with the City of Norman invited me to attend a city meeting. During this meeting he proclaimed November as “Native American/Indigenous Peoples” heritage month and presented the proclamation to myself, Rep. Johnson and Kiowa Vice Chairman Jacob Tsotigh. It was truly an honor to receive this proclamation (P-2425-10) on behalf of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This means a lot to us and all native people. Also in November, Governor DeWine, the Ohio Governor and first lady Fran DeWine made a surprise visit to campus. He was shown all around campus with his last stop being Thunderbird casino in Little Axe and the Clinic. He was very pleased, he stated “it’s a beautiful campus and he enjoyed the trip very much and appreciated the hospitality”.

January 2025: I attended the NCAI Winter Session in Washington DC. Tribes from all over were in attendance. We all had the same questions and concerns about the new administration coming in. The fear of the unknown is still a huge issue for all native people. I truly am concerned on what could happen next. I have been closely watching the daily changes that continue to happen and we will be prepared.

February 2025: In February I attended several meetings regarding solar energy and going green. I recently went energy efficient in my home with a few panels installed and I will honestly say it has saved me tremendously. I noticed a huge difference the first month of having them. I will definitely be gathering more information on Solar Energy and weighing all the pro and cons but I truly believe this would be beneficial for our tribal people and community.

March 2025: As March began I’m sure you notice the court building being torn down, well that is complete. The next phase will begin so we can get those misplaced departments into a new building. I am looking forward to this project it will be nice to see a new administration building coming up on campus. Also in March, the Shawnee Clinic broke ground for the new location. It will be on Benson park road next to Tecumseh Lake. Mr. Larkin has worked very hard to achieve this build for our people. Lastly, the new afterschool building in the Johnson community is finished. They are now ready to get school aged children enrolled. (you will see updates in the upcoming newsletters, webpage, and social media.)

This concludes the April General Council report. You may address your question, comments or concerns to myself or my assistant at the number/emails listed below.

Thank you

Governor John Johnson
405-275-4030 ext. 3500
governor@astribe.com

Alvina Barnes
405-275-4030 ext. 3501
alvinab@astribe.com



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535

General Council Report – April, 2025

Department Staff

Police Department

Brad Gaylord
Jason Brinker
Steven Crisp
Rickey Jones
Jason Reid
Josh Bledsoe
Chance Fine
Lisa Williams
Anthony Hicks
James "JP" Neely
Trevor Palmer
Linda Day

Director of Public Safety
Captain
Captain
SORNA Officer
Investigator
Patrol Officer
Patrol Officer
Patrol Officer
Patrol Officer
Patrol Officer
Police Specialist II

Emergency Management

Levi Walker
John Lantz

Emergency Manager
Assistant Emergency Manager



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Police Mission Statement

The mission of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Department is to uphold the constitutional sovereignty and customs of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the occurrence and fear of crime within our communities, and to enhance the quality of life for all people. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity and conduct ourselves with the highest ethical standards to fortify public trust.

Emergency Management Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system that coordinates community resources to protect lives, property and the environment through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from all natural and man-made hazards that may impact our tribe.



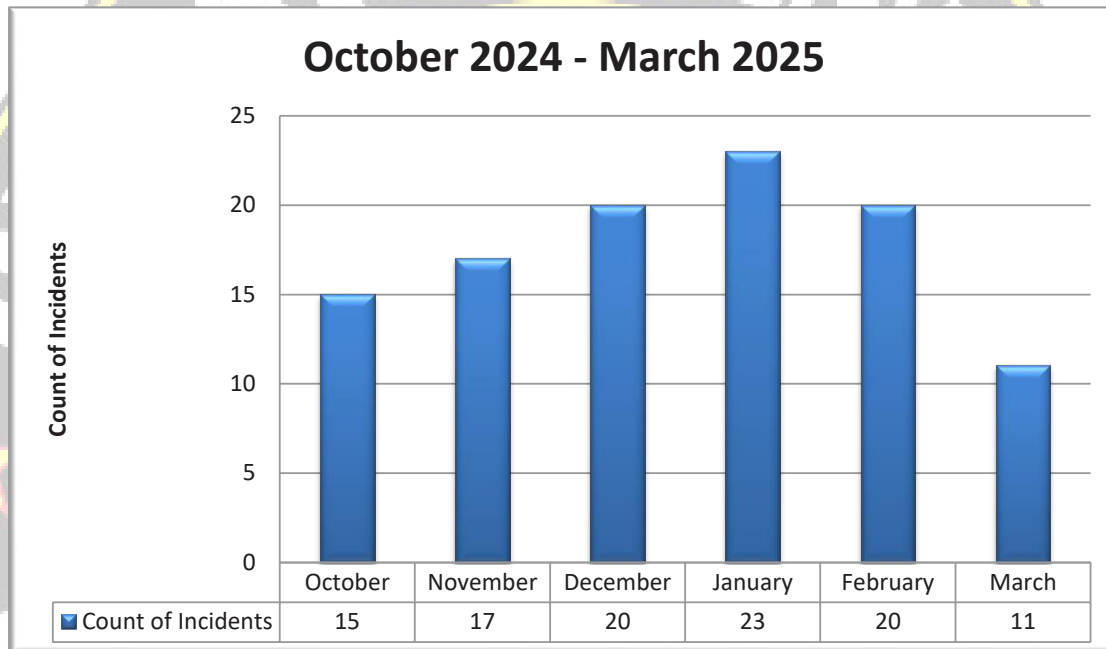
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535

Calls for Service Total - 106

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Department Responds to a multitude of different types of calls for service. The numbers indicated below include self-initiated activities as well as calls for service.



The Graph Above Illustrates All Calls for Service from 10/01/24 – 03/31/25

Additional Routine activities performed by the police department which are not normally documented within incident reports are as follows:

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

- Reports to the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Police reports filed and Drug cases opened
- Thunderbird casino call reports for Norman and Shawnee
- Manager/Department Head meetings – Chief Gaylord
- Tribal Court bailiff duties
- Transports from Pottawatomie County Safety Center to Tribal Court
- Officer Training (In-house and Agency sponsored)
- Tribal Community Policing Shawnee and Little Axe
- ASHA Monthly Reporting



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

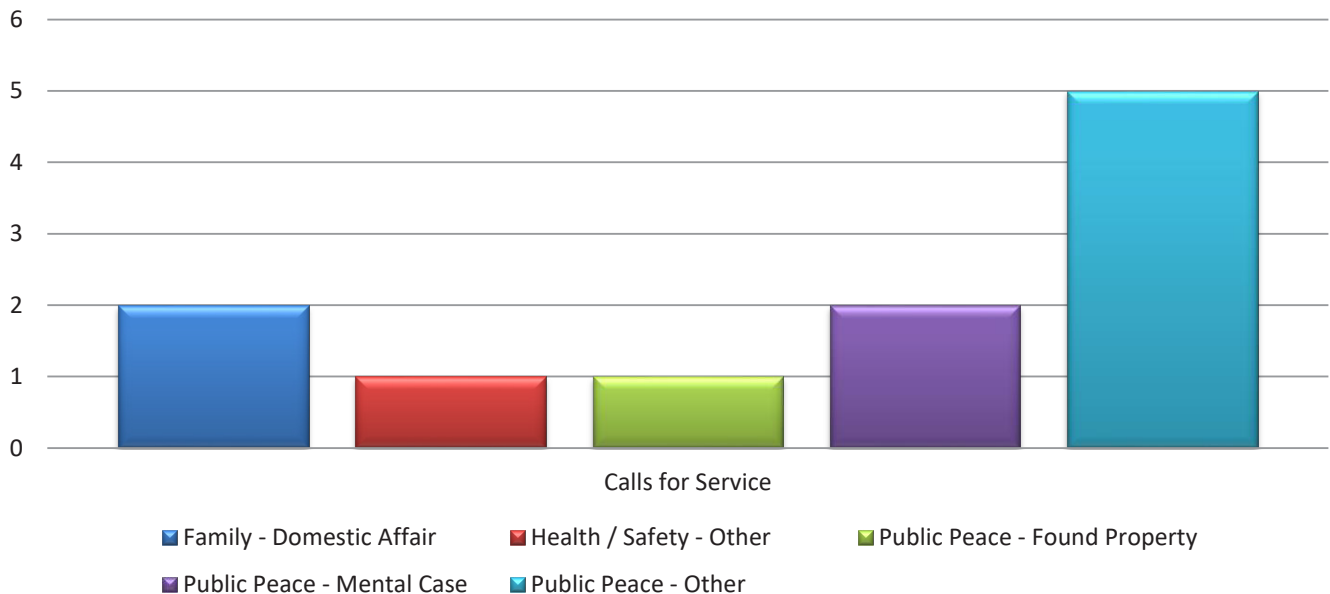


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October 2024

Total – 15

October Calls for Service



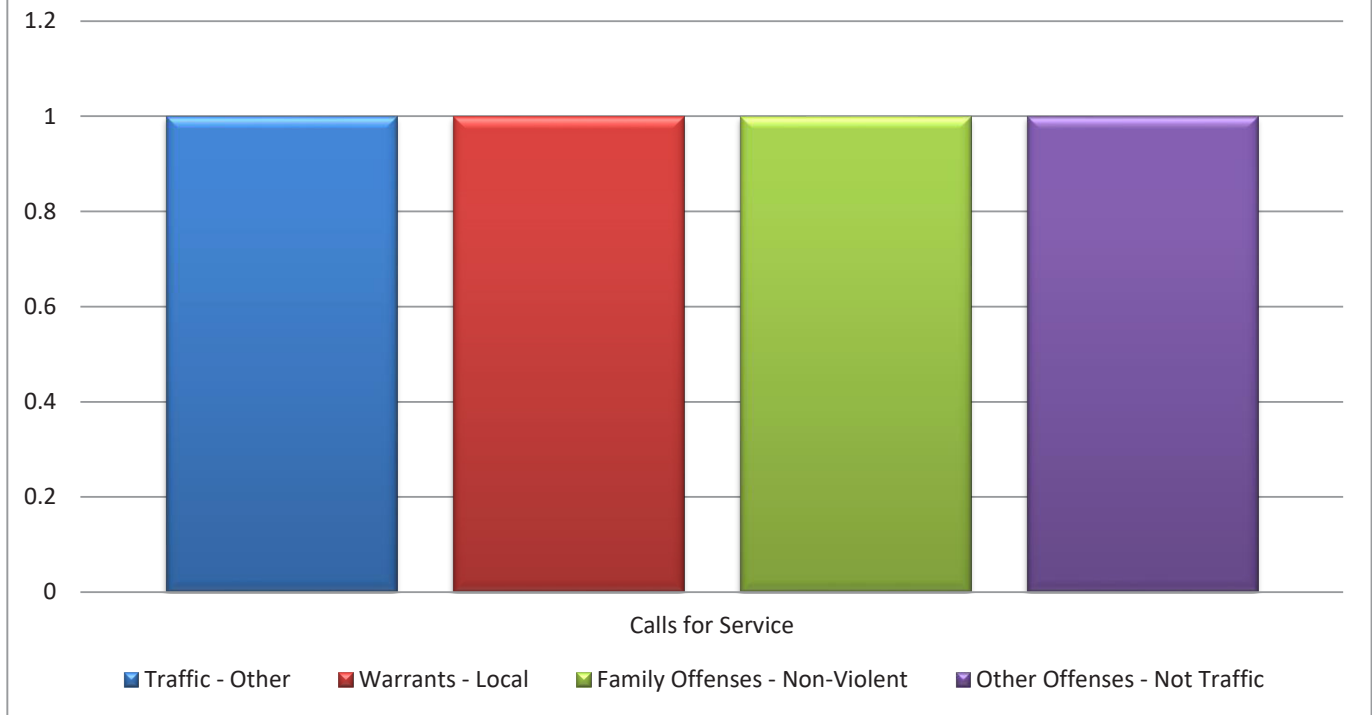


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October Calls for Service



October Special Events

During October, officers from the ASTPD Participated in AST Health's Annual Zombie Run, as well as the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority's Trunk or Treat Community Outreach Event.

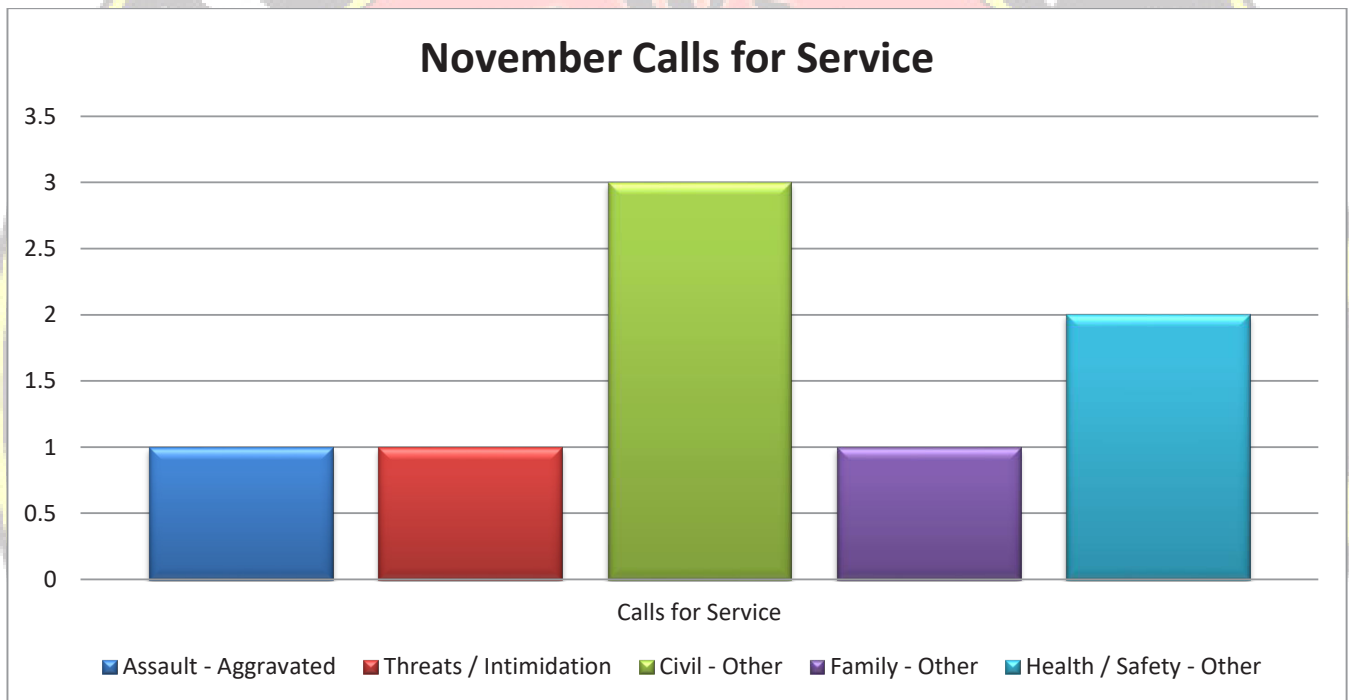


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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November 2024
Total – 17



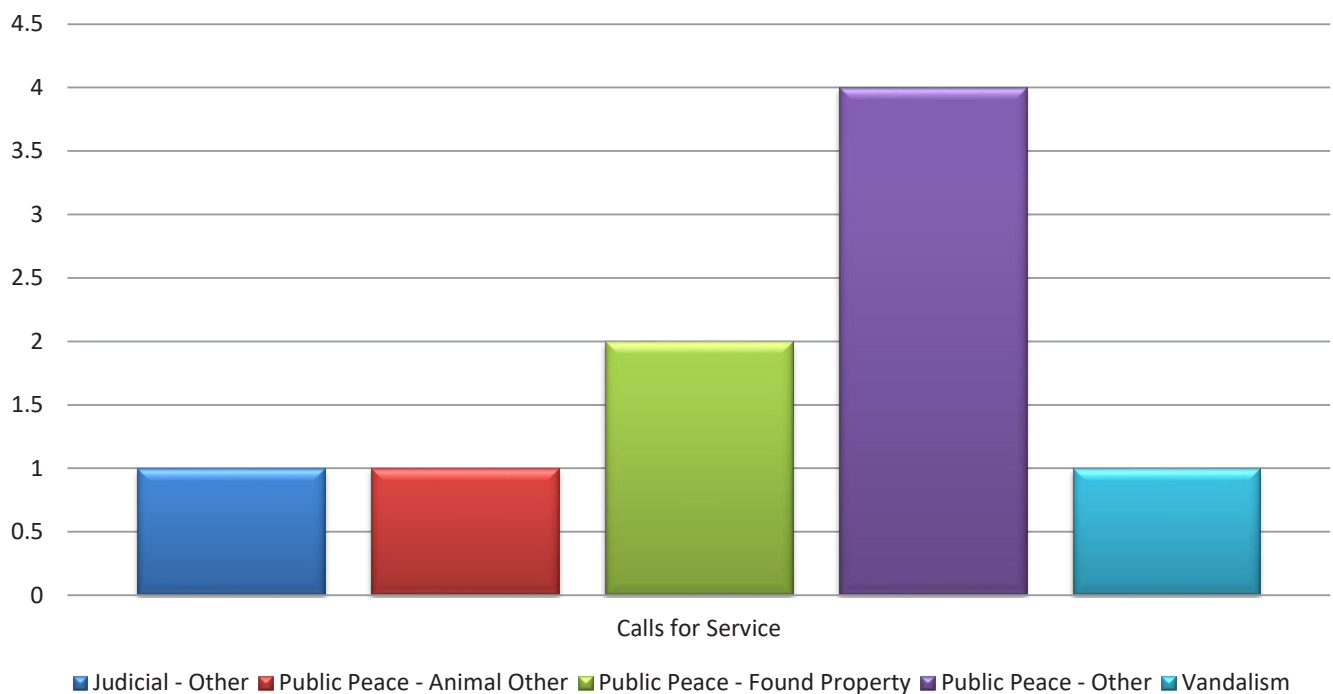


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November Calls for Service



November Special Events

No Special Events Took Place the Month of November.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

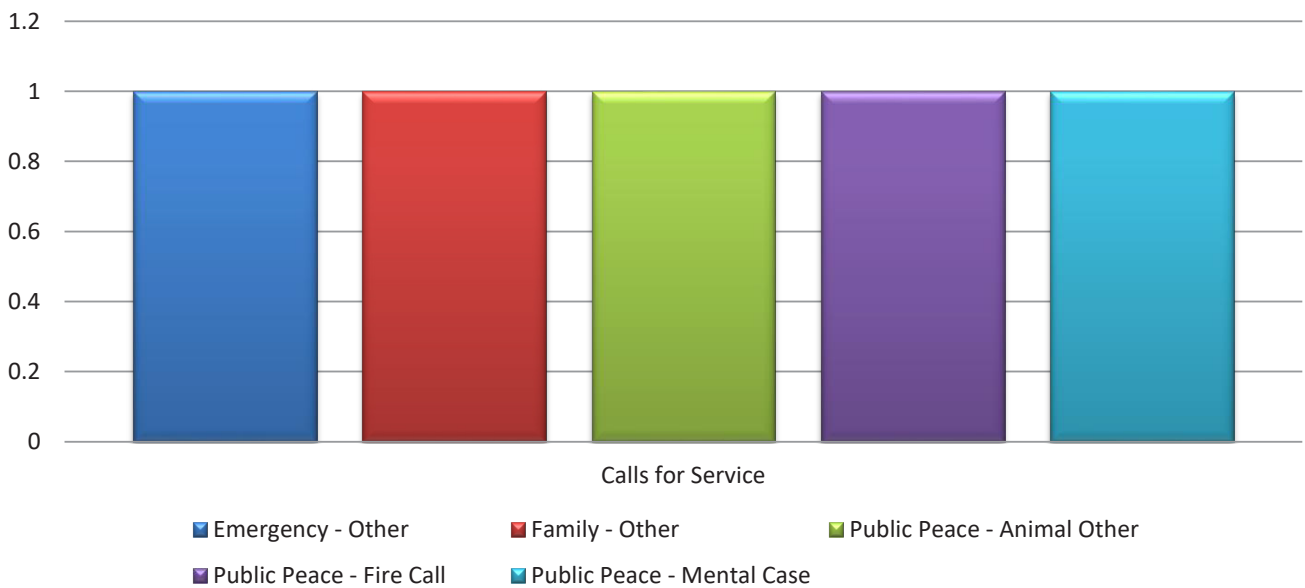


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December 2024

Total – 20

December Calls for Service



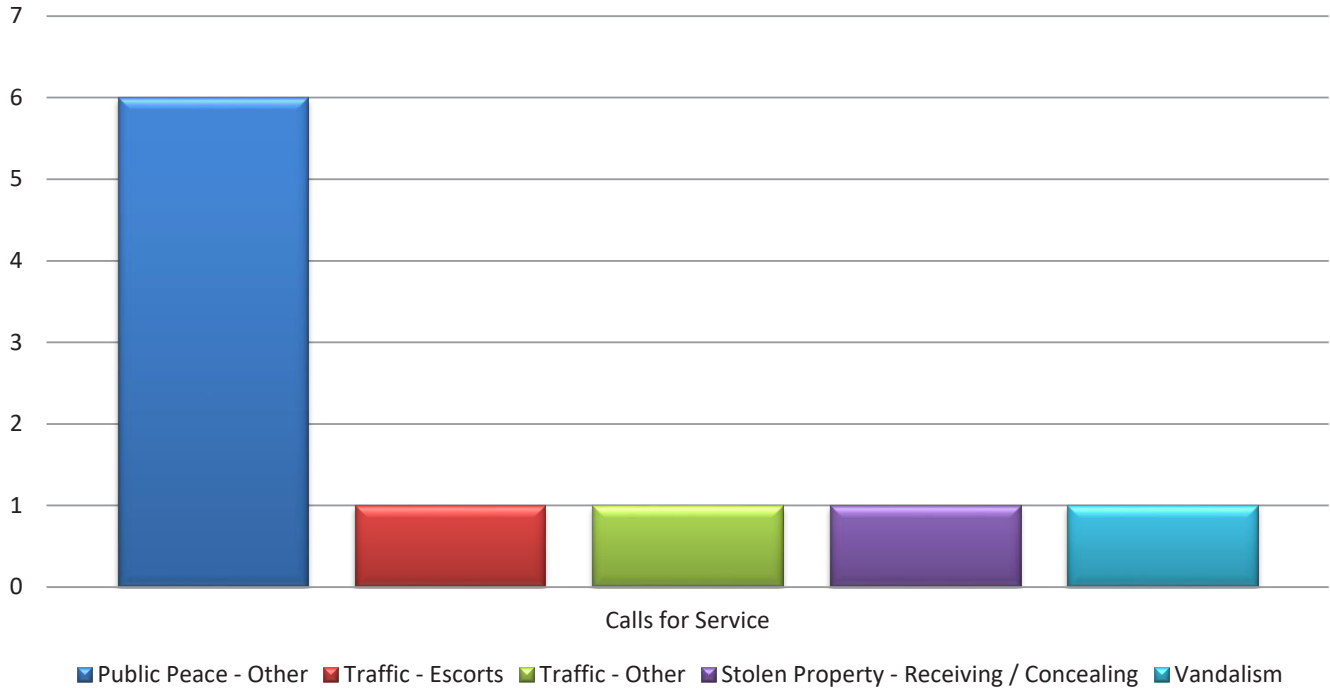


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535



December Calls for Service



December Special Events

During December, Officers from the ASTPD Participated in the annual Shop With a Cop Program, providing Christmas gifts to underprivileged children. December also saw our year end training event where officers received training on Medical Emergencies, Taser, Mental Health, and more.



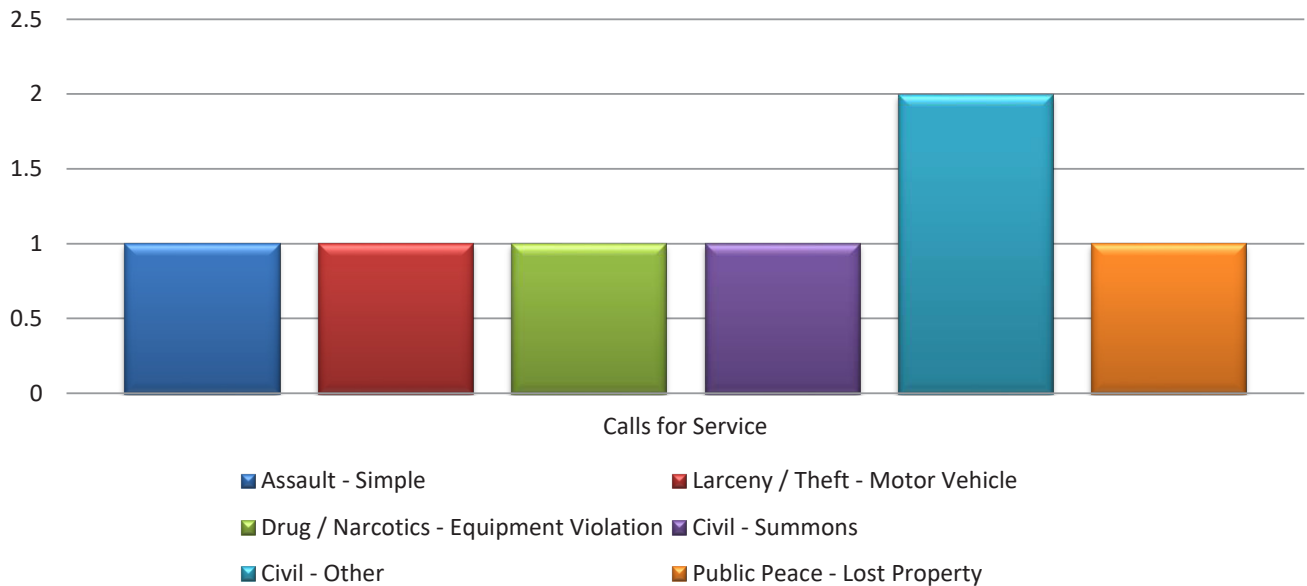
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
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**January 2025
Total – 23**

January Calls for Service



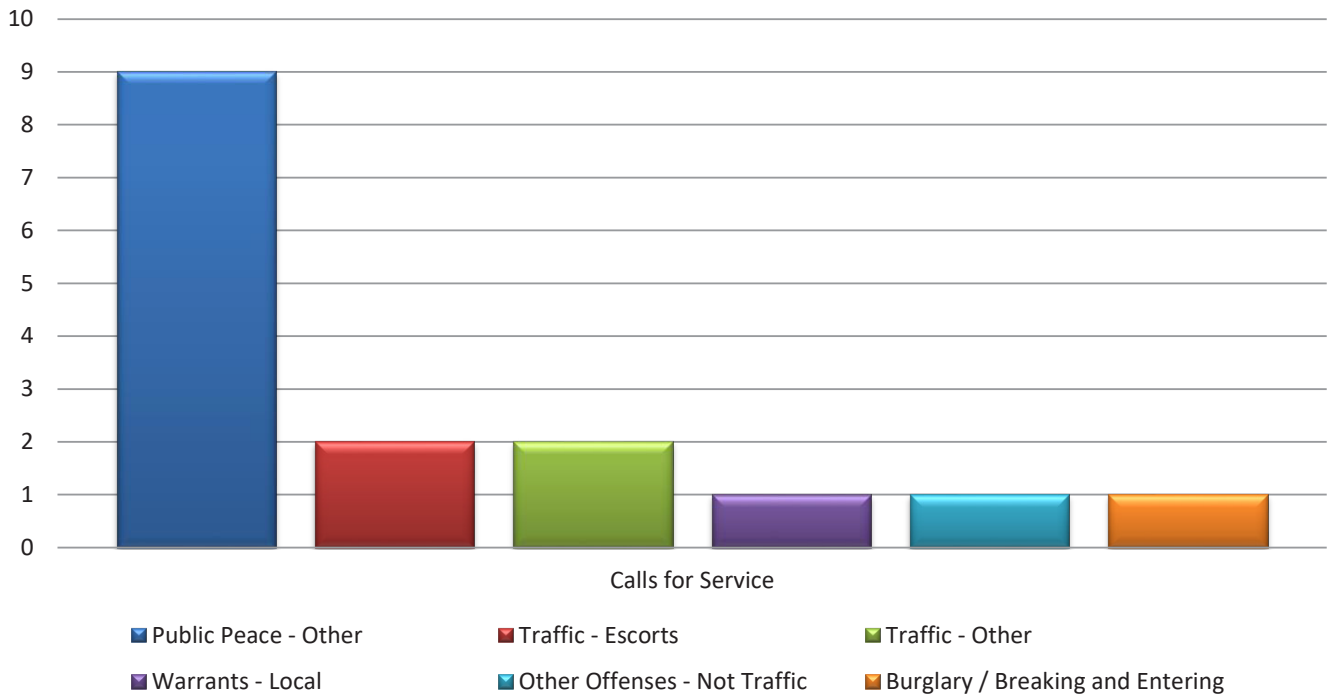


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Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535



January Calls for Service



January Special Events

In January of 2024, ASTPD took possession of the new Public Safety Building. Though the move took several weeks, we were eventually successful.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

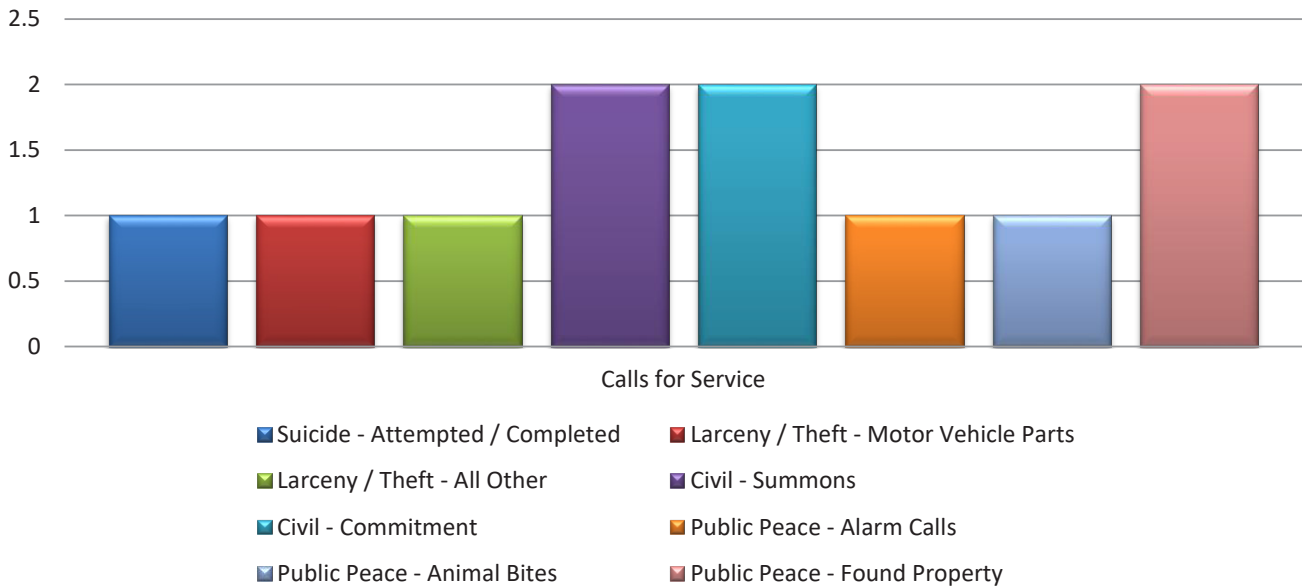
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February 2025

Total – 20

February Calls for Service



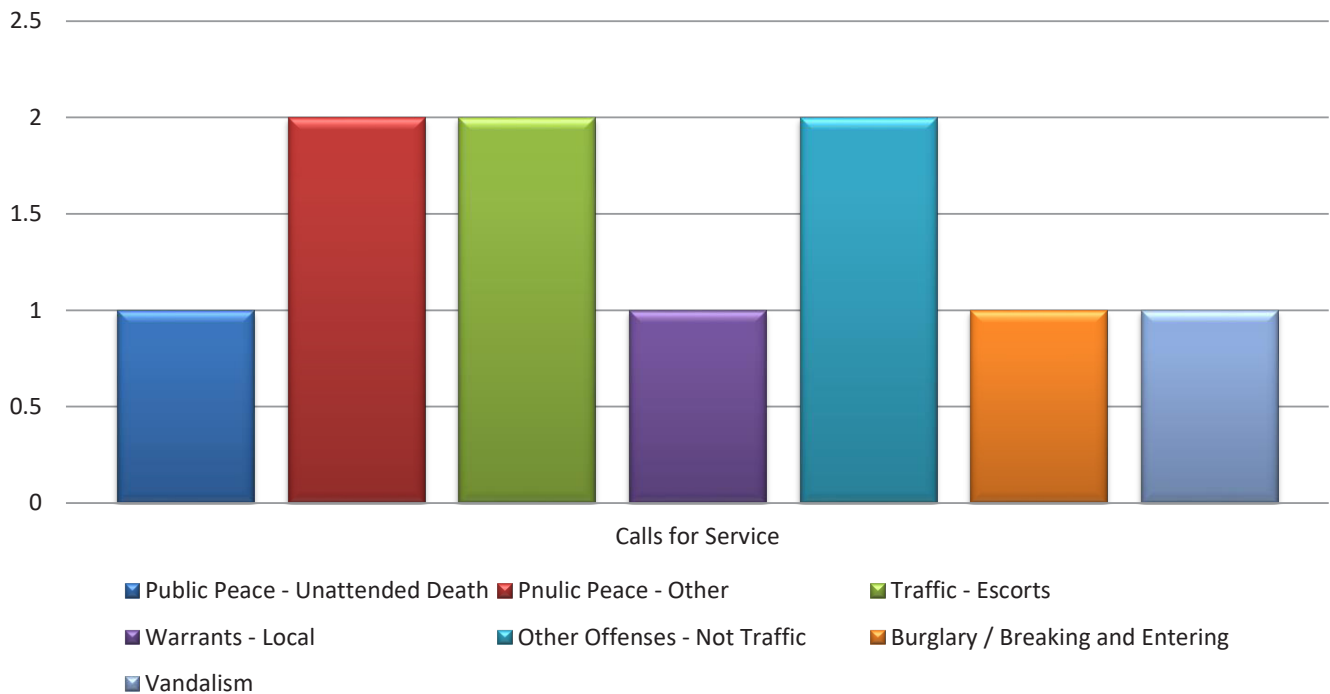


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535



February Calls for Service



February Special Events

During February, members of ASTPD attended mental health training. This three day training provided officers with a myriad of resources to handle traumatic events.



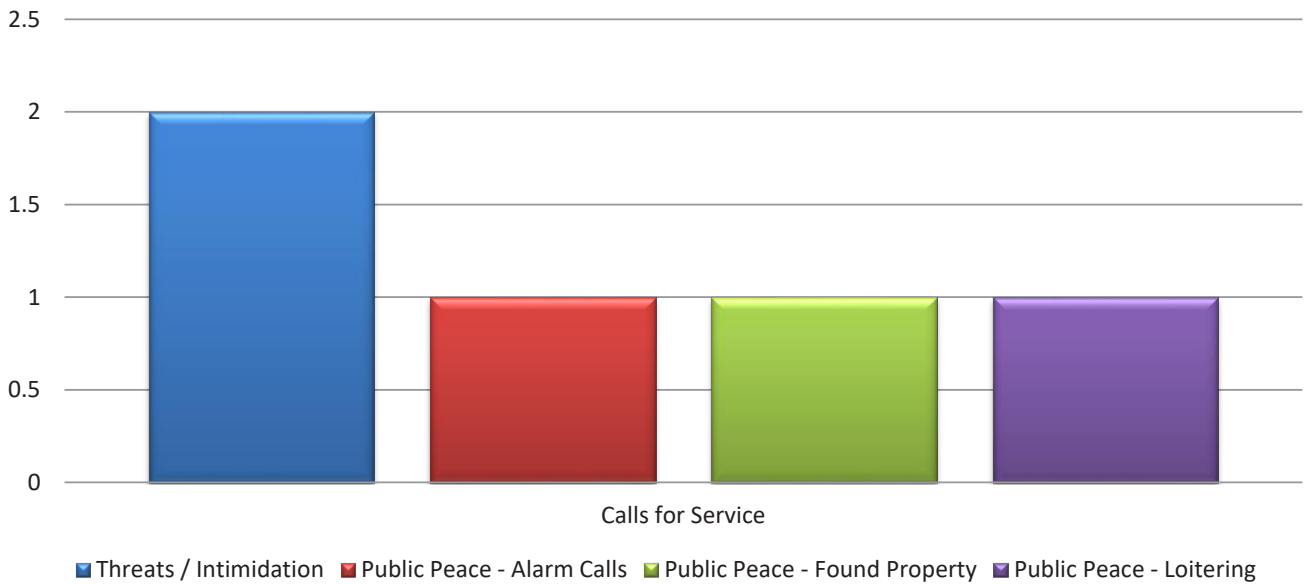
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535



**March 2025
Total – 11**

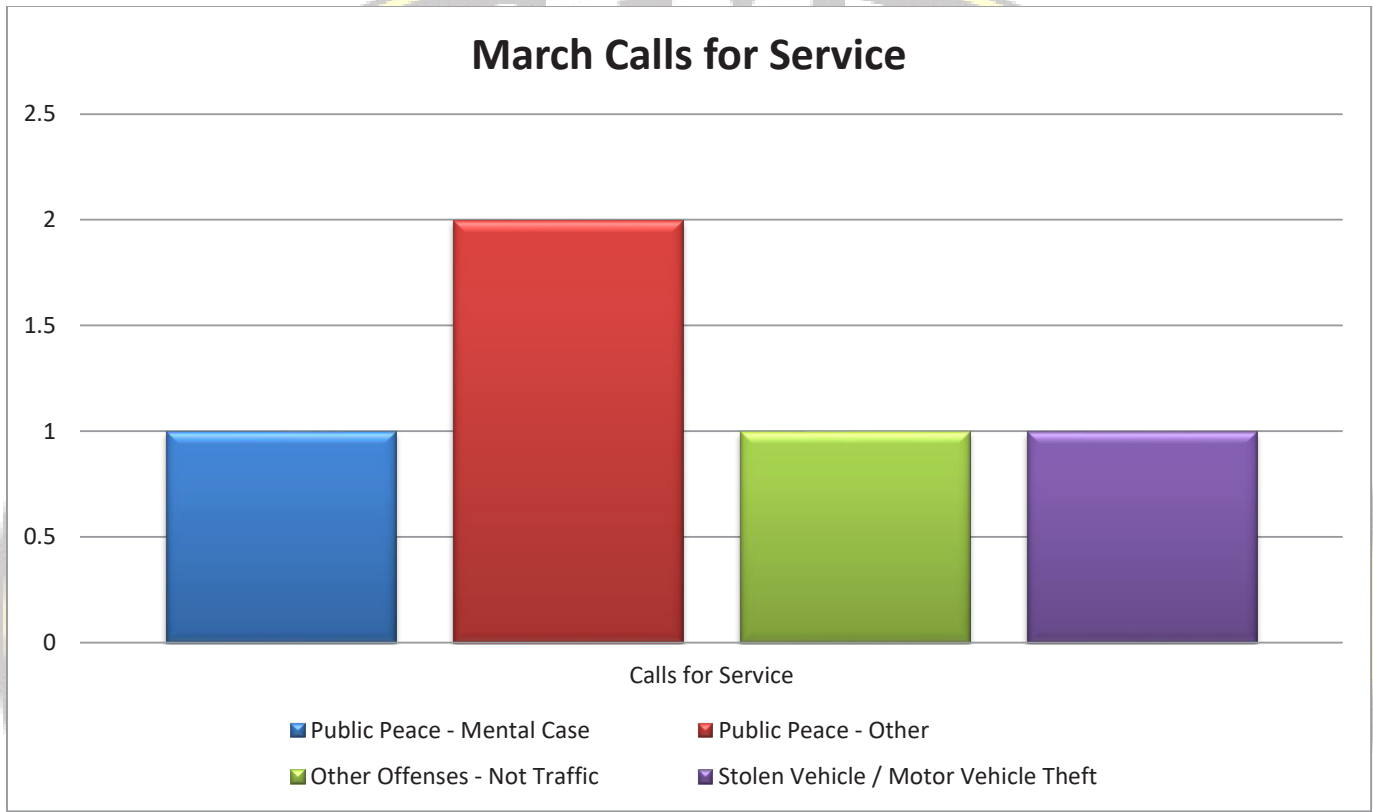
March Calls for Service





ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535



March Special Events

In March, ASTPD completed the hiring process, adding Patrol Officer Trevor Palmer to our roster. Officer Palmer was a welcome addition and much needed hire.

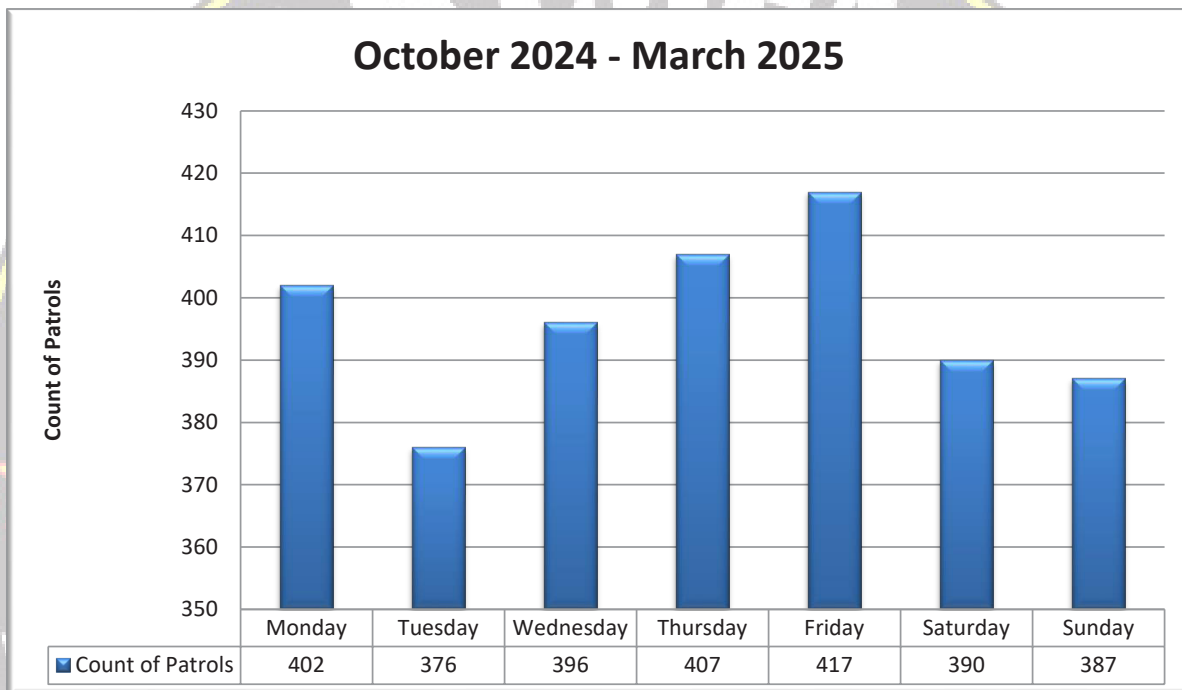


ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535

Daily Patrols Total – 2,228



The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Department's Patrol Division routinely patrols properties owned by the tribe. During the 6 month reporting timeframe, the ASTPD performed 2,228 documented patrols of various areas. These areas include both Trust and Fee lands, housing, businesses, and residences of tribal members. These patrol areas are scattered throughout the jurisdiction and reflect a significant portion of a patrol officer's shift.



FOOD PANTRY



The AST food bank will be opened for 4 years come September 2025 and we have grown so much over the years. When we initially opened we started with less than 50 families and only a few items on our shelves. Today we can proudly say we serve over 450 families each month with many items to choose from. I hope that number continues to grow.

The AST food pantry uses several different vendors for our monthly needs. Our newest vendor is US Foods, they have a bigger selection on the items we carry. They also have better meat prices and water prices. I look forward to using them for all our future needs. I normally have two large orders delivered twice a month and also a large pick up order in Texas with Midwest Food Bank. I always try to keep the food bank stocked at all times.

Our monthly boxes consist of all types of non-perishables food items, ranging from canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, a variety of pastas and noodles, a variety of cereals, bagged rice and beans, juices, canned soups, oatmeal, and other several other non-perishable items as well. I would like to update the food items we carry so if you have any suggestion please let me know and I will do my best to get it added to the list.

The AST Food Pantry is a non-sectarian, nonprofit, organization that seeks to alleviate hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to all eligible tribal members. Our mission is to eliminate hunger in the Shawnee/Tecumseh/and Norman area by assisting AST members that are in need with programs that provide food, promote the value of nutrition, increase self-sufficiency, and instill hope. In doing so, we hope to ensure that food relief has a more meaningful and enduring impact.

We warmly welcome all AST members to the food pantry, and hope that your experience with us is a positive one.

Director: Falon Powell

fpowell@astribe.com

(405)481-8640

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm

Friday 9am to 3pm

Closed 12pm to 1pm daily

Food Distribution Days (appointment only):

Tuesday 1pm to 5pm

Wednesday 9am to 6pm

Thursday 9am to 5pm



OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR



Greetings All and Welcome to the 94th Absentee Shawnee Tribe General Council on the 26th Day of April, 2025.

I, Yvonne Diane Ponkilla took my Oath of Office June 27, 2024. My duties per the Constitution:

The **Lieutenant Governor** in the absence of the Governor, or during procedures to remove or recall him, shall possess all other privileges, authority, and responsibility of the office of the Governor. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall succeed at once to the office and shall serve for the remainder of the Governor's unexpired term. The Lieutenant Governor shall have such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Governor, by actions of the Executive Committee, or General Council.

My office is located in the Governors Building #2, the departments I have oversight of are Agriculture, BIA/Self-Governance/Roads/Land Management, Maintenance, HVAC, OEH/OEP, Media and 477. The Boards, Committees, & Commissions are Foster Care Committee, Elders and Gaming Commission. The Tribal Corporation Boards are TEC, Inc, and AST Healthcare Authority.

My contact information Email: Yvonne.Ponkilla@astribe.com, Phone: (405) 275-4030 ext. 3503 and Cell: (405) 432-0733. Deric Spoon, Executive Administrative Assistant Email: DericS@astribe.com, Phone: (405) 275-4030 ext. 3504 and Cell: (405) 617-4105.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all that had faith and voted on June 15, 2024. As the Lt. Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe I promise to carry out my duties respectfully, honor and represent the tribe to the best of my ability. The past 10 months have been a great learning experience and I have met a few Tribal and State leaders who welcomed me as the Lt. Governor. I have always enjoyed working with Tribal Members and with other Tribal entities to make a change for the betterment of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

Ni yi wa



BIA SELF GOVERNANCE



Self-Governance

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Self-Governance maintains the government to government relationship established by the Tribe with the federal government. The function of this office is to ensure the Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) compacts, contracts, and grant trust responsibilities and are met, along with alerting the Tribe of any legislation or policy changes that can affect the Tribe.

The BIA Self-Governance Office oversees the annual funding agreement of funds received from the BIA for Aid to Tribal Government. Currently the BIA Funding Agreement supports a portion of the annual budgets for the Roads, Planning, Police, Education, Enrollment, Indian Child Welfare, Social Services, Tribal Court and Realty Departments. We have recently submitted documents to become US DOT Self-Governance and hope to hear back soon. It may take longer than expected with all the changes going on in all the departments in D.C.

President Trump has nominated William Kirkland III, member of the Navajo Nation, for the U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. It has yet to be determined when he will take office. Currently Scott Davis is Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Executive Order 14112 that was signed by President Biden on December 6, 2023 has been rescinded as of March 14, 2025 by President Trump along with 77 other orders. EO 14112 was for reforming Federal Funding and support for Tribal Nations to better embrace Trust Responsibilities and promote the next era of Tribal Self-Determination.

As of March 15, 2025 we are on a full year CR (Continuing Resolution) until September 30, 2025. This means we will receive the same funding amount as 2024.

BIA Roads Program

On January 15th, we had the Safety Action Plan Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting. The stakeholder group consists of the Executive Committee, AST Tribal Police, AST Housing Authority, Pottawatomie County District 3 Commissioner, Cleveland County District 3, City of Norman, Mayor of Norman, and Superintendent of Little Axe School. The logo will be Vision Zero – Safer Streets Save Lives, Mo Ke Ti Ya He (mo key tah yeh hee). Our goal of the SAP is to reduce and eliminate serious injuries and fatal crashes on roadways in the Absentee Shawnee Tribe SAP study area by identifying roadway safety problems and locations with the most significant safety risks.

MO KE
TI YA HE



VISION ZERO | SAFER STREETS SAVE LIVES

In December 2024 I was elected to serve a second term as the Secretary for the Intertribal Transportation Association, Southern Plains Representative for the Tribal Transportation Coordinating Committee that reports directly to DOI/FHWA Transportation, on the Southern TTAP Steering Committee and just recently been nominated to serve on the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Tribal Advisory Board (awaiting on approval from the Senate).

As soon as funds are released from higher up, Cleveland County will be able to start the Porter Bridge Project. With all the changes President Trump has made, is holding up our progress on making the roads safer for our community.

Any questions or concerns please email at TwylaB@astribe.com or (405) 275-4030.



Staff:

Jarrold Lloyd, OEH&E Director
Kevin Arthur, EPA Grants Manager
Lee McKey, Tribal Utility Operator
Jimmy Squire, Recycling Technician

THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ENGINEERING (OEH&E)

OEH&E was created in order to facilitate housing services in an expeditious manner in conjunction with our Self-Governance Compact. During FY 1994, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe submitted to Indian Health Services Addendum No. 3 to the CY 94, Annual Funding Agreement, and received funding for the construction of sanitation facilities.

The principal role of OEH&E is to raise the health status of our tribal members to the highest possible level. Our office receives funding for projects that provides construction of water wells, community water supply, sewage disposal facilities and sewer service lines. If you are having issues with you water or sewer services please contact our office.

OEH&E provides assistance to Absentee Shawnee Tribal members who reside within one of the following six counties: Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Oklahoma, Payne, Lincoln, or Logan. We assist enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal members who have an existing home, are building a new home, or moving a mobile home to their land.

To qualify for a water well and/or septic system, the applicant must be an enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal member and reside within one of the six counties listed above and provide home and land ownership by verification such as a Warranty Deed or Notarized Lease Agreement through the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Reality Department. Proof of income is not required.

The services we provide are: new water wells, renovation of a water wells, new city or rural water connections, replacement of city or rural water service lines, new wastewater septic systems, renovation of septic systems, new city sewer lines/ renovation of city sewer lines and water treatment systems as needed. *The program is not funded to provide annual pumping of septic tanks or general repairs.* That service is considered part of home maintenance.

If your home is under the management of any housing authority and has not been paid off, you do not qualify for assistance. Applications for this program are available online at www.astribe.com and at the OEH&E Office in building #13.

The Office of Environmental Health & Engineering is responsible for maintaining the Tribes public water systems and wastewater utilities for the Thunderbird Casino, AST Health Clinic and the Tribal Youth Camp. Our office performs monthly, quarterly and annual water sampling for analyses that are submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) to assure water quality compliance. The Tribal Utility Operator is responsible for the day-to-day operations and to ensure all required water system sampling analyses have been complete and submitted to the required agencies on time each month. Our office is currently working with the Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) on getting other Tribal water systems on line. OEH&E secured IHS project funding in the amount of \$486,050.00 for the construction of a new public water system that will provide service to the Ka’Kile housing addition being constructed on Hwy 9. Construction of water and sewer facilities for those housing units was completed in May 2022.

AST ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEH&E) administers four (4) intergovernmental cooperative grant agreements with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP), the Clean Water Act Section 106-Water Pollution Control Program, the Brownfield State and Tribal Response Grant and the EPA 319 Non-Point Source Grant.

The EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) provides financial assistance to maintain an environmental presence for federally recognized tribes for the protection of human health and the environment. OEH&E uses GAP program funding to plan, develop and expand capacity for the tribe’s environmental program by acquiring new grant awards and resources. The Environmental Office has completed our Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan that was awarded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Water Management, Planning and Pre-Development Grant. The Comprehensive Water Plan is a living, technical resource document that gives a complete an inventory of water resources and identifies existing and future water needs of the Tribe for sustainable commerce, residential development, recreation and natural resources.

OEH and the Environmentla Programs have been improving our Geographic Information System (GIS) Data and Mapping to assist in not only the environmental programs but also assisting many of the tribal departments. GIS is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps. By utilizing GIS our office was able to create several maps of Tribal Properties, proximity maps for economic growth potential, and housing. OEH is also working toward developing an online interactive map for the AST Health System for IHS Contract Health Boundaries to help Tribal members and other Tribes in the area to have a better understanding of Health Service Areas throughout the state.

The AST Environmental Program has implemented a Recycling Program with the assistance of the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) back in 2012. The program has been growing as we continue to obtain equipment, recycling containers and gain community support. To date we have setup four cardboard recycling containers located on the tribal complex and six recycling trailers located on the north side of the Little Axe Tribal Health Clinic, one behind the L.A. Thunderbird Casino with the others on the complex. We encourage individuals to participate by bringing your recyclables to one of the drop off locations or Recycling Facility located on the south side of the Tribal Campus adjacent to the OEH&E building #13. If you have old tax or other personal documents you would like shredded please bring them by our recycling center and

we will assist you with your paper shredding needs. As the program expands we will be placing more recycling containers, throughout the community. At this time we are only collecting shredded office paper, corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans. As the program expands we will collect other types of materials in the near future. To date we have collected over 500 tons of recycled cardboard and shredded paper. With the recycled material being taken out of the solid waste stream reduces the tribes overall solid waste cost. Our recycling efforts include educating the public on the benefits of collecting recyclable materials and the effects and benefits of reducing the solid waste stream.

The Water Pollution Prevention Program the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Water Pollution Control Program was created to protect and preserve the water resources of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The program was started in 2004 with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized the tribe with "Treatment as a State" for administering our water program. This status was awarded in 2004. The funding allows capacity building, monitoring, and testing of the water resources of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The Water Pollution Program has implemented a surface water monitoring program to help identify potential water quality trends in the local watershed. The program is currently sampling at site locations at Lake Thunderbird and the Little River the water pollution program also provides community outreach activities to the youth programs, sets up informational booths at community events along with providing environmental education presentations to the summer youth camps. If you have a community event that you would like our office to participate in please let us know.

The Brownfield State and Tribal Response Grant. The Brownfield Tribal Response Program addresses the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of Brownfield properties with actual or perceived contamination in the community. The Brownfield's Program supports Tribal efforts to restore contaminated tribal lands and to protect the community's health and the environment. The Brownfield Tribal Response Grant serves as the foundation of establishing or enhancing a tribal response program in Indian country. Program funding is used to support property site

Roadside Motel Asbestos Wet Demo Cleanup

 activities on contaminated properties. This grant funding has provided us the opportunity to complete three environmental Phase I site assessments on tribal properties that may be renovated and restored for reuse or to be torn down for future redevelopment. We have completed three brownfield project sites for future redevelopment; Lillard Pipe and Supply Property, the Roadside Motel and the Tecumseh Square Walls Building. The AST Brownfields Program oversaw the asbestos cleanup activities at both brownfield cleanup sites. Cleanup of the Tecumseh Square/Walls Building has been completed with the removal of asbestos and the Roadside Motel has been completed with the removal of asbestos and demolition of the building. The AST Brownfield Program is currently working on other AST Properties for cleanup and reuse. If you know of any possible Brownfield sites to include oil field sites, abandoned home sites, and dumpsites, please call our office and we will do a site assessment for possible cleanup activities.

Our office has developed a Facebook page that will allow you to follow and comment on our Brownfield Tribal Response Program activities. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Absentee-Shawnee-Tribe-Brownfield-Response-Program/1439930279621958> . We also have a link on the Tribes website that lists the properties we currently have on our Brownfield property inventory.

If you have land that may have had or currently is used for petroleum production that you have concerns about please call our office.

The 319 Non-Point Source Grant. A wide range of activities are eligible for funding under CWA section 319, including but not limited to: NPS training for tribal staff, developing watershed-based plans, riparian planting, livestock exclusion fencing, lake protection and restoration activities, NPS ordinance development, outreach, education, and many more. Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. This new program is still in the development stage and researching sites that are having the largest issues with runoff that are affecting our waters, whether it is our surface waters and/or our groundwater's.

HUD ICDBG Grants Beginning in 2015, OEH was awarded the HUD ICDBG Grant for Phase I construction of infrastructure and the dining hall at the Youth Camp. In 2017 OEH was awarded the grant for Phase II in for construction of 6 cabins, a bathhouse, dining hall parking lot, and further infrastructure for the Youth Camp. Phase I and II have been completed. In 2018 OEH was awarded the grant for construction of the AST Police Safety Center located on the Tribal Complex. The Police Safety Center has been completed and is currently in operation by the AST Police Department and Emergency Management.



AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT



The AG Department has 4 employees and currently has 147 head of cattle. 19 Calves have been born on the farm in 2025, and 37 head were sold at OKC stockyard in January. We are scheduled to process a steer May 7th at one-sixty processing to continue providing meat to several departments.

2025 events:

Potato & Onion Distribution: March 6th & 7th

We provided seeds to approximately 160 people.

We purchased 550lbs of potatoes which will end up being approximately 4,400 plants and 288lbs of onions equaling approximately 14,000 bulbs/ plants.

Upcoming Event:

Plant Distribution: May 15th & 16th

Gardens and Raised Beds:

The Department was able to till gardens for 20 tribal members, and refill a raised bed we built in 2023 with soil.





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



94th Semi-Annual General Council Secretary's Report

Ha ti to (hello) Tribal Members,

I hope everyone and their family has been staying healthy and safe with the recent fires and now that we are in tornado season. This report is a little different since the last general council I haven't been traveling much. I have been handling the tribe's day to day operations along with attending all the monthly and weekly meetings that pertain to the tribe. I report what meetings I attend in the newsletter every month. November 2024 I attended the elder's thanksgiving dinner. It is always a great time visiting with our elders who attend. December 2024 I attended the Veterans and ICW's Christmas dinner. In January some of you may not know I lost my best friend, my kokoge (grandma) it has been rough since she left. February my family welcomed our baby girl Mazikeen Augustine Margie Bristow to the world. I have been on somewhat of maternity leave for 6 weeks during this time I still managed the day to day operations and attended meetings on call at times. March 17 was my first day back full time in office on campus. The Executive Committee Members and I met with Senator Lisa Standridge March 28th. I feel it was a productive meeting it was expressed to her the tribes feeling on the turnpike and addressing the article she did with the Norman transcript. At the end of the meeting I feel it went very well and we are looking to partner and work together moving forward and having another voice at the capital. Coming back has been very busy with recent Events my office is in charge of organizing. My staff and volunteers have been doing a great job assisting our tribal members and community during tax season. I am happy to back in full swing of things with my first conference I will be attending is in June the Sovereignty Symposium. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact my office.

Secretary Misty McGirt
(405) 275-4030 EX. 3505
MMcGirt@astribe.com

Ex. Assistant Tina Ontiveros
(405) 273-4030 EX. 3506
Ontiveros@astribe.com

Ne yi wa!



ENROLLMENT



Tribal Enrollment Report

Enrollment Director: Amanda Webb
Enrollment Specialist II: Lesley Kennedy
Enrollment Specialist: Donna Woodfork

The Tribal Enrollment Office is under the direct supervision of the Tribal Secretary. It is the mission of this department to carry out the duties as deemed necessary by the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. To follow policy while safeguarding membership files and other records pertinent to the department, and to assist current and future membership with integrity, accuracy, and the utmost confidentiality.

Enrollment Office Duties:

- Processing new enrollment applications.
- Presenting resolutions to the Executive Committee to approve or reject applicants, correct member's blood quantum, and certify the Tribal Roll biannually.
- Annotating the roll to reflect new members, relinquishments, deceased members, custody changes, official name changes, as well as address and phone number changes.
- Verifying eligibility or dual enrollment for other Tribes as well as various other entities.
- Updating expired CDIB cards.

Announcements:

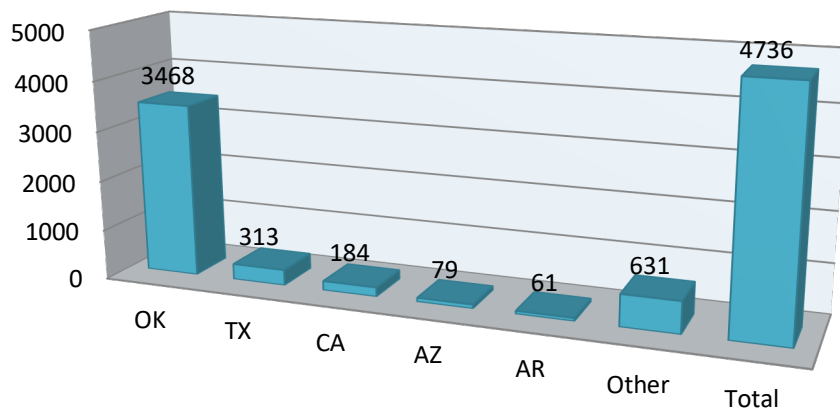
- Tribal Names being added to CDIB cards- MIS has created an online form for members to submit. You can choose to have your name on your card, or just to have us store it.
- Address Update form online-MIS created an online form just for members to update their address with Enrollment, Tax, and Media. This short simple form helps keep your information up to date.
- Please keep the Enrollment Department up to date with any "life changes". It is important to update us with any changes to marital status, custody, and addresses.
- Amendments to the Membership Ordinance will be voted on in 2026. If you have suggestions for updates please email the Enrollment Director, Amanda Webb, at awebb@astribe.com. Be on the lookout for meetings and surveys in the coming months.

Enrollment Statistics October 2024-Present

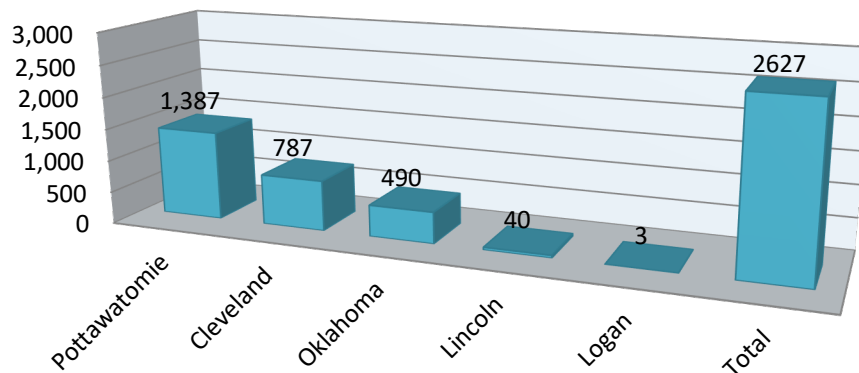
Resolutions:

- Certification of Membership Roll: 1
- Membership: 6
 - Total New Members: 41
- Conditional Relinquishment: 3
- Rejection: 6

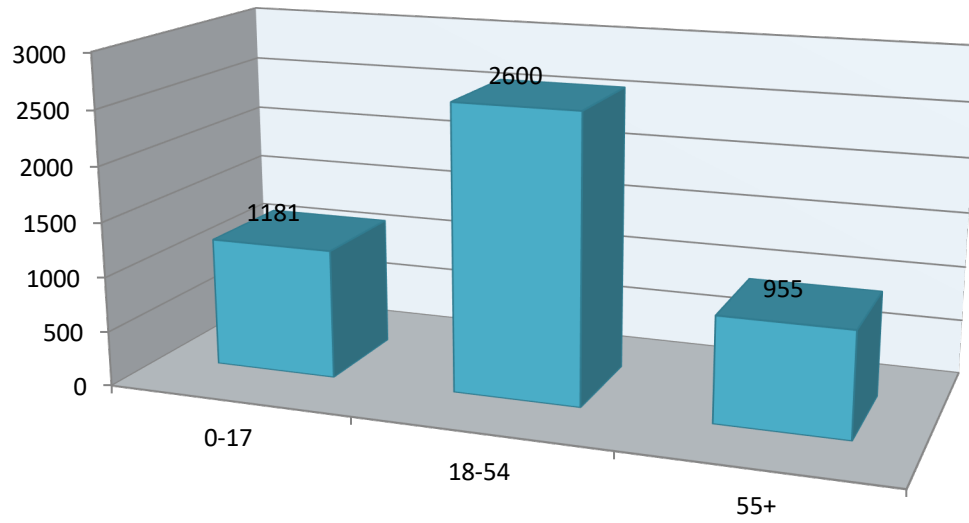
Highest AST Population by State



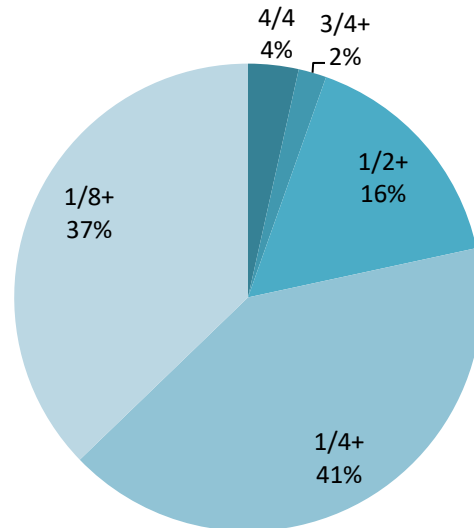
Service Area-Oklahoma Counties



Member Age Data



Blood Quantum Summary





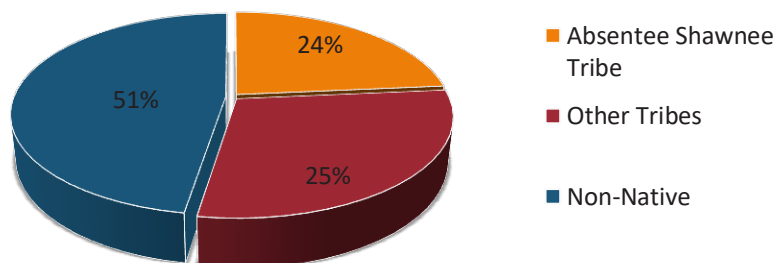
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resource Department assists all Tribal departments in achieving their mission while ensuring employees are engaged and motivated to succeed. As the Absentee Shawnee Tribe continues to grow, the goal of the Human Resources Department is to continue to foster a positive and engaging work environment to help the Tribe achieve its strategic mission. We will continue to build and shape our workforce around the needs of the Tribal Departments; with a diverse team of professionals that are dedicated to serving our mission and investing in our employees, community and Tribal Members.

In fall of 2024, Health and Tribal HR hosted a variety of trainings for supervisors that focused on Management & Leadership skills. Our hopes are that these efforts will enhance knowledge, performance, and skills within the tribe to foster a positive impact on the tribe's growth, community and culture.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma currently has 627 employees; out of 627 employees, 49% of our employees are Native American.

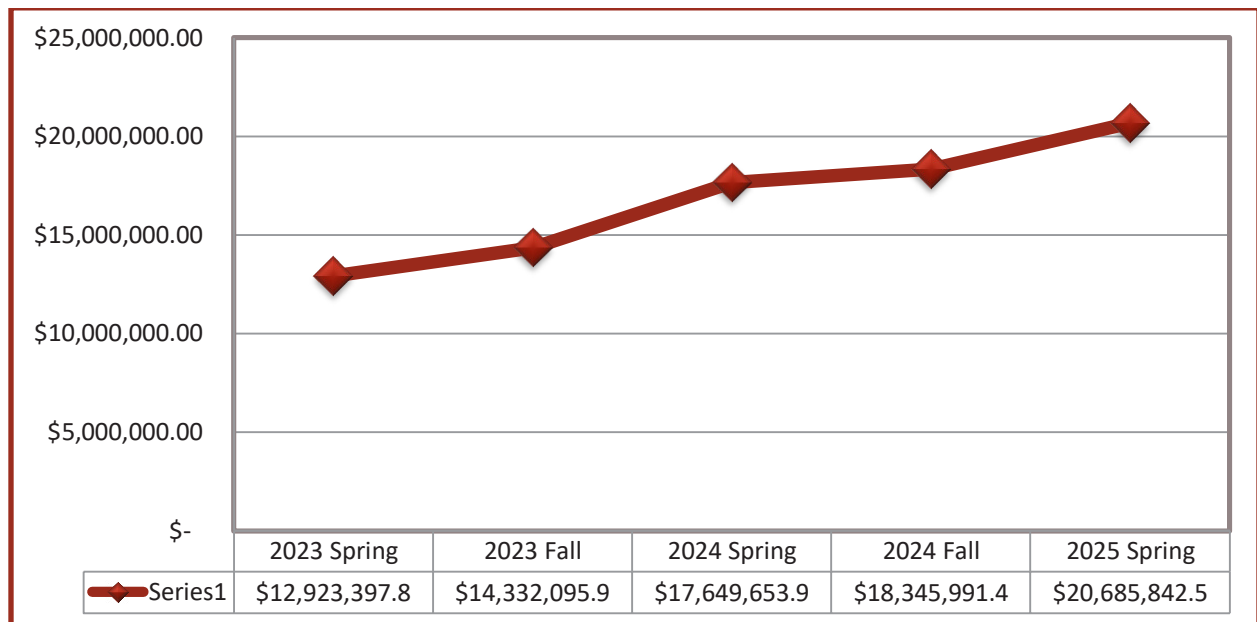
Tribal Representation



“Our mission is to provide quality human resource services to attract, develop, motivate, and retain a diverse workforce within a supportive tribal environment.”

BENEFITS

In November 2024, the Human Resources Department hosted our annual open enrollment. These meetings included informational benefit meetings, and in person assisted enrollment. These meetings have proved to be very beneficial as they allow employees to meet one on one with our insurance representatives. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe provides a healthy benefit package to its employees. The employee benefit package includes leave options, health and wellness offerings, and educational opportunities. The Human Resources department always works diligently alongside our health insurance representatives and department leaders to keep the organizations benefit package cost effective while maintaining optimal coverage for our employees.



Another part of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's benefit package is 401(k). Employees are eligible to contribute to their retirement plan each pay period and receive up to a 5% employer match. As of March 10, 2025, the plan balance was approximately \$20,685,842.55. The Human Resource Department has plans to host retirement meetings this summer with our financial advisors to inform and encourage employees to invest in their future.

TRAINING

HR has continued training on various topics to ensure we are a strong employer. It is critical for HR to stay current and up to date on all aspects of employment law. Our department is focused on recruitment and retention, employee relations, training, and managing our benefit programs.

HR hosted a variety of trainings last year including procedural training for day-to-day functions for directors and managers; HR also included Management & Leadership Skills training with SkillPath. HR has plans within the year to continue trainings to develop our skills while targeting employee retention and recruitment. Tribal HR has a training scheduled in April that will highlight Leading without Authority. This course will help supervisors gain the leadership skills to establish credibility, engage and influence others to help build a culture of communication and collaboration for organizational effectiveness. HR has scheduled a review of the Administrative Manual where any necessary updates will be made. HR is also intending to make updates to our FMLA code.

Early this year staff member Lauren Gladden achieved her THRP I Certification and Rebecca Hyde completed the FMLA Master Class. Dayna Dick earned her Tribal Adjudication Certification. Our staff takes great pride in remaining well educated on the ever changing dynamics of Human Resources.

HR has welcomed two new staff members! Anna James joined the team last fall as the Human Resource Assistant. Anna is the friendly face that will greet you when you come to tribal HR; she has several years of customer service experience and has been a wonderful asset to our team.

Makayla Kasitz joined the team in March, and has five years of HR Management experience. She will be helping Health HR tackle some projects, and we are excited for the valuable contributions she will make to our team.

The Human Resources department values the feedback of employees and Tribal Members. Feedback helps us identify services and programs that are valued or highlight areas where improvement is needed. We encourage any Tribal Member or employee with feedback to email HR@astribe.com with any comments or concerns.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES:

Casey Adams-Beesley, HR Director

Lauren Gladden, HR Generalist II

Rebecca Hyde, HR Benefit Specialist II

Anna James, HR Assistant

Michele Nowell, Health HR Officer

Dayna Dick, Health HR Manager

Makayla Kasitz, Health HR Generalist II

Brenda Tiger, Health HR Specialist

Autumn Felton, Health HR Assistant

Human Resources Department – Shawnee (405) 275-1468

Human Resources Department – Health Clinic (405) 701-7638

HR@ASTRIBE.COM

In support of the Tribe's principles, values, vision, and mission, it is the goal of Human Resources to support the total operation of the Tribe by utilizing its most valuable resource – PEOPLE. The Human Resources team is committed to evaluating and meeting the needs of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal workforce. We are dedicated to providing high quality service to all prospective, current, and past employees, along with Tribal members.



INDIAN CHILD WELFARE



INDIAN CHILD WELFARE GENERAL COUNCIL SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hey there! Our Tribal Child Welfare team has been on quite a journey these past six months. We've got some exciting wins to celebrate – our family reunification rates are up by 16%! Our dedicated team is making real differences in the lives of tribal families every day, and we're proud of what we've accomplished together.

That said, we're facing some growing pains. Our caseload has jumped up by 38%, which shows both the trust our community places in us and the increasing need for our services. Currently, we're stretching our resources pretty thin with just three amazing staff members handling nationwide ICWA compliance. While our team continues to show incredible resilience and creativity, some additional support would go a long way in helping us build on our successes and continue serving our tribal children and families with the quality care they deserve.

1. CASE STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Active Cases

- Total Active Cases: 121
- Tribal and State Cases: 22
- Guardianships: 49
- Support Services: 50
- Cases by type:
 - Neglect: 53
 - Physical abuse: 15
 - Sexual abuse: 11
 - Substance abuse related: 42

Placement Services

- Tribal
 - Kinship care: 2
 - Tribal foster homes: 2
 - Non-Native foster homes: 2
 - New foster homes certified: 0
 - Closed foster homes: 2
- State
 - Non-tribal foster homes: 27
 - Kinship care: 2
 - Other Tribal foster homes: 8
- Group homes: 5
- Residential treatment: 4

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

GENERAL COUNCIL

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: APRIL 2025

Child Demographics

- Total children served: 192
- Age distribution:
 - 0-5 years: 61
 - 6-12 years: 74
 - 13-17 years: 57
- Gender distribution:
 - Male: 101
 - Female: 91

Case Movement

- New referrals: 97
- Cases closed: 24
- Reason for closure:
 - Reunification: 18
 - Adoption: 2
 - Aging out: 4

2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted 47 home visits to at-risk families within the state
- Attended 4 cultural workshops for Native children in out-of-home placements
- Provided emergency assistance to 23 families facing immediate needs
- Established partnership with nearby local services for additional resource sharing
- Collaborating with IT department to implement new case management software to improve documentation and tracking
- Conducted monthly training sessions for staff on trauma-informed care practice

3. CHALLENGES

- 3 staff members managing ICWA compliance nationwide
- Operating with 2 vacancies in key positions, increasing caseloads for remaining staff
- Average Caseload Per Worker: 40 (recommended maximum: 15)
- Increased psychological evaluations requiring specialized intervention services
- Difficulty coordinating with multiple jurisdictions for cases crossing tribal/state boundaries
- Only 4 approved tribal foster homes currently available, creating placement challenges
- Recently experienced budget reduction affecting prevention programs and emergency assistance capability

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

GENERAL COUNCIL

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: APRIL 2025

4. GOALS FOR NEXT REPRTING PERIOD

- Recruit 5 additional tribal foster homes
- Launch the “*Shawnee Way*” parenting program
- Secure additional funding for prevention services
- Conduct community education workshops
- Create cultural connection activities for children in non-tribal placement
- Complete the new case management software
- Launch Grandparents as Parents support program

5. TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Occurring on AST trustland

- ICW office: 405-395-4490
- ICW fax: 405-395-4495
- ICW email: ICW@astribe.com

Occurring off of AST trustland

- OKDHS hotline: 1-800-522-3511

BEYOND STATISTICS

Let's be real—numbers only tell part of our story. The magic happens in those everyday moments when our team connects with families. Take this heartwarming example: our rockstar case manager, Paige LittleCharley, was working with a family recently when something pretty special happened. After their forensic interview (which can be super stressful), the grandmother pulled us aside to share how her grandkids felt during the process.

"They felt seen. They felt heard. They felt empowered," she told us, getting a bit emotional about the kindness Ms. LittleCharley showed them throughout their journey with us.

Man, if that doesn't remind us why we do this work, nothing will! This is the real deal—tribal kids who deserve nothing less than our absolute best, even when resources are tight. These genuine moments of connection are what fuel our passion and keep us going when budgets shrink and caseloads grow. At the end of the day, it's about the healing that happens when families know someone truly has their back.

CONCLUSION

Looking back at these past six months, we've definitely had our share of hurdles to jump! Our caseloads are way up and our resources aren't exactly keeping pace. But you know what? Our amazing team keeps knocking it out of the park anyway - just look at that 16% boost in family

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

GENERAL COUNCIL

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: APRIL 2025

reunifications! That kind of improvement doesn't happen by accident - it's all thanks to our dedicated folks who put their hearts into this work every single day.

We're excited about where we can go from here. With a little more support and some additional resources, there's no limit to what we can accomplish together. We're committed to keeping up this positive momentum and continuing to strengthen tribal families across our communities. The challenges are real, but so is our determination to overcome them!

Report Prepared By:

Shawnee Martinez

Director, Indian Child Welfare

(405) 395-4490 | shawneem@astribe.com

**To learn how you
can help –**

SCAN ME!





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Rising Warrior Department

The Rising Warrior (DV) Departments' mission is to eliminate violence in Native country and to strengthen Native families to end the cycle of violence. It is the job of the Domestic Violence Program to help victims/survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Sex Trafficking, Stalking, Elder Abuse, Adults Victims of Child Sexual Abuse, and Survivors of Homicide Victims to overcome their trauma and live abuse-free lives. The Rising Warrior Department operates through 2 OVW (Office on Violence Against Women) 1 FVPSA (Family Violence and Prevention Act) and 4 OVC (Office for Victims of Crime) grants. Each of these grants allow for us to provide services to all individuals within Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, Cleveland and Lincoln counties who have recently experienced an incident of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, sex trafficking, stalking, elder abuse, adults victims of child sexual abuse, and survivors of homicide victims.

The services offered by the Rising Warrior Department include emergency assistance to victims, through safety planning, shelter placement into one of the local domestic violence shelters, emergency based transportation, emergency food, emergency clothing and other basic needs as they relate to the victimizations that we serve. Also, we work with other departments within the Tribe as well as other local Tribal and State Domestic Violence agencies in every effort to help support victims/survivors needs, to reduce domestic violence related incidents and to help victims overcome abusive situations. Our primary goal is to provide services to eliminate domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, sex trafficking, stalking and elder abuse within Indian Country. The staff of the Rising Warrior is listed below with a brief description of the work they do.

Lacey Carey is the DV Director. She oversees and coordinates day to day operations of the department. She is responsible for completing reports, budgeting, attends/coordinates necessary meetings with partnering agencies and departments, ensuring goals and objectives of the grants are met, ensures grant compliance, assists with developing outreach/awareness activities and assists when needed on providing direct services to victims.

Kaitlyn Patterson is our Victim Advocate through OVW. She provides advocacy to victims/survivors by offering support which focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. She helps victims with emergency assistance, transportation, counseling referrals, emergency shelter, and other basic necessities. She also helps to identify safe shelter options for those fleeing violent instances and provides referrals for assistance not offered by the program when needed. Kaitlyn is also the Self-Sufficiency Coordinator through OVC. The Self-Sufficiency Program will assist survivors of intimate partner violence to establish their autonomy. This program empowers individuals with the necessary resources and skills to live in independence. This program will assist survivors in personal development like: furthering education, career and financial advocacy.

Kristy Kisor is our Outreach Coordinator through OVW. She works to identify future partners or community entities willing to assist with needs of victims/survivors. Kristy assists in crisis intervention, safety planning, coordination emergency shelter, transports on an emergency basis or if scheduled, offers referrals, provides case management and assists with coordination payments for housing and emergency necessities. In addition, she will also provide and participate in community education/awareness activities/events. She is also a Self-Sufficiency victim advocate with OVC. She completes intakes with the clients to assess their personal, educational and occupational needs. Kristy will assist clients in their personal development by setting meetings to discuss financial literacy, goal setting, resume building, and case management. She will advocate for them by speaking with the school to process a scholarship, get textbooks, school supplies, and a laptop for clients furthering their career and education.

Monique Harris is our Cultural Outreach Coordinator. She provides advocacy and assistance to victims of elder abuse, adult victims of child sexual abuse and survivors of homicide victims. Monique also provides outreach/education and will be coordinating support and cultural groups to those who have experienced the above mentioned victimizations. FVPSA provides services to victims of domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and their dependents. Monique is available to assist victims with the intake process, crisis intervention, safety planning, legal assistance (i.e. protection orders), referrals to tribal and community resources, transportation, and emergency child care costs.

Morgan Stewart is our Sexual Assault Coordinator. She works directly with victims/survivors of sexual violence by providing advocacy, immediate crisis intervention, confidential emotional support, and information. She is on-call and accompanies victims/survivors to sexual assault nurse examinations. She is also the Crime Victim Services Coordinator who provides direct services to domestic violence survivors with assistance for minor home and vehicle repairs related directly from the violence, pet boarding and relocation services while fleeing, and traditional healing and burial support. She collaborates with the Rising Warrior staff to coordinate and manage victims of crime which include domestic and sexual violence.

If you or someone you know is dealing with domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, sex trafficking or stalking, please contact our office for confidential support and assistance. Our intake for services is available to be completed and submitted online for easier access. You can find our intake at <https://www.astribe.com/forms/victim-intake>. If you have any questions regarding a specific incident and want to discuss your options, please call our office. We are temporarily located at 40210 Benson Park Road, Tecumseh, OK (right next to the AST Food Pantry) if you need to make an appointment with an advocate to discuss the case in further detail. If you are not comfortable meeting in our office we can meet you at a public location

For questions or additional information you may contact us at the following numbers:

Main Office: (405) 273-2888

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Lacey Carey, DV Director | (405) 617-6964 |
| • Kaitlyn Patterson, SS Housing Coordinator & VA | (405) 827-1796 |
| • Kristy Kisor, Outreach Coordinator | (405) 827-4213 |
| • Monique Harris, Manager COR Coordinator | (405) 432-9469 |
| • Morgan Stewart, Sexual Assault & C.V.S. Coordinator | (405) 432-9657 |

Also, be sure to check out our webpage located at <https://www.astribe.com/domestic-violence> for additional information including events, forms and other resources. Also, be sure to follow us on Facebook at ASTRisingWarrior.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



OFFICE OF THE TREASURER



Hello fellow Tribal Members, Family, and Friends:

Let me start by saying, “Welcome to the 94th Semi-Annual General Council Meeting!”. I’m glad you chose to attend today...to hear the improvements to our system, the reports from various departments and changes being implemented across the Tribe. It is an honor to sit here and visit with you about the progress our Tribe has made in the last year, and it keeps getting better. As you read through the information presented today, at the end of these presentations, I hope you come away with a good feeling about the direction we’re heading.

I won’t take up too much of your time but just want to point out a few things the departments under my oversight have accomplished since we last met. Since I no longer have Agriculture as a program, quite a bit of my time has been freed up to do more on the Economic Development side with ASED. There have been meetings amongst the group and several of the Board members attended the Reservation Economic Summit (RES) Conference during March. A Tribal member shared an inquiry expressed through social media. Though I can’t divulge much information at this moment, my office has already been coordinating discussion with potential businesses to create a couple franchises and possibly a hotel within our community. The vision is that these will create new employment opportunities for our members, lunch and dinner options for our community, and new revenue streams for the Tribe.

While we’re on the topic of new, the Tag Office will be presenting a couple of designs to update our car tags and to incorporate more tradition and culture into the appearance. There are a couple of different options but the one I personally like is the one with Tecumseh. Right now, it has been suggested this as the choice for our Veterans. Also, if one notices at the bottom of the plate, it would now include the different clan foot prints. Nothing has been decided yet but the staff wanted to present this for discussion. There is no immediate rush and we value your opinion so please check/circle the one you prefer. Of course, if the majority does not want to alter the look, we don’t have to do anything and can leave it just the way it is.

The few major concerns we’ve had at the Tribe is the Inauguration of President Trump and its impact over the next four years; Governor Stitt; the Oklahoma Legislature and proposed legislation; and the various State departments or programs trying to circumvent existing process. In discussion with the Executive Committee, I discussed how tariffs, the Executive Orders (E.O) and the emboldened actions of the right wing could affect operations. The premise, assuming AST utilizes other sources of funding besides Grants, we can still continue without interruption over the next 2 years until the mid-term elections; and longer if necessary. We have already begun to tighten our belt to enforce no unnecessary expenditures or major purchases.

Like many of you, I was alarmed to read my daily news feed and learn that the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) was planning to expand through our territory. The following days and weeks after, several of the EC reached out to the new Senator from Norman. In addition, I reached out to my contacts at the Department of Transportation and to Joe Echelle, OTA Executive Director. While on a visit to the OK Capitol, I personally went to interact with the other elected officials from our community (Rep. Sterling, Kerbs, and Senator Jett).

The EC recently met with the new Senator from Norman, Lisa Standridge to explain our concerns. After the discussion, there were additional reports of new proposed routes. However, these options are less invasive, do not come directly through our jurisdiction, and will not impact our lands. Though there have been email and conversations, it is my preference these State officials come to our AST Complex to have a one on one dialogue, so there is no confusion about what our Tribe expects and will receive. As new information comes out, I will provide additional updates in the newsletter until the Legislative session is complete.

Finally, I want to shed some light on our Fee to Trust status. As many will recall, we had begun the process to submit applications for several properties within our jurisdiction the Tribe had purchased, most prior to my election and a couple while in office. According to the Department of the Interior, their website and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), we felt confident there were a few options available for the Tribe to argue, especially where Sovereignty is concerned. It has been several months since the last dialogue from the Southern Plains office and the IBIA. We expect notification to come at any point and believe we have a justifiable position that can’t be overlooked. I have asked Governor Johnson to submit a request for a formal meeting with the new Trump Administration, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (ASIA).

As I close this report, just quickly want to express my appreciation to our membership who continues to provide advice, encouragement, and support. We would not be able to do our jobs without your actions or words. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss something more in detail that I didn’t mention, do not hesitate to contact my office to talk, schedule a visit, or send me an email. May the Creator bless you and your loved ones. Neyiwa!

Respectfully,

Joseph H. Blanchard, Tribal Treasurer



Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Finance Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the Finance Department is to provide timely, relevant, and accurate financial information to the Executive Committee, departments, and any third parties to support management decision-making, and to demonstrate fiscal responsibility, accountability, and regulatory compliance in accordance with Federal, State, and Tribal laws and regulations.

Vision

To provide the best possible customer service to the Executive Committee, Tribal Members and Tribal Programs/Departments with the usage of the latest technology and resources available.

Finance Department - Positions

- Controller (1)
- Assistant Controller (1)
- Senior Accountant (1)
- Budget Officer (1)
- AP/Payroll Supervisor (1)
- Grants Accountant (2)
- Budget Analyst (1)
- Accounts Payable (2)
- Finance Admin. Assistant (1)

Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Finance Department – Current Finance Staff (10) (1) vacant

Native

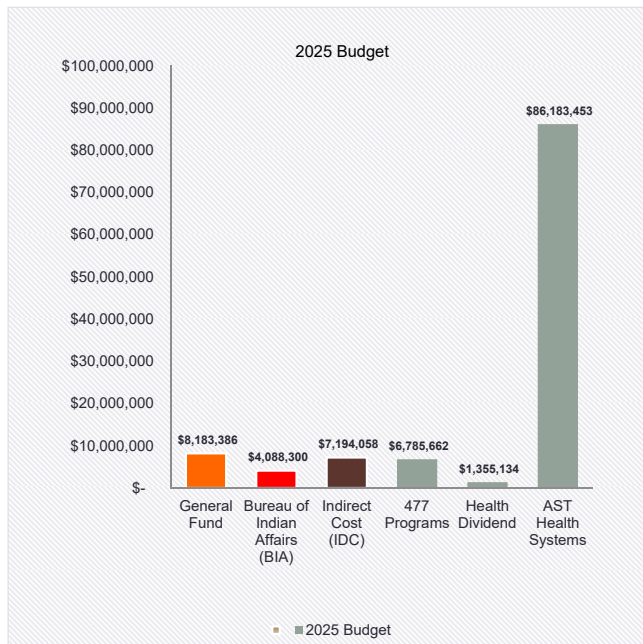
- 6
- 60%

Non-Native

- 4
- 40%

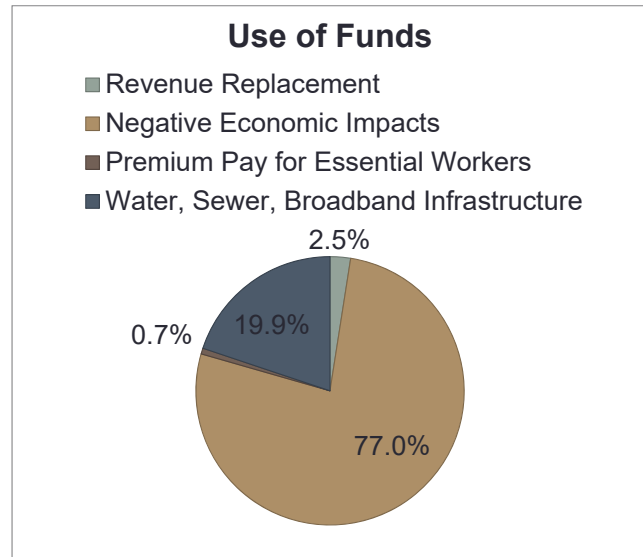
2025 Budgets

- **The General Fund Departments and Programs**
Agriculture, Cultural Preservation, Education, Elders Council, Election Commission, Emergency Management, Gaming Commission, Governor, Indian Child Welfare, Lt. Governor, Media, OEH, Police, Realty, Representative, Secretary, Social Services, Sponsored Programs, Tax Commission, Treasurer, Veteran and Grants match fund consists of PPG, Title IV B Part 1, Title IV B Part 2.
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs(BIA) Departments and Programs**
BIA Transportation, BIA Operations, BIA Transportation Planning, Courts, Education, Enrollment, ICW, Police, Realty and Social Services
- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Departments and Programs**
Finance, Operations, Grants, Governor, Human Resources, Legal, Lt. Governor, Maintenance, Media, MIS(IT), Procurement, Representative, Secretary and Treasurer.
- **P.L. 102-477 Program**
DOI/BIE-JOM, DOI/BIA-Job Placement and Training, DHHS-Child Care Development Funds (CCDF), and DOL-Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- **Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System Departments and Programs**
Shawnee Clinic, Little Axe Clinic, Plus Care Clinic, Radiology, Health Information Management, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Registration, Administration Behavioral Health, Business Finance, Contract Health, CME, Physical Therapy, Marketing, Title VI, Optometry, Dental, Electronic Health Record, Community Health, Specialty, Transportation and Affordable Care Act Sponsorships.
- **Health Dividend**
Dividend follows purposes outlined in the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, 25 USC Sec. 1601 et. al. This helps to ensure the highest possible health status for AST Tribal members and provide resources necessary. Current programs utilizing Health Dividend include; Food Bank, Clothing and Education.



American Rescue Plan Act – Use of Funds

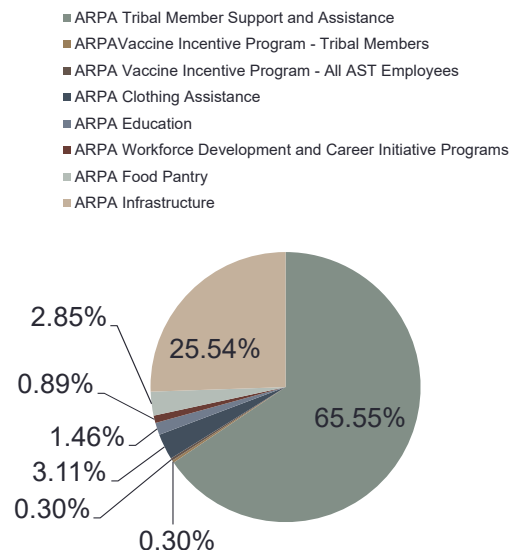
- Replace lost sector revenue: Using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure



ARPA Funding Allocation by Resolution

- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma received COVID 19 funding from the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$22,464,864.99 and \$9,583,112.79 from the United States Treasury.
- The pie graph represents the funding allocation based on resolution passed by the Executive Committee from July 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2024. To Date, 74% has been allocated to Tribal Membership for Support and Assistance and 26% has been allocated for Tribal Infrastructure.

ARPA ALLOCATIONS



ARPA Tribal Resolutions

Tribal Employment (Infrastructure) Allocation:

- 16 Resolutions Passed
- Total \$7,258,792

| Infrastructure Allocation | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---|
| Resolution | Amount Obligated | Type of Payment |
| E-AS-2021-85 | \$ 100,000.00 | Employee Vaccination Incentive Program |
| E-AS-2021-95 | \$ 240,000.00 | Dobson Internet |
| E-AS-2021-116 | \$ 216,825.00 | Emergency Management Budget |
| E-AS-2021-129 | \$ 120,000.00 | Cultural Preservation/Economic Recovery |
| E-AS-2021-30 | \$ 166,961.00 | Move Generators to ARPA from CARES |
| L-AS-2021-32 | \$ 74,000.00 | Employee Retention Incentive |
| 2021 | | 5 |
| E-AS-2022-29 | \$ 7,077.14 | ISG Court Surveillance |
| E-AS-2022-30 | \$ 29,888.86 | Veterans Surveillance |
| E-AS-2022-32 | \$ 26,719.87 | Tax Commission Surveillance |
| E-AS-2022-33 | \$ 1,450,000.00 | Maxwell Property |
| E-AS-2022-34 | \$ 676,000.00 | Salt Creek Ranch |
| E-AS-2022-39 | \$ 110,911.75 | Lillard Property Surveillance |
| E-AS-2022-65 | \$ 49,800.00 | ATT Phone Services |
| E-AS-2022-76 | \$ 1,500,000.00 | Copper Bear Consulting |
| L-AS-2022-05 | \$ 31,822.53 | Resource Center Fencing |
| L-AS-2022-07 | \$ 17,795.00 | Lillard Property Driveway |
| L-AS-2022-16 | \$ 76,500.00 | Employee Retention Incentive |
| E-AS-2022-85 | \$ 995,452.00 | AST Police Safety Center |
| 2022 | | 12 |
| L-AS-2023-34 | \$ 74,039.00 | 2024 Emergency Management Budget |
| L-AS-2023-27 | \$ 295,000.00 | ICW Property |
| 2023 | | 2 |
| L-AS-2024-02 | \$ 1,000,000.00 | Tecumseh Square Remodel |
| 2024 | | 1 |

ARPA Tribal Resolutions

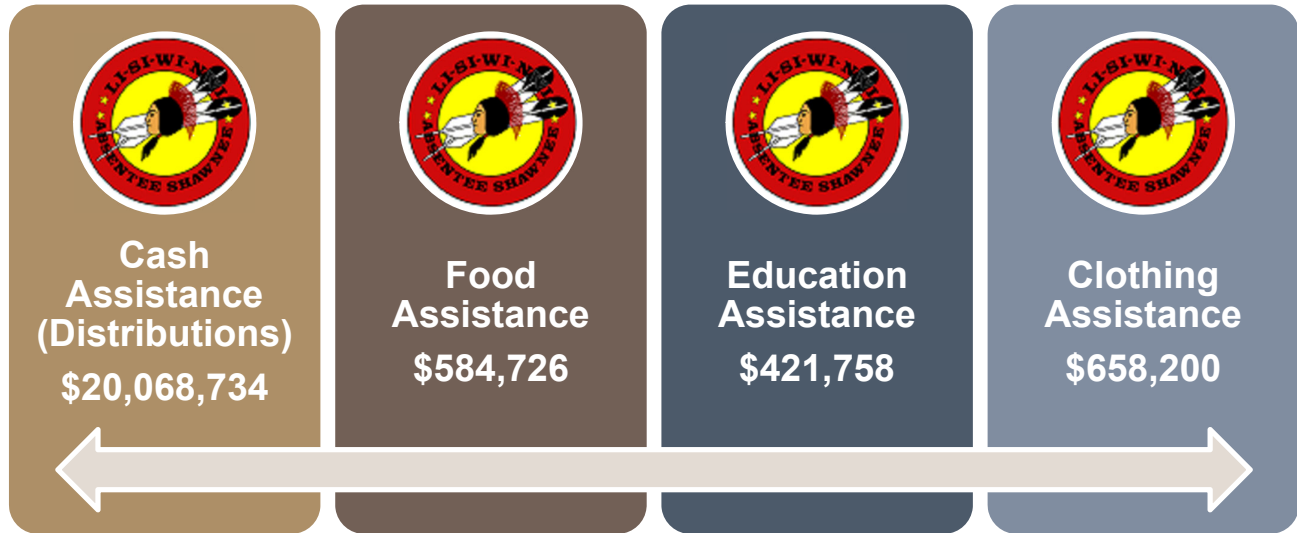
Tribal Enrollment (membership) Allocations:

- 12 Resolutions Passed
- Total: \$25,624,467

| Tribal Membership Allocation | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Resolution: | Amount Obligated | Type of Assistance |
| L-AS-2021-17 | \$ 13,500,000.00 | Direct Payment Assistance (Emergency Financial Relief) |
| L-AS-2021-31 | \$ 2,200,000.00 | Direct Payment Assistance (Winter) |
| L-AS-2022-06 | \$ 4,920,000.00 | Direct Payment Assistance (Summer) |
| L-AS-2022-22 | \$ 1,500,000.00 | Direct Payment Assistance (Winter) |
| L-AS-2023-27 | \$ 600,000.00 | Direct Payment Assistance (Minors-Education Relief) |
| L-AS-2021-26 | \$ 350,000.00 | Clothing Assistance |
| L-AS-2022-08 | \$ 700,000.00 | Clothing Assistance |
| E-AS-2021-84 | \$ 100,000.00 | Tribal Member Vaccination Incentive Program |
| L-AS-2021-36 | \$ 539,801.00 | 2022/2023 Food Pantry |
| L-AS-2023-28 | \$ 421,942.00 | 2024 Food Pantry |
| L-AS-2021-50 | \$ 300,000.00 | Workforce Development |
| E-AS-2021-128 | \$ 492,724.00 | Education Incentive and Support Program |

ARPA – TRIBAL Member Assistance (12/31/2024)

Total Assistance Provided: \$21,733,418



AST Tribal Grants: Year-End 2024 Total Expenditures (unaudited)

| Funding Agency | Total Expenditures |
|---|--------------------|
| Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) | \$8,926,156 |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) | \$4,330,615 |
| P.L. 102-477 | \$4,439,331 |
| Department of Interior (DOI) | \$72,323 |
| Indian Health Services (IHS) | \$29,702,739 |
| Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | \$258,415 |
| Department of Justice (DOJ) | \$1,388,805 |
| Department of Transportation (DOT) | \$2,514 |
| Department of Treasury – ARPA and HAF Funds | \$3,453,203 |
| Grand Total: | \$52,574,101 |

AST Governmental Services: Year-End 2024 Total Expenditures (unaudited)

| Program | |
|------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$7,456,332 |
| Indirect Cost | \$5,129,091 |
| TCNS Section 106 | \$207,613 |
| Grand Total: | \$12,793,036 |



PROCUREMENT



Mission Statement

The mission of the Procurement Department is to serve the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and its subsidiaries by facilitating a procurement process that is precise, efficient, and compliant with Federal Regulations and Tribal policies. In alignment with our mission, we support the objectives of each grant and department by guiding acquisition activities and procuring essential resources, ensuring that every program can successfully fulfill its own mission and effectively serve Tribal members. As a department, we are committed to upholding the Tribe's values in all procurement activities while building strong vendor relationships, ensuring responsible utilization of Tribal resources, and promoting fair and transparent competition.

Functions

The Procurement Department manages purchasing activities for the Tribe and its subsidiaries to ensure compliance with applicable policies and regulations. Purchases are categorized as either informal procurement, which includes micro-purchases and simplified acquisitions, or formal procurement, which consists of sealed bids and proposals. We collaborate with each program to understand their needs and select the appropriate procurement method to fulfill each request effectively. Our approach to purchasing involves innovative planning, thorough research, historical data analysis, and strategic sourcing practices to deliver quality goods and resources at competitive prices.

Our team focuses on procuring quality items and negotiating favorable terms to maximize savings and protect the Tribe's purchasing power. Whether sourcing office supplies, IT hardware, vehicles, equipment, construction contracts, or travel accommodations, we work diligently to meet the Tribe's needs with efficiency and reliability. We maintain a diverse vendor database of trusted businesses while continually seeking new supplier opportunities.

In addition to purchasing, our department enhances operational efficiency by administering the electronic purchasing system for the Tribe and the Health System, hosting bi-annual training sessions for employees, managing AST credit card accounts and service contracts for network devices and printers, and identifying new technologies to improve current processes. We also safeguard the Tribe's interests by tracking and conducting inventory to ensure responsible stewardship of Tribal Assets. Additionally, the Procurement Department serves as the liaison for the Tribe's insurance policies and files automobile, property, and general liability claims.

The central focus of the Procurement Department is to streamline the acquisition process, enabling the programs we support to concentrate on what truly matters: providing valuable service to Tribal Members and supporting the Tribe's mission.

Announcements

- We are excited to share that Caileah Blanchard joined the Procurement Department in February as the new Procurement Clerk! Caileah brings a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to the department, and we are thrilled to have her on the team!
- Procurement is hosting two Microix User Training sessions at the Multi-Purpose Building on April 16th, 2025.
- A new vendor application will soon be accessible for interested businesses! The application will be available on the Procurement Department's page on the AST website.

2024 Review

2024 was a busy year for the Procurement Department! We processed 1,999 purchase orders, received 60,749 items, completed 390 travel requisitions, and added four new assets to the Tribe's fleet. Our team assisted programs in conducting transparent and fair bidding processes. Additionally, we identified savings opportunities during the annual cellular device audit and printer service contract negotiations, and we recovered funds through the recycling of scrap metal and assets.

A highlight of last year was assisting with travel arrangements for members of the Absentee Shawnee Elders Council and Absentee Shawnee Veterans Association to attend the grand opening of Great Council State Park in Ohio.

2025 Update

The year is off to a great start, with several process improvements underway. Our department, in collaboration with the new ECM Department, is working towards updating current forms and designing new forms to streamline current processes. Microix has received a software upgrade, resolving previous issues and introducing new processing features.

Our department is aware of the potential impacts from tariffs and inflation; we are committed to navigating those challenges proactively. We plan to attend local vendor events to identify new suppliers, assess market trends closely, and explore alternative products without compromising quality. As always, we aim to deliver value and minimize costs in all purchasing activities for the programs we support.

Purchasing

The Procurement Department manages purchases for all federal awarded grants and all Tribal Departments. With summer approaching, the purchasing team is preparing to support summer programs and their scheduled activities. We encourage departments to schedule in-person payments with Procurement to ensure timely processing.

Inventory

The Inventory Control Specialist is currently conducting the annual inventory for all departments and grant programs, with 10 departments completed to date. The Inventory Transfer Form, introduced last year, has significantly enhanced the inventory tracking process. Additionally, a new form has been created to improve tracking and record-keeping for the Tribe's livestock.

Travel

The travel team is encouraging programs to consider online training opportunities and virtual conference attendance. These options enable employees to meet their training requirements while also reducing expenses.

- Reminder: The REAL ID enforcement deadline is May 7th, 2025 and travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights within the United States.
- Notice: The IRS and GSA have increased the privately owned vehicle (POV) mileage reimbursement rate for 2025. The new rate is \$0.70 per mile.

Department Representation

The Procurement Department consists of seven staff members, including four Native American employees –three of whom are Tribal Members – and three non-native employees.



REALTY



The Realty Department consists of a Realty Director, Probate Specialist, Realty Assistant, Realty Clerk, and a Housing Management Coordinator at the Citizen Village Tiny Homes. The types of land transactions our office oversee include: Farming and Grazing leases, Oil and Gas leases, Right-of-Ways, Residential leases, Citizen Village Tiny Homes, and Conveyances of trust property. The Realty Department also provides Probate services for Absentee Shawnee tribal members.

ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL: Other land transactions in addition to leases and rentals include: gift deeds, land purchases, land sales, and negotiated land sales. The Realty office continues to work on all requests regarding landowner's undivided interest.

For landowners who made a Gift Deed or Negotiated Sale request, our office is currently waiting on approval of those requests by the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southern Plains Regional Office. For some of the Negotiated Sale requests, we are waiting for the mineral appraisals from the AVSO office to be completed. **Please be aware, Mineral Appraisal(s) may take up anywhere from 2 months to 6 months for AVSO to complete the report.**

For the Gift Deed cases submitted to the BIA, those requests are awaiting final approval and or waiting for final signatures from the grantors. Our office has been in contact with those landowners with their requests. After each Conveyance has been approved, our office will contact those landowners to notify them of the completed request.

PROBATE: The Realty Department is responsible for research and preparation of the information and documentation necessary to submit the case file, while keeping in compliance with AIPRA, the Federal Probate Code and maintaining confidentiality. The Realty Department communicates with BIA, OHA (Office of Hearings and Appeals), TBCC, and other tribes and agencies.

Cara Hamilton, our Probate Specialist, will send out notifications to the families of loved ones about 1 to 2 months after the reported tribal landowner's passing. If your loved one has undivided interest in their name, a Probate needs to be performed and completed by the Office and Hearing Appeals. Please be sure to keep your addresses updated with enrollment as that will be our only way of contact with you to get the process started.

The family's cooperation is crucial to the submittal process. A family data form is required to be filled out by the family and must be returned in order to complete the probate. There will be instructions sent with the form of any other additional documents the BIA may require. If the decedent executed a Last Will and Testament, the original must be submitted with the requested documents.

Families of Loved ones, if you have received a notification letter requesting an update for information from Cara in Probate, please mail in the required information or come by our office so we can add it to the Case File. It is important that a Probate be completed for all loved ones that have passed with land in their name.

****Our office is actively scheduling another Wills Clinic with OILS for the tribe. We are looking to schedule that event for the month of June 2025. We will plan for the event to take place at the Multi-Purpose Building on the AST Complex. Our office will place that event notification in the Newsletter and AST Website. ****

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) continues to assist the Absentee Shawnee Indian landowners by providing services to help prepare wills to ensure their estates are properly distributed. Please contact Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) at **(405) 943-6457** to schedule an appointment.

AGRICULTURE: The Realty Department is responsible for inspecting, monitoring, and recording the use of all trust property under the jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Farming and grazing leases provide the most activity on Indian lands. Proper planning is required and close work with the lessees is important in creating a sound improvement plan for the development of the property throughout the lease period.

Our office will be having our annual Farming & Grazing Bid Lease Sale on **August 1, 2025**. There are three (3) leases expiring this year and information bid packets will be going out in April. Bid packets will be sent out to all on our mailing list for the next bid sale. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list, please give our office a call and we can add you to the list.

Our office will continue to monitor daily functions, farm plans, and payments for each Agriculture lease. Should you have any questions regarding payment on your tract of land, please feel free to contact our office and we can provide you that information. Payments are due at the 1st of each year by the lessee. If not paid, our office will assess a 10% late payment fee each month if no payment is submitted to the lockbox.

OIL AND GAS: Our office is working with the BIA – Southern Plains Regional Office to plan a O&G Bid Sale later this year. The information will be posted in the AST Newsletter and AST website. Should you wish to check up on any current approved leases, please contact the Realty Department.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: The Atoka Water Pipeline Settlement has been finalized and payments were mailed out to landowners through the **Trust Beneficiary Call Center in June 2021**. If you have not received any payment, please call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center to update your current address. The number for The Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) is listed below in the last section of this report.

Our office is currently working on **7 ROW renewals** and **4 new ROW proposals**. 1 of 4 new ROW proposals was approved by the BIA over this past winter season. Landowners, please be on the lookout for mail as you may receive notification letters and consent forms from our office or the contacting company. Once a proposal packet is completed, the proposal(s) will be sent to BIA Southern Plains Regional Office for review and approval.

If you have received any documents through the mail and do not understand the document, please give us a call or visit our office.

Rental Home Properties: Our office now manages all the rental properties that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe owns in Fee Public Status. Notifications will be placed in the tribal newsletter and AST website for available rental properties. For more information, please contact our office.

Citizen Village Tiny Homes: The Realty Department has oversight of the Citizen Village Tiny Homes program. The Tiny Home program consists of two (2) separate programs. One program will be for the Tribal Elders open rental. The other program will be Emergency Housing to help tribal members that are facing homelessness until they are able find a more permanent housing solution. Both programs have qualifications that each applicant and emergency housing request must meet before approval of a Tiny Home unit.

The Policy and Procedures was approved in September 2023 by the Executive Committee to open up The Citizen Village to the tribe. Our plan for the Citizen Village Tiny Homes is to create a safe environment and structured program for all tribal members that qualify.

Advertisement for the Tiny Homes Rental Program will be placed in the AST Newsletter and website if vacancy is available.

Our new Realty Department Employee is JD Marshall; he is our Housing Management Coordinator for the Citizen Village Tiny Homes. Mr. Marshall will be the main contact for all inquiries for the Citizen Village.

****Important Information****

Please be sure your information is up to date in the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC). If you have changed addresses or changed locations on where you receive your mail, please contact TBCC. If you do not contact TBCC for an address update, the mail you receive at your old address location will be returned back to TBCC and you will be listed as **whereabouts unknown** in the system. All-important information will be held and the checks you receive through the mail will be sent to your Individuals Indian Money (IIM) account until updated. If you wish to check if everything is up to date, please give our office a call and we can look that up for you.

The number for The Trust Beneficiary Call Center is listed below:

The Trust Beneficiary Call Center
1-888-678-6836

All land transactions such as acquisition and disposal, and leasing have to be approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Plains Regional Director. The Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) is an asset management system that includes several modules such as TAAMS Title, TAAMS Leasing and just recently added Acquisition and Disposal which has changed the way gift deeds and land sales are processed. TAAMS is used by this department and the BIA to manage these transactions. The Realty Office will continue working to get all leases and conveyances approved.

FUTURE GOALS:

1. Gift Deeds and other conveyances approved by the BIA
2. Plan a Wills Clinic with OILS for June 2025
3. Complete ROW Renewals and New ROW Proposals
4. F&G Bid Lease Sale on August 1, 2025
5. Payments and Late Payments paid and up to date

We look forward to continue serving the Absentee Shawnee Tribal members and the other landowners. Should you have any questions, please give our office a call @ 405-275-4030 or come by our office.

Realty Staff:

Taylor Carter, Realty Director, ext. 3593

Email: **TaylorC@astribe.com**

Cara Hamilton, Probate Specialist, ext. 3594

Email: **CHamilton@astribe.com**

Yecica Gutierrez, Realty Assistant, ext. 3595

Kimberlee Billie, Realty Clerk, ext. 3596

JD Marshall, Housing Management Coordinator, ext. 3593



SOCIAL SERVICES



Over Sight Elected Official: Tribal Treasurer, Joseph Blanchard

Staff: Social Service Director - Annette Wilson

Social Service Clerk - Vacant

MISSION STATEMENT:

Strong families are the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's foundation and our future. Keeping families strong and together are goals the Social Services Department strives to achieve. By reaching out, working together and by providing affective and efficient administration of programs that will strengthen family life and foster self-sufficiency we can improve the well-being of all Absentee Shawnee families.

ELIGIBILITY:

Services are offered with the goal of self-sufficiency. All programs administered thru the Social Services target the economically disadvantaged, unemployed, or underemployed Native American Indian. An application process is required. Receipt of any assistance is dependent on an un-met need basis, meeting specific program requirements, and availability of funding. Not all services are of a financial nature.

SERVICE AREA:

The Social Services, service area extends to include Lincoln, Payne, Cleveland and Pottawatomie counties. Most of the programs are limited to the former reservation boundaries plus near reservation designation of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe or in Census Bureau terms "Oklahoma Tribal Service Area" (OTSA). This area is bound on the South of the North Canadian River, on the North of the South Canadian River, on the West of the Seminole County line and on the East of the Indian Meridian line. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe former reservation service area covers portions of the Pottawatomie, Cleveland and Oklahoma counties.

PROCESS:

An application for services is not considered complete until all required documents are received and an assessment has been administered. Based on the information contained in the application, a Case Worker will be assigned to provide individual assistance. Depending on the needs identified in the assessment, each participant's file will be reviewed by the Social Services Director for further approval. Depending on services requested or needed the Case Worker may request additional documentation or a referral will be completed. In the event the applicant is related or closely associated with the Case Worker or Director an alternate Social Services staff will be assigned. Incomplete or pending applications are held for a minimum of 30 days. After 90 days of inactivity, files will be considered closed.

WITHIN THE SOCIAL SERVICES:

General Assistance, BIA Indigent Burial Assistance, Disaster Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Tribal Energy Assistance and School Clothing Assistance. In this component, the eligibility for the service varies depending on residence. Program funding provided may range from home energy assistance to crisis assistance to assist Indian people who have obtained a new permanent full-time job but still need help with initial expenses, as well as other miscellaneous assistance.

(Here are the following programs currently under the Social Service Department)

Tribal Programs (TEA/School Clothing/Tribal Burial.)

TEA - (Tribal Energy Assistance) – Funding agency AST Tribe

This program is intended to assist with payments on utility bills and based Total Residence income must not exceed over the adjusted Gross of \$1,861.00 – single person or \$3,821.00 family of 4 per month, and need to be enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribe. A household may receive up to \$150.00 for heating (November – March) and \$150.00 for cooling (May – September) per fiscal year for energy needs regardless of the number of enrolled tribal members residing in the household. Total Energy assistance will not exceed \$300.00 per household per year, and is a "**use it or lose it basis**".

Total Tribal Families served January – April 2025 = 110

Tribal School Clothing Program – Funding agency AST Tribe

This clothing allowance program is designed to provide clothing assistance to eligible tribal members in the following amounts: \$500.00 for Kindergarten through 12th grade. The program runs on calendar year January 1st thru December 31st.

Total AST Tribal children served January – April 2025

AST Tribal Children: 85

New Clothing Cards sent: 2

Pending on New CDIB cards: 0

Tribal Burial Assistance Program – Funding Agency AST Tribe

The Tribal Burial Assistance Program is designed to provide burial assistance to eligible tribal members in the amount of \$6,000.00, which will be paid to the funeral home on his or her behalf, from the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Burial Assistance Program, financial assistance for the costs incurred in connection with the funeral and/or burial services of the named deceased. **Adoption and other singular traditional ceremonies from other tribes will not be recognized for payment.**

Financial assistance to the child of an enrolled member for funeral and/or burial if that child would have been eligible and was not enrolled in another Tribe. The age limit is from conception to three (3) months of age and availability of financial assistance is restricted to this time frame.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe gives their condolences to the families of the following tribal members.

Total Deceased AST Tribal Members

January – April 2025 = 5

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Margie Kinsey | DOD: 01/09/2025 | DOB: 04/26/1938 | CDIB: 1140 |
| Lewis George Snake | DOD: 01/10/2025 | DOB: 02/10/1943 | CDIB: 1441 |
| Shirley Florence Simpson | DOD: 01/11/2025 | DOB: 07/20/1940 | CDIB: 1363 |
| Reign Phil Howe | DOD: 02/20/2025 | DOB: 07/17/1968 | CDIB: 0648 |
| Thurman Ray Simpson | DOD: 02/28/2025 | DOB: 12/05/1968 | CDIB: 1364 |

October – December 2024 = 6

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Bernice Gibson | DOD: 10/14/2024 | DOB: 10/07/1936 | CDIB: 0530 |
| Randall Blake England | DOD: 10/22/2024 | DOB: 08/14/1986 | CDIB: 3105 |
| Gertrude Bernice Pickering | DOD: 10/27/2024 | DOB: 03/01/1945 | CDIB: 1577 |
| Pauline Virginia Johnson | DOD: 11/14/2024 | DOB: 02/17/1926 | CDIB: 0718 |
| Larry Eldon Spybuck | DOD: 12/05/2024 | DOB: 04/29/1939 | CDIB: 1496 |
| Tiana Mae Gray | DOD: 12/13/2024 | DOB: 12/13/2024 | CDIB: Infant |

BIA Programs: (General Assistance, BIA Indigent Burial Assistance, Disaster Assistance.) **January – April 2025**

General Assistance (GA) – Funding Agency BIA

The General Assistance program is designed to provide temporary financial assistance to needy federally recognized tribal members who reside in the Absentee Shawnee Tribes Service area. Those whom are in between jobs (going from one job to a new job) and are eligible until first full pay check is received. Federally recognized tribal members are eligible for assistance for six months out of the year. Who has applied for SSI assistance due to health related reasons or in pending status with SSI. Financial payment standards to an individual is based on 25 CFR § 20.306, Under Public Law 104-193, the Bureau must use the same TANF payment standard that exists in the state or service area where the applicant or recipient resides.

General Assistance - 2

Denied GA - 0

BurnOut – 0

Disaster – 0

BIA Burial - 0

LIHEAP - (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Heating/Cooling/Family Crisis Assistance.) – Funding Agency Health & Human Service

This program is intended to help with heating and cooling cost for federally recognized tribal members who reside in Potawatomi or Cleveland counties. Funding is limited and is distributed on first-come, first-serve basis. Income eligibility requirements are based on US poverty guideline.

Cooling Assistance runs May thru September = **0**

Heating Assistance runs November thru March – **34**

Family Crisis runs year round (Elder, Handicap, young children) – **0 families served**



Grants Department

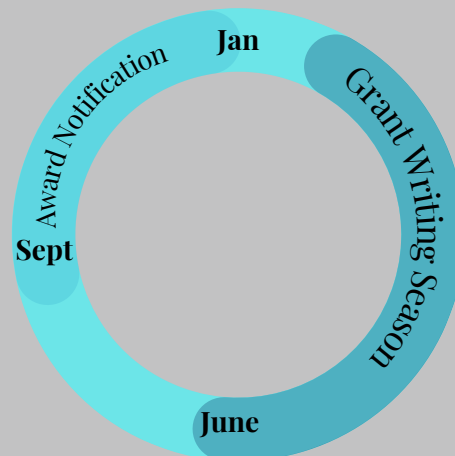
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview:

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe receives grants from the Federal Government, state agencies and private foundations. The Grants Department oversees the grant process from pre-planning, pre-award, post-award and closeout of the grant cycle. It is responsibility of the Grants Department to execute tribal compliance with all Federal, State, and private fund regulations to ensure the continuation of funding for programs to serve the Tribe's members. For the Grants Department, we have begun grant writing season for Fiscal Year 2025 and we anticipate applying for 28 funding opportunities which includes 6 new funding opportunities and 22 continuing applications. We will work collaboratively with all tribal departments, programs and community partners to secure funding for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

Key Highlights:

- The AST Courts anticipate breaking on ground in August 2025 for the new Court Building funded by the DOJ Court Infrastructure Grant.
- Starting in 2025 the Grants Department will be assisting the Finance Department with quarterly and semi-annual budget reviews for all grant programs.



Accomplishments

- After a full year of the Grant Management Software, Amplifund, the Grants Department has been able to enhance grant monitoring activities and improve compliance.

Grants Snapshot

Spring 2025

Applications Submitted for FY25

6

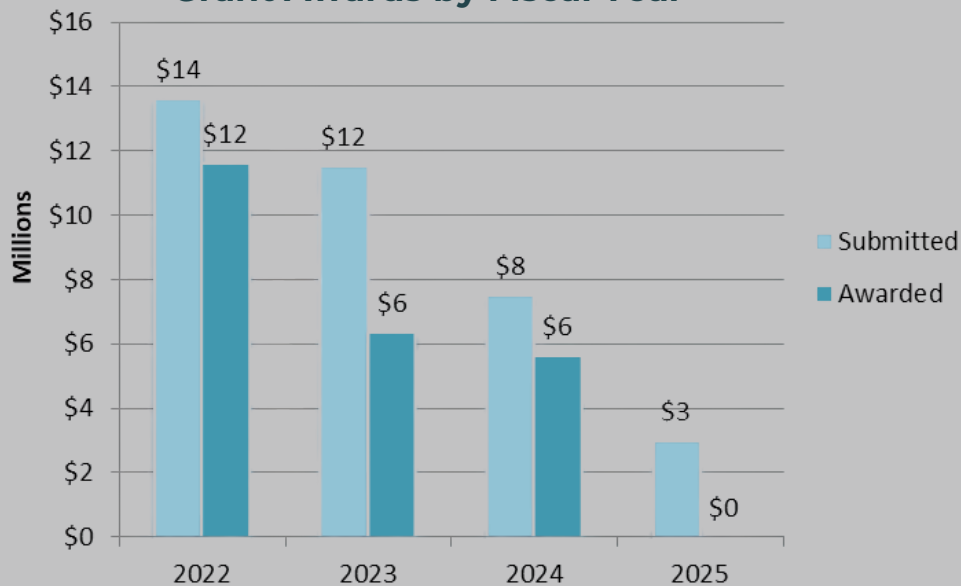
\$2,970,472

Applications In Progress for FY25

3

\$800,000

Grant Awards by Fiscal Year



Current

6

Awarding Agencies

13

Awarding Sub-Agencies

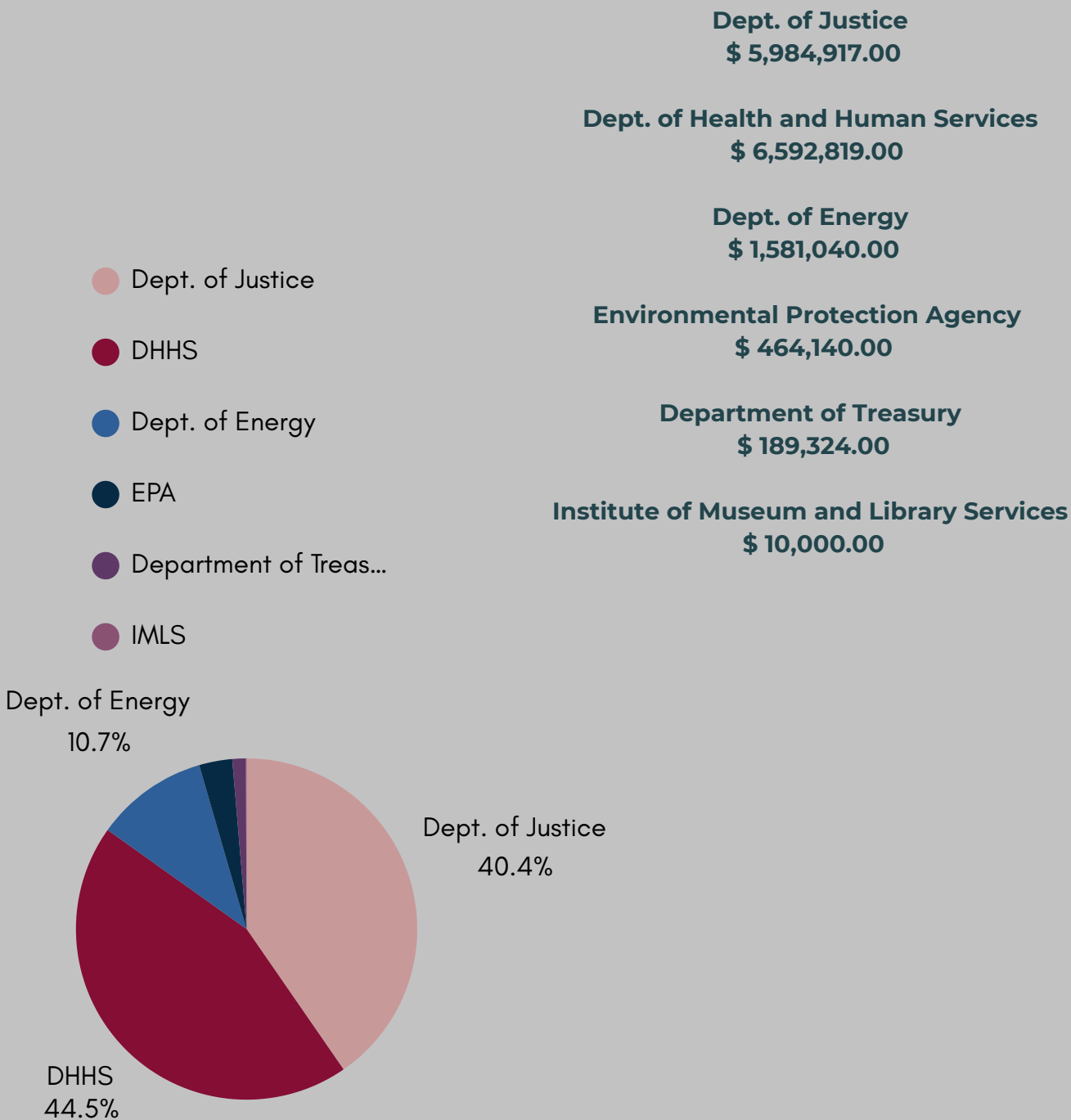
43

Grant Awards

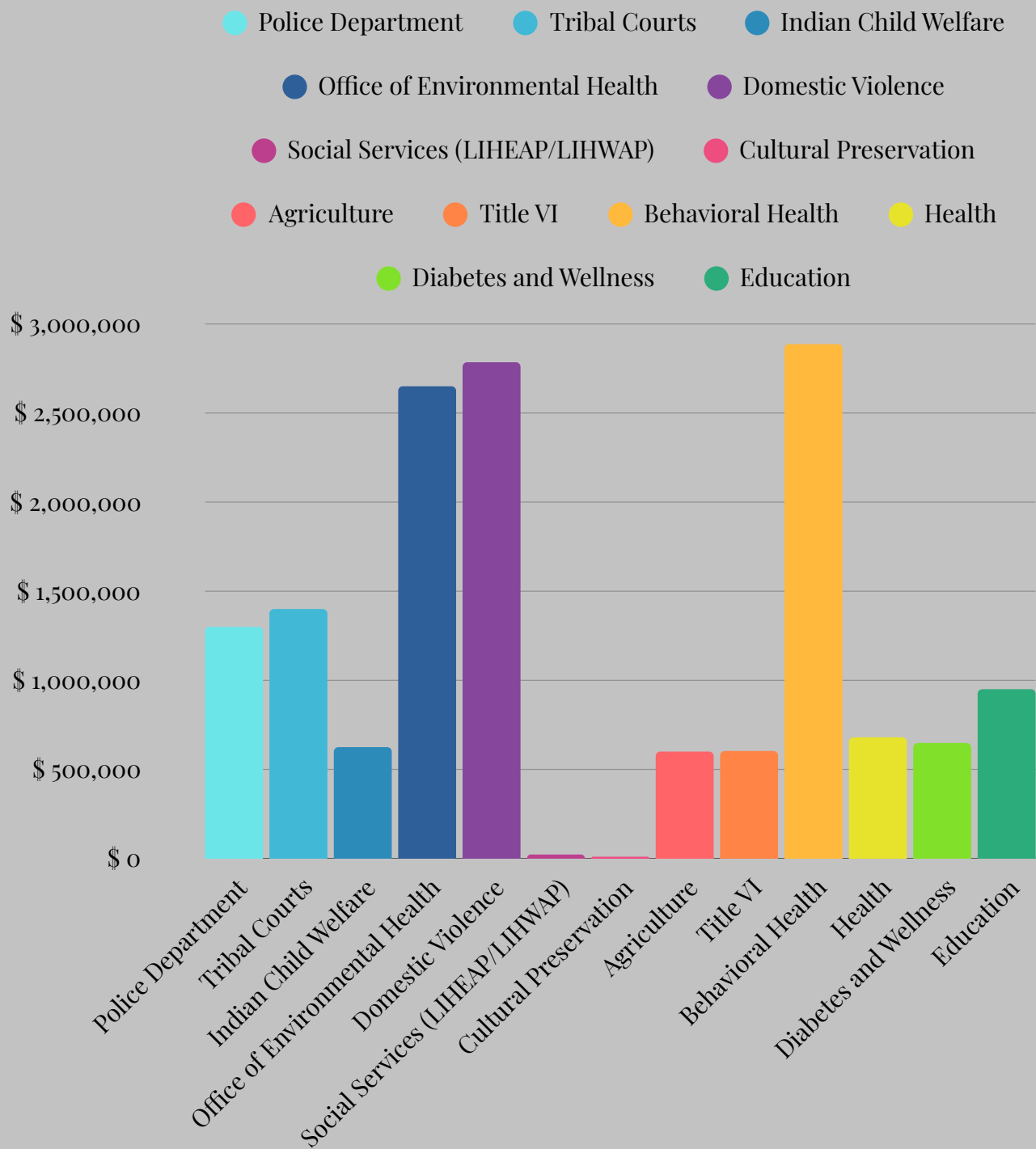
\$14,822,240

Award Amount

GRANTS BY FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY



Funding by Department/Program



Grants Team



JAY FIELDS
GRANTS SPECIALIST

Jay Fields has been serving the Absentee Shawnee Grants Department for two years. He received his Bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University in Criminal Justice. As a practitioner in the field of criminal justice Jay's previous work experience brings valuable insight to the grants department and also demonstrates good work ethic that has resulted in various departmental improvements. Jay is member of the Pawnee Nation.



SHEILA KING
ASSISTANT GRANTS DIRECTOR

Sheila has been with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe since March of 2021, first serving as a Grant Accountant for the Finance Department and then transferring to the Grants Department as the Grant Officer. Since then she has been promoted to Assistant Grants Director. Sheila holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from East Central University. She has experience working with tribes in various management positions including Finance Manager for the Seminole Nation Housing Authority and the Bookstore Manager for the College of the Muscogee Nation. Sheila is a member of the Seminole Tribe.



KRYSTE CARTER
GRANTS DIRECTOR

Kryste Carter has been working for the Absentee Shawnee Grants Department for 6 years. She graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor's in Political Science and Public Administration and received her M.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma. Her previous experience includes working within the education field for Muscogee (Creek) Nation in various positions including Bursar for College of the Muscogee Nation and Education/Learning Specialist. Kryste is of the Muscogee and Choctaw Tribes and originally from Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Grants Department



OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Tribal Members,

Welcome to the 94th Semi-Annual General Council meeting. The current departments my office has oversight of include: Cultural Preservation, Education, Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), and the Camp. In addition to assisting these departments, my office has attended conferences and board meetings to support the growth of our tribal enterprises including the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority, Thunderbird Entertainment and our Tribal Stores. Each of the departments overseen by my office submitted reports on their progress to date, for this General Council report. If you have any questions, comments, or need my assistance, please contact my office by phone:

(405) 531-3512, or by email: adjohnson@astribe.com. Thank you all for being here and I look forward to serving our tribe.

Sincerely,
Anthony "Tadpole" Johnson
Tribal Representative



EDUCATION



General Council Report for April 2025

The following are current programs administered by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department:

- **Academic (K-12) Program**: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses.
- **Big Jim Youth Award Program**: for High School Seniors. Male and Female awards selected for an Athlete of the Year and Academic Achievement. Award winners receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship and a trophy.
- **Zahn Program**: established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates.
- **Job Training Adult Education Program**: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions.
- **Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program**: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associates or bachelors degree, at any accredited college or university.
- **Graduate Scholarship Program**: funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund for one graduate admissions test.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Tribal members served to date: | Spring 2025 | Academic – 21 |
| | | Zahn - 5 |
| | | Job Training – 9 |
| | | Higher Education – 49 |
| | | Graduate - 10 |

Total amount of funding issued to date: \$105, 572.58

These numbers reflect students who have received assistance through at least one of the six Education programs: Academic (K-12) program, Zahn program, Job Training Adult Education program, Higher Education: Education Incentive Award program, Graduate Scholarship Program.

FY23 State Tribal Education Partnership Program Grant: The Education Department is a partner in the Office of Indian Education - State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) grant awarded to the Sac and Fox Nation. We work with Little Axe and Tecumseh Public Schools. Our STEP Coordinator is TEDNA employee, Breleigh Upchurch. The other partner tribe is the Kiowa Tribe. The Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) is also a partner organization. Director of Education, Tresha Spoon, is on the TEDNA Board of Directors, serving as the Secretary. We have scheduled bi-weekly Zoom meetings. We are continuing to work with our partner schools through various administrative activities and events.

Native Connections – Journey to Heal: Positions for this grant are vacant at this time. Director, Tresha Spoon, is maintaining the administrative functions and programming for the time being. There are bi-monthly calls with the Grants Program Officer. The Domestic Violence Department held two

community awareness walks in October 2024, Native Connections set up an informational booth at each walk. Native Connections hosted a Family Gathering Night on December 17, 2024, has run monthly ads in the Shawnee Outlook magazine, and sponsored supplies for the TOR Grant's Ribbon Skirt making classes. We look forward to future grant activities and events.

Oklahoma Council for Economic Education (OCEE): Director of Education, Tresha Spoon, has been a board member of the Oklahoma Council for Economic Education (OCEE) for 18 years. The council is involved with teacher education and various programs involving Economics and Personal Finance Education at the secondary school level. They also provide training for the PASSport to Financial Literacy which is a high school graduation requirement in the state of Oklahoma and activities for students like the Meaningful Economics and Entrepreneurship (MEE) competition. Tresha is also currently serving on the Board's Finance Committee. The Education Department staff participated as team leaders for the OKC MEE competition on November 21, 2024.

FY24 OJJDP Tribal Youth Program grant: In January/February 2024, the Education department staff began work on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) FY2024. We applied for Purpose Area 9: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Tribal Youth Program (TYP). We attended multiple webinars pertaining to how to complete the required parts of the solicitation. We were awarded the grant on September 26, 2024. The grant is for five years and \$500,000. Tresha Spoon and Blake Goodman attended the New Grantee Orientation January 13-17, 2025.

Title VI ESSA Tribal Consultations: Tresha attended the Southwestern Oklahoma Schools consultation on February 21, 2025 the following schools were in attendance: Cache, Carnegie, Cleveland, Cordell, Crescent, Deer Creek, Guthrie, Lawton, Mustang, and Newcastle. The consultation was held at Mustang High School.

Outreach activities:

- The CPN Education Department held a College Fair on September 4, 2024. We set up an informational booth and presented information on our programs and services.
- Tresha has attended two Indian Club meetings, one at Little Axe High School and one at Tecumseh High School.
- The Domestic Violence Department held two community awareness walks in October 2024, the Education Department set up an informational booth at each walk.
- The Sac and Fox Nation held a Tinker AFB Career Fair on October 23, 2024, the TYP staff set up an information booth for the students in attendance.
- The Education Department sponsored an incentive luncheon on November 20, 2024 for students at Little Axe Public Schools who turned in their Impact Aid forms before the deadline.
- Tresha attended the Melokami Youth Spring Break Camp March 17-21, 2025. She joined the youth for their Camp Nikoti Youth Garden activities.
- The Education Department has sponsored various activities/events for local schools: sponsored a team meal for the Little Axe High School football team on September 26, 2024, sponsoring pizza for the Little Axe Indian Club meeting on April 2, 2024 and donuts for the Tecumseh High School Native Club meeting on April 3, 2024.

Conferences/Trainings/Meetings attended:

- National Johnson O'Malley Conference – September 9-12, 2024

- OKMM ‘Make it Count’ Webinar Series: Completing the FAFSA – September 17, 2024
- Cultural Alternatives to Detention for our Young Relatives - Our Hope, Our Blessings – September 23, 2024
- Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) Annual Meeting – October 8-9, 2024
- Intertribal Education Discussion Meeting – hosted by Iowa Nation Education Department – October 21, 2024
- Native Education Roundtable (Zoom) – November 12, 2024, February 25, 2025, March 11, 2025
- OU JRCOE Tribal and Indigenous Education Advisory Board – November 14, 2024
- BJA Performance Reporting in the Justice Grants (JustGrants) System – January 27, 2025
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Technical Assistance meeting – February 4, 2025
- Oklahoma Johnson O’Malley Conference – March 25-27, 2025

 Please contact Tresha Spoon at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department at (405) 275-4030 ext. 3533 or 1-800-256-3341, or email to tresham@astribe.com with any questions or for information on current programs.



CULTURAL PRESERVATION



Sa Ki Me Ki Pa Po Ni Ki

“Preservation of the History of the Culture” – Scott Miller

The Cultural Preservation Department aims to maintain, preserve, and protect the Tribe’s traditions, language, and ancestral homelands through our programs and involvement with our supporters. Our department strives to celebrate, honor, and foster the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s history, heritage, growth, cultural pride, and unity as a people. Currently, the department operates four programs to help accomplish these goals: the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), the Language Program, the Absentee Shawnee Gift Shop, and the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Library.

Spybuck Painting

The Cultural Preservation Department has taken on the task of restoring and preserving the Spybuck painting that was donated to the Tribe. Currently, we are working to identify a proper artwork conservator.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1996, 16 U.S.C. § 470 (2000) requires the review of any proposed project funded, licensed, permitted, or assisted by the federal government for impact on significant historic properties and cultural resources. The agency must allow the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to comment on a proposed project or undertaking that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. During the review process, the agency must determine if historic properties exist within the project area. If so, the agency must determine the effects on those properties and seek ways to avoid or reduce any negative effects. The tribes can officially assume the functions of the SHPO with respect to their tribal lands as a ***Tribal Historic Preservation Office*** (THPO) through cooperative agreements and appropriated funding from the *U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund* (HPF) grant(s.)

Thus, our Absentee Shawnee Tribal Historic Preservation Office is able to identify and protect historic places with the invaluable insight of our own traditional values and known significant histories. Our review authority over these federal undertakings provides our THPO staff with the obligation to correspond, research, and consult with federal agencies—during their preliminary stages of planning—on projects located within our Tribe’s *areas of interest* (ancestral homelands.) Monthly, our THPO staff receives at least thirty (50) letters and two hundred (200) emails concerning projects and case notifications that fall beneath NHPA Section 106, including those with *Tower Construction Notification System* (TCNS)¹ and *Native American Graves and Repatriation Act* (NAGPRA).²

Recently, with much research, our THPO has reevaluated our areas of interest and updated our databases. Our *areas of interest* include historic properties like village sites, mounds, burials or cemeteries, sacred or ceremonial places, and counties of affiliation which span across twenty-three different states. These states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. Our current database projects are: GIS Shawnee Villages Map; GIS Projects and Mitigation Sites; GIS Unmarked Graves Records; Phase I of Allotment Homesteads Collection; Phase I of Tribal Medicinal Plants Collection; and Phase I of Absentee Shawnee in Indian Boarding Schools Data Collection.

Our THPO Staff

The Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Officer is **Mr. Clayton Martinez**. Mr. Martinez became the official THPO for the tribe with the passage of Resolution NO. E-AS-2024-85 on December 18, 2024. In this capacity, his workload focuses on Section 106 projects, programmatic agreement drafts, and government-to-government meetings and consultations with state and federal agencies. Few examples of routine correspondence include U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, Ohio History Connection, Tennessee Valley Authority, and others.

The Tribe’s NAGPRA Coordinator is the Cultural Preservation Director, **Ms. Carol Butler**, is our interim NAGPRA Coordinator. She is advised and aided in the Tribe’s NAGPRA matters by THPO staff. In this capacity, her workload focuses on the ancestors and associated funerary objects that are in such places as museums and collection facilities. It is one of our future goals to have the NAGPRA Coordinator position eventually restored within our Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

The Tribe’s TCNS Coordinator/THPO Specialist is **Ms. Julee Cobell**. In this capacity, her workload focuses on Section 106 consultations/project reviews sent to the Tribe from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) via TCNS (Tower Construction Notification System) such as telecommunication tower constructions.

¹ Allows companies to submit notifications of proposed tower constructions to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), who then provides this information to Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in the context of the NHPA Section 106 review process.

² Establishes rights of the Tribes and their lineal descendants to obtain repatriation (the return) of certain human remains, funerary or sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony from federal agencies or universities and museums which are owned or funded by the federal government. NAGPRA also includes provisions for: unclaimed and culturally-unidentifiable Native American human remains or cultural items; inadvertent discovery or intentional and unauthorized excavation (removal) of Native American human remains or cultural items on federal or tribal land; and, criminal prohibition on trafficking of Native American human remains or cultural items.

THPO numbers for the allotted time-period are reflected in the below table:

| Total Consultation Calls & Project Numbers (Section 106, TCNS, and NAGPRA) | |
|---|---|
| September 2024 through March 2025 | 140 consultation 1,131 projects reviewed |

Table 1. THPO Activity for September 2024 through March 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Tribal Historic Preservation Office host language or cultural classes? In short, no. The primary function of our Tribal Historic Preservation Office is to protect cultural resources and historical sites located on our ancestral homelands and trust lands, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act. However, THPO staff can assist with events hosted by our Cultural Preservation Department.

Will THPO staff help me research my tribal ancestors and genealogy? No; the THPO staff does not have access to family tribal records, but we recommend contacting the Tribe's Enrollment Department.

Are NAGPRA and NHPA responsibilities the same? Both are important to the Tribe, but are two separate laws. As such, there is a difference of legal protocol for each law.

THPO Projects

THPO School



From November 4 – 8, 2024, The Absentee Shawnee Tribe – Cultural Preservation Department partnered with Nighthawk Consulting and The University of Oklahoma – Native American Studies to put on the first ever THPO School. The concept of the THPO School was first talked about by Mrs. Sheila Bird of Nighthawk Consulting. She knew the challenges and the overwhelming responsibilities that come with being a new Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from knowing the laws, to reading reports from federal agencies, to working in the field and monitoring, to consultations. After many talks, Carol Butler, Cultural Preservation Director, jumped at the idea to co-host this school.

The inaugural class was comprised of THPOs and other staff from the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Tule River Indian Tribe of California, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma,



Modoc Nation, and Delaware Tribe of Indians. The class and field portion of the school were taught by some incredible individuals who are experts in their fields. Such areas covered were Section 106 undertakings with the FCC, the Clean Water Act, waters of the US and Section 106 regulations and policy, Endangered Species and the different acts and triggers for Section 106, human remain detection dogs (a noninvasive technique of finding human remains), Phase I surveys, GPR, and Osteology.



Shawnee Sacred Areas/Sites

On March 19, 2025, at the Regular Executive Committee Meeting, we put forth a resolution (Resolution No. E-AS-2025-24) reaffirming Resolution No. AS-92-64, which recognized the South Ceremonial Dance Ground as a traditional Shawnee sacred area and its leaders as traditional Shawnee ceremonial officials, to now also recognize the North Ceremonial Dance Ground along with Absentee Shawnee burial sites as traditional Shawnee sacred areas/sites. This resolution also official recognizes the leaders of the North Dance Ground as traditional Shawnee ceremonial leaders. This official recognition of sacred areas/sites will protect the burials and grounds by the sovereign immunity inherent to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

In the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, we have assumed multiple responsibilities from the State Historic Preservation Office as per our plan accepted by the Department of Interior/National Park Service. Those responsibilities include to advise, assist, and cooperate, as appropriate, with Federal and State agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, organizations, and individuals in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities and to ensure that archaeological and historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development. This resolution gives us the official authority to add these sacred areas/sites to our comprehensive tribal lands and reservation-wide inventory of historic properties which is only available to THPO staff. This will in turn assist and give us the authority to ensure that these historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development for such future projects that could be proposed such as Turnpike expansions, road expansions, and/or new building projects.

Library

Library Staff

The Tribe's Library Technician/Gift Shop Assistant is **Ms. Paula Jackson**. In this capacity, her workload focuses on acquiring, preparing, and organizing materials associated with the library as well as assisting in the gift shop.

Collections

The library currently boasts a collection of over 100 books. To view what books we have in the library currently, please visit <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/ASTribe> for the catalog. We have begun to rebrand the library. We have started to order more books about Native Americans and written by Native Americans.

We are in the fifth year of providing an online library, OverDrive, to our patrons (<https://okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com/>). This system gives our patrons access to a large collection of titles as well as access to exclusive titles unique to the tribe. It allows us to expand our reach and engage more patrons. Also, the Libby App for smart devices was launched at the same time. For more information or to receive a library card, please contact Ms. Jackson.

Gift Shop

Gift Shop Staff

The Tribe's Gift Shop Manager is ***Mrs. Sheila Burnside***. In this capacity, her workload focuses on all the responsibilities that come with managing a gift shop: opening and closing, documentation and responsibility of merchandise and sales transactions, and inventorying merchandise.

Merchandise

We have started the transition of the gift shop. New items we have started to carry are yarn belts, ribbon skirts, shawls, beaded items, hides, and books. We have also ordered Shawnee-style and Intertribal skirts and shirts. In addition to these items, we have also added a supply wall to the gift shop where you can find anything from bells to paint to beads.

Please suggest any ideas to enhance our service by using the suggestion box out front. Reminder AST employees: receive a 15% discount on Beadwork, supplies and AST logo items (excluding clearance) by showing your badge. We also now offer a 10% discount to Veterans, AST Tribal employees, and other Tribes who buy in bulk.

Locations and Business Hours

Our Gift Shop is located at the complex in the Cultural Preservation building (building 6). We are open in Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the holidays, we open the store on Saturdays.



TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM



Overview:

We have been very busy over the past several months running our programs. We have been able to work with Tecumseh, North Rock Creek, Mustang, Norman, and Little Axe Schools. We worked with the schools Indian Clubs providing activities, prevention information, tribal/cultural information and drinks and snacks. Governor Johnson also came out to one of Little Axe High Schools Indian Club meetings and spoke with the youth. We also provided a meal for the Little Axe High School football team for one of their home games. We also provided a meal for the Little Axe Indian Club during a college fair trip and bowling trip. We attended the Seminole State College Fair Bash and gave away handouts, and other items. We attended the Native American Student Day hosted by the OKC Thunder and set up a booth with information and giveaways. We also attended the OJJDP mandatory conference in Seattle for being awarded Purpose Area 9 of our OJJDP Grant application. We have also been attending and advocating for our youth during parent meetings for different schools, and other consultations.

Afterschool Program:

The Afterschool program started this school year on August 8th, 2024. We currently have 18 kids enrolled in the program. 15 of the 18 youth are tribal affiliated students and 14 are enrolled AST students. We average about 13 students per day and we have three people that work with the youth daily. We worked with the Native Connections program that came out and did a couple short activities with our youth. We also took the Afterschool youth to the Native Connections Christmas evening event and provided them McDonalds for dinner. We have been doing lots of activities and playing games. We do daily reading and we also work on homework daily to focus on keeping our students grades up. We did a thanksgiving activity with the kids and made a blessing mix snack. We made Christmas tree ornaments with the youth in December. We also celebrated the end of the first semester of school and Christmas by having a party for the youth and providing them with food, snacks, drinks, and a small gift. We also played Grinch Bingo with the kids and gave out a few gift cards to the winners. We also put together and provided home care bags, and some clothes for each youth to take home. The second semester started back on January 6th and we picked up right where we left off. We worked with Jayden Watson and OKTEP for him to do activities and promote healthy lifestyle and eating with our youth. The youth also made cookies for the Little Axe High school Indian Club Students. We are going to continue working with the youth to help them improve their grades and stay focused the second semester.

Indian Club at Local Schools

We have been working with Little Axe Schools to ensure the Indian club is running and meeting monthly and will continue through the entire school year. We have been to five different meetings with them, presented at one, had Governor Johnson come and speak to the kids, and just supported the kids. We have helped provide food, snacks, and gifts for the youth at different meetings. We have also been working with Tecumseh schools to be a part of their club. They invited us to attend one of their meetings and present on what we do and what our programs look like. We provided them with food, snacks, and drinks. We also supported them a couple times by providing donuts for their meetings. We also provided goody bags to both clubs for Christmas again this year. We attended a meeting with North Rock Creeks Indian Club and did a beaded corn activity. We also went to Mustang High School to do a beaded corn activity with their youth and provided snacks and drinks for them too. We were invited and attended an event at Norman High School to present on prevention. We did a 45 minute presentation addressing drugs, alcohol, fentanyl, MMIW, and vaping.

Camp Melokami Spring Break Camp:

Camp Nikoti's 23rd Summer Camp started on June 10th and ended with the Final Reward Day Trip on July 9th. Camp Nikoti is open to all youth ages 10-14 years old. We had camp for four weeks and four days out of the week. We had 40 youth that signed up for camp this year and 32 that attended and completed camp. Out of the 32 youth that completed camp, 17 were tribal youth. Our youth participated in all kinds of activities such as playing games, team building, arts and crafts, singing, gardening, cooking, prevention activities, cultural activities and more. We did two evening events where the kids got to hangout, watch a movie, and enjoy some down time with each other. During one of the evening events we had a water inflatable out for the kids to play on, and we provided Pizza for dinner. We had several guest speakers come out to contribute, present, and do activities with our kids such as: The AST Police Department, Emergency Management, Native

Connections, TOR, SAMHSA grants, OEH, Domestic Violence, Education, Cedric Sunray and Tdoha Sunray, Jayden Watson with Eagle Adventure, Diabetes and Wellness, Cultural Preservation and the AST Housing Authority. We would like to thank all of them for taking the time to come out and be a part of camp, and for their help and contributions. We also went on several field trips throughout the summer. We went to the University of Oklahoma's College of Education for the day, Lake Wewoka twice, the OKC Zoo, Ron's Hamburger and Chili, and Shawnee Bowl. The end of Camp Reward Day that the youth had to work toward earning, we went to Cracker Barrel in Norman, the Water-Zoo Indoor Water Park in Clinton, Celebration Station in OKC, Toby Keith's Restaurant in Moore, and to watch Despicable Me 4 at the Moore Warren Movie Theater. The kids had a lot of fun and Camp was a great success.

Garden Project:

We started a garden project for our youth at Brendle Corner three years ago. We managed to pick about 110lbs of produce the first year, 450lbs of produce the second year, and just over 300lbs of produce last summer. The Agriculture Department for the tribe came out and tilled a couple of small areas for us and also provided our youth with potatoes and onions to plant. We used our youth during our Spring Break Camp, Camp Melokami, to start our garden. They were able to get all of our potatoes and onions planted. They also planted several pepper plants, tomato plants, squash plants, cucumbers, egg plants, and other things. We are currently working on getting our garden prepared and organized. Our afterschool youth helped us get our seeds started and growing indoors. They are coming along good so far. Our plan is to once again use our produce to cook with our summer camp youth and to feed them. Our hope is to teach them how to take care of a garden and to promote healthy eating and lifestyles. We also have them help cook and prepare different meals that we cook with our produce and we send some home with our youth so they can enjoy with their families.

Soccer League:

We finished our sign ups at the end of March and are getting things organized for this upcoming season. Our soccer program has been going for 11 years. We currently have over 70 youth signed up to play. The soccer program is slowly growing again which is what we have been working toward. We will have 4 different age divisions this year: U4, U6, U8, and 9 & up. Our program will work with Little Axe schools to use their practice football field to host our practices and games. Games will start each Saturday starting on April 5th and run through Early June. Practices started March 24th and are currently going really well. Jayden Watson of OKTEP is currently volunteering to help coach the kids and provide healthy lifestyle tips. We are excited to continue this program and see how the season plays out.

Explorers Program/Youth Public Safety Club:

The explorers program is designed to teach our youth about public safety and help our youth build relationships with our tribal police and emergency management departments. We have redeveloped the program and have been working hard to implement it the way we want. We are currently working hard to recruit youth into the club/ program. The program meets once a month in the evenings at 6:30pm. We have been having these meetings every month since September. Our officers and emergency management team have covered many different topics and we are continuing to grow the curriculum. Our hope is to help youth grow their relationship with these departments and to introduce them to possible future career opportunities. There will be future opportunities for the youth to volunteer to help at different events as part of these groups, as they learn things throughout the program. We also have been offering incentives such as \$50 gift cards and other things to try and get youth to attend. We will be providing a meal and transportation for youth interested in the Shawnee and Tecumseh area. The program will run through May 2025, and then break for the summer.



477 PROGRAM



General Council Report- 102-477 (477) Program

Introduction

The AST 477 Program operates under the guidance of the AST 102-477 Plan that became effective January 1, 2023. We have completed our second year of our three year plan. We have learned a lot from this first plan and we hope that we can expand our services and be more effective as we begin to work on the next plan.

The AST 102-477 Plan is a for three year period, January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025. The approved plan met all the requirements for the Public Law 102-477, Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Demonstration Act of 1992, as amended by the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act Bill of 2006, and the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017. We will start to write our next three year plan within six (6) months.

AST 477 Program

AST 477 Program incorporates four (4) grants into one service delivery mechanism; they are Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), Johnson O'Malley (JOM), Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Job Placement and Training (JPT). With these grants, we oversee approximately 71 Employees in the following programs/departments: 477 Program, Child Care Assistance Program, Building Blocks Child Development Center-Shawnee, Building Blocks CDC- Little Axe, Afterschool Program-Shawnee, Afterschool Program- Horseshoe Bend. The 477 Program has fifteen (15) staff including the 477 Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Operations Specialist, 3 Case Managers, 3 Intake Clerks, 1 Intake Specialist, 2 Case Specialist, 1 Outreach Coordinator, 1 Outreach Specialist, 1 Language Coordinator, and 1 Language Specialist. Eight (8) of my staff are AST and four (5) are other tribes. Our offices are currently located on two lease properties in Shawnee. The main office is at 421 N. Beard and Admin offices are at 214 N. Oklahoma. We had hoped to find one office together to where we could be a true "one stop shop" and but we had to settle for two buildings close to each other.

Program Activities/Services

We have worked to enhance the services and activities offered under the current 102-477 Plan, which supports the three key components of employment and training, education, and supportive services. Through these efforts, the AST 477 Program of the AST Tribe is dedicated to identifying and addressing the barriers participants encounter in their journey toward self-sufficiency. By implementing this plan, the AST Tribe seeks to support individuals in overcoming challenges related to employment, training, and education while also fostering cultural and language development among all AST tribal members. Our goal is to empower individuals and families by providing the necessary resources and support to achieve economic self-sufficiency, aligning with tribally determined objectives and the broader principles of self-determination and self-governance.

We have enhanced our Outreach activities as well to reach out to more external business, tribes and community organizations to grow and develop partnerships to provide more referral services for our participants. We know that we are not able to provide every service that is needed so we want to have those resources available to share with participants to get the help they need. We also have been advertising and trying to get the word out on who we are and what we do. We have tried to set up in all tribal events as well as other community events.

Examples of services available to participants include CDL license training, school supply distribution, assistance with youth athletic participation fees, GED support, higher education assistance, provision of work attire and tools, budgeting classes, small business support, transportation and gas assistance, youth driver's education, and adult supportive services such as childcare, rental, and utility assistance.

Currently, we have 281 Adult Participants, 127 of which are AST and 240 Youth Participants, 154 of which are AST. Our total currently active 477 participants are 521 and 281 of those are AST.

Conclusion

Building on the goals outlined in our previous report, we have been working to integrate similar grants that align with the 102-477 programs' focus on employment, education, training, and supportive services. Our efforts have been directed toward enhancing operational efficiency to ensure that funds are utilized as effectively as possible. We have also continued expanding outreach opportunities to connect participants with job placements and support services that meet their needs.

This includes identifying employers who are open to hiring individuals with felony records or other background challenges, providing them with opportunities for stable employment and career advancement. Additionally, we have been exploring the development of our own job opportunities while strengthening partnerships with workforce and career development programs in the region. Furthermore, we aim to work toward establishing tribal economic development initiatives that align with the needs of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, fostering long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency.

We are still excited about the potential this program has for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and our native population. We hope that you give us a chance to grow and develop this program to the fullest extent possible. We know that there will be growing pains from understanding what we can and can't do but we feel the positives outweigh the negatives in this program. Helping native people to be self-sufficient and economically self-reliant is the key to our continued resilience in the world. We have overcome come so much but we still have so much work to do for our future generations. I hope you will join us in the efforts to make all of our lives better.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have questions.

Ne yi wa! (Thank you)

Briana Ponkilla, MJIL
477 Executive Director



BUILDING BLOCKS



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Building Blocks C.D.C.
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok. 74801
(405) 878-0633 FAX: (405) 878-0156**

Building Blocks II is a 5 Star, OkDHS Licensed Center. Building Blocks currently has 20 Employees. We currently have 53 children enrolled.

We are taking waiting list applications for all of our classrooms. We take 6 week olds through the summer after Pre-K (4 Year Olds). Please call to inquire about our waiting list and spots for enrollment. You may drop by for a waiting list application or we can email one to you.

We are currently taking employment applications. Go to <https://www.astribe.com/employment> for job listings and to fill out employment applications. Look for BBII at AST Building Blocks, Shawnee under the employment tab.

Building Blocks is using Teaching Strategies-Creative Curriculum which includes Child Assessments-Gold. This teaching curriculum is aligned with our 5 Star requirements. We hold Parent-Teacher Conferences twice a year. The first Conference will be March 17th-April 17th and then the other in the fall.

This year has been busy and passing by quickly! We invited AST Community and Parents to read to the children during Read Across America Week in March. Thanks to everyone who came and read to our children for Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

Our Easter Egg Hunts and Parties for the classrooms will be April 17th @ 3:00p.m. We will celebrate Mother's Day on Friday, May 9th @ 3:00p.m. with 'Muffins for Moms'. Also, we will celebrate Father's Day on Friday, June 13th @ 3:00p.m. with 'Donuts with Dads'.

We are always looking for trainings for our staff to participate in for Professional Development. In February and March, 8 of our staff renewed their First Aid & CPR. Also, on April 11th we will be participating in Child Abuse Awareness Training. Have a Spectacular Spring!

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Building Blocks C.D.C.
16051 Little Axe Dr.
Norman, OK 73026
(405) 360-2710 FAX: (405) 360-2726**

Building Blocks III (Little Axe)

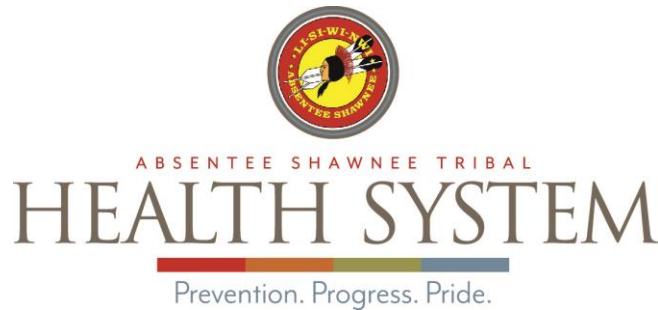
- Building Blocks is currently has 64 children enrolled:
 - 20 are Absentee Shawnee members
 - 29 are enrolled with another Tribe
 - 29 the children of employee's within the Tribe
- There are currently 23 children on the waiting list.
- Currently are fully staffed with 25 employees, 6 are tribal affiliated.
- We are maintaining our 5 STAR status, and have applied for our National Accreditation. We currently have 8 Lead Teachers, with 8 Assistant Teachers furthering their education in college. All staff members are up to date on all required trainings, and are registered on the Oklahoma Professional Development Registry.
- The facility is up to date on all Emergency drills, health inspections, and is DHS licensed and monitored.

Continuing to strive for higher quality achievements to our center will only add more meaning to our saying...

La-pe-we-ki-wa ho-ge-wa-pe-fa-yi mi-ti-ge
"Lifelong Learning Begins Here"

**General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025**

**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System**



Chris A. Larkin, MBA, FACHE, CHC, Executive Director, Health Programs

AST Health System Board of Directors

*Darren Shields, Chairman
Scott Miller, Vice Chairman
Lancer Stephens, Secretary
Max Tahsuda, Member
Deidre Yarbrough, Member*

Mantra

Empowering wellness, strengthening communities.

Vision Statement

To provide culturally sensitive and accessible healthcare services that honor the traditions and values of Native American communities, promoting wellness and healing for all individuals.

Value Statement

To be the leading provider of comprehensive healthcare services for Native American communities, fostering healthy lifestyles and empowering individuals to thrive.



General Council Report 26 APRIL 2025

Prevention, progress, and pride are the concepts that form the basis of everything we do for our patients within the health system. Our Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Programs continue to grow and expand care to our tribal members and other patients whom we serve. The Health Program itself has undergone intense changes to posture us for success in the future! While we continue to experience success year over year, as well as challenges, the future remains bright for our health system, and we are excited about 2025 and beyond! We continue to strive to be the premier provider of health services to the Absentee Shawnee Tribal members, as well as members of other federally recognized tribes, and are proud that the Health Programs continue to build and grow upon a solid foundation.

The state-of-the-art Little Axe Health Center (LAHC) is an amazing complex that houses multiple departments. This complex is the center of our Health Program; our mission set forth is clear and our focus is sharp. The joint venture is several years into its expanded mission to serve Native American patients, and was paid off much earlier than ever predicted due to its success and the visionary leadership of the AST community years ago!

The Shawnee Clinic is a cornerstone of the Health Program and we are excited to be one step closer to offering all the expanded services in a new state-of-the-art facility! The Shawnee Clinic is proud of its essential contribution to the Health Program and the Health Board and Executive Committee remain unwavering in their commitment to making the new facility a reality.

Our services are fully staffed with professionals and support staff to attend to the needs of our beneficiaries. Our range of healthcare services includes Behavioral Health, Contract Health (Purchased Referred Care), Dental Clinic, Diabetes & Wellness Education (Cooking Classes/Fitness & Exercise/Nutrition Counseling), Family Practice/Internal Medicine, Laboratory, Medical Records Management, Dermatology, Gynecology, Cardiology, Chiropractor, Endocrinology, Urology, Hematology, Rheumatology, Nephrology, Optometry, Orthopedics, Patient Benefits Coordination, Pediatrics, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Public Health (Injury Prevention/Mobile Care Units), Radiology (X-Ray and Ultrasound), and PlusCare and Shawnee Same-Day Clinics with Pharmacy and CompleteCare Home Health, LLC, all servicing our patients. With the desired vision for the organization guiding its direction, the following broad strategic goals should drive the organization's progress over the next 3-5 years.

We must...

- Grow while Improving our Financial Picture
- Create an Organization-wide atmosphere of Teamwork
- Expand and Retain our Mix of Medical/Clinical/Support Staff
- Educate our Community
- Sustain Accreditation
- Preserve Our Workforce

...in order to achieve our vision.

**General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025**

Last 6 Months of Highlights for Health Programs:

- ❖ New Shawnee Clinic Construction: Groundbreaking was held on March 19th! ASTHA has partnered with Connect Advisors, Childers Architect, and Flintco to build a new, state of the art 76,565 sq. ft. health clinic. We currently have \$2M in SAP funding and \$12M in ARPA funds dedicated for construction. The new Shawnee Clinic will mirror services available at the Little Axe location, including Dental and Optometry. Location: 39665 Benson Park Road, Shawnee, OK 74801 (69.5 acres located adjacent to Tecumseh Lake at the end of Benson Park Road).
- ❖ The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System (ASTHS) continues to be the benchmark for tribal health accreditation with the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). On March 10th – 12th, we completed our 4th survey with only minor findings! And again, the surveyors conveyed that we were the best tribal health system they had ever surveyed! Accreditation distinguishes this ambulatory health care organization from many other outpatient facilities through its adherence to rigorous standards of care and safety. Status as an accredited organization means the ASTHS has met nationally recognized standards from the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC.
- ❖ Congress narrowly passed and the President signed into law a full-year continuing resolution (CR) that funds the federal government through Sept 30th. The continuing resolution generally maintains FY 2024 funding levels for the Indian Health Service (IHS). IHS Services and Facilities are flat-funded, only receiving a 0.44% increase for staffing packages of newly completed facilities. This maintains IHS funding levels going back as far as FY 2023, and represents a loss of purchasing power in real terms. The CR also reduces funding for Sanitation Facilities Construction and Health Care Facilities Construction by 5.5%, funded for the year at \$289 million. Importantly, IHS was provided advance appropriation for FY 2026 at the FY 2025 funding level. In addition to FY 2025 funding, the continuing resolution included important extensions for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and health extenders until September 30, 2025. The SDPI is funded at approximately \$160 million, the first full year the program has received funding at this level. Medicare flexibilities were also extended in the package, including certain Medicare telehealth and the Hospital at Home programs through September 30, 2025.
- ❖ ASTHS has continued to expand our services and appointment availability! To meet the growing demand, we continue to recruit and hire additional providers (currently staffed at 98 providers). Many of the new patients provide the third-party revenue resources which provide for the exponential growth in services for our AST Tribal members, including walk-in clinics, specialty care, Title VI, PRC increased coverage, expanded pharmacy services and specialty care.
- ❖ During the 4th quarter of 2024, ASTHS partnered with an independent third-party, FSA Advisory Group, to conduct a confidential “Patient Needs and Satisfaction Assessment”. The following “Considerations” were identified: Expand Access, Enhance Cultural Integration, Improve Health Education, and Facilities Improvement (Shawnee).
- ❖ In March, ASTHS was once again selected as a “Certified Healthy Business” with an “Excellence” level of certification – the highest level achievable with the Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- ❖ ASTHS continues to lead in quality healthcare and d/t our high scores within our ACO (ASTHS is the currently the **only** tribal entity participating in a national Accountable Care Organization), our providers are eligible for a 1.88% APM Incentive payment (aggregate payment amounts for Medicare Part B) and an increased physician Fee schedule update of 0.75% based on the QP conversion factor in 2026!

**General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025**

- ❖ On Mar 20th, ASTHS launched the Community Member and Caregiver Focus Group funded by the IHS Tribal Management Grant. The focus groups will provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to share their experiences, challenges, and suggestions in helping us identify gaps in current services and developing effective strategies that cater to the specific needs of caregivers and elders.
- ❖ Under the sponsorship of the Administration for Community Living-Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative and IHS, Addressing Dementia in Indian Country, the *"Second Wind Dreams® Virtual Dementia Tour®"* was a huge success with 108 participants for the 3-day event! The VDT is an interactive, in-person experience that helps the participant gain a better understanding of what a person living with dementia experiences.
- ❖ We are again offering ASTHS Intern Program for 2025. Each year, ASTHS offers internship positions with the prospect of attracting and locally growing our own talent for a career in healthcare. The applicants must be Native American (AST preferred) and between the ages of 18-24 years old. The students spend multiple days, up to 20 hours a week, working within the Health System in a variety of support roles as an entry-level, part-time employee. The Directors provide the mission, roles, and functions within the Healthcare setting and explain the processes of patient services. Applications are available at asthealth.org > careers and the program will begin on June 2nd with the graduation being held July 25th. The application deadline is April 30th.
- ❖ (Current as of Apr 1st) COVID cases continue to trend down, with Flu cases only slightly rising. ASTHS Public Health, Employee Health, Infection Control, and Primary Care prepared a rapid response plan to combat a potential measles outbreak in Oklahoma. A measles outbreak centered in West Texas has continued to grow and cases have been identified/ isolated in Oklahoma. Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. You can get measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been. This can happen even up to 2 hours after that person has left.
- ❖ As part of our requirements driven by I.H.S. regulations, we are required, as the payor of last resort for I.H.S. patients and AST Tribal members, to ensure patients have no other health insurance resources. (It is *not* fraud to bill for services; it is required of I.H.S., as well as the VA, which we have an agreement with to bill for services). This is the reason you are asked to fill out a SoonerCare application. Monies received from Insurances including SoonerCare are used to bridge the gap in underfunding of health by I.H.S. and the federal government. The ability to accept payment from the insurances, while not billing patients for any remainder, is the major benefit of the tribally managed health programs for the tribal patients. PBAs can also assist with Medicare enrollment and coordinate answers to your questions regarding the navigation of complex choices and options with Medicare/Medicaid programs. PBA's contact information: Connie Bottaro, 405-447-0300.
- ❖ Nearly 100% of contract health services (PRC), medically necessary referrals are covered for AST Tribal Members, living within our catchment area: Cleveland, Lincoln, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, and Logan counties.
- ❖ The Affordable Care Act (ACA) program sponsorships for qualified tribal members, providing health insurance coverage for care of high-cost/high-risk tribal members, and off-setting costs to the contract health program who are living within the identified Shawnee Service Unit Area (Catchment area).
- ❖ Continued growth in "compliments" for health employees has been encouraging and all employees are appropriately recognized for their customer service. All complaints are logged, tracked, and reported to the Health Board for oversight and resolution. A dedicated Patient Advocate and interim Compliance Officer continues to ensure all patient issues and regulatory requirements are met with a high degree of assurance.

**General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025**

Priorities for the Health Program:

- ❖ Continue stabilized access to services by all providers and staff in all areas.
- ❖ Continue staff retention, education, sustainment, and AST opportunity outreach.
- ❖ Maintain emphasis on customer service, patient care, and patient quality.
- ❖ Increase focus on third-party resources for all patients to close funding gaps in compact dollars.
- ❖ Execute/Report/Review strategic planning progress for the advancement of the Health Programs and grants via reasonable, achievable metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- ❖ Maximize all health and related grant funding to enhance services provided.

Total 2025 Budget for AST Healthcare Delivery System

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| ASTHA 2025 DIRECT FUNDS: | \$ 77,423,420 |
| ASTHA 2025 IDC FUNDS: | \$ 8,760,033 |
| TOTAL 2025 HEALTH BUDGET: | \$ 86,183,453 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 3 RD PARTY FUNDS INTO BUDGET: | \$ 34,654,187 |
|--|---------------|

COMPLETCARE HOME HEALTH

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| CCHH DIRECT FUNDS: | \$ 801,039 |
| CCHH INDIRECT FUNDS: | \$ 61,769 |
| TOTAL CCHH BUDGET: | \$ 862,808 |

***Total Third Party Revenue Collection (Shawnee and Little Axe combined) 2025 YTD:**

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| January 1 to February 28, 2025: | \$ 9,292,906 |
| January 1 to December 31, 2024: | \$52,716,591 |
| January 1 to December 31, 2023: | \$56,192,495 |

Demographics of Health Employees/Staff (February 28, 2025):

- Total Health System Employees: 406
- Total AST Employees: 74
- Total Other Native American Employees: 105
- Total Employees Non-Native: 227 (Asian, African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Other)

Conclusion:

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe remains highly invested in providing comprehensive health care for its members. With the direction set by the Executive Committee (Shareholders) and the Health Board of Directors, the return on investment can be seen in the lives of the tribal members as well as the financial health of the Tribe overall, through strategic planning and budgeting. With careful planning and management of funds to optimize care, while navigating through the changes in the healthcare environment regarding IHS funding, Affordable Care Act implications, and other challenges today, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe can be proud of their ability to reliably care for their tribal members in the years to come! Through deliberate planning, execution, and integration of our strategic planning processes and resource allocation in support of programs desired by our customers, the Tribe's health care needs are safe and secure, now and into our bright future ahead!

**General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025**

**Little Axe Health Center
CLINIC OPERATION HOURS**

Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Pharmacy Drive-Through 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Sat & Sun 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Closed 1st Wednesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
for staff meetings and in-service training.
Closed Holidays as designated by the Tribe.
(405) 447-0300

PlusCare Clinic
Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Saturday - Sunday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Closed on Major Holidays
*Closed the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Note: The PlusCare Clinic is an acute care facility that treats non-life threatening illnesses and injuries on a walk-in basis (no appointment needed). Care provided will include common illnesses, sprains, strains, lacerations, flu, allergies, and infections. While these injuries may seem emergent, they generally do not require a trip to the emergency room.

**Shawnee Clinic
CLINIC OPERATION HOURS**

Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Pharmacy Drive-Through 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Sat Only 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Closed 1st Wednesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (staff meetings & in-service training)
Closed Holidays as designated by the Tribe.
(405) 878-5850

Shawnee Same Day Clinic - To better serve the needs of our patients and improve the access to care, the Shawnee Clinic offers same-day appointments. The Same Day Clinic accommodates patients for non-emergent, acute illnesses and injuries, patients who are from the ages of 2 years and up. If you need more comprehensive medical services, appointments are available. Please call the Shawnee Clinic at (405) 878-5850. The location is 2029 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday CLOSED
Sundays & Holidays CLOSED on Sundays and all Holidays
*Closed the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

CompleteCare Home Health, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASTHA)

In-home care is provided to our communities (60-mile radius of Shawnee) for individuals that have had a recent hospitalization or an acute or chronic illness that requires professional monitoring. Our team of experienced caregivers works closely with your physician to help you regain the independence and

General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025

quality of life that you deserve. Services include Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Medical Social Worker and Home Health Aides. Medicare pays 100% for eligible beneficiaries and we also accept Medicaid and most Private Insurance. Accepting all qualified patients regardless of tribal affiliation. **Home Health Referrals and Information:** (405) 701-7085
Fax: (405) 233-0563

TITLE VI ELDERLY NUTRITION
GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

APRIL 2025

The Title VI Elderly Nutrition Program serves Tribal Affiliated members age 55 and older by providing nutritious meals and supportive services to those member living in the Cleveland and Pottawatomie County Jurisdictions.

Title VI has two congregate meal sites, one of which is located on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex in Building 9 and the other site is located at the Little Axe Resource Center. The Title VI Program operates convenient hours are Monday – Thursday serving lunch from 11 am to 1pm and breakfast on Fridays 9 am to 11 am. We also welcome you to dine in at the Shawnee site and Little Axe Resource Center.

In order to qualify for the Title VI Program, individuals must complete an intake form verifying date of birth and CDIB affiliation from a federally recognized tribe. In addition to providing nutritious meals, The Title VI Program also provides supportive services essential to meeting the needs of the community, including transportation for the Title VI social events, fuel for the lawn maintenance program, and meal delivery and household chore assistance for those who are homebound.

We appreciate the Information Technology Team, as they have made it possible to fill out the intake form for the year and lawn mowing application, and upload the proof of residency on the website.

The Title VI Program stands out for its collaboration with the Diabetes and Wellness Program, which includes dietitians and two physical activity specialists. Together, we offer a comprehensive range of services, including health and nutrition education, physical fitness across the lifespan education, care coordination services. The Title VI Staff looks forward to both serving the Title VI members meals and to offering Supporting Services that provide Elders with a way to maintain a healthy Quality of Life.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Title VI at Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex 2025 Gordon Cooper Dr Shawnee OK 74801 or at (405) 275-4030 ext. 3614 (Office) ext. 3615 (Dining Room) or Our Direct Line 405-716-4941. Email dowings@astribe.com

On average, Title VI currently delivers meals to 160 homebound Elders and 50 Elders who come in to get their meal.

General Council Report
26 APRIL 2025

The table below provides a summary of total meals delivered by month and delivery method from January – December 2024

| 2024 TOTAL MEALS | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| | HOMEBOUND | SHAWNEE TO GO | SHAWNEE DINE IN | SHAWNEE GUEST | LA TO GO | LA DINE IN | LA GUEST | TOTAL |
| JANUARY | 3456 | 746 | 101 | 24 | 128 | | 0 | 4455 |
| FEBRUARY | 3439 | 860 | 111 | 19 | 142 | | 0 | 4571 |
| MARCH | 3397 | 816 | 94 | 16 | 133 | | 1 | 4457 |
| APRIL | 3229 | 816 | 118 | 21 | 156 | | 0 | 4340 |
| MAY | 3597 | 859 | 114 | 28 | 134 | 35 | 38 | 4805 |
| JUNE | 3116 | 727 | 91 | 34 | 166 | 43 | 29 | 4206 |
| JULY | 3546 | 927 | 86 | 33 | 193 | 81 | 42 | 4908 |
| AUGUST | 3528 | 600 | 329 | 26 | 214 | 131 | 35 | 4863 |
| SEPTEMBER | 3441 | 795 | 85 | 26 | 217 | 53 | 47 | 4664 |
| OCTOBER | 3616 | 803 | 173 | 23 | 245 | 11 | 37 | 4908 |
| NOVEMBER | 2852 | 637 | 91 | 26 | 226 | 11 | 17 | 3860 |
| DECEMBER | 2870 | 440 | 65 | 29 | 255 | 29 | 24 | 3712 |
| TOTAL | 40087 | 9026 | 1458 | 305 | 2209 | 394 | 270 | 53749 |
| MONEY | 2875 | | | | | | | |

JANUARY – MARCH 2025

| | HOMEBOUND | SHAWNEE TO GO | SHAWNEE DINE IN | SHAWNEE GUEST | LA TO GO | LA DINE IN | LA GUEST | TOTAL |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| JAN | 3107 | 712 | 82 | 51 | 246 | 4 | 35 | 4237 |
| FEB | 2164 | 543 | 81 | 46 | 193 | 0 | 40 | 3067 |
| MAR | 3185 | 735 | 104 | 45 | 287 | 9 | 39 | 4404 |
| APR | | | | | | | | |
| MAY | | | | | | | | |
| JUN | | | | | | | | |
| JUL | | | | | | | | |
| AUG | | | | | | | | |
| SEP | | | | | | | | |
| OCT | | | | | | | | |
| NOV | | | | | | | | |
| DEC | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 8456 | 1990 | 267 | 142 | 726 | 13 | 114 | 11708 |
| MONEY | 1280 | | | | | | | |



HOUSING AUTHORITY



Executive Director Summary

Annual Report

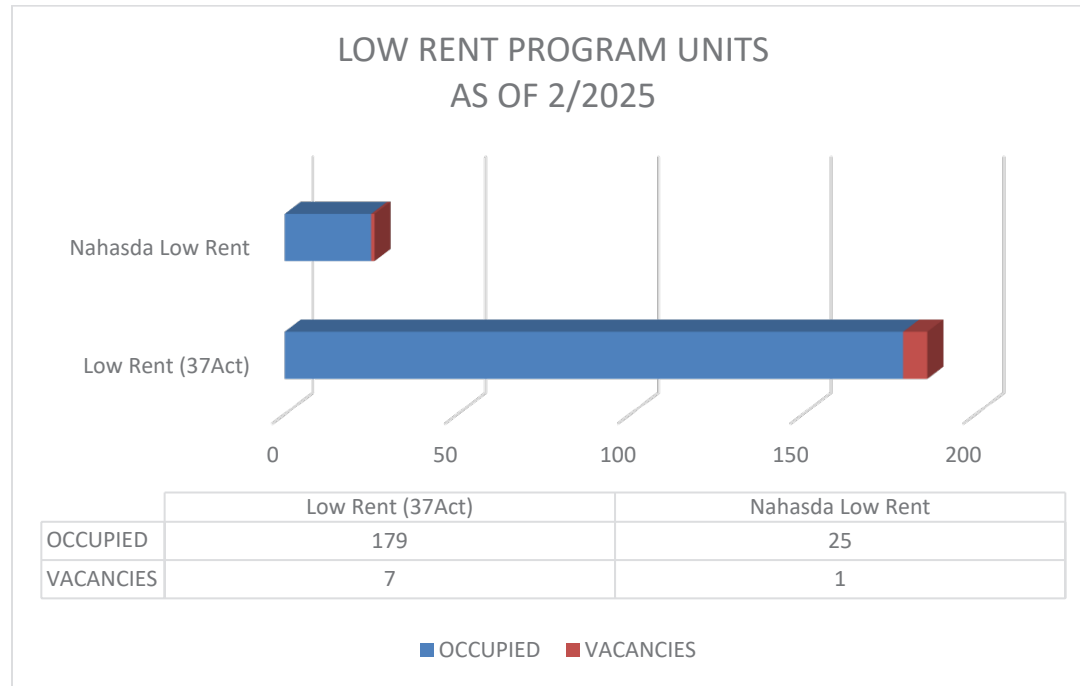
The information included within this report will provide tribal members with details regarding housing activity for 2024.

The Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority continue to serve low-income Indian families residing in the eligible service area of Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Oklahoma, and Cleveland County. Enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe receive a preference for any assistance offered through the Housing Authority.



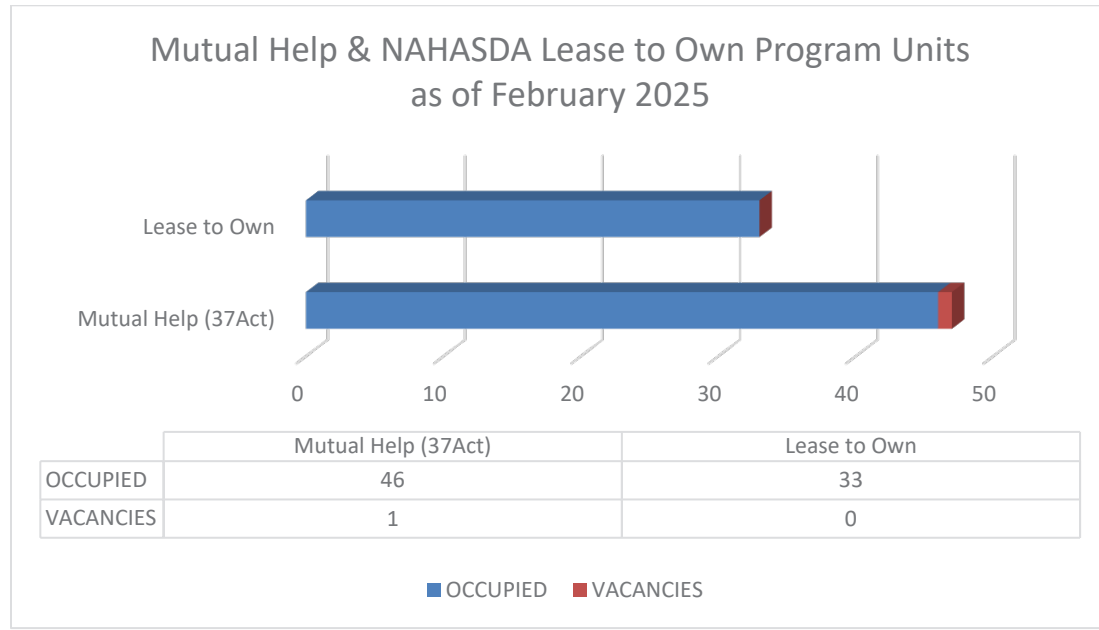
Low Rent Housing

The low rent program serves all low-income Indian families seeking to rent a home in ASHA's eligible service area, in cities such as Shawnee, Tecumseh and McCloud. A waiting list is in place for the program and can have an approximately 40 to 50 families approved. The average waiting time is six (6) months to one (1) year.



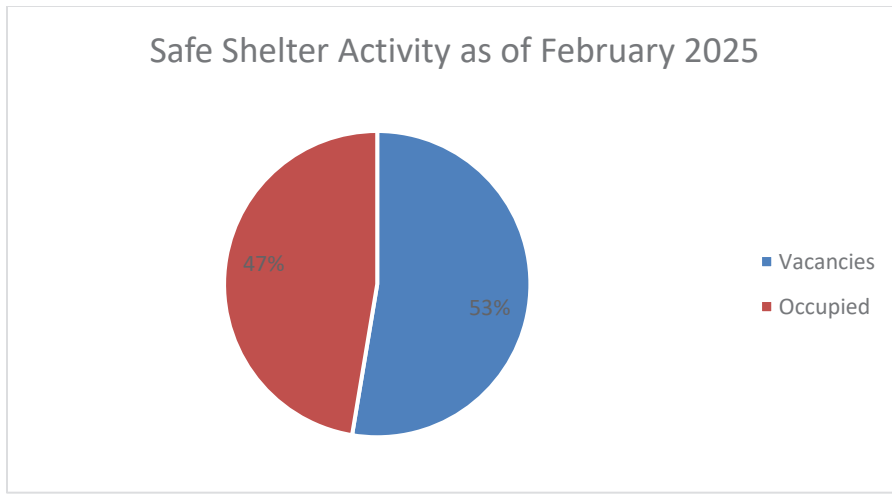
Mutual Help/NAHASDA Lease to Own Housing

The waiting list for this program has approximately 15 to 20 families at a time waiting for an opportunity for homeownership. This program requires mandatory counseling and has an average waiting period of one (1) year or longer.



Safe Shelter Program

The Safe Shelter Program provides a family with short term temporary housing who have been displaced for reasons beyond their control. Through the Safe Shelter Program, ASHA aims to prevent homelessness among Indian families while guiding them to permanent housing. The program currently offers safe shelter housing in the Shawnee, Tecumseh and Wanette area. Placement is first-come, first-serve with preference given to enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe



Resident Services

The Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has designed many occupancy courses for participants to attend prior to signing a lease agreement with ASHA. Workshops with various topics are also available specific to the type of assistance provided, such as homeownership counseling for down payment assistance and basic home repair knowledge with home rehab assistance. In addition, the Housing Authority has partnered with other organizations to host events and outreach activities in the community, sharing resources, and giving residents the ability to build relationships among one another.



Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS)

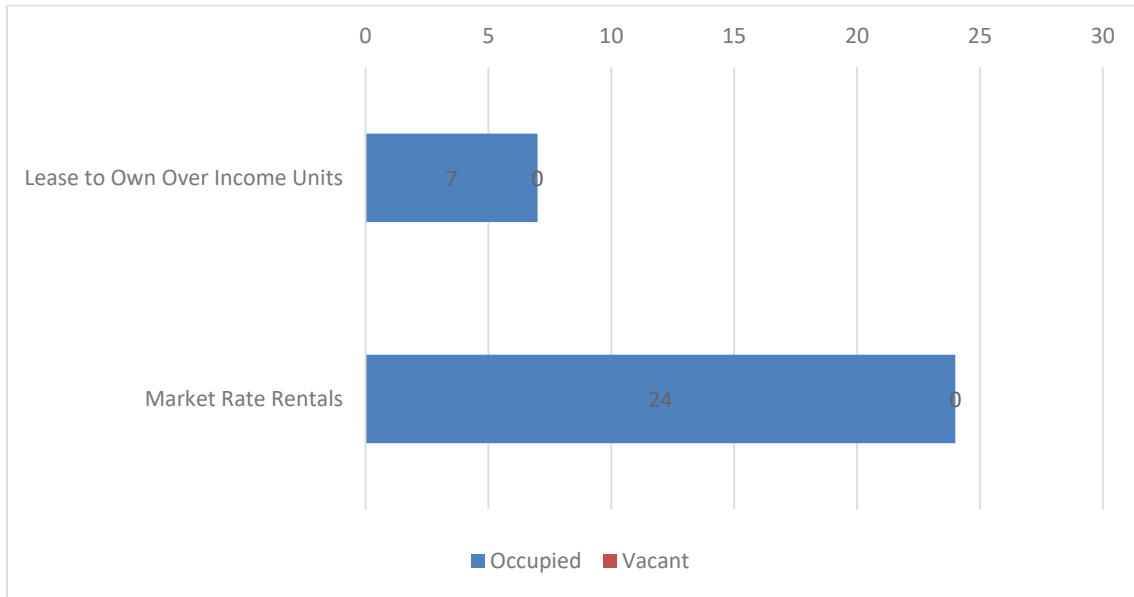
The ASHA has the ROSS program, which offers general case management, partnerships, and other coordination to deliver services for residents for ASHA finding effective ways to improve housing situations. The current ROSS Coordinator remains actively involved with fifty (50) participants in ASHA's housing program, to help with their housing needs. The ROSS Coordinator is also reaching the tribal housing community performing needs assessments during resident outreach events.

College Housing Rental Assistance

This college housing assistance program serves full time college students with rental assistance for up to \$300 per month while attending college. The students must rent a home within ASHA's service area of Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Oklahoma, and Cleveland County. The program is first-come first-serve with preference to Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members. The program assists an average of six (6) students a semester each year.

Market Rate Rental and Lease to Own for Over-Income Households

The ASHA has rental and lease to own housing for applicants whose income is above the median income limits set by HUD. These homes are market rate located within Shawnee and Norman. The program offers homes as they become available, with house payments determined by the appraised value of the home. In addition, ASHA created the Tiny Home Lease to Own Program, which allows applicants to construct a newly built tiny home on their own land. Waiting lists are in place for each of these programs and will be based on the budget approved by the ASHA Board of Commissioners determining how many families are served each year.



Down Payment Assistance for Enrolled AST Members

The down payment assistance program provides \$5,000 towards down payment and closing costs. The applicant must be a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, receive pre-approval through a qualified lender, and desire to purchase a home within the state of Oklahoma. Applications must be submitted, and funds secured before a contract is signed on a home. This program is offered only when funds are available.

Home Rehab Assistance for Enrolled AST Members

The home rehab assistance program is provided to enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe who reside in Pottawatomie, Oklahoma, Lincoln, and Cleveland County. The assistance offers \$15,000 towards emergency home repairs needed such as, but not limited to: electrical, plumbing, heat & air, roof, foundation, handicap accessibility, weatherization, etc. The home must be owned by the applicant and applicant must be willing to have a home repair assessment completed by the housing inspector as well as signing a binding commitment agreement which places a lien on the property during the useful life period. A waiting list is currently in place and families are assisted as funding is available. In 2024, the housing program assisted fifteen (15) families.

Aside from ASHA programs mentioned, the Housing Authority continues its efforts to expand and improve housing opportunities through new projects and programs. In 2024, the ASHA was awarded funds through the IHBG-Competitive grant to complete phase II of the Rolling Hills Addition located in Shawnee. The grant allows ASHA to construct five (5) additional homes within the residential site. The Rolling Hills addition is designated for our elders who can live independently or with live-in aides.



In closing, I would like to applaud the ASHA staff, board members and tribal leaders who work diligently to ensure the mission of the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority remains the primary focus, which is to create affordable, safe and sanitary living conditions for tribal families. Our teamwork will guarantee the Housing Authority remains sustainable and successful in serving such an essential benefit to our Indian people.

Respectfully,

Sherry Drywater
Executive Director
Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority

Board Members:

Michael Affentranger, Chairman
 Redena Miller, Vice-Chairperson
 Cynthia Carpenter, Commissioner
 Elaine Brown, Commissioner
 Greg Reading, Commissioner

**Housing Staff:**

| Name: | Title: |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sherry Drywater | Executive Director |
| Kaylon Wood | Executive Administrative Assistant |
| Bessie Gonzales | Human Resource Coordinator |
| Susan Florez | Planning Coordinator |
| Angela Whited | Receptionist |
| Shelly Porter | Finance Manager |
| Sabrina McSwain | Account Receivable Clerk |
| Victoria Stewart | Procurement Specialist |
| Amanda Ramirez | Contracts Coordinator |
| Tara Ann Winter | Programs Manager |
| Ashley Smith | Admissions Coordinator |
| Karen Fullbright | Admission Intake Specialist |
| Crystal Stephens | File Clerk |
| LaHoma Roberts | Housing Manager |
| Tammy Winter | Lease Management Coordinator |
| Thomas Rompf | Housing Compliance Inspector |
| Jacie Satawake | Recertification Specialist |
| Melissa Reynoso | Safe Shelter Coordinator |
| Roseann George | Safe Shelter Intake Specialist |
| Linda Gouge | Housing Services Manager |
| Kimberly Vermillion | Resident Education Specialist |
| Tara Wallace | Resident Outreach Coordinator |
| Anthony Ramirez | ROSS Coordinator |
| Breeahna McCarver | Resident Services Assistant |
| Robert Sheppard | Field Services Manager |
| Jarrod Gentry | Maintenance Coordinator |
| Jamie Barse | Field Services Administrative Assistant |
| Stanley Curtis | Construction Technician |
| Jim Wolfberg | Construction Technician |
| Evans Harjo | Construction Technician (Temp) |
| Rocky Larney Jr | Maintenance Technician |
| Nathan Curtis | Maintenance Technician |
| Chris Welch | Maintenance Technician |
| Terry Wilson | Maintenance Technician |



TAX COMMISSION



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Tax Commission
April 26, 2025 General Council**

It is the policy of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Government to provide governmental services to its members. To finance the Tribe's governmental responsibilities and regulate those operating within its jurisdiction, the Tribe has the inherent sovereign authority to impose taxes on goods and activities and to license and regulate certain conduct and activity within the jurisdiction.

The Absentee Shawnee Tax Commission was created "to carry out the duties and functions assigned to it in the Absentee Shawnee Tax Laws." ¹ The Commission consists of three (3) commissioners who are appointed by the AST Executive Committee and serve a two (2) year term.

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday and any legal holiday established by rule, ordinances, training, or proclamations by the AST EC, and acts of nature/inclement weather.

Staff

Amelia Grass, Tax Administrator
Maureen Bemo, Assistant Administrator
Cayanna Blanchard, Tax Clerk

Tax Commissioners

Christa Elmore, Chairman
Rebecca Brown, Co-Chairman
Vacant, Commission Member

Tribal Taxes

Sales Tax
Gaming Tax
Severance Tax
Motor Vehicle Taxation and Registration
Fireworks

**Office Hours: M-F, 8am- 5pm
No Appointment required
Office 405.275.4030 ext 9012**

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Tax Commission
April 26, 2025 General Council**

Motor Vehicle Information

Eligibility: Motor Vehicle tags are available to enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members residing in the state of Oklahoma. *Must provide updated AST CDIB.* Valid Oklahoma Driver's License, and valid Oklahoma insurance verification.

Types of motor vehicle tags available:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Commercial | Requires Federal identification number or Schedule C of tax return |
| Farm | Requires Schedule F of tax return and/or an Oklahoma agricultural exemption permit |
| Motorcycle | |
| Purple Heart | Requires DD-214 |
| Vet | Requires DD-214 |
| Personalized | Up to 7 Characters |
| Collector Tags | "AB-SH" Design and "Logo" Design |

New Registrations:

You can process recently bought vehicles, etc. in person. The items needed to process a new registration: original title, purchase agreement/bill of sale, lien entry/lien release (if applicable), copy of valid Oklahoma driver's license, AST enrollment card, Oklahoma insurance verification and/or other documents required. We accept the following forms of payment: Cash, Check, Money Order, and Cashier's Check, or Credit/Debit card.

Renewals:

You can renew your motor vehicle tag(s) through the mail, in person, or by using the interactive link found at www.astribe.com. The items needed to process a renewal: copy of valid Oklahoma driver's license, copy of AST enrollment card, Oklahoma insurance verification, copy of the previous year's registration, and/or other documents as required. We accept the following forms of payment: Cash, Check, Money Order, and Cashier's Check, or Credit/Debit card.

Unroadworthy Affidavit

An affidavit used to stop expired tag penalties from accruing, *if your vehicle is "unroadworthy" requiring major mechanical repairs*. The affidavit should be completed before the tag's expiration date but, may be completed at any time and penalties that have accrued up to the point of completing the affidavit will be assessed. This affidavit is for use by vehicles already tagged with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Tax Commission
April 26, 2025 General Council**

Duplicate AST Title/ Registration

If your AST Title &/or Registration has been lost, you may obtain a duplicate title. Duplicate titles &/or Registrations will only be issued to registered owner(s) of the vehicle. Identification must be presented. A \$10 Fee will be charged.

Tag Calculation

\$10.00 + 1.25% of Actual Purchase Price of Vehicle + Tag

Penalty Fees

A penalty of \$0.25 per day will be assessed starting on the 31st day

Tag Prices

1-4 yrs. old: \$85.00
5-8 yrs. old: \$75.00
9-12 yrs. old: \$55.00
13-16 yrs. old: \$35.00
17 yrs. & over: \$15.00

¹ Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, Chapter 1, §1.

^{2 3} Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, Chapter 1, §2 and §3.

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Tax Commission
April 26, 2025 General Council**

Business Licenses

As a condition of doing business within the Tribe's jurisdiction, any person who engages in business is required to obtain a business license, and is required to pay the sales and/or lodgers tax of 8.5%. This license must be granted by the Tax Commission upon filing of an application setting forth the name of the business, address, ownership of the business, type of business, and the Federal identification number or social security number. License registrations must be renewed by January 1 of each year.

Vendor/Peddler Guidelines

Day Vendors, peddlers, etc. receiving money or anything of value for the sale of goods or services where an annual gross total \$5,000 or less are subject to these guidelines, which serve as a supplement to the Licensing and Tax Code

1. All must register by completing a **Business License Application** form. The **Business License fee for day vendors, peddlers etc. is \$25.00**, renewed annual by January 1.
2. Business License Fee(s) are waived for persons, who qualify for exemptions as stated in *Chapter 3, Sec. 4 (e), (f), and (g); and for Non-Profit Organizations*.
3. Day Vendors/Peddlers, etc. selling on an irregular basis must report to the AST Tax Commission office prior to selling. A tax deposit of \$25.00 must be paid by the vendor/peddler, which will be returned upon payment of sales taxes. The Tax Commission will issue a sales permit valid for that day ONLY. The Vendors/Peddlers must provide record of sales to the Tax Commission.
4. Vendors/Peddlers etc. returning on a regular basis must report to the AST Tax Commission office prior to selling, and in addition to above item 3 may have the option (as approved by the Tax Commission) of reporting sales and remitting taxes on a monthly basis in accordance with Chapter 3.
5. The Sales Tax rate is 8.5% of total gross sales. Sales taxes are waived for the persons, who qualify for exemptions as stated in *Chapter 3, Sec. 4 (e), (f), and (g); and for Non-Profit Organizations*.

¹ Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, Chapter 3, §4.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Tax Commission
April 26, 2025 General Council

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION AND WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR FEED BACK
Please send your thoughts to tax@astribe.com

New Designs for Motor Vehicle Tags

Motor Vehicle, Motorcycle, Commercial and Farm Tags;



Veteran Tags;





ALLNATIONS BANK



Update 12/31/2024

| | 12/31/2022 | 12/31/2023 | 12/31/2024 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Total Loans | \$27,676,800 | \$33,501,848 | \$40,958,537 |
| Total Investments | \$21,753,303 | \$15,606,336 | \$20,885,622 |
| Total Assets | \$51,483,945 | \$54,329,667 | \$66,503,232 |
| Total Deposits | \$47,112,101 | \$48,918,925 | \$60,272,481 |
| Total Borrowings | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Income | \$277,000 | \$513,524 | \$536,560 |
| Loan to Deposit Ratio (TL/TD) | 58.75% | 68.48% | 67.96% |
| Capital Ratio | 9.50% | 9.96% | 8.95% |
| Return on Equity Ratio (NI/TC) | 5.65% | 10.51% | 9.91% |
| Return on Assets Ratio (NI/TA) | 0.54% | 0.98% | 0.95% |
| By Branch | Shawnee | Calumet | |
| Total Deposits: | \$2.9 Million | \$57.6 Million | |
| Total Loans: | \$7.7 Million | \$33.2 Million | |

Highlights:

1. In each of the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, the bank's earnings exceeded any of the years since the bank was acquired by AST.
2. Loan Growth - The bank has grown \$7.5 MM in loan assets which is 22% growth in loans in the last 12 mos.
3. Deposits grew \$11.3 Million in the last 12 mos. which is 23% growth.
4. Assets grew \$12.1 Million in the 12 mos. which is almost 23%.
5. The bank completed a state banking exam in 2024 and received a good report.

Our focus continues to be on making AllNations Bank one of the best community banks in our region. We wish to provide great service to our customers, especially to the members and employees of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.



***FOLLOW ALLNATIONS BANK ON
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM***



AllNations Bank Board of Directors (from left to right): Wade Stuckey, Stephen Smith, Jill Maple, Terri Mefford, Bruce Dawson & Eastman Switch.



MEDIA



The Media Department has been working on adding video to the podcast. Episodes will be available on YouTube. We recently outfitted a vacant office into a recording studio in Building 1. The first video podcast will hopefully be ready in May. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding the first video podcast.

Currently the website is the most popular way to listen to the podcast. If you would like to listen on the website, scan the QR code or search under the ANNOUNCEMENTS tab for AMONG THE SHAWNEE PODCAST. The podcast can also be downloaded on SoundCloud, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



The Media Department is also responsible for posting all news items and events. Please make sure you are checking the website, following us on our socials, Instagram - @absenteeshawneetribes and the official Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AbsenteeShawneeTribe>.

The Media office is located at 219 E Walnut in Tecumseh. We can be reached at (405) 598-1279 or media@astribe.com.

Media Staff

Mindy Longhorn – Media Director, mindyl@astribe.com

Derek Hilderbrand – Print Production Manager, dhilderbrand@astribe.com.



ENTERPRISE CONTENT MANAGEMENT



Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Department Introduction

We are proud to introduce the newly established Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Department, created to lead the digital transformation of our Tribal and Health Organizations. One of the primary drivers behind the creation of this department is the growing need for secure, efficient, and accessible online forms to support digital processes across all departments.

Why It Was Established

As our Tribal and Health organizations continue to grow and evolve, so does the demand for faster, more efficient services. Paper forms and manual processes have become increasingly burdensome, leading to delays, data entry errors, and storage challenges.

The ECM Department was established to directly address these issues by:

- Developing and managing digital forms to replace outdated paper processes
- Automating workflows for routing, approvals, and notifications
- Centralizing digital records for secure access and long-term storage
- Improving turnaround times for requests, applications, and internal processes
- Reducing physical paperwork and storage needs

The digital forms created by the ECM team are now used across departments for a wide range of functions—from Health patient intakes and HR applications to Procurement asset transfer requests and interdepartmental communications. Every online form is designed, implemented, and maintained by the ECM team.

Impact across Tribal and Health Organizations

By providing digital forms and automating essential workflows, the ECM Department supports more efficient operations across all areas of Tribal government and Health Services. It ensures that:

- Staff and community members can submit forms from anywhere
- Information is processed quickly and securely
- Department staff spend less time on paperwork and more time on service delivery
- Records are easier to retrieve, manage, and preserve

[illegible]