

### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

95TH SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

THUNDERBIRD EVENT CENTER NORMAN, OK





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### **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

### 95th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL

### THUNDERBIRD EVENT CENTER

### NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

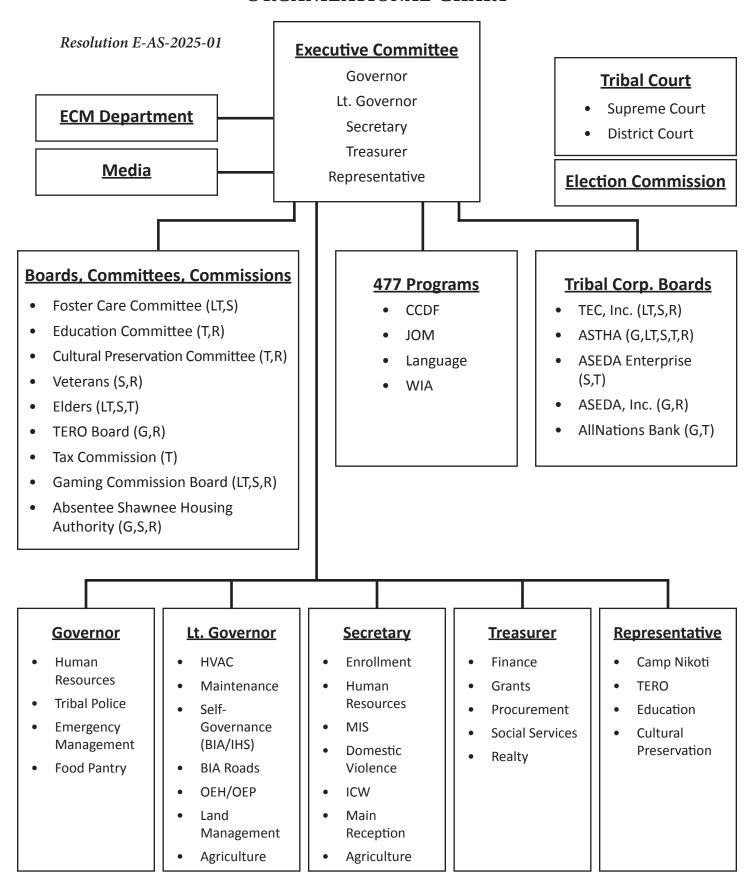
### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

10:00 A.M.

### **AGENDA**

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

### Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Organizational Chart



() 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 94th SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING AST HEALTH MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA Saturday, April 26, 2025

#### **MINUTES**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The 94th 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, April 26, at 10:05 a.m.

#### INVOCATION AND POSTING OF THE COLORS

Posting of Colors: Absentee-Shawnee Tribe 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 81 Tribal Members present.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Governor Johnson asked if there were any comments or discussions. Governor Johnson entertained a motion to approve the October 5, 2024 Minutes:

Motion to approve: Eastman Switch

**Second Motion: Tina Ciulla** 

The Following vote was recorded: 45 Yes, 1 No, and 1 Abstention.

#### V. SPECIAL REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. GOVERNOR JOHN JOHNSON Reported on the following: (Report on page 14)
  - <u>National Congress of American Indian</u> Governor Johnson and Treasurer Blanchard attended this meeting and expressed great concern regarding the decisions of the current sitting administration in our United States Government. President Trump is making changes in D.C that could greatly impact not only our Tribal

Members but native Tribes as a whole. Governor Johnson strongly recommended that the Tribal people start to physically prepare with the growing of food, saving of funds, and other important ways to prepare for what could possibly unfold out of the current administration. This point being a huge concern due to cutting of funds that could greatly impact our Tribe and Tribal Members. This situation can also impact people's jobs throughout the country.

- <u>Lisa Standridge</u> Governor Johnson stated that a few months ago
  Lisa Standridge had put a bill in the Norman Transcript for the OTA
  to put the turnpike on the East side of the lake. They had a meeting
  with her explaining the issues the Tribe had with the trust land that
  would be greatly impacted due to the turnpike possibly being put on
  Tribal land. Lisa Standridge lifted the bill to where the turnpike
  would not interfere with Tribal land.
- Horseshoe Bend After School Building Governor Johnson stated that there was a ribbon cutting for the new after school building in Johnson County. They had a great turn out and lots of support.
- <u>Building 3</u> Governor Johnson explains what has been done to Building 3 to remove the asbestos and mold. They had stripped it down in hopes to fix the repairs. After said and done they still had water coming into the basement. The EC decided to have the building torn down. They had plans to rebuild a new 2 story building. Building 3 would include Human Resources, Domestic Violence and Enrollment. Governor did mention that further down the line in a few years they will be looking to redo the Governor's building.
- Homeowner Assistance Fund Governor Johnson first and foremost explains that the AST HAF program is supposed to be ending in 2026. Their funding amount sits at \$282,000.00. That amount could help up to 11 more families with their homes. They had helped with just about 34 applications all throughout the United States such as; Arizona, Michigan, Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. The application process is open until 2026.
- Food Pantry (Report on page 31) Governor Johnson as he previously mentioned, addresses the concern of the price increase on food. When it comes to the AST food pantry, the food pantry has allocated enough money for the year of 2025. However, looking into 2026 the funds are looking to deplete. They will have to decide from there on out how they want to continue with the food pantry. Governor Johnson explains he tried to get USDA food for the Food Pantry, but expressed that with the current administration they have also cut back on the USDA food funds to support many entities across the nation.

- Solar Energy Governor Johnson explains that with his many concerns regarding the current administration he has looked into Solar Energy. Roughly a year and a half ago he was presented with the idea of a Solar Energy Panel Farm. This idea consisted of the money being saved to go back to the grid and Governor Johnson expressed that he wanted the benefit of Solar to go back to the Tribal Members. He has looked into other companies with Solar Energy that would benefit our Tribal Members. Looking into the future he expressed more concern of energy rises in our economy. He wants to look towards internal revenue for the Tribe to be able to give back to Tribal Members.
- <u>Current Administration</u> Governor Johnson lastly expresses his deep concern for the future of our Tribe with the sitting administration. He insists that we pray for each other and prepare as a community with possible troubling times ahead.
- B. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DIANE PONKILLA (Report on page 32) Lt. Governor Ponkilla welcomes the Tribal Members to the Annual General Council. She reports that she has been in office for 10 months now and has been attending a lot of meetings and learning new things in her role while she makes time to meet with fellow Tribal Members. Lt. Governor took this time to introduce her oversight by appointing the department directors to briefly give information on the duties they perform and the updates within the following departments:
  - MAINTENANCE Stacy Coon, Director of Maintenance speaks regarding the day to day operations of the department. Stacy speaks on current structures that are in place to make sure the maintenance department runs efficiently to not only those who work in that department but to help benefit the Tribal Members. Stacy mentions that they have been diligently updating equipment/procedures to ensure that they are doing their best to utilize all Tribal assets. The maintenance department plays a huge role when taking care of the campus grounds; they make sure that all work orders are taken care of in a timely manner. Stacy also states that the maintenance department helps with other duties outside of the campus and work diligently to make sure they do their part in giving back their hard work and efforts to the Tribe.
  - HVAC Lt. Governor spoke on behalf of the HVAC department due to nobody from this department being present. She states that they will be done with their hours as of June to take their test to be licensed and certified.
  - AGRICULTURE (Report on page 38) John Mann, Director of Agriculture speaks and gives an update on what the Agriculture Department has

- been implementing on the farm. They currently take care of 147 heads of cattle with 19 calves, some of them being in the talks of being sold. John states they have the upcoming plant distribution event in May at the farm. They are looking to instill great plans for the Agriculture Department soon.
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Deric Spoon, Lt. Governor's Administrative Assistant speaks in regards to his daily duties of how he is to assist Lt. Governor on a day to day basis with duties such as; phone calls, scheduling meetings, and other office work. He is there to help and assist in any way needed. Deric mentions that he helps assist with the Emergency Homeowners Elder Program. He referenced the details on what the program assists with and the guidelines for that assistance. They did update their procedures and guidelines to better assist Tribal Members. If any elder needs help, feel free to reach out and Deric can tell you what your options are for assistance.
- SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR Joseph Morton, Lt. Governor's Project Coordinator explains he is also over Elderly Projects which is cohesive with working with Deric Spoon. Joseph is typically who they send out to assess what assistance is needed. He expresses that he is very knowledgeable with his duties and he is very appreciative of the AST Tribe and the opportunity that has been given to him to help give back to Tribal Members.
- Office of Environmental Health & Engineering "OEH&E" (Report on page 34-37) Jarrod Lloyd, Director of OEH&E explains that he has been in the OEH&E department for 7 years. Jarrod explains that the OEH&E department does many different things to help benefit the Tribe and its Tribal Members. OEH&E deals with water and septic services. They currently have 40 EPA Grants. If you are interested in any services that OEH&E can provide, you can find the application online or pick it up in office. Jarrod states that the OEH&E office provides great services to help benefit the environment aspect of our Tribe.
- BIA/SELF GOVERNANCE (Report on page 33) Twyla Blanchard, Director of BIA/Self-Governance begins with speaking on the Self-Governance program. Twyla explains the importance of being up to date with the cause and effect of our current administration in D.C and knowing/understanding what is going on, on a daily basis with the possibilities of what can affect the Tribe. Twyla does address the day to day operations of our Executive Committee and the things they have to keep up on to understand what is best for the Tribe.
  - BIA; LAND MANAGEMENT/WEATHERIZATION Twyla explains that these 2 programs are under BIA Cares and

- operates on ARPA dollars and the funds are dwindling and both of these programs will phase out by the end of 2025.
- WORKFORCE Twyla mentions that there is a Tribal consultation that will be coming up in June dealing with Workforce and hopes to see Members of the Executive Committee be present.
- <u>SELF-GOVERNANCE</u> Twyla mentions that our AST Tribe is self-governed and then we became IHS. Absentee-Shawnee Tribe has met all requirements and that the Roads/Transportation department will also be self-governed. Absentee-Shawnee Tribe will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tribe in Oklahoma to be self-governed.
- O ROADS Absentee-Shawnee Tribe did a 2 mile project on Brangus Road in Potawatomie County, they have also just finished a 2 mile project on Banner Road which is located in Cleveland County. Twyla also mentions that they have received safety funds to update some intersections that based on an analysis had a lot of wrecks or deaths. There were some updates and changes to other concerning areas to ensure more safety protocols.
- BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM Twyla mentions that they have submitted an application for the Bridge Investment Program and that Absentee-Shawnee Tribe was the only Tribe in the United States that was awarded \$13.7million to do Porter Bridge in Norman. This road receives high traffic volumes and it is considered an emergency route but tends to flood very often. Absentee-Shawnee Tribe is waiting to get their agreement underway and is partnering with Norman to put the bridge in.
- CROSS TIMBERS CONSULTING (Presentation) Absentee-Shawnee Tribe was awarded for a Grant called "Safe Streets for All" in the amount of \$263,000.00 to do research on the roads and routes that people take to use our facilities. As well as, the qualities of the intersections and the roads. Our Tribe is the first Tribe to implement our own Tribal language into our slogan "Vision Zero". Twyla says that the department will be reaching out to various after school programs to instill the vision to the children to drive safe and use safety protocols. Twyla hands the mic over to Chris from Cross Timbers to give the presentation about the details of the grant program.
- C. SECRETARY MISTY MCGIRT Reported on the following: (Report on page 39)

- ENROLLMENT (Report on pages 40-42) Secretary McGirt explains that the Enrollment Department consists of 3 employees. The Tribal Member enrollment count is 4,741. Secretary McGirt mentions that they are currently working on amending the Membership ordinance; this will be voted on by the Tribal Members in 2026. If you have any comments, questions or concerns please reach out to the Enrollment Director; Amanda Webb.
- AGRICULTURE (Report on page 38) Secretary McGirt mentions that she shares oversight with Lt. Governor over the Agriculture Department. John Mann the Director of Agriculture gave an update on the department earlier under Lt. Governor. Secretary McGirt said the updates are the same on her end and they are working diligently to get the farm up and running good.
- HUMAN RESOURCES (Report on pages 43-46) Secretary McGirt mentions that she shares oversight with Governor Johnson over the Human Resources Department. The department is currently staffed with 4 employees. Absentee-Shawnee Tribe currently has 628 employees. This number includes the 477 employees, the health employees and all temporary employees. The Human Resources Department does participate in job fairs that have been hosted by the 477 program, Gordon Cooper and the Thunderbird Casino. The Human Resources Department attends training to better assist them in their jobs and the Tribe as a whole. They look forward to hiring new staff and meeting new people.
- <u>MIS DEPARTMENT</u> Secretary McGirt states the MIS Department was understaffed and now they have 6 employees and they do a great job on protecting the Tribe against cyber-attacks amongst many other events as a key role to making the Tribe great.
- mentions that the DV Department is staffed at 5 employees. Each employee is an amazing asset to the Department. If you or someone else is dealing with Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Sex Trafficking or Stalking please contact the DV Department and they can ensure you get the help you or someone else may need. The DV Department was awarded 2 grants to help assist survivors in need. Secretary McGirt states that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month. The DV Department has been attending events to help spread awareness and gather further information. The DV Department has held events to spread awareness. An event that is coming up is "Denim Day". Secretary McGirt gives a brief background on the reason for "Denim Day". For more information regarding upcoming events for the Domestic Violence Department you can follow the Facebook page "The Rising

- Warrior". Please feel free to call with any comments, questions or concerns.
- TAX PREPARATION Secretary McGirt explains that her Department along with some of her oversight employees came together to get a team of Tax Preparers. The team consisted of the following employees: Donna Woodfork, Gregory Reading, Alexas Rosales, Tina Ontiveros and Linda Allen. A special thank you to the MIS Department for helping with set up throughout tax time. Tax preparation ran from January 28th, 2025 through April 15th, 2025. The tax preparation was able to help with 219 clients. There were a total of 94 AST Tribal Members that utilized this opportunity. The total amount of tax preparation fees that were saved was \$18,667.00 with only 4 advanced preparers and 1 greeter we surpassed the numbers from last year.
- ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT Secretary McGirt announced that on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 her office held the Annual Easter Event. A re-cap video of the event was presented. A total of 128 people signed in. Secretary McGirt was happy to announce that this was a greater turn out than the previous years and she looks forward to finding ways to make it better and better. The event had great contributions from the following departments: Governor Johnson, Lt. Governor Ponkilla, Treasurer Blanchard, Representative Johnson, Cultural Preservation, Thunderbird Casino, AST Housing Authority, CCDF, 477 Program, Domestic Violence, ICW, Human Resources, AST Health System, All Nations Bank and Limitless Landscape. A special thank you to all of the volunteers that helped throughout the event, without you it would not have been possible.
- INDIAN CHILD WELFARE "ICW" (Report on pages 47-50) Secretary McGirt explains that a video is about to be shown and discloses that it is very graphic and if someone feels the need to step out of the room they may. The video contains graphic images of the things that ICW workers may see on a day to day basis. Secretary McGirt states that the ICW Department currently has 121 cases and it's only April. If there is anything that you need or have any comments, questions or great concern Secretary McGirt strongly recommends reaching out to the ICW Department. The department is currently only staffed at 3 employees. Secretary McGirt then shares a very detailed story regarding a little girl. If you feel the need to reach out please do so, at the end of the day it's about the children.
- D. TREASURER JOSEPH BLANCHARD (Report on page 53) Treasure Blanchard begins speaking on the reality and truth of what has seen up to this point of General Council. These are real issues that many people within the Tribe deal with on a day to day basis that not very many people talk about. All of the Program reports that

fall under the oversight of the Treasurer can be found from pages 53 through 73. Treasurer is now over 5 departments of the Tribe which are the following: Finance, Grants, Procurement, Social Services and Realty. Treasurer Blanchard goes on to speak about the Economic survey that is happening at General Council, all you have to do is scan the QR code. That helps gather information to get Tribal Member input regarding improvements to the Tribe as a whole. The General Council meeting is for the Tribal Members, it is their meeting so the EC wants to make sure the Tribal Members are being heard. Treasurer Blanchard explains the duty to progress within the Tribe and its departments. Treasurer brings up the concern on the tax/tag options to change the tag plate in the future. They are open to possibilities and input from the Tribal Members. Treasurer Blanchard explains that some of his greatest concerns had been previously discussed by Governor Johnson regarding the sitting administration. The turnpike was a key issue he wanted to re-iterate and make known was a huge concern of his. Treasurer Blanchard states that he has had great conversation and consistent communication with high leadership that can hopefully in the near future benefit the Tribe and its Members. Lastly, Treasurer expresses gratitude to the directors of the departments throughout the Tribe that took the time to introduce themselves and explain the departments and their duties to the Tribal Members.

#### \*\* AST ELDERS RAFFLE \*\*

Twila Parker, President of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribal Elders starts off by thanking everyone who donated and bought tickets for the Elders 50/50 raffle and drawing. There was a total amount of \$967.00 for the 50/50 raffle. The payout for the raffle was \$483.50. They also did a drawing for a Pendleton Blanket.

E. REPRESENTATIVE ANTHONY JOHNSON — (Report on page 53) Representative Johnson starts off by explaining what departments are under his oversight which includes the following: Camp Nikoti, TERO, Education and Cultural Preservation. Representative Johnson gives a little recap of the status on the camp; he explains that it is an ongoing project. Due to some new grants with restrictions and budget cuts they have been trying to look at new avenues to continue to make progress on the camp. The camp is being used internally for the time being. Representative goes on to announce that his department has brought back the TERO program; it has not been an active department for a few years now. Representative goes on to explain that new director of the TERO department is Sarah Lawerance; they are currently revamping the department's by-laws, policy and procedure along with the process to find the best structure possible to run the program. The last time this program was updated was in 2009. Representative Johnson moves on to talk about the Education Department, Tresha Spoon: Director of Education. Tresha has done a great job looking outside the box to find programs that support the Education Department and their participants within their program. They are looking to implement an Indigenous program that inspires Native American leaders. They are also looking into licensing programs to help bring in more participants in the

program. Representative Johnson speaks on Cultural Preservation with Carol Butler as the Director. That program has been assisting where is needed when it comes to different roles around the campus. Cultural Preservation has met with Senator Lisa Standridge regarding AGRA Section 106. Representative Johnson states that Absentee-Shawnee Tribe has implanted the Fire Team Program that consists of Lt. Governor's Office, Maintenance Department and many other Tribal Volunteers. They had recently helped maintain a fire and kept it from jumping highway to result in a higher threat so they have done a very good job with the people who have taken the time to volunteer. Representative Johnson gave a huge thank you to those who helped with that fire.

### VI. CASINO REPORT: Che Downs, General Manager (Passed out Paper for Report) Che Downs, General Manager begins speaking by introducing the Board of Directors, then proceeds to introduce the Management of the Casino. Che then discusses the amount

proceeds to introduce the Management of the Casino. Che then discusses the amou the casino was able to generate in 2024 in the amount of:

**\$3,410,992.44** – Gaming Tax

\$2,057,776.50 – Licensing/Regulatory Fees

**\$62, 381.57** – Sales/Business Tax

Equaling a total of \$5,533,750.51

Che Downs then goes on to speak about the current operations that are comprised of the following:

701 Electronic Gaming Machines (Between 2 Casinos)

5 Table Games - Norman

2 Food Venues – Norman / Shawnee

2 Bars – Norman / Shawnee

**Gift Shop - Norman** 

**164 Team Members Total** 

Over ¼ of the Team Members are Native American

#### Over 42% of the Native American Members are Absentee-Shawnee Tribal Members

Che Downs goes on to speak about their upcoming events for July. Che gives a shout out to Eastman Switch as the Pow-wow & Stomp Dance Coordinator. Che discusses the details regarding the Tribal Free play which is received in the amount of \$10.00 every week. The attendees of General Council also received a voucher in the amount of \$10.00 that they could use in addition to the weekly free play.

### VII. AST TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, INC REPORT: Chris Larkin, Executive Director of Health, reported on the following: (Report on pages 88-95)

Chris Larkin starts off by addressing the talk about the possibilities of financial cuts with the current sitting administration and he does not see any effect as of right now, the Health System seems very strong. The Health System does not accumulate a big amount of federal dollars for revenue but more so third party revenue dollars. The only

downside would be if they started to look towards Medicare or Medicaid. Chris goes on to announce the new clinic and announces they recently had the ground breaking debut. They are looking to have this completed by November 2026. This clinic is going to have the exact same services as the clinic here on the Shawnee Campus and Little Axe Clinic. Chris mentions that they did have their AAAHC re-accreditation and they passed with flying colors. The clinic has opened a separate department, Pediatric Adolescent Behavioral Health; which is now fully staffed and they continue to increase the number of providers. Chris explains they have also extended the hours for the Resource Center for those Tribal Members that expressed that concern. He does goes on to mention the Intern Program and where to find the applications and the duration those will be available. Chris does give attention to the fact there is a Measles outbreak however, there are no reported cases in our clinic.

#### VIII. ALL NATIONS BANK REPORT: Jill Maple, CEO (Report on page 107)

Jill starts off by stating that All Nations Bank received their new logo in the first quarter of 2025. She goes on to remind Tribal Members that they do have two locations, the one here in Shawnee on AST campus and another location in Calumet, Oklahoma. Jill introduces the Board of Directors for All Nations Bank. The bank has 10 employees. In 2024 the bank's earning's surpassed previous years since the bank was acquired by AST. Loans grew by 22%, deposits grew by 23% and the bank's assets grew by roughly 23% all within the last 12 months. All Nations Bank completed a state banking exam in 2024 and received a good report. Jill states that they have taken steps towards security within the bank to ensure not only the bank but the website and customers feel safe and secure. Jill states that the employees within the bank have focused on education and participated in classes throughout the campus to further educate them on their day to day duties within the bank. Jill beings a presentation that describes and shows the Tribal Members how to access their portals online. All Nations Bank is working towards providing an option to implement loan applications online. Jill goes into detail in her presentation regarding the benefits of banking with All Nations Bank.

### IX. QUESTIONS/ANSWERS- OPEN DISCUSSION

#### **Tina Ciulla**

**Question:** How are the AST tags tied in with the state and the toll system? Are they? Are they not?

\*\*Governor Johnson – They are not, Governor Stitt has asked for our data for the state system so they can charge Tribal tags. However, right now they don't have access to Tribal tag data.

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – AST is working with DOT and Public Safety regarding the Tribal tag issue and Governor Stitt does not seem to be budging on the issue. The state does have access to the tag system, but they do not have access to the data linked with the Tribal tag. Treasurer reiterates that AST has

been trying to work with the state regarding the safety issues regarding the Tribal tags. This is still an ongoing conversation and negotiation.

#### Openia Hadjiconstantinou

**Question:** Did the ICW Department get an increase in their budget to further assist more of our Tribal children and do their job more efficiently?

\*\*Secretary McGirt – No, the ICW Department did not get an increase. Secretary McGirt said that a meeting with finance needs to be set up to further discuss an increase in their budget because she does agree that there does need to be an increase to possibly get more helping hands within the ICW Department to better assist the Tribal children.

#### **Edwina Butler-Wolfe**

**Question:** Do they still do BIA negotiations for ICW with the federal program under the BIA Compact?

\*\*Nothing was mentioned from the Executive Committee.

Question: Did the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe do and read a testimony about the appropriation of funds for FY 2026 and if we did do a testimony where can we find it? This pertains to BIA, BIE and IHS.

\*\*Nothing was mentioned from the Executive Committee.

**Question:** Why do we have an elected official who may still be or has been an elected official who was elected through her Tribe serving on our TEC Board?

\*\*Nothing was mentioned from the Executive Committee.

Question: Is there an ASEDA Committee now?

\*\*Governor Johnson – Answered Yes

Question: Is Copper Bear Consulting still in ties with AST and doing work?

\*\*Nothing was mentioned from the Executive Committee.

Edwina wraps up by thanking Chris Larkin and the Health System for being reliable and someone to call to address and fix Tribal member concerns.

#### Marita Stout – Spoke on behalf of Janene Alford

Question: Going forward how can we implement eye-glasses for those Tribal Members outside of the catchment area? Is it that we have too many Tribal Members outside of the catchment area that the implantation isn't there? Or is there not very many people even asking for the services?

\*\*Governor Johnson – Governor Johnson states he would like everyone to be able to receive the same services as we do here. However, there are other details that go into play about implementing those services in other areas. This is why as he stated earlier in the meeting that building solar panels and other resources internally for the Tribe would greatly benefit our Tribal people because we could implement easy ways to provide services for other areas.

Question: What other ideas do you have outside of the solar panels?

\*\*Governor Johnson – Answers that the solar panels are the only other avenue he is looking into as a benefit the Tribe with internal revenue.

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – Speaks surrounding details about other ideas for revenue within the Tribe. For example: hotels, land expansion and casinos. Treasurer further explains the difficulties surrounding the reality of making those decisions and things they may come across during the process.

\*\*Governor Johnson – explains that the Tribe needs to start thinking outside of the box and really look into other economic development and buy up more land to use as possible ideas for more internal revenue.

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – made another comment regarding the question, they have looked at great opportunities such as a hotel, possible restaurants, these are all hopeful options and the Tribe is on a limited income and even with the income the Tribe does have they do their best to utilize the funds to the best ways that seem fit for the Tribal Members concerns.

\*\*Governor Johnson – Speaks in regards to what Treasurer Blanchard spoke about what the surrounding area is bringing in, a hotel would be a great attribute to hundreds of people coming into the area for sports tournaments and other special events.

#### Eastman Switch -

Question: What are your thoughts with the Department of Interior manual part 301, Chapter 7, titled departmental responsibility of consideration and inclusion and indigenous knowledge of department actions and scientific research?

Question: Is the Tribal Land Resource LLC; is the Tribe still in contract?

**Question:** What law firm is handling the 16 fee trust applications?

<u>Question:</u> What does the tax commission have with the software issue, issuing renewal letters and notices to vehicle owners?

Question: The Indian Gaming Association, why have we not paid our dues?

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – briefly gives some answers regarding some of the questions, starting off with the question regarding the Tribal Land Resource LLC, which had dealings with Copper Bear. The contract had actually ended in either 2023 or 2024 towards the end of the year. So by that time their 2 year contract term was already expired. So this correlates with the 16 applications that was originally apart of the agreement. They tried to start the process to rehash some of the court cases and other decisions that were previously made, but with the issues in the changed in CFR and the new adaptive changes that were just implemented for 24-25 year that came through DOI. Treasurer goes on to explain in great detail the intricate moving parts of the process surrounding the legal matters of paperwork. This was an issue that was presented to our Realty Department.

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – Goes on to answer the question regarding the Tax/Tag Commission and the renewal letters. Back in November the Executive Committee passed a resolution to bring in a new company that was supposed to transition and migrate over by January 1<sup>st</sup>. However, that did not happen. There was an issue within the server on the computer system. That was the

reason for no letters. The staff within the department are still working and still receiving money and funding and providing their duties to best assist the Tribal Members.

Rena Pederson – Rena starts discussion by stating that she would like to see the two mile project with Cleveland County upgrade roads north of highway nine, between Peebly Road and 192<sup>nd</sup>, there are a lot of Tribal Members that live within that area. Banner Road was also mentioned and would like to see that as well. Rena then mentions that she is concerned about the status of Tecumseh Square. We really need to figure out a way to internally make revenue for the Tribe with the assets that we do have. Also, if you are 65 and receive calls regarding Medicare hang up and call the Legacy Tribal Services Program that helps with the Tribal member Medicare. That phone number is 918-853-121. There is a lot of fraud within the mail and phones going around here lately so just make sure you are aware.

\*\*Governor Johnson – Makes supporting comments about the fraud, there have been text messages going around from DOT about owing fees and could possibly have your license revoked, which is that specific situation is fraud. Governor Johnson said that the license/tag renewal situation is almost the same as a situation pertaining to the clinic reminders that are sent out to Tribal Members.

\*\*Chris Larkin, Director of Health – Responds to Governor by stating that they are working on that issue.

\*\*Twyla Blanchard, Director of BIA/Self-Governance – Speaks regarding the comments made about the road situation, we only have 1 Potawatomie County Commissioner by the name of Abby Thompson who diligently works with AST. She is in District 3 and she comes to the Tribe and communicates and loves to work with the AST. Twyla continues by stating the federal process and the loops that the Tribe has to go through to further expand the progress through the Tribe.

Matthew Hood – Matthew begins by speaking with words of meaning and to uplift the Tribe as a whole with the progress and accomplishments up to this point. He expresses that he is very happy to be at General Council today and to see his fellow Tribal people be involved and speak with their voices to come together and express concern. We must continue to come together and help each other as Tribal Members. Matthew spoke very inspiring words to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribal Members about continuing to grow together and help each other.

#### Wynona Coon

Question: Did you resolve or actually know that the Housing Authority is putting liens on homes that are paid off? What is going on with that situation? \*\*Governor Johnson – Mentions that he did address the issue as a letter was brought to his office and he spoke with Sherry Drywater and Mike Affantranger

regarding the issue. Governor mentions that Mike was supposed to get back with Wynonna to figure out the details about that.

\*\*Treasurer Blanchard – Stated that the Absentee-Shawnee Housing Authority is not completely associated with the Tribe. They are a state chartered organization that was created in the 70's under the Tribal umbrella. So, they receive benefits and support the protection under the Tribal umbrella but they do have their own board, as their own organization.

Walter Larney – Walter begins by directing conversation to Chris Larkin, the Director of the Health System. He states that he has Humana as a supplemental insurance from Medicare. Humana is saying that they don't cover Optometry. Walter also stated that he went to Perkins and noticed that at the Iowa Tribe they had a Purple Heart Dedication. He states that it would be a good addition to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe. He has the information at the house and will give it to the Executive Committee.

\*\*Chris Larkin – States that he will get with him after General Council and figure out if it's our side or Humana that is stating they don't cover Optometry and they will figure something out.

\*\*Governor Johnson – Mentioned he would love the information from Walter regarding the Purple Heart addition.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Walter Larney** 

SECOND MOTION: Eastman Switch

**ALL IN FAVOR: All In Favor** 

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 12:45 PM** 

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



### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



### 95th Semi-Annual General Council Governor Report

May 2025: The Executive Committee invited Ms. Lisa Standridge of Norman for a meeting to discuss the issues of the turnpike location. After this meeting she fully understood the importance of the turnpike location. This meeting gave her a better perspective of our opinion for the location of the turnpike and the importance of our tribal land. She completely understood and agreed to take our concerns into consideration.

June 2025: Along with many tribes in Oklahoma, I attended Treaty Day at the Oklahoma state capitol. The treaties that we all have are more important now than ever before. Many tribal leaders agreed that the treaties that were signed many many years ago need to be reclaimed and enforced. With newly elected officials in office we don't want these treaties to be misunderstood. I also attended the Tribal Municipal Symposium in Hochatown. The importance of this meeting was to discuss the McGirt case and the outcome of it. If the outcome becomes more widespread, I will request a meeting with the City to discuss all available options.

**July 2025:** The 4th Annual Fishing for Nutrition was held at the one of our tribal properties in Earlsboro. I want to thank all the departments that sponsored food, drinks and door prizes and to all the individuals that volunteered their time to help. It was a very big turnout and we look forward to next year. The 37th Annual Sovereignty Symposium was held at the new OKANA resort in Oklahoma City. This event brings together all tribal leaders and all state and federal leaders to discuss tribal sovereignty in Oklahoma, Economic development, health care and preserving our cultural heritage. I was very pleased with the information given.

**August 2025:** AG Gentner Drummond held a luncheon at the State Capitol in OKC for AICCO. The tribal economic collaboration was the main topic for this luncheon. I appreciate the interest Mr. Drummond has in working with all the tribes across Oklahoma, I respect him for this. The AST Roads department hosted the Vision Zero Safety Bash here on campus with special guest from the US Department of Transportation. It was an honor to have Mr. Milo Booth, Director of Gov. Affairs US DOT and James Crawford Asst. Secretary of Gov. Affairs US DOT in attendance. They both shared interesting safety plans for the tribe and our roads.

**September 2025:** I attended the annual NATHPO conference in Reno Nevada with the Cultural Preservation department and the Representative. This conference gave me a broad view of the importance of preserving our cultural history and historical sites.

The AST podcast is now up and running. Watch for monthly post on the website. They are very informative and will cover all departments.

This concludes the October 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

### <u>General Council Report - October 4th, 2025</u>

### **Department Staff**

### **Police Department**

Brad Gaylord
Jason Brinker
Steven Crisp
Jason Reid
Rickey Jones
Joshua Bledsoe
Lisa Williams
Anthony Hicks
JP Neely
Jeremy Spradlin
Jamon Reid
Linda Day

Captain
Captain
Investigator
SORNA Officer
Patrol Officer

### **Emergency Management**

Levi Walker John Lantz **Emergency Manager Assistant Emergency Manager** 





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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.





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### Calls for Service Total - 88

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 04/01/25 - 08/24/25

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

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:**

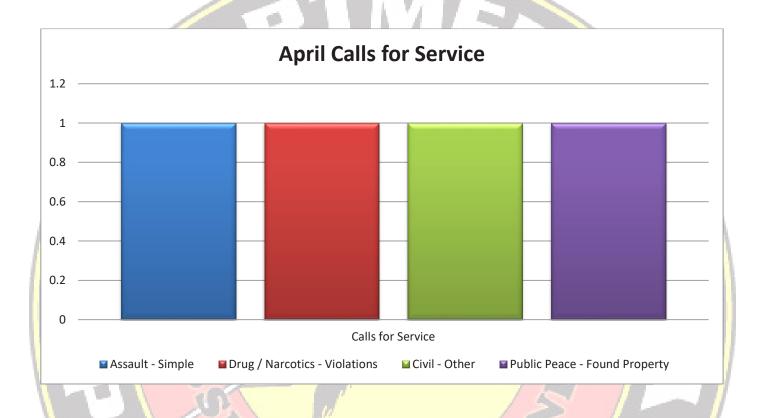
- Reports to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Police reports filed and Drug cases opened
- Thunderbird casino call reports for Norman and Shawnee
- Manager/Department Head meetings Chief Gaylord
- Tribal Court bailiff duties
- Transports from Pottawatomie County Safety Center to Tribal Court
- Officer Training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





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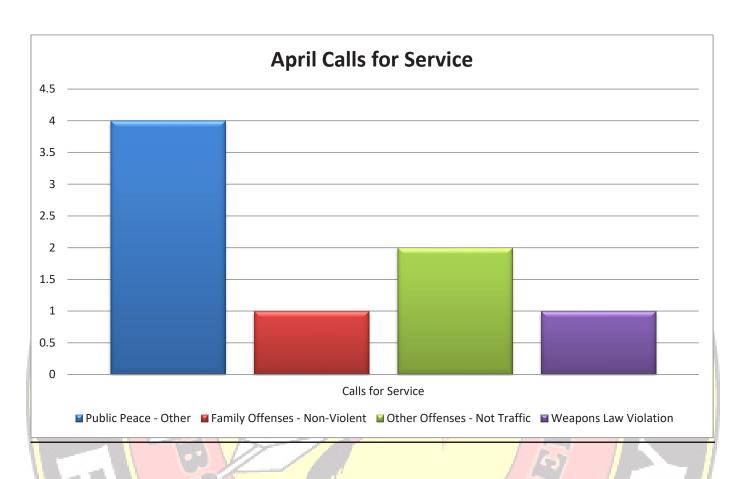
> April 2025 Total – 12







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### **April Special Events**

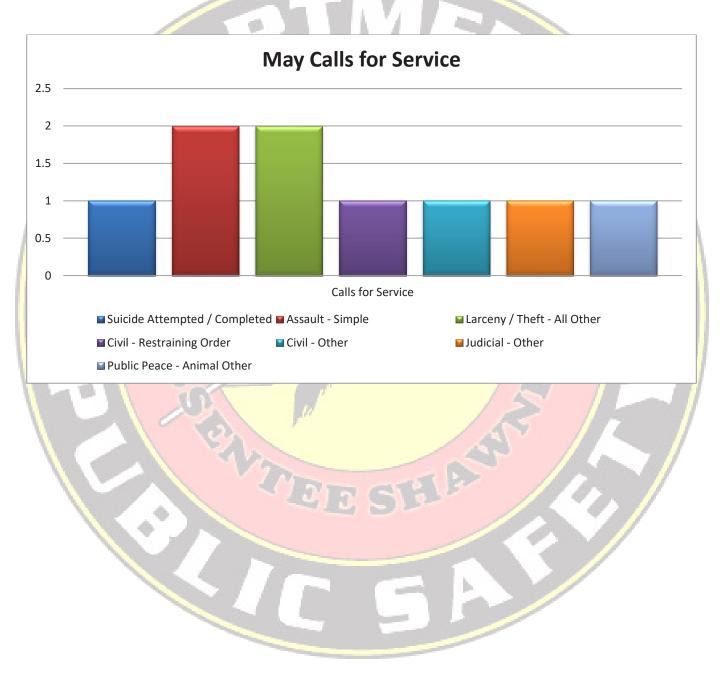
April saw the second meeting of the monthly AST Public Safety Club a joint program with the AST Education Department allowing officers to interact with our youth in a positive manner. ASTPD also participated in the annual Touch a Truck Event.





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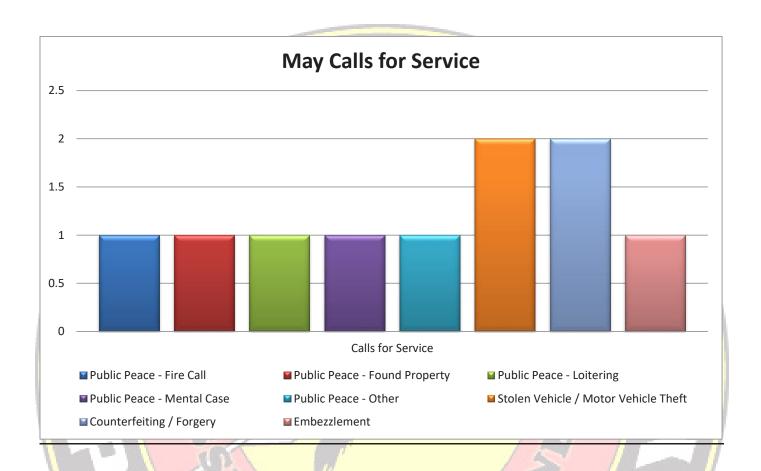
> May 2025 Total - 19







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### **May Special Events**

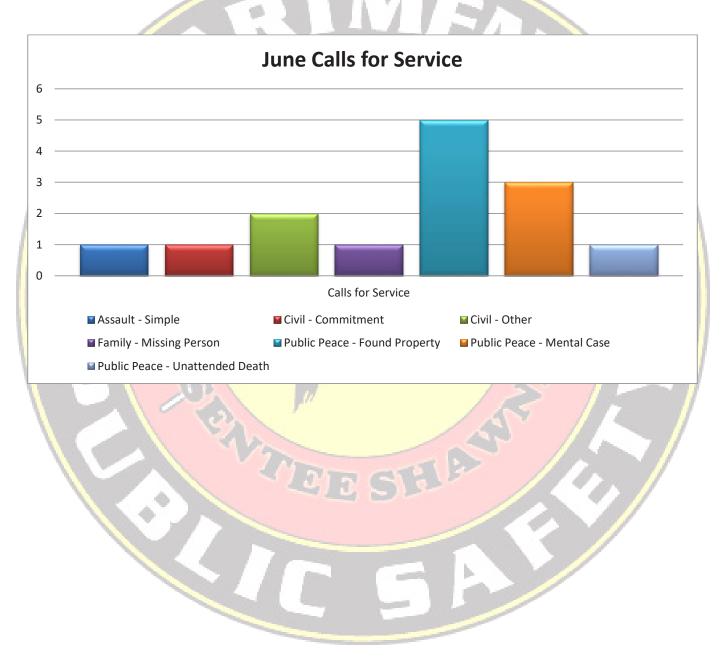
During the month of May, Officers from ASTPD participated in a community outreach event at Bethel Schools. We also participated in our monthly collaboration with the AST Education Department with the Youth Public Safety Club Meeting.





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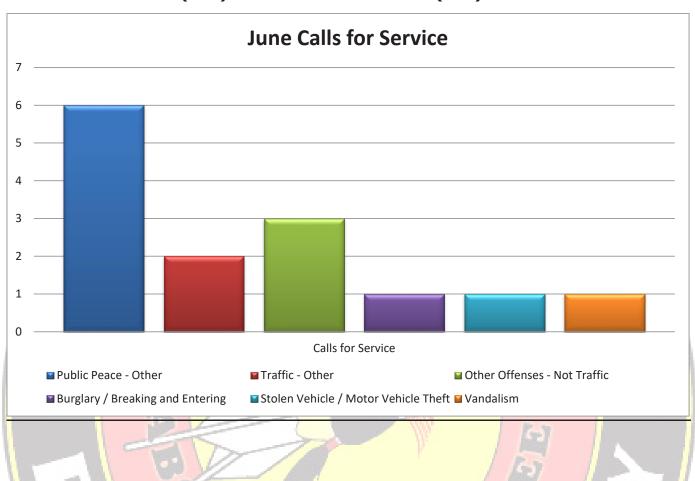
> June 2025 Total – 28







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### **June Special Events**

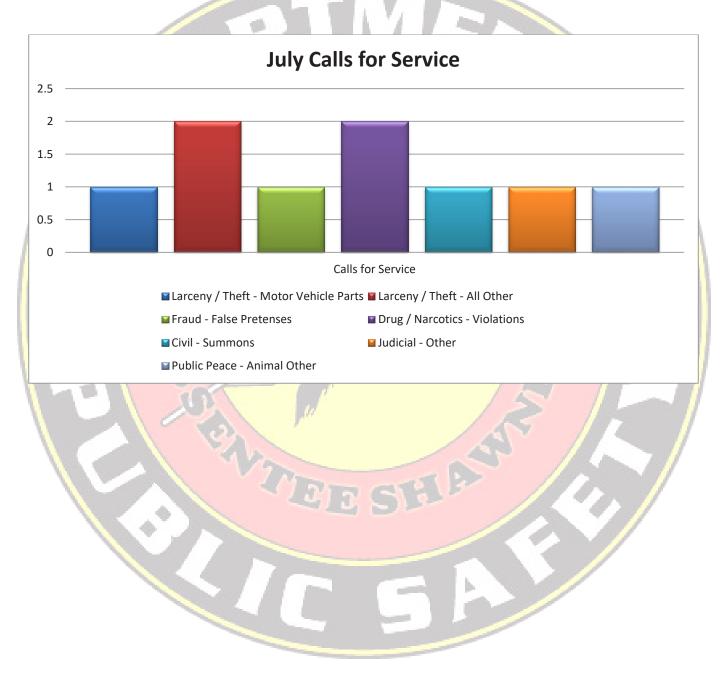
During the month of June, Officers from ASTPD participated in our monthly collaboration with the AST Education Department with the Youth Public Safety Club Meeting.





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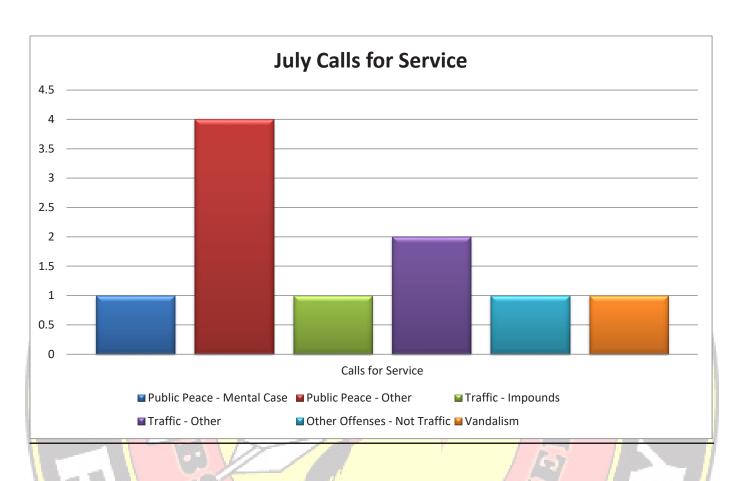
> July 2025 Total – 20







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### **July Special Events**

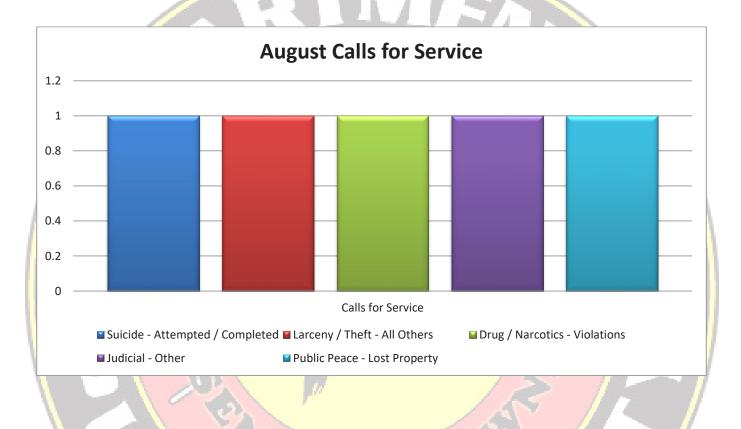
During the month of July, Officers from ASTPD participated in the annual Thunderbird Casino 4th of July events. Activities lasted 3 days with ASTPD providing security and support services throughout the event. Officers also took part in a joint event with Building Blocks Child Development, making a short presentation to the children and answering any questions.





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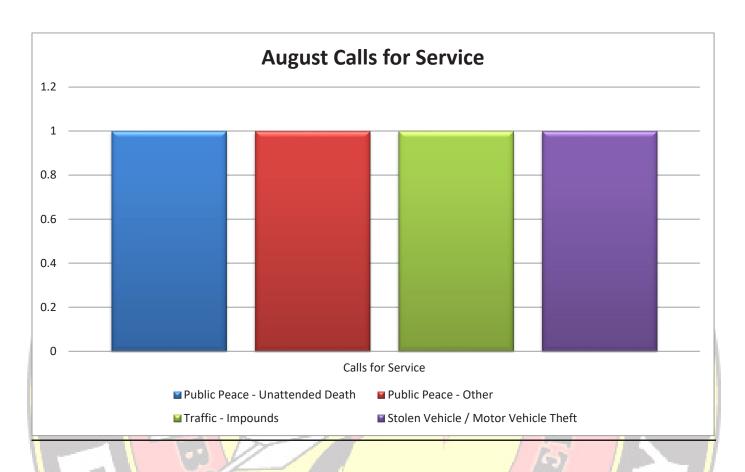
> August 2025 Total – 9







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### **August Special Events**

During the month of August, Officers from ASTPD participated in the annual Cops N Kinds Event. The event generated over 2,000 contacts with the Pottawatomie County Community. Officers and Emergency Management Personnel also received three days training and collaboration at this years annual Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition Summit.





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> Daily Patrols Total – 2,086



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 2,086 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.

# 2025 GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT



Levi Walker, Emergency Manager

Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Office of 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.





## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is now located within the new AST Public Safety Center at 2025 Gordon Cooper Dr Shawnee, OK 74801. This location is intended to help the Absentee Shawnee Tribe as a whole to better respond to any emergency, natural disaster, and/or man-made disaster if and when they occur. This location houses AST Public Safety staff and is used as a base of operations for disaster planning, response and coordination and is capable of supporting multiple jurisdictions. We also have an additional back up location in Little Axe in the event our main location becomes inoperable. This allows us to continue operations in the event of emergency.

## HAZARDS

To create a safer and more disasterresistant tribal community, it is important to first understand the hazards and risks that can impact that community. The Office of Emergency Management has developed a comprehensive list of hazards to which the tribe is vulnerable. This list was compiled after evaluating historical data from scientific and news media sources, soliciting opinions and experiences from participating jurisdictions, and surveying risks in surrounding counties. By understanding our risks, we can work to mitigate the impacts of events, or even prevent some hazards from taking place.

Hazards that pose a threat the Absentee Shawnee Tribe:

- Severe Thunderstorms/Windstorms
  - Lightning, Tornadoes, Flooding, Winter Storms, Drought
- Pandemic/Epidemic
- Wildfire
- Hazardous Material Releases
- Dam / Levee Failure
- Cyber Crime
- Terrorism
- Earthquakes



### PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

Achieved through a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response; the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is committed to being prepared for disasters, both natural and manmade. Working with community partners and collaborators is a key component of a successful emergency preparedness and response program. Partners can contribute to all aspects of the emergency management cycle by supporting risk assessments, communication, and other response and recovery activities. OEM, FEMA and local jurisdictions and their partners continuously plan and then exercise those plans to ensure that their skills stay sharp and they have the knowledge to help keep the public safe. These plan documents are developed, reviewed, and revised on a specific schedule.

#### Plans Developed:

- 2024 Jurisdictional Risk Assessment
- Emergency Operations Center Level Activation Procedure
- Functional Community Capability Resource Plan
- 2025 Annual review and update of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Emergency
   Operations Plan / Base Plan and Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes
- AST Complex Emergency Evacuation Routes
- AST Fire Safety Plan
- Volunteer Management Support Annex
- Crisis Communication Support Annex

#### In-Progress:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan (In-Progress)
- SPTHB (Southern Plains Tribal Health Board) Partnerships and Planning 2025
- Tecumseh Fire Department Mapping and Overview





#### Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC)

This years ITEMC meeting was held in Shawnee, OK and consisted of two training days where ASTEM participated in "The Use of AI in Emergency Management" and "Drone Basics: What Can Drones Do For Your Community"

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management is an active member of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC). ITEMC was developed in December 2004 to address the implications regarding the local, state and national all-hazards preparedness planning process in Oklahoma, home to 39 federally recognized Native American tribes.

The mission of the participating tribes of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition is to minimize the effects of disasters, (chemical, biological, technological, natural or manmade), upon the Indian Tribes in Oklahoma by preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against all natural and man-made disasters. We will accomplish this by implementing, exercising, and coordinating preparedness plans and by assisting other emergency response departments within our Tribes, the Coalition, and the local Emergency Management agencies. This can be accomplished with training and mitigation of disasters and by coordinating actual disaster response/recovery operations.

The Coalition is comprised of Tribal Emergency Management agencies' as well as other emergency response agencies, who share information and ideas on improving emergency response for member tribes. Participants include representatives from over 22 Oklahoma tribes and representatives from the Southwest Center for Public Health Preparedness, U.S. Attorney's Office, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, and Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

 ITEMC hosts monthly meetings and through ITEMC our AST Department of Emergency Management is teamed up with the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and completed a 2024 Risk Assessment for the Tribe that will be implemented and used within our Emergency Response plans.





#### **Southern Plains Tribal Health Board**

We have partnered with Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) to provide annual Adult CPR training to our Tribal Complex employees for FREE provided by staff of SPTHB. Our first time hosting this training was October, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and we plan to host another round of training this fall.

#### What is Southern Plains Tribal Health Board?

The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) is a non-profit organization based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Health Board was established in 1972 to provide a unified voice on tribal public health needs and policy for the 43 federally recognized tribes located in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Board membership includes representatives from the 12 service units in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Oklahoma Area.

Additionally SPTHB hosts and provides trainings through the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC) partners and ASTEM staff attended this year's SPTHB Training Summit from August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Last year ASTEM partnered with SPTHB to complete a Jurisdictional Risk Assessment that is used to identify and reduce risk impacts to our communities. During the wildfire response and tornado responses of the past, SPTHB has also played a large role in providing safety vests, flashlights, food and water and other necessities for disaster response.

We plan to continue our strong partnership with Southern Plains Tribal Health Board to grow and better protect the life safety of our community.



### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

ASTEM is over the fire extinguisher inventory and fire extinguisher inspections to make sure the fire extinguisher units are ready to respond at a moment's notice to any fire danger on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex. These extinguishers are checked monthly by AST Emergency Management, as well as our annual inspection performed by our new partners A+ Fire and Safety (an experienced fire safety contractor) for any deficiencies that may cause the extinguisher to malfunction. If there are any issues with an extinguisher, it is taken out of service and sent off to be either: recharged, repaired or replaced. Each year since this program has been in action, we have increased the amount of fire extinguishers available in each facility and/or building.

Additionally, all AST Police Department vehicles are each outfitted with functioning fire extinguishers where multiple have been put into action to better serve and protect our community.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to work with the Human Resources Department to further develop employee safety policies that are currently in place. This is so all Tribal members, visitors and employees are safe while on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex. All safety issues should be reported to the Human Resources department so that they may be properly handled.



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## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

In 2025 The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Office of Emergency Management ended its term as Chairman for the Pottawatomie County Local Emergency Planning Committee. All community members are still encouraged to join and participate in LEPC meetings whenever capable.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of various response partners, local businesses and other stakeholders from the county. The purpose of the LEPC is to ensure local response partners have appropriate training and equipment to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials. Additionally, businesses are encouraged to actively plan with members of the LEPC to ensure efficiency in response and appropriate pre-planning for events involving hazardous materials.

In 2020 Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management was the Co-Chair of the LEPC Training Committee. By being the Co-Chair, Emergency Management was responsible for the training and exercises of the LEPC. This includes ensuring training and exercise needs for annual grants were met.

In 2021 the AST Office of Emergency Management became the lead Chairman of the committee and maintained that role for 4 years. Our office provided updates to local planning documents as required by the State of Oklahoma as well as is the lead coordinator for the planning team for the annual Pottawatomie County LEPC exercise.

The Pottawatomie County LEPC typically meets four times a year, but as of 2023 we have planned to combine our meetings with the county's All Hazards Whole Community Working Group Quarterly Meetings. The public is not only invited but **encouraged** to attend all LEPC meetings.





### TRAINING

At the beginning of 2022 the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Department of Public Safety completed the next stage of its National Incident Management System (NIMS) training implementation. All Department of Public Safety staff has completed and submitted their base NIMS Incident Command System training. With each year following the implementation of this requirement we continue to offer and provide continual education and training on additional NIMS components to our staff.

#### What is NIMS?

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from incidents. NIMS provides stakeholders across the whole community with the shared vocabulary, systems and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. NIMS defines operational systems that guide how personnel work together during incidents.

ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

ICS-400 Advanced Command and General Staff-Complex Incident

IS 11.c Introduction to Incident Command System

IS 120.c An Introduction to Exercises

IS 200.c ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents

IS 230.d Fundamentals of Emergency Management

IS 235.c Emergency Planning

IS 393.b Introduction to Hazard Mitigation

IS 1000 Public Assistance Program Eligibility

IS 700.b NIMS An Introduction

IS 2200 Basic Emergency Operation Center Functions

IS 800.c National Response Framework, an Introduction

#### Additional Training

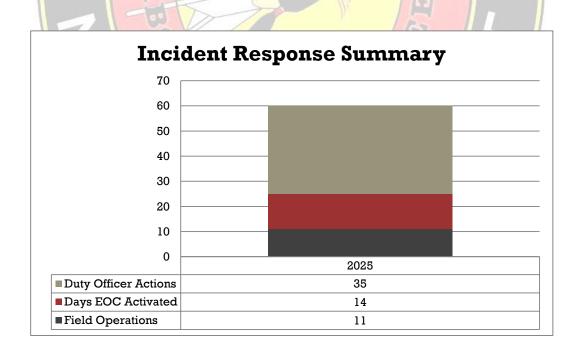
OK-First: OK-First is an outreach program of the Oklahoma Mesonet that provides Oklahoma's public safety community with weather education and access to critical real-time weather data. Since beginning classes in 1997, OK-First has trained more than 2,000 public safety officials and currently has more than 900 active members participating in the program. OK-First operates with financial support from the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety and is operated by the Oklahoma Mesonet. OK-First training and data are provided at no cost to eligible participants in Oklahoma and counties bordering the state.



## 2025 INCIDENT SUMMARY

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management requires the emergency manager or his/her designee be available or on call at all times beyond normal working hours. The duty officer serves as the Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) primary emergency point-of-contact for the alert, notification, and initiation of a preliminary response to major emergencies and disaster events occurring within the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Boundaries. The Tribe's EOC may be activated when the Office of Emergency Management becomes aware of an incident and anticipates a need for coordination, response, and/or resource support from the EOC or Field Operations. Typically, an Initial Situation Assessment is completed by the OEM duty officer and the decision to activate is made.

Severe weather also has the potential of causing the AST EOC to activate depending on the incident type. When the EOC is activated for severe weather it involves Emergency Management to monitor the severe weather threat at all times in coordination with the National Weather Service in Norman and other local agencies until the threat of severe weather dissipates.









## WILDFIRE REPONSE

On April 14th AST Public Safety responded to many wildfires that impacted our area. Here is a summary of many of the wildfire response efforts. Many homes were lost and our thoughts and prayers remain for those still recovering.

#### DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) staff coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and local emergency management to schedule Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments.

Initial damage assessments have been underway that following Saturday and Sunday in advance of the official review with federal partners. By that Sunday afternoon, state and local emergency management staff had identified more than 400 homes damaged statewide.

#### RESIDENTS ASKED TO REPORT DAMAGE

To identify all areas of damage across the state, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management asked residents impacted by wildfires and/or straight-line-winds to report damages to their property at damage.ok.gov. Reporting damage helps local and state emergency managers better coordinate response and recovery efforts and can help connect residents to resources. Residents can report damage to homes, businesses or agriculture through the online survey.

#### STATE OF EMERGENCY

A State of Emergency was issued for 12 Oklahoma counties due to wildfires and fire weather conditions that began Friday. Under the Executive Order, state agencies can make emergency purchases and acquisitions needed to expedite the delivery of resources to local jurisdictions. The declaration also marks a first step toward seeking federal assistance should it be necessary. The counties included in the governor's declaration are: Cleveland, Creek, Dewey, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, and Stephens.



#### **FATALITIES & INJURIES**

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has confirmed four fatalities related to the fires or high winds:

- l Lincoln County
- 1 Garfield County
- 1 Haskell County
- 1 Pawnee County

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 142 injuries related to the fires and high winds have been reported by area hospitals.

- 7 Burn
- 9 Cut/Pierce
- 31 Fall
- 1 Poisoning
- 16 Struck
- 36 Transportation Related
- 42 Other Fire or Wind Related

#### MASS CARE

American Red Cross supported shelters and feeding in Luther, Mannford, Shawnee, and Stillwater and served nearly 1,220 meals.

The Salvation Army provided up to 1,200 meals per day in Stillwater. They deployed feeding units to support Stillwater, Mannford and Pawnee.

Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief had a feeding kitchen set up in partnership with American Red Cross to support meals for impacted residents and responders in Logan, Pawnee, Payne counties.

#### **POWER OUTAGES**

Currently, power should be restored to impacted areas.



#### FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS SECURED

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the state's request for 13 Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) for the following fires:

840 Road Fire – Leedey, Roger Mills County
Stillwater Fire – Stillwater, Payne County
Luther Fire – Luther/Arcadia/Edmond, Oklahoma County
East Thunderbird Fire – Little Axe/Norman, Cleveland County
Little Salt Creek Fire – Mannford, Creek County
Chandler Fire – Chandler, Lincoln County
Logan County Fire – Guthrie, Logan County
Wildhorse Fire – Velma, Stephens County
Clear Pond Fire – Bethel Acres/Shawnee, Pottawatomie County
Underwood Fire – Yale / Cushing, Payne County
Keystone Fire – Osage, Pawnee County
Barn Fire – Cleveland, Pawnee County
Norge Fire – Chickasha, Grady County

The FMAGs may help reimburse local governments, volunteer fire departments and other first responders for costs associated with responding to the fires. The authorization makes FEMA funding available to reimburse 75 percent of state, local and tribal government eligible firefighting costs for the designated fires. Federal fire management assistance is provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund. Fire departments and other agencies that responded to the fires above are advised to document all costs related to equipment and supplies (including fuel), labor costs, travel and per diem, temporary repairs of damage caused by firefighting activities, mobilization, and demobilization.

#### DIAL 211

For Oklahoma residents seeking non-emergency disaster or health and human service information, please contact your local 2-1-1. Services are available 24 hours a day by dialing 2-1-1 from your home or cellular telephone. Please only call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

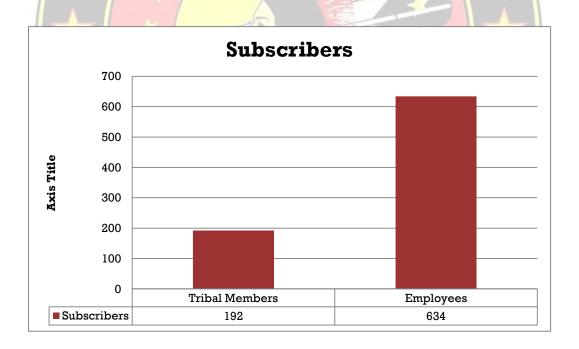


## EVERBRIDGE MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Everbridge Mass Notification System was established during the COVID-19 Pandemic so that the tribe could effectively communicate critical information to the tribal members and to the employees. This system was purchased with the South Plains Tribal Health Board Grant funding.

Everbridge has been utilized on multiple occasions to notify employees of closures to the AST Complex, as well as emergency notifications for an active shooter in Cleveland County during late 2021. Automated weather alerts are sent to Everbridge subscribers whenever warnings, advisories or other alerts are confirmed by the National Weather Service.

It is important to have more than one way of receiving emergency weather alerts, so sign up for Everbridge directly from the Tribe's website, under the Emergency Management tab.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: (405) 275-3200

E-MAIL: ASTEM@astribe.com

AST EOC: 2025 Gordon Cooper Dr Shawnee OK 74801





## **FOOD PANTRY**



The AST food bank will be opened for 5 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. We hope that number continues to grow.

The AST food pantry uses several different vendors for our monthly needs. Such vendors are Tankersley, Ben E Keith, And Indian Nation Wholesale with our newest vendor being 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 selfsufficiency, 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



I would like to welcome the AST Members who are in attendance at the 95th Absentee Shawnee Tribe Indians of Oklahoma General Council.

I greatly appreciate the honor and opportunity of being the Lt. Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. I have fulfilled 1 year and 3 months of my 4 year term, attending meetings, conferences, learning and understanding the daily operations of the departments, committees, commissions, most importantly the needs and concerns of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members.

Working side by side with the other four Executive Committee Members is a challenge because each one brings their own thoughts, ideals and knowledge to the Tribe. I am the type to sit back, observe and listen to facts before I make my decisions or state my opinions. Knowing I am not an employee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe but by the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members I would like to open up my mind to any thoughts, concerns that may exist among the people. The Lt. Governor's Office is always open and welcomes anyone to stop in and visit. I may not have all the answer but I will look until I find the answer, may not be what you want to hear but it will be accurate with back up documentation. I and my Executive Administrative Assistant try to answer incoming calls/emails promptly if we happen to miss anything we will contact you in a timely matter. I am excited see what the remainder of my term brings to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

Contact Information: Bldg. #2 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801

Lt. Governor

Yvonne.Ponkilla@astribe.com (405) 275-4030 ext. 3503 (405) 432-0733

Ni yi wa

**Executive Administrative Assistant** 

DericS@astribe.com (405) 275-4030 ext. 3504 (405) 617-4105



### OEH&E



#### **Staff:**

Jarrod Lloyd, OEH&E Director Kevin Arthur, EPA Grants Manager Anthony Davis, 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 <a href="https://www.astribe.com">www.astribe.com</a> 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 assessments and 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. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Absentee-Shawnee-Tribe-Brownfield-Response-Program/1439930279621958">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Absentee-Shawnee-Tribe-Brownfield-Response-Program/1439930279621958</a>. 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 ordinance development, restoration activities. NPS outreach, education. 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



#### Agriculture Department Update

The department is managing 154 head of cattle. Our first hay cutting was completed, and youth workers helped plant a pumpkin patch for the Health Fair and Building Blocks field trip. With support from the ANA Grant, we donated locally grown peaches to the food pantry. The department also continues to process and sell beef to support operations.



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



95th Semi-Annual General Council Secretary's Report

Ha ti to (hello) Tribal Members,

I hope everyone is doing well since the last general council. I always look forward to seeing everyone. My office has been very busy with the day to day operations along with the weekly/monthly meetings.

<u>May</u> - I attended a MMIP remembrance walk. The ICW department held a brunch for the foster families this month as well.

<u>June</u> - We had a busy month the Executive Committee and I attended the sovereignty symposium. Domestic violence held an elder luncheon it was a great turn out. My office helped with fishing for nutrition it was a great event for our tribal members and the youth. ICW held an event for the children this month as well.

<u>July</u> - I attended OIGA for the first time this month with staff and some Executive Members. The rest of this month was filled with the regular weekly/monthly meetings.

<u>August</u> - USDOT Assistant Secretary James Crawford visited our campus and attended the safety bash held at the MPB building and campus. I attended a Tribal elder abuse code summit in Tulsa. It was a great conference to attend. Staff and I learned a lot and will have more to update on this topic.

#### Here is a list of my Departments I have oversight

Human Resources- Share oversight with Governor Johnson.

**Enrollment** 

**ICW** 

**Domestic Violence/Rising Warrior** 

MIS

Agriculture- Share oversight with Lt. Governor Ponkilla.

**Front Receptionist** 

If you have any questions or concerns please contact my office.

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

Executive Assistant: Alexas Rosales (405) 273-4030 EX. 3641 arosales@astribe.com

## **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.
- Ongoing record retention and

#### **Announcements:**

- ➤ Tribal Names "Indian 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 have been delayed due to the Enrollment Director being on medical leave. If you have suggestions for updates please email the Enrollment Director, Amanda Webb, at <a href="mailto:awebb@astribe.com">awebb@astribe.com</a>. Be on the lookout for meetings and surveys in the coming months.

### **Enrollment Statistics April 2025-Present**

#### **Resolutions:**

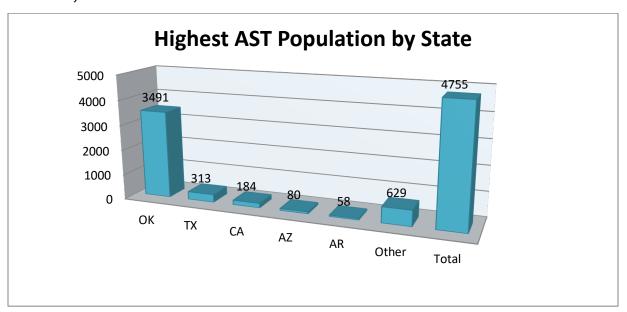
➤ Certification of Membership Roll: 1

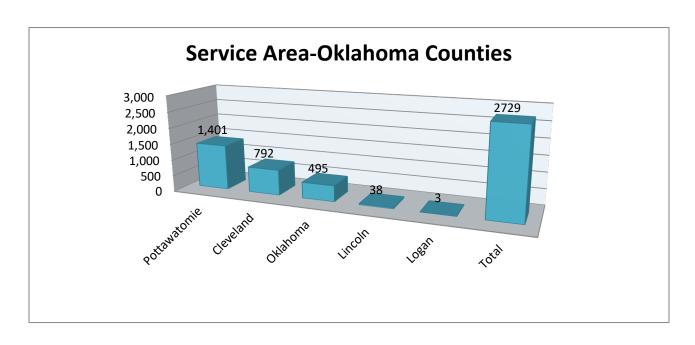
> Membership: 5

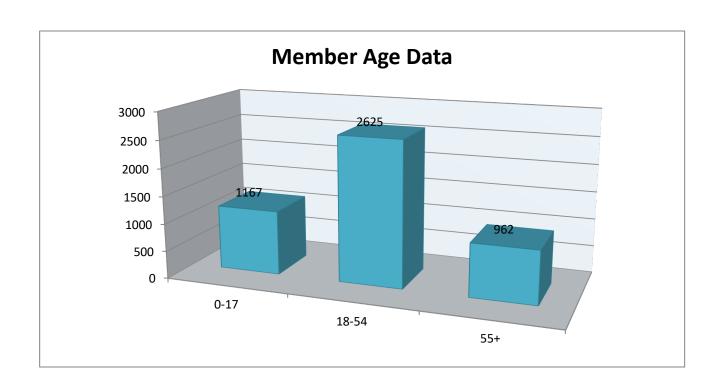
o Total New Members: 34

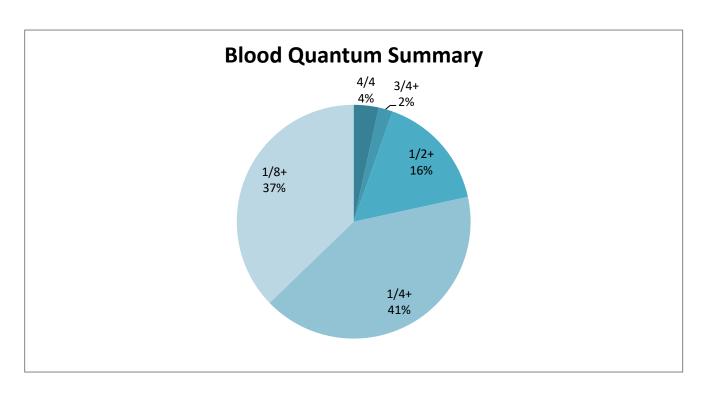
> Conditional Relinquishment: 4

> Rejection: 2











## **HUMAN RESOURCES**



## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

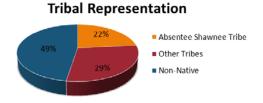
"Our mission is to provide quality human resource services to attract, develop, motivate, and retain a diverse workforce within a supportive tribal environment."

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.

The Human Resource Department worked with ECM and implemented an automatic reply system for all applicants. This process has been a key initiative the Human Resources Department has been working to implement since 2023. With the assistance of the ECM Department all applicants now receive an automatic email that their application has been received, and are notified of any updates throughout the application process.

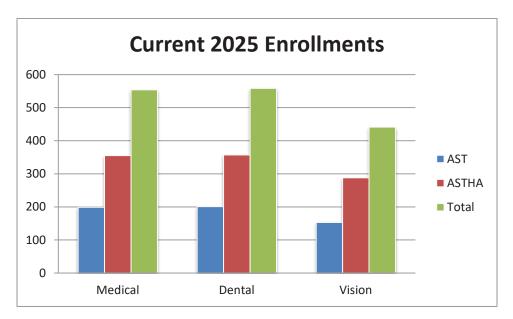
Earlier this year the Human Resource Department hosted a leadership training "Leading without Authority: How to Persuade, Influence and Motivate" for supervisors and managers. Supervisors gained the leadership skills to establish credibility, engage and influence others to help build a culture of communication and collaboration for organizational effectiveness. The Human Resource Department plans to host 2-3 leadership trainings a year to target key areas from leadership essentials, communication, managing, motivating and influencing others. Health HR scheduled informational sessions throughout the year to refresh managers and supervisors on FMLA, EAP, EWS, and other key programs. 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.

With the ever growing needs of the Tribe, attracting and retaining the best talent is important to the development of each department and program. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma currently has 638 employees; out of 638 employees, 51% of our employees are Native American.



#### **BENEFITS**

In November 2025, the Human Resources Department will host our annual open enrollment. We will host in person assisted enrollment in Shawnee and Little Axe. 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 continues to work diligently with 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 able to contribute to their retirement plan each pay period and receive up to a 5% employer match. Employees can make their contributions Pre-Tax and / or Roth. As of August 31, 2025, the plan balance was approximately \$24,069,603.04. The Human Resource Department has continued to host in person meetings with our financial broker to 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 has a strong team with experience, dedication, and credibility.

Five staff members attended the Annual Society for Human Resource Management State Conference in May of 2025. This conference allowed for staff members to build relationships and gain invigorating knowledge in relation to the ever changing environment of Human Resources. One staff member completed FMLA master classes and two staff members where certified and recognized as THRP I by the National Native American Human Resources Association (NNAHRA). Tribal Human Resources Professional THRP I Certification is recognized as an essential credential for any HR professional working in Indian Country to further their knowledge and professional expertise. This professional development program provides professionals and tribal leaders an opportunity to become more proficient in relevant topics, trends, legislation, and regulations unique to tribal governments and their enterprises.

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 <a href="https://example.com">HR@astribe.com</a> with any comments or concerns.

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.

#### THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES:

Casey Adams-Beesley, Director of Human Resources
Lauren Gladden, HR Generalist II
Rebecca Hyde, HR Benefit Specialist II
Anna James, HR Administrative Assistant
Michele Nowell, Health HR Officer
Dayna Dick, Health HR Manager
Makayla Kasitz, 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



## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE



## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE GENERAL COUNCIL SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2025

#### **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

Greetings Relatives! The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Department is honored to provide you with this semi-annual report. We believe in sharing both our successes and our challenges, so that together, as a community, we remain united in our responsibility to protect and nurture our children and our elders. The past six months have brought us moments of pride, as well as areas where we know we must continue to grow. By keeping you informed, we hope to strengthen the circle of support that surrounds our children and families.

#### 1. CASE STATISTICS

- Over the last six months, we have closed 18 cases
  - o 11 children aged out
  - 4 adoptions (relative/kinship)
  - o 3 reunifications
- As of September 2025, we are serving:
  - 7 tribal and state cases
  - o 46 guardianships
  - o 32 support services

This brings us to a total of 85 active cases

#### 2. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Over the last six months, our team has been actively involved in multiple initiatives to educate, advocate and strengthen child welfare within our tribal community:

#### Education and Awareness:

- o Presented as a guest speakers for Building Blocks Day Care Training Day in Shawnee, on recognizing and reporting child abuse.
- Participated as a guest speaker at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Oklahoma Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Norman, OK,
- o Attended the Crimes Against Children's Conference in Dallas, TX, expanding our knowledge and networking to better serve our children.
- Attended in the 2025 Tribal Elders Abuse Code Summit in Tulsa, OK, where we recognized the urgent need for our Tribe to adopt protection codes for Tribal elder/adult abuse, neglect and exploitation.

## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE GENERAL COUNCIL

#### **SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2025**

#### • Community Outreach:

- o Participated in the tribe's podcast in late April, discussing child abuse awareness and the critical need for tribal foster homes.
- o Hosted a Foster Care Appreciation Brunch, honoring our dedicated foster families for their commitment and care.
- o Set up foster care recruitment booths at multiple Tribal and City of Shawnee events to encourage more community members to become foster parents.

#### 3. CHALLENGES AND AREAS FOR GROWTH

Despite our efforts, some challenges persist:

- Foster Homes: We currently have only three (3) active foster homes
- Foster Care Licensing Committee: We need additional tribal members to serve on this committee. Updating outdated bylaws is also a priority to ensure better service for our children.
- **Staffing shortages:** Limited staff has prevented us from meeting several of our goals for this reporting period.
- Elder/Adult Protection: Our Tribe must establish clear codes for protecting elders and vulnerable adults, as well as determine which program will oversee reporting and investigations.

#### 4. PROGRAM UPDATES

- The "Shawnee Way" parenting curriculum has been completed and is awaiting approval by AST cultural preservation first, then by Tribal and State courts to be used in lieu OKDHS parenting curriculum for our tribal members.
- One of our key goals for 2026 is to implement Children's Court, which will allow children in both deprived and guardianship cases to be seen and heard in a supportive, tribal-centered court setting.
- Difficulty coordinating with multiple jurisdictions for cases crossing tribal/state boundaries

#### 5. TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Children: Occurring on AST trustland Occurring off of AST trustland OKDHS hotline: 1-800-522-3511

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

Elders: OKDHS hotline: 1-800-522-3511

- - -

## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE GENERAL COUNCIL SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2025

#### **CLOSING REFLECTIONS**

As we reflect on the past six months, we acknowledge both the victories that bring hope and the challenges that push us to do better. Each child who is safely reunified, each adoption finalized, and each family strengthened reminds us why this work is so important. At the same time, the gaps we face—such as the urgent need for more foster homes, updated bylaws, create elders/adult protection codes—call upon us as a tribal community to come together for our most vulnerable members. It is our sacred responsibility to protect both our children and our elders. Together, we can continue building a stronger future for our people—one rooted in protection, healing, and cultural strength.

#### **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 and Elder Abuse to overcome their trauma and live abuse-free lives. The Rising Warrior Department operates through 2 OVW (Office on Violence Against Women), 4 OVC (Office for Victims of Crime) and 1 FVPSA 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 and elder abuse.

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 domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, sex-trafficking, elder abuse or stalking incident. 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.

<u>Lacey Carey</u> 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.

<u>Monique Carpitcher</u> 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. The current ambition of the program is to continuously bring awareness to the elder abuse epidemic in our community while gaining the trust of tribal community members.

<u>Taylor Wills</u> 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 40208 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, Victim Advocate/Self-Sufficiency Coordinator	(405) 827-1796
•	Kristy Kisor, Outreach Coordinator	(405) 827-4213
•	Monique Carpitcher, Cultural Outreach Coordinator	(405) 432-9469
•	Taylor Wills, 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.

#### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



## OFFICE OF THE TREASURER



Hello AST Members, Family, and Friends:

Let me begin by saying "Welcome to the 2025 Fall General Council Meeting". As I begin this year's Semi-Annual report, I want to make certain you are aware of the most recent information, as it pertains to the programs and departments under my oversight. In the following pages, you will find details from the Directors about their daily operations and functions. Currently, here are the associated Departments under my purview: Finance, Grants, Procurement, Realty, and Social Services. I also have shared capacity over ECM and 477.

Of all the data I've reviewed the last few months, here is the most interesting I thought membership would like facts on. In coordination with ECM Department, an Economic Survey was presented at the Spring GC meeting, and responses collected until June 30th. Besides being here in print, I have also directed that it should be in the "Members Only" section on the website. As expected, the replies will help provide viewpoints that membership suggested the Executive Committee should focus on for future growth. This will be crucial as the Tribe begins to develop a Long-term Strategic Plan in a greater effort to progress and move the Tribe forward.

With that same mindset, to show members how our AST system has grown since 2017, our Tribe was one of nineteen (19) Tribal Nations to submit 2023 information for participation in the OIGA and the Oklahoma City University "Economic Impact Study". Those results were released in July then my office received our AST data in August. This report will also appear in the "Members Only" section on the website. Due to the sensitivity of the statistics, I would ask individuals to please keep these statistics private and confidential in nature, and not share publicly. I think folks will be surprised to know how much we contribute to services and programs within our community and back to our membership. Here is some of the growth, or AST direct impact:

<u>2017</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	AST Employment		
\$33,511, 748		\$54,278,410	=\$20,511,748 (62%)
	Direct OK Production		
\$78,575,986		\$92,772,293	=\$14,196,307 (18.1%)
	Revenue Generated		
\$25,657,122		\$33,183,862	=\$7,526,740 (29.3%)
	Capital Projects		
\$0		\$9,132,436	=\$9,132,436

Impact to the State of Oklahoma, Pottawatomie County:

	Job Creation			
\$55,300,00		\$131,000,000	=\$75,700,000	(136.9%)
	Dollars Generated			
\$145,200,000		\$195,000,000	=\$49,800,000	(34.3%)

I appreciate you reading my comments and look forward to future discussion. Do not hesitate to let my office know if there is anything further we can do to be of assistance.

Neyiwa!

Joseph H. Blanchard





# The Statewide Economic Impact of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

FY 2023

June 30, 2025

Kyle D. Dean, PhD

Principal, Economic Impact Group

#### **Executive Summary**

#### Direct Contribution of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe

#### Employment and Wages for Oklahomans

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe maintained 561 jobs, paying wages and benefits of \$54,278,410 to Oklahoma workers.

#### Oklahoma Production

When combining business revenues, government expenditures, and capital expenditures, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe accounted for \$92,772,293 in direct Oklahoma production.

- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe spent \$50,246,671 for basic government operations as well as healthcare, education, social services, history and culture, housing, and education programs
- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe businesses generated \$33,183,862 in revenues
- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe spent \$209,324 on road and bridge construction and maintenance within the jurisdictional area
- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe spent \$9,132,436 on other capital projects

#### Economic Impact of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe

When analyzed in the context of the Oklahoma economy and accounting for spillover (multiplier) impacts, we estimate that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe supported:

- 1,623 jobs in the state
- \$131 million in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers
- \$195 million in economic impact statewide

#### Introduction

In 2025, we were commissioned to research and report the economic impact of all tribal activities within the state of Oklahoma. Sponsored by United for Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA), the study was completed on May 23, 2025. Tribes who provided data for the comprehensive study each received a brief memo outlining their statewide economic impacts.

This document is the report of the economic impacts of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This memo is not a comprehensive analysis of impact, rather, it is a highlight of total impacts based upon the data provided by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe is headquartered in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Their jurisdictional area spans all or part of 3 counties, including Cleveland, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie. According to the tribe, there are 3,396 tribal citizens living in Oklahoma. Most Absentee Shawnee activity occurs within their jurisdictional area border, but their impact is felt statewide.

# Texas Beaver Wood Affaits Grant Kay No size Chape Obligate Wood Affaits Grant Kay Washington Obligate Washington Obligate Major Davington Obligate Major Creat Washington Obligate Major Creat Washington Obligate Major Creat Washington Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Again Portation Grant Johnston Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Again Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Again Obligate Market Character Again Obligate Again Obligate Market Character Again Obligate A

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Source: US Census Bureau Tigerline Shapefiles, Economic Impact Group, LLC.

#### **Direct Contribution**

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe provided internal data which was used to estimate the impact of their activities statewide. The data were classified by four broad categories: Government, Business, Roads, and Other Capital Projects<sup>1</sup>. As categorized, the provided data represent their direct Oklahoma economic contribution.

The direct contribution data were used as the primary input into the economic impact model. The table below details the direct contribution of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe for the four categories with Roads and Other Capital Projects summed in the "Capital Projects" column.

#### **Tribal Government Activities**

To maintain consistency across all tribal reports, we classified all government activities into Healthcare, Social Services, History and Culture, Housing, Education, and basic Government Operations categories. Anything not fitting into these was classified as Other Government. According to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, the tribal government spent \$50,246,671 operating the government and providing services to tribal citizens. Their government maintained 355 jobs, paying \$45,164,798 in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers.

Direct Contribution from Tribal Government				
	Employment Payroll		Expenditure	
Healthcare	355	\$31,126,298	\$20,895,898	
Social Services		\$5,407,655	\$15,585,403	
History and Culture		\$328,073	\$626,944	
Housing				
Education		\$196,504	\$78,911	
Government Operations		\$8,106,268	\$12,957,106	
Other Government			\$102,409	
Total	355	\$45,164,798	\$50,246,671	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data were collected for 6 categories, but gaming and healthcare were merged with tribal business and tribal government respectively for this individual tribal memo.

#### **Tribal Business Activities**

Tribal business activities were aggregated into 6 broad categories: Finance, Professional Services, Manufacturing, Retail, Gaming, and Other Business. In 2023, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe received \$33,183,862 in combined revenues from its Oklahoma-operated business entities. Tribal businesses provided 206 jobs, paying \$9,113,612 in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe direct contribution from business activities is reported in the table below.

Direct Contribution from Tribal Businesses				
	Employment	Payroll	Revenue	
Gaming	195	\$8,483,093	\$29,805,373	
Finance	11	\$630,519	\$3,378,489	
Real Estate				
Professional Services				
Manufacturing				
Retail				
Other Business				
Total	206	\$9,113,612	\$33,183,862	

#### **Tribal Capital Projects**

Capital projects include expenditures on new construction, maintenance, and upgrades for existing structures. We divided these expenditures into two broad categories: Roads and Other Capital Expenditures. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe spent \$9,341,760 on capital projects in 2023 of which \$209,324 went to roads projects in their jurisdiction area that benefit all Oklahomans and \$9,132,436 was spent on other capital projects.

Direct Contribution from Capital Expenditures		
Expenditure		
Roads	\$209,324	
Other Projects \$9,132,43		
Total Capex	\$9,341,760	

#### **Economic Impacts**

The impacts reported in the table below include the direct tribal contribution and the additional economic activity generated by other Oklahoma entities in response to the tribal contribution. This "response" is referred to as the "Multiplier Effect" in the table below.

Multiplier effects include the additional production, employment, and compensation generated by Oklahoma companies in response to the demand for their goods and services by tribal activities. It also includes the additional impacts by households and governments who receive income from the cycle of activity resulting from the initial direct contribution. Households and governments spend this income on additional goods and services from Oklahoma entities, deepening the impacts throughout the state. The resulting impacts represent the economic significance of the tribe within the State of Oklahoma.

The total economic impact of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe was \$194,777,854 in 2023. As a result of all tribal activity, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe supported 1,623 jobs paying wages and benefits of \$130,998,643 to Oklahoma workers.

Statewide Economic Impacts from All Tribal Activities			
	Employment Payroll Out		
Direct Effect	561	\$54,278,410	\$92,772,293
Multiplier Effect	1,062	\$76,720,233	\$102,005,561
Total Effect	1,623	\$130,998,643	\$194,777,854

#### Appendix A: Methodology

#### Impact Estimation

Economic impacts are estimates of the full production, employment, and income that are directly and indirectly linked to the production activity under study. The true impacts are unknowable, as the variety and quantity of expenditures flowing downstream are not specifically reported. However, "good" estimates can be obtained by using existing economic linkages developed from previous industry flows. These previous annual dollar flows are used to construct a model that calculates the downstream impacts that result from tribal government, business, and construction activities. The downstream expenditures include production by related industries, governments, and households. When totaled, these direct (tribal) and multiplier (downstream industries) activities provide a complete picture of the total impact.

A model was created for the state of Oklahoma for use in the estimation phase using IMPLAN software. The model was used to estimate the impacts from tribal government and business activities as well as roads and other capital expenditures. Tribal government impacts were derived from direct government expenditures, employment, and payroll. These impacts were added to business impacts derived from business revenues, employment, and payroll, and capital expenditures for one-time roads and other construction projects to provide a complete estimate of the impacts of all tribal activities in the state. Construction impacts are transient, occurring only once, while government and business (operations) impacts occur annually. As a result, some of the variance of impacts across years can be explained as variation in roads and other capital projects expenditures.

The methodology employed in this report is designed to estimate the contribution of (mostly) existing activities to the local economy . The approach begins with a static description of expenditure flows between households and industries, capturing the reliance of one industry's output on other, supporting industries. For example, by examining the expenditures from the construction industry to the wholesale lumber industry we can derive an estimate of the reliance of the construction sector on wholesale lumber output.

From these frozen-in-time expenditure flows, we can derive economic multipliers specific to each industry. These multipliers estimate the combined, or total economic impact originating from an initial expenditure (or revenue) from the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Multipliers for employment and wages and benefits are derived similarly. This approach is valuable as it provides rich information at a relatively low computational cost. However, the methodology does invoke some restrictive assumptions, including constant prices and a fixed production process, and should not be confused with a computationally higher cost economic forecast.

#### Tribal Data Overview

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe provided all primary data used to estimate the impacts. Data were collected using a survey specifically targeted to the categories needed for impact estimation. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe used internal records to complete revenue, expenditure, employment, and wages and benefits totals for the various categories. The completed survey served as direct inputs into the economic impact model.

#### **Production Categories**

The four sources of impact (government, business, roads expenditures, and capital expenditures) and their subcategories are listed below.

#### Government:

- Education
- Government Operations
- Healthcare
- History and Culture
- Housing
- Social Services

#### Business:

- Finance
- Gaming
- Manufacturing
- Other Businesses
- Professional Services
- Retail

#### Capital Expenditures:

- Roads Expenditures
- Other Capital Expenditures

#### Roads Expenditures:

- New construction
- Maintenance

#### Other Capital Expenditures:

- New construction
- Maintenance

#### Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

#### Direct Impact

Direct Impact refers to the direct contribution of tribal activity to the state of Oklahoma. For this study, direct impact includes Business Revenues, Employment, and Wages and Benefits and Government Expenditures, Employment, and Wages and Benefits.

#### Multiplier Impact

Economic impact includes the direct contribution of tribes (Direct Impact) and the additional economic activity that is generated in support of this direct contribution. Multiplier Impact refers to this additional activity and includes revenues and subsequent expenditures of businesses from whom tribes purchase goods and services. Also included are the additional employment and wages and benefits created by downstream businesses as well as business activity resulting from worker income spent within the state.

#### **Employment**

In the context of this report, employment refers to the number of jobs or positions necessary to support tribal activity and the production of downstream industries that supports tribal activity. It is not a count of total employees as multiple employees may fill a single job during a year if one employee leaves employment and is replaced by another individual.

#### Input-Output Models

Models that estimate economic linkages between industries, households, governments, and trade based upon known or estimated flows of dollars throughout an economy. IMPLAN models estimate the linkages using publicly available data on production, employment, wages, household income, government revenue and expenditure, and other dollar flows for a specific region. The region of interest in this report is the state of Oklahoma and all linkages and estimates are provided by statewide linkages and data collected from the tribe.

#### Output

Output is an estimate of the value of production for a given activity in each region. In this report, output refers to value of all goods and services produced directly by the tribe or indirectly by downstream industries. It differs from GDP in that it includes the value of all goods and services produced, including intermediate goods used in the production of final goods which can result in double counting in some cases.

#### Wages and Benefits/Payroll

The term Payroll is synonymous with the phrase Wages and Benefits in this report. Both refer to the total expenditure of the tribe on wages, salaries, and associated benefits for workers who live within the state of Oklahoma. Wages and Benefits paid to employees who live in adjoining states do not count toward this total.

#### Appendix C: Disclaimer

This report provides a simplified analysis based on data supplied directly by the Tribe. All figures and estimates are presented for informational purposes only, and the authors are not responsible for any errors or omissions in the source data. Calculations were performed using standard impact modeling techniques but do not reflect the results of a comprehensive economic study.

Output impact figures represent the total value of production, including both intermediate and final goods, and should not be directly compared with Oklahoma's Gross State Product, which accounts only for final goods. This analysis employs the analysis-by-parts methodology and excludes more detailed value-added calculations, which are the appropriate metric for comparison to Gross State Product.



#### **AST Economic Development Survey**

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Economic Development Survey was conducted to gather input directly from Tribal Members about priorities for **economic growth**, **services**, **and community development**. The goal is to ensure that decisions about future investments and programs reflect the **needs**, **values**, **and aspirations of the Tribe's own people**, providing leaders with clear guidance on how Tribal Members want the Tribe to grow and prosper.

Questions covered **economic development**, **services**, **workforce**, **infrastructure**, **and culture**. This summary highlights the top themes and highest-percentage responses across all sixteen questions.

What we heard (across all questions)

#### **Economic Opportunity**

Tribal Members want to **keep resources within the Tribe** through **Tribal-supported businesses** and partnerships with entrepreneurs.

It was also expressed that there is a strong interest in everyday enterprises such as grocery and food access, gas stations and convenience stores, hotels and lodging, and auto services. At the same time, there is recognition of the need to look ahead into areas like manufacturing, logistics, broadband, and technology, and transportation ventures such as OTR hauling, CDL opportunities, and logistics hubs.

#### **Core Services & Infrastructure**

Affordable housing and home repairs are the number-one service need across responses, paired with calls for better roads and reliable broadband. Transportation options such as shuttles and ride support also came up often. Tribal Members asked for quicker help with home repairs such as roofs and windows, assistance with property taxes or insurance, and safety measures such as storm shelters and backup power.

#### **Skills to Jobs**

A consistent theme was the importance of **job readiness**. Many called for **digital and IT skills**, as well as training in **trades such as HVAC**, **plumbing**, **welding**, **and mechanics**. **Healthcare and caregiving skills**, from nursing to elder support, were also identified as important. It was also expressed that training should be paired with supports such as **childcare**, **transportation**, **and mentoring**.

#### **Community & Culture**

Tribal Members want to expand youth programs, elder services, and cultural preservation including language and heritage events. They have asked for more opportunities to gather as a community—festivals, classes, and events that connect people of all ages and, importantly, also include out-of-state Members.

#### **Governance & Delivery**

Across the questions, there was a call for clear communication and transparency from leadership. Members expressed a preference for joint delivery models—where Tribal government works hand-in-hand with individual entrepreneurs—so that oversight and accountability are maintained, while services remain flexible and responsive.

#### **Overall Takeaway**

Tribal Members are seeking a balanced blend of business growth, social supports, and modern infrastructure. The community has asked for opportunities to create and sustain businesses, access to affordable housing and essential services, and more training and mentoring to prepare the workforce for the future. They also want youth and elders supported, cultural traditions preserved, and open communication with leadership.

These survey results provide valuable insight into Tribal Member priorities. Your responses will help guide **future discussions, planning, and decision-making** as the Tribe continues to look toward a stronger future.

**Thank you to every Tribal Member who participated.** Your time, honesty, and ideas shape our priorities and guide where we invest next. For those who want **the full, detailed results** and category breakdowns, please visit **astribe.com** in the **Tribal Members-only** section.

Ne yi wa, Absentee Shawnee Tribe



#### **FINANCE**



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## 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.

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#### 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**

- •60%

#### Non-Native

- •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.

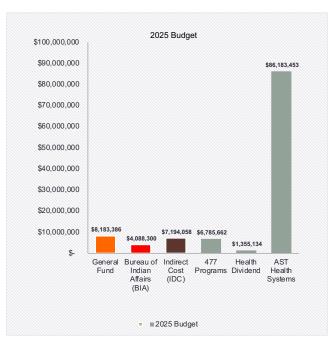
P.L. 102-477 Program

DOI/BIE-JOM, DOI/BIA-Job Placement and Training, DHHS-Child Care Development Funds (CCDF), and DOL-Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

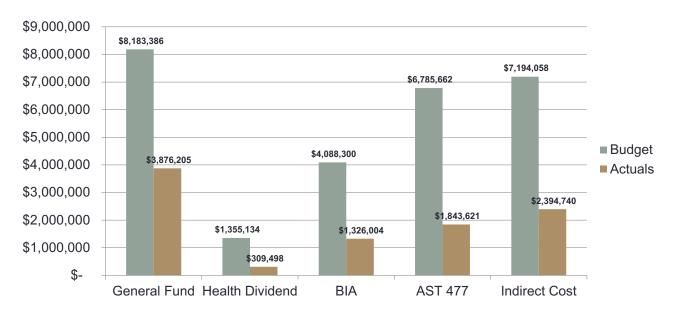
Shawnee Clinic, Little Axe Clinic, Plus Care Clinic, Radiology, Health Information Management, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Registration, Administration Behavioral Health, Business Finance, Contract Health, CME, Physical Therapy, Marketing, Title VI, Optometry, Dental, Electronic Health Record, Community Health, 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.



#### AST 2025 Semi-Annual: Budget-to-Actual Comparisons



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## AST Tribal Grants: 2025 Semi-Annual Total Expenditures (unaudited)

Funding Agency	Total Expenditures
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	\$2,640,895
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	\$1,326,004
P.L. 102-477	\$1,843,621
Department of Interior (DOI) – Tribal Historic Preservation	\$31,282
Indian Health Services (IHS)	\$37,522,202
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	\$117,097
Department of Justice (DOJ)	\$539,589
Department of Transportation (DOT) – Safe Streets and Roads	\$57,887
Department of Treasury – ARPA and HAF Funds	\$59,763
Grand Total:	\$44,138,340

# AST Governmental Services: 2025 Semi-Annual Total Expenditures (unaudited)

Program	
General Fund	\$3,876,205
Indirect Cost	\$2,394,740
TCNS Section 106	\$105,745
Grand Total:	\$6,376,690

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# AST 2025 Semi-Annual Revenue Breakdown (Unaudited)

Program/Fund	
Tribal Opioid Settlement	\$646,793
General Fund	\$2,439,921
Gaming Commission	\$1,051,384
Grand Total:	\$4,138,098



#### **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.

#### **Anouncements**

Earlier this year, the Procurement Department was pleased to welcome Caileah Blanchard as the Procurement Clerk. Her dedication and valuable contributions quickly made her an asset to the team. We are excited to share that Caileah has recently transitioned into the Receiver position and is also pursuing a degree. We are confident she will continue to excel in both her professional role and academic journey.

The Procurement Department, in partnership with the ECM Department, is excited to announce that the Onboarding Vendor Application is now available on the AST website. This form was created to give interested vendors the opportunity to share information about their business receive notifications about future business opportunities. The application can be accessed by visiting the Procurement page on the AST website or by scanning the QR code below.

#### **Onboarding Vendor Application**



This summer, we had the privilege of welcoming back our former 477 Summer Youth employee as a subsidized 477 team member while she was home from college. She assisted the department by helping digitize paper records and improving the vendor list with new fields to better record business information. We are grateful for her hard work and contributions, and we wish her continued success in her college journey!

#### **Procurement Department Updates**

The Procurement Department recently wrapped up a busy summer supporting payments for summer activities and back-to-school preparation. We would like to thank all departments for scheduling payments promptly and for the effort that went into planning meaningful and enjoyable activities.

As we continue to navigate the effects of inflation on product availability and rising costs, Procurement is working to maximize savings wherever possible. One initiative underway is expanding the Central Supply Inventory. By reviewing purchasing data, we can identify the most frequently requested supplies and purchase them in bulk at a significant discount to extend those savings back to departments.

#### **Department Representation**

The Procurement Department consists of six staff members, including four Native American employees –three of whom are Tribal Members– and two 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 have contacted us for a Gift Deed or Negotiated Sale, our office has been receiving final approvals on those requests. We have been sending certified completion letters to those landowners who have made those requests. If you need an update, please contact our office as we can provide you with that information.

As a reminder, Mineral Appraisals with Conveyances do take more time as those reports come from BIA. Final Approval for both Gift Deeds and Negotiated Sales will come from the Regional Director at the BIA – Southern Plains Regional Office.

**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), Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), 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 Probate Case File. It is important that a Probate be completed for all loved ones that have passed with trust 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 <u>December 2025</u>. 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 held our Annual Lease Bid Sale on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. There were a total of 2 out of 3 tracts that were bid on this year. Our staff will prepare and obtain approval for those two (2) new lease proposals by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 currently working with one new proposal with a company and will obtain approval from the BIA SPRO. We will mail notification letters to the landowners of that tract once we have more information in regards to the proposal and once we receive the Fair Market Value Appraisal Report.

**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 3 new ROW proposals. Two (2) of the five (5) new ROW proposals were approved by the BIA in the spring. 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 and we can assist you on your BIA Right of Way paperwork.

**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 Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA). If you have changed addresses or changed locations on where you receive your mail, please contact BTFA. If you do not contact BTFA for an address update, the mail you receive at your old address location will be returned back to BTFA 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.

Number for The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration is listed below:

#### Bureau of Trust Funds Administration 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, Leasing, Payment Distribution, and Record Keeping. 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. Plan a Wills Clinic with OILS for December 2025
- 2. Approval of ROW Renewals and New ROW Proposals
- 3. Approval of new F&G Proposals for 2026
- 4. Approval for both Conveyances Gift Deeds & Negotiated Sales

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 in 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 – October 2025 = 220** 

#### **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 -October 2025

AST Tribal Children: 660 New Clothing Cards sent: 10 Pending on New CDIB cards: 8

#### **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 – October 2025 = 18

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
Retha Ann McIntosh	DOD: 04/13/2025	DOB: 03/05/1970	CDIB: 1518
Joseph Tyner Crossley	DOD: 05/06/2025	DOB: 11/11/1945	CDIB: 0343
Aaron Christopher Switch	DOD: 05/14/2025	DOB: 10/02/1987	CDIB: 3964
Lenora Littlecreek Leupp	DOD: 05/14/2025	DOB: 09/23/1934	CDIB: 0815
Phyllis Diana Palacios	DOD: 06/02/2025	DOB: 09/12/1955	CDIB: 1784
Louise Little Charley	DOD: 06/04/2025	DOB: 07/16/1946	CDIB: 1165
Donna Kay Hayes	DOD: 06/08/2025	DOB: 02/17/1941	CDIB: 0611
Virgil Ray Little Charley	DOD: 06/08/2025	DOB: 06/04/1938	CDIB: 0907
Cody Grant Williams	DOD: 06/13/2025	DOB: 03/26/1987	CDIB: 2552
Robert Elmer Sinks	DOD: 06/19/2025	DOB: 11/17/1971	CDIB: 2336
Ciara Renee Ellis	DOD: 06/23/2025	DOB: 12/12/1991	CDIB: 2794
Archie Ellis Snake	DOD: 07/06/2025	DOB: 04/04/1942	CDIB: 1433
David Clayton Spoon	DOD: 07/24/2025	DOB: 06/05/1960	CDIB: 1457
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

#### <u>LIHEAP</u> - (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 Pottawatomie 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 – 20

**Heating Assistance** runs November thru March -0

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



#### **GRANTS DEPARTMENT**



**Grants Department** 

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

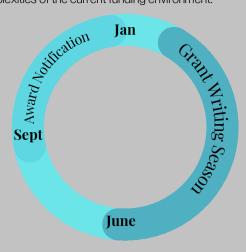
#### **Overview:**

The 2025 federal fiscal year has presented significant challenges, including regulatory changes, new mandates, and ongoing uncertainties. Despite these obstacles and funding delays, the Grants Department provided comprehensive support to tribal departments, including the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System (ASTHS), resulting in the successful submission of 28 funding applications with a combined value of approximately \$8.4 million.

The Department acknowledges the Executive Committee for its continued support and leadership throughout this period. Special recognition is extended to Treasurer Blanchard for his guidance, expertise, and consistent attentiveness, which were instrumental in navigating the complexities of the current funding environment.

#### **Key Highlights:**

The Grants Department will implement the newly developed Grants Management Manual in Fall 2025. This manual is designed to assist tribal departments and their staff by enhancing compliance and strengthening monitoring processes through clearly defined standard operating procedures.



# **Grants Snapshot**

Fall 2025

Applications Submitted for FY25

28 \$8,414,874

Applications Awarded as of 8/30

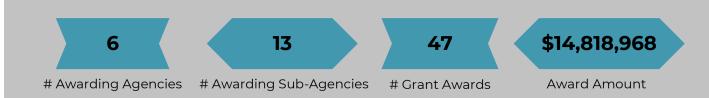
10

\$882,628

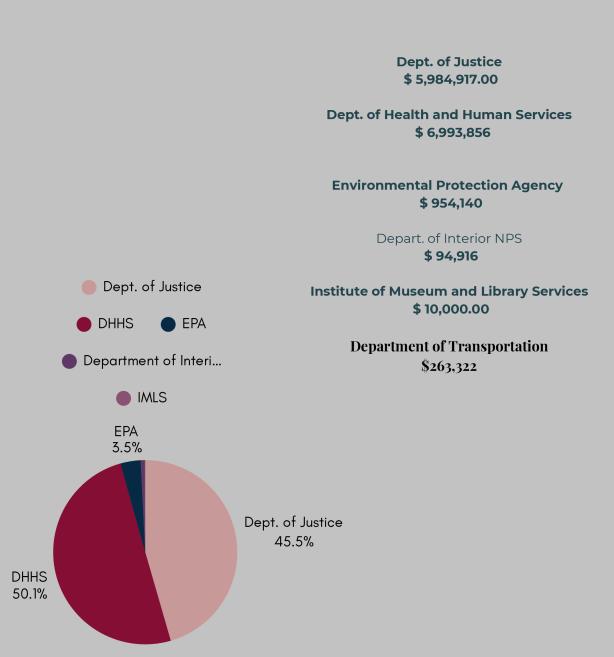
#### **Grant Awards by Fiscal Year**



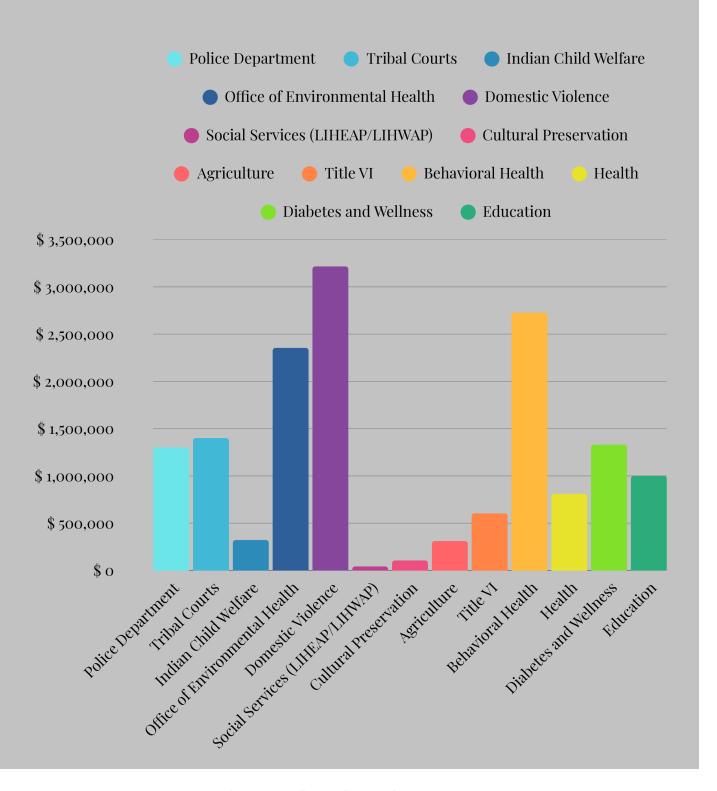
#### **Current**



#### **GRANTS BY FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY**



#### **Funding by Department/Program**





### **Grants Team**



JAY FIELDS
GRANTS SPECIALIST



SHEILA KING ASSISTANT GRANTS DIRECTOR



KRYSTE CARTER GRANTS DIRECTOR

Grants Department



#### OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Tribal Members,

Welcome to the 95th 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 Store. 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.

Phone: (405) 531-3512

Email: adjohnson@astribe.com

Thank you all for being here and I look forward to continuing to serve our tribe.

Sincerely, Anthony "Tadpole" Johnson Tribal Representative



#### **EDUCATION**



#### General Council Report for October 2025

The following are current programs administered by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's 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.
- <u>Big Jim Youth Award Program:</u> 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: <u>Education Incentive Award Program</u>: 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:

214 (non-duplicating)

Assistance Processed:	Academic	Zahn	Job Training	Higher Education	Graduate
Spring 2025	48	22	14	60	12
Summer 2025	25	7	6	19	4
Fall 2025 (to date)	10	4	10	50	7

Total amount of funding issued to date: \$271,392.38

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

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 OKC MEE Competition Committee.

FY23 State Tribal Education Partnership Program Grant: The Education Department is a partner in the Office of Indian Education - State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP). We work with Little Axe

and Tecumseh Public Schools. Our STEP Coordinator is Breleigh Upchurch. The other partner tribe is the Kiowa Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation is the grantee.

**FY24 OJJDP Tribal Youth Program grant:** The Education Department and Tribal Youth Program staff applied for Purpose Area 9: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Tribal Youth Program (TYP). Staff attended multiple webinars pertaining to how to complete the required parts of the solicitation. The Tribe was awarded the grant on September 26, 2024. The grant is for five years and \$500,000. Program staff is currently providing programming per grant requirements and are working on completing the grant's strategic plan which is due September 2025.

<u>Native Connections – Journey to Heal:</u> The new Native Connections Grant Coordinator is Lacy Carroll. Director of Education and NC Grant Coordinator completed the bi-monthly grant call on August 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a Native Connections report in this book. We look forward to future grant activities and events.

<u>Title VI ESSA Tribal Consultations</u>: Education and Tribal Youth Program staff attended the Shawnee Area consultation on April 10, 2025 the following schools were in attendance: Shawnee, Tecumseh, and McLoud. On April 16, 2025, Education and Tribal Youth Program attended a consultation with Epic Charter Schools. Director attended North Rock Creek Schools consultation on April 28, 2025. On April 29, 2025, Education and Tribal Youth Program attended a consultation with Little Axe Public Schools.

#### **Outreach activities:**

- Director attended Indian club meeting at Tecumseh High School on April 25, 2025.
- Director and staff held activities for AST Police Recognition week May 12 16, 2025.
- Visited Tecumseh Public Schools Einstein Camp June 18, 2025.
- Camp Nikoti: Summer Youth Leadership Camp June 16 July 18, 2025.
- Little Axe Indian Education/Title VI Meet and Greet August 14, 2025.
- OCEE Back to School with Financial Literacy luncheon August 27, 2025.

#### **Conferences/Trainings/Meetings attended:**

- 2025 Tribal Education Summit @ CPN April 3, 2025
- Native Roundtable Zoom meeting April 15, 2025
- Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) Board Meeting April 9, 2025
- Tribal Youth Resource Center Technical Assistance Zoom for Strategic Plan April 21, May 29, June 13, July 21, August 12, 2025.
- OK STEP Grant Meeting Zoom April 23, 2025
- Connecting Prevention and Education to Protect Native Youth from Opioid Harm Zoom June 25, 2025
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Technical Assistance CTAS PA3 training July 28 29, 2025
- Indigenous Class Onboarding August 28, 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 <a href="mailto:tresham@astribe.com">tresham@astribe.com</a> with any questions or for information on current programs.

#### Native Connections: "Hi ko te wa Ke Ka" Journey to Heal (SAMHSA Grant)

Director of Education: Tresha Spoon NC Grant Coordinator: Lacy J. Carroll

Email: <u>ljcarroll@astribe.com</u> Phone: 405-275-4030 Ext. 3676

The Native Connections Grant is a program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the United States. It aims to help American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities reduce the impact of mental illness, substance use disorders, and suicide among youth and young adults (ages 24 and under). Since April, Native Connections has hired Lacy J. Carroll, a tribal member of the Sac and Fox Nation, as the Grant Coordinator.

Over the summer, Native Connections attended Celebrate Community at Thunderbird Event Center to support the Tribe's Tribal Opioid Response grant program and well as the Fishin' for Nutrition event hosted by the Tribe's Agriculture Department. Native Connections presented each week for the Tribal Youth Program's Camp Nikoti for five weeks; lessons included an Anti-bullying, Effects of Gossip, Coping Skills, and a cultural beading presentation. Native Connection's has also met with youth to start a tribal youth council and what they would like to accomplish as leaders.

During the fall, we are planning a "Walk and Talk" September 25<sup>th</sup>, for Suicide Prevention Month along with cultural activities with youth, initiating a tribal youth council, and creating a postvention plan with community partners.





#### **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 Artwork

As mentioned in the last General Council report, the Cultural Preservation Department has taken on the task of restoring and preserving the Spybuck artwork that was donated to the Tribe. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Representative Johnson, Ms. Elizabeth Ruiz, and Cultural Preservation Director, Ms. Carol Butler, delivered the Spybuck artwork to Ms. Lyzanne Gann of Gann Preservation Services, LLC. Mrs. Gann is a conservator of works of paper and photographic materials out of Dallas, TX. Currently, she is reviewing the artwork including testing the material and will be providing a full report before we proceed. After the artwork is preserved, we will be framing it and getting it reappraised.



Picture 1. Ms. Gann working on the artwork.



Picture 2. Representative Johnson, Ms. Butler, and Ms. Gann with the artwork.

#### **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)<sup>1</sup> and *Native American Graves and Repatriation Act* (NAGPRA.)<sup>2</sup>

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, battlefields, 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

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*. 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.

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.

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

Total Consultation Calls & Project Numbers (Section 106, TCNS, and		
<u>NAGPRA)</u>		
April 2025 through August 2025	60 consultations 1,114 projects reviewed	

Table 1. THPO Activity for April 2025 through August 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.

#### 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 900 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 carry a large array of different items such as 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 also have a supply wall, still carry AST emblem items, and carry a large selection of different blankets.

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 emblem 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 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the holidays, we open the store on Saturdays.



# TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM



# Camp Nikoti Tribal Youth Program General Council Report October 2025

#### **Overview:**

The Camp Nikoti – Tribal Youth Program (TYP) has been very busy over the past several months facilitating programs. The TYP staff has worked with Tecumseh, North Rock Creek, Mustang, Norman, and Little Axe Schools this past school year. Education Department staff worked with the schools Indian Clubs providing activities, prevention information, tribal/cultural information, drinks and snacks. In May 2025, the Education Department sponsored graduation cakes for Tecumseh Schools and Little Axe Schools Indian club youth who were seniors. In July 2025 Tribal Youth Resource Specialist, Shay Fixico, attended the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program's (OJJDP) mandatory training in Seattle for Purpose Area 9 of our Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) application which focused on strategic planning.

Tribal Youth Program Coordinator, Blake Goodman, will be attending the Guardians of Tomorrow conference in Tulsa on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and the NIEA Annual Convention in Spokane, Washington in October 2025. TYP staff have been attending and advocating for our youth during parent meetings for different schools and other consultations. The TYP Coordinator and Director of Education, Tresha Spoon, have been working close with Little Axe Public Schools Indian Education/ Title VI program to help them set up their Indian Parent Committee (IPC) and to help the program stay on track. We have been working with the IPC and the Superintendent as advisors and supporters throughout the onboarding process for their new Indian Education Coordinator. We have attended many different webinars and trainings for our OJJDP TYP grant over the past several months. The Education Department staff will be attending and handing out information at the CPN college fair on September 3<sup>rd</sup> too.

#### Camp Nikoti: Summer Youth Leadership Camp

Camp Nikoti's 24<sup>th</sup> summer day camp started on June 16<sup>th</sup> and ended on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Camp Nikoti is open to all youth ages 10-14 years old. Camp was for five weeks and three days out of the week. Forty-five (45) youth signed up for camp this year, 41 attended, and 38 completed the entire camp. Out of the 41 youth that completed camp, 30 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 for the youth to play on and the TYP staff grilled burgers and hotdogs for dinner.

A few guest speakers come out to contribute, present, and do activities with our youth such as: Native Connections grant, Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant, Ensuring Hope grant, Domestic Violence department, Education department, Jayden Watson with Eagle Adventure, Diabetes and Wellness, Cultural Preservation and the AST Housing Authority. We would like to thank all of the tribal staff for taking the time to come out and be a part of camp, also for their help and contributions. Camp Nikoti went on several field trips throughout the summer: the University of Oklahoma's College of Education, Lake Wewoka, the OKC Zoo, Ron's Hamburger and Chili, Strother Movie Theater, Chickasaw Cultural Center and Little Niagara, and Shawnee Bowl. The end of Camp Reward Day the youth earned by attending all summer was to Six Flags over Texas, Babes Chicken, and Buc-ees in Denton. The kids had a lot of fun and really enjoyed their time together.

#### **Little Axe Afterschool Program:**

The Little Axe afterschool program ended for last school year on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The program had an end of school year party for the students and provided fun snacks and drinks. The students also received little goodie bags with candy and snacks to take home. The Tribal Youth Program (TYP) staff was able to get all of their students work caught up and passing before the end of the school year. The program ended the school year with 20 students enrolled in the program, 14 of which were enrolled AST.

The Afterschool program started this school year on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. There are currently 19 students enrolled in the program. Eighteen (18) of the 19 students are tribal affiliated students and 15 are enrolled AST. There is an average of about 18 students per day and there is three staff working with the youth daily. Staff and students are working on reading skills daily with all of our students as well as making sure they are caught up on their homework. The program has received great support and feedback from parents whose students attend the program. TYP staff has ordered new tutoring work books to help the youth across all subject matters.

#### **Garden Project:**

The Tribal Youth Program staff just completed their fourth summer doing a youth garden. The project starts in February and lasts as long as they can keep plants alive and producing. Program staff managed to pick about 110 pounds of produce the first year, 450 pounds of produce two years ago, and just over 300 pounds of produce last year. This year we were only able to get around 150 pounds to 200 pounds of produce. The afterschool program students and Camp Melokami Spring Break camp youth helped plant the seeds indoors in a little green house and continue watering them each day until the plants are big enough to plant outside. The youth also took the plants out and planted them in the garden themselves during program time. The produce was used during Camp Nikoti: Summer Youth Leadership Camp to provide extra snacks during lunch and as ingredients for various dishes cooked for the youth. Youth and summer workers helped pick, clean, and cut up the produce for the different meals the staff prepared. Produce was

also given to the youth and their families. Watermelons, banana melons, cucumbers, okra, eggplants, bell peppers, squash, zucchini, various different peppers, various different tomatoes, and some other things were planted in spring 2025.

#### **Little Axe Soccer Program:**

The Little Axe Soccer program finished its 11<sup>th</sup> year this past June. Approximately 74 kids signed up to play this year and we had 4 different age divisions. The soccer program is continuing to slowly grow each year. The soccer program is collaboration with Little Axe schools who allow us to use their practice football field to host practices and games and the Tribal Youth Program provides the equipment. Games were played Saturday mornings starting on April 5<sup>th</sup> and ran through early June. The season lasted 8 weeks, with each age division getting to play at least 7 to 8 games. The weather brought a lot of issues this year due to all of the rain. The staff did their best to ensure all games were played and made up. The final weekend the staff played parents against kids which everyone really enjoyed. Jayden Watson of OKTEP volunteered to help coach the kids and provide healthy lifestyle tips. Staff was excited and happy that the season was able to be completed and everyone involved had a lot of fun.

#### **Youth Public Safety Club:**

The AST Youth Public Safety Club is designed to teach our youth about public safety and help build relationships with the AST Public Safety Department consisting of tribal police and emergency management. The Club has been going for over a year now and going on year two. Meetings are one evening a month for an hour to discuss a topic or an issue of the month. The Club lasts the duration of the school year. Officer Rickey Jones and Officer JP Neely came out and discussed various topics related to the work they do. Levi Walker, Emergency Manager, came out and spoke with the youth about what the Emergency Management staff does and allowed the youth to tour the mobile command center. Larry Clark, Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Prevention Specialist, came out and talked with our youth one evening and allowed them to operate some of his equipment. The Education Department and Tribal Youth Program presented a resolution, which was subsequently passed, to the Executive committee to honor and celebrate AST Police Recognition week in May 2025. The celebration lasted the entire week by having daily activities to honor and support the AST Police Department. The Education Department held a community meet and greet with our officers in May and had about 25 youth and families come out to meet and talk with them. The Club will begin meeting again on September 11th at 6:30pm.



# **477 PROGRAM**





Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma 477 Program 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801 (405)275-4030 477Program@astribe.com

# General Council Report- 102-477 (477) Program October 2025

#### Introduction

The AST 477 Program operates under the guidance of the AST 102-477 Plan that became effective January 1, 2023. We are in the final quarter 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.

The next AST 102-477 Plan will be a five year plan that will be from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030. Plans can be amended at any time if we want to make any changes or additions to current plans. There was a public hearing held virtually on June 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the new plan. We are currently finalizing the final report which will be submitted by the time this report is viewed. A copy of the plan can be requested by our offices.

#### AST 477 Program

AST 477 Program currently 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 seventeen (17) staff including the 477 Executive Director, (2) Assistant Executive

Directors, Operations Specialist, 3 Case Managers, 3 Intake Clerks, 2 Case Specialists, 1 Outreach Coordinator, 1 Outreach Specialist, 1 Language Coordinator, and 1 Language Specialist, 2 Child Care Specialists. Ten (10) of my staff are AST and four (4) 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 301 Adult Participants, 143 of which are AST and 260 Youth Participants, 153 of which are AST. Our total currently active 477 participants are 561 and 296 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 19 Employees. We currently have 38 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.

Fall began September 22nd & is bringing us cooler weather for the children to enjoy more outside activities. Our fall is busy at Building Blocks with lots of activities happening. Children's Christmas Pictures are Friday, October 10th. The teachers are preparing for Parent-Teachers Conferences which will be held October 14-23rd. Building Blocks will have its Fall Festival Open House on Friday, October 25th in the evening. Plans are for Building Blocks to Trick or Treat the AST Complex on Friday, October 31st @ 9:00a.m. and Classroom Halloween Parties @ 3:00p.m.

We look forward to the holiday season at Building Blocks. The teachers enjoy doing activities with the children for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving! Building Blocks will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 27th & 28th. Also, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Building Blocks will be closed December 24th & 25th for Christmas.

Hope Everyone has a Wonderful Holiday Season!





# 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 41 children enrolled:
  - -13 are Absentee Shawnee members
  - 9 are enrolled with another Tribe
  - -17 are the children of employee's within the Tribe
- There are currently 23 children on the waiting list.
- Currently are fully staffed with 20 employees, 4 are tribal affiliated.
- We are now nationally accredited through the: NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ACCREDITATION, maintaining our 5 STAR status. We currently have 5 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"

# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System



Marty M. Lofgren, MD, CPE, Interim Executive Director, Health Programs

#### <u>AST Health System Board of Directors</u>

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.



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.

#### **Last 6 Months of Highlights for Health Programs:**

- ❖ The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System continues to thrive and has been recognized as one of the top ten in the nation! We continue setting new records for monthly revenue and are one of the only, if not only, tribal health systems that are 100% self-sufficient without receiving any supplemental funds from the tribe! We have several projects in the pipeline that will be a first for any tribe in the nation (more info to come once legal authorizes)!
- New Shawnee Clinic Construction: Groundbreaking was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Concrete pours have begun with utility and civil work ongoing. Estimated completion is Nov 2026! 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).
- ❖ Little Axe Clinic: Plans are being made for the buildout of the 2<sup>nd</sup> story expansion project. The Health System continues to outgrow its square footage! We continue to add services never before seen in tribal healthcare and patient satisfaction remains at record highs!
- ❖ As mentioned in April's GC, 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 10<sup>th</sup> − 12<sup>th</sup>, we completed our 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- ❖ Beverly Felton, MSN, RN and McKenna Watson-Dye, MSN, RN were both accepted into the OU Hudson College of Public Health that began this summer! As students, they will be joining a vibrant community of public health innovators, blending rigorous research with meaningful community involvement. The training is funded through a generous tuition waiver through Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.
- ASTHS was selected as a host site (1 of only 6 across the country!) for the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)/CDC Tribal Health Department Fellowship Program! The ASPPH Center serves as a bridge between academia, practice, and communities, aiming to meet the evolving needs of diverse communities and partners across public health. Their efforts include strong partnerships with federally recognized Tribes to strengthen connections between academic public health and Tribal Health Departments. They have been funded by CDC to partner with federally recognized Tribes to build public health capacity. As part of this effort, they have developed the ASPPH/CDC Tribal Health Department Fellowship Program, which places a graduate-level public health fellow for 1 2 years in Tribal Health Departments.
- ❖ 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). Coming soon: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), Pediatric Cardiology, and Ortho Sports Medicine. 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 and expanded pharmacy services.
- Through the IHS Tribal Management Grant, ASTHS continues to explore the establishment of an Adult Day Care Center. This initiative aims to provide essential support and services for the elderly

while giving respite to their caregivers. The grant received a no-cost extension for funding period June 2024 – June 2026. Phase 1 of the project, which entailed a feasibility study, a community survey, focus groups, and multiple site visits to existing adult day care facilities, has been completed. Moving forward, Phases 2 through 4 will concentrate on evaluating the current needs and capabilities of the tribal organization. This detailed analysis will include assessing available resources, engaging stakeholders, conducting a risk assessment, analyzing local adult day care services, evaluating personnel, and performing a financial analysis. Phase 4 will include a comprehensive report that summarizes all assessment results, offers recommendations, and includes financial projections. These materials will be vital for the tribe in developing strategies or alternatives for implementing the adult day care program.

- On July 4, 2025, the President signed H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, making substantial changes to Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and many other social services programs. It includes several key provisions that will protect and exempt American Indians and Alaska Natives from the community engagement and work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP. Further, existing cost-sharing protections for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Medicaid were preserved. Also, there will be no new cost sharing. The bill amends the Medicaid expansion redetermination window from one-year to 6-months. However, American Indians and Alaska Natives are exempted from this provision, keeping redeterminations on a 12-month cycle. The bill also provides for up to \$50 billion over five years to states to support rural health care providers, and as written would allow Tribal programs to participate if they meet the generally applicable requirement. While this bill makes several cuts to the Medicaid program, the exemptions the bill provides will continue to secure access to this important program for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- ASTHS continues to lead in quality healthcare and due to 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! To assist in capturing this data we have partnered with Inovalon on a pilot project to better capture HEDIS and quality measures in Indian Country. This is very important because the payment models for health care are changing effective 2026. No longer will fee for services be the standard model - to receive the highest payment, providers must capture quality/HEDIS measures. ECW does not capture all the HEDIS measures, but with Inovalon, all data can be captured and supported to represent quality measures performed accurately. This will ensure not only increased revenue, but also a focus on quality and increased patient outcomes. Inovalon has contracts with many Tribes nationwide. They work with Chickasaws, Choctaws, Kickapoo, Iowa, Osage, OKC Urban Clinic, and AST in Oklahoma. They also work with IHS and Tribes in Alaska, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Oregon, New York, Colorado. Because we are known for innovation and quality, they chose AST to develop their new Tribal products!
- ❖ The 2024 Summer Internship program was a huge success! We had an amazing group that hit the ground running! 2024 Interns: Kanyann Kaseca, Landen Martin, Makayla Rivas, Hannah Smith, and Tiffany Thompson. The program is open to all Native Americans (AST preferred) and was held June 2 July 22, 2025.
- ❖ CompleteCare Home Health, LLC continues maintain a 4.5 − 5.0 star rating! Star Ratings are scores we receive from Medicare for quality and satisfaction. These scores are posted publicly to help people choose agencies based on important standardized measures. Less than 24% of agencies have achieved star ratings above 4 percent and less than 15% have achieved star ratings of 4.5% or higher!

- 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.

#### **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:	\$ 77,914,750
ASTHA 2025 IDC FUNDS:	\$ 8,856,856
TOTAL 2025 HEALTH BUDGET:	\$ 86,771,606

3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FUNDS INTO BUDGET: \$ 43,068,919

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 August 31, 2025: \$41,800,107 (Annualized: \$62,700,161)

January 1 to December 31, 2024: \$52,716,591 January 1 to December 31, 2023: \$56,192,495

#### **Demographics of Health Employees/Staff (July 31, 2025):**

• Total Health System Employees: 416

• Total AST Employees: 71

• Total Other Native American Employees: 107

• Total Employees Non-Native: 238 (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!

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

<u>Note:</u> 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  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  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

<u>Shawnee Same Day Clinic</u> - 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

#### <u>CompleteCare Home Health, LLC</u> (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 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 NUTRTION GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

#### October 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.

The table below provides a summary of total meals delivered by month and delivery method from January 2025 – August 2025

		SHAWNEE		SHAWNEE				
	HOMEBOUND	SITE	SHAWNEE TO	GUEST	LA SITE	LA TO	LA GUEST	TOTAL
JAN	3107	82	712	51	4	246	35	4237
FEB	2164	81	543	46	0	193	40	3067
MAR	3185	104	735	44	9	287	39	4403
APR	3172	122	681	52	6	334	66	4433
MAY	3224	96	772	50	11	365	37	4555
JUN	3039	101	766	76	0	340	35	4357
JUL	3382	72	793	68	0	416	21	4752
AUG	2745	96	700	57	15	411	39	4063
SEP								
OCT								
NOV								
DEC								
TOTAL	24018	754	5702	444	45	2592	312	33867
MONEY	3780					•		•





# THUNDERBIRD ENTERTAINMENT, INC





#### **Board of Directors:**

- Darren Shields, President
- Eastman Switch, Vice President
- ✓ Alice Kassanavoid, Secretary

#### Management

- · Ché Downs , General Manager
- · Leigh Werqueyah, Director of Human Resources
- · Andrew Magnuson, Director of Business Operations
- · Ashley Gallmore, Director of Gaming Operations
- · Matt Curling, Interim Director of IT
- ·Zac Vargas, Interim Director of Finance
- · Jaz Cox, Director of Marketing

#### Payments To The Tribe As Of October 2025

☐ AST Gaming Tax - \$2,850,000.00

☐ Absentee Shawnee Gaming Commission:

Licensing/Regulatory Fees - \$1,717,908.07

☐ AST Sales Tax/Business Tax - \$74,627.41

Total - \$4,642,535.48

#### **Current operations are comprised of:**

□ 706 Electronic Gaming Machines (between 2 casinos)

□ 5 Table Games

□ 2 Food Venues

□2 Bars

☐ Gift Shop (Norman)

□ 184 Team Members Total

□ Over 1/3 of Our Team Members Are Native American

 $\square$  Over 39% of Our Native American Team Members Are

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members.

#### Payments To The Tribe in 2024

☐ AST Gaming Tax - \$3,460,992,44

☐ Absentee Shawnee Gaming Commission:

Licensing/Regulatory Fees - \$2,057,776.50

☐ AST Sales Tax/Business Tax - \$122,272.27

Total - \$5,641,041.

AN ENTERPRISE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA



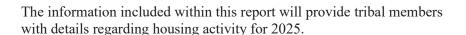
# **HOUSING AUTHORITY**



"Among The Shawnee

### **Executive Director Summary**

2025 Program Activity

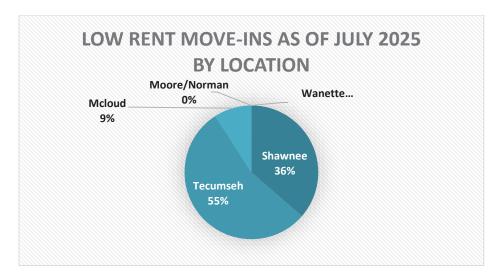


The Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority continue to serve lowincome Indian families residing in the eligible service area of Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Oklahoma, and Cleveland County. Enrolled members of

Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Oklahoma, and Cleveland County. Enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe receive preference for any assistance offered through the Housing Authority.

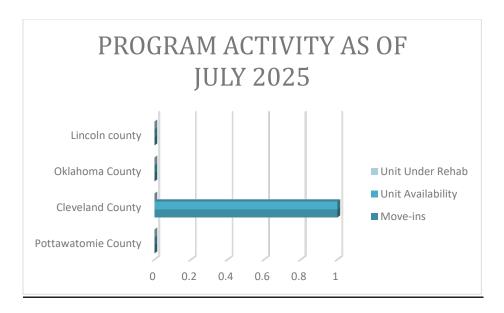
#### LOW RENT PROGRAM

The low rent program serves all low-income Indian families seeking to rent a home in the eligible service area, most homes are in the Shawnee, Tecumseh and Mcloud area. This program is the highest demand and sees the most activity throughout the program year. A waiting list is in place for the program and can have an approximately 40 to 50 families on this list. The average waiting time is six (6) months to one (1) year.



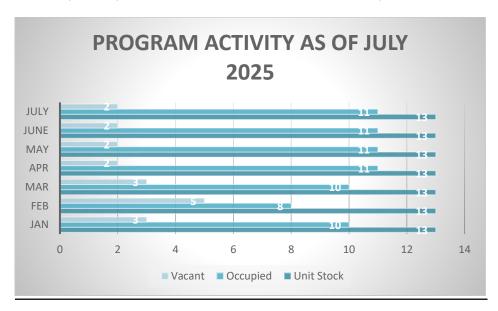
#### MUTUAL HELP/NAHASDA LEASE TO OWN PROGRAM

The waiting list for the homeownership program has approximately 15 to 20 families at a time waiting for an opportunity to be placed in a home. Due to full occupancy of the homes managed for the program, the units are offered only as they come vacant, or as grant funding allows us to budget and purchase a home. This program requires mandatory counseling and has an average waiting period of one (1) year or longer.



#### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

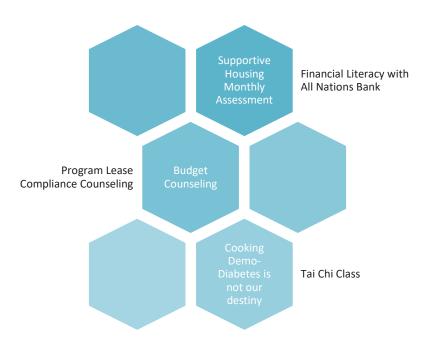
The Supportive Housing Program, formerly Safe Shelter Program, provides a family with short term temporary housing when displaced for reasons beyond their control. Through the Supportive Housing Program, ASHA aims to prevent homelessness among Indian families while guiding them to permanent housing. The program has steady activity each month and the units remain full mostly in the Shawnee location.



#### **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.

#### SAMPLE RESIDENT EVENTS AS OF JULY 2025



#### RESIDENT OPPORTUNITY & SELF SUFFICIENCY (ROSS)

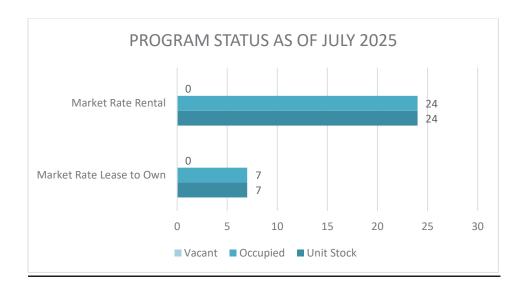
The ASHA has the ROSS program, which offers general case management, partnerships, and other coordination to deliver services for residents for ASHA finding effective ways to improve housing situations. The current ROSS Coordinator remains actively involved with twenty (20) participants in ASHA's housing 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 up to \$300 per month while attending college. The student must rent a home within the service area of Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Oklahoma, and Cleveland County. The program has first come first serve with preference to Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members. As of July, the ASHA provided 5 students with rental assistance.

#### MARKET RATE RENTAL & OVER INCOME LEASE TO OWN PROGRAM

The ASHA has rental and lease to own housing for applicants with income above the median income limits set by HUD. These homes are market rate located within Shawnee and Norman. The ASHA lease to own home is offered as they become available, and the house payment is determined by the appraised value of the home. ASHA's Tiny Home Lease to Own Program allows applicants to construct a newly built tiny home on their own land. Waiting lists are in place for each of these programs and are based on the program income budget activities approved annually by ASHA's Board of Commissioners.



#### DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ENROLLED ABSENTEE SHAWNEE 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 dependent on funding availability each program year. As of July, the ASHA provided 2 households with down payment assistance.

#### HOME REHAB FOR ENROLLED ABSENTEE SHAWNEE 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 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 conducted by the housing inspector. A waiting list is currently in place and families are assisted as funding is available. In 2025, the housing program assisted five (5) families as of July 2025.

Aside from ASHA programs mentioned, the Housing Authority continues its efforts to expand and improve housing opportunities through new projects and programs. The ASHA has under construction five (5) additional low rent homes in the Rolling Hills Addition for elders. The

project is funded by the IHBG-competitive grant awarded to Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority in 2024.

In closing, I would like to applaud the ASHA staff, board members and tribal leaders who work diligently to support the mission of the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority. Our teamwork will ensure the Housing Authority remains sustainable and successful in serving such an essential benefit to our Indian people.

Respectfully,

Sherry Drywater, Executive Director

#### **Board Members:**

Michael Affentranger, Board Chairman Redena Miller, Board Vice-Chairman Elaine Brown, Board Member Dr. Gregory Reading, Board Member Alicia Engler, Board Member



#### **Housing Staff:**

Name:	Title:
Sherry Drywater	Executive Director
Kaylon Wood	Administrative Assistant
Bessie Gonzales	Human Resource Coordinator
Susan Florez	Planning Coordinator
Angela Whited	Receptionist
Shelly Porter	Finance Manager
Sabrina McSwain	Finance Assistant-AR Clerk
Amanda Ramirez	Contracts Coordinator
Victoria Stewart	Procurement Specialist
Lahoma Roberts	Housing Manager
Tammy Winter	Lease Management Coordinator
Melissa Reynoso	Lease Management Specialist
Thomas Rompf	Housing Compliance Inspector
Tara Ann Winter	Programs Manager
Ashley Smith	Admissions Coordinator
Karen Fullbright	Admissions Specialist
Linda Gouge	Resident Services Manager
Tara Wallace	Resident Outreach Coordinator
Kim Vermillion	Resident Education Specialist
Breeahnna McCarver	Resident Services Assistant
Anthony Ramirez	ROSS Coordinator
Robert Sheppard	Field Services Manager
Jarrod Gentry	Maintenance Coordinator
Jamie Barse	Field Services Admin Assistant
Stanley Curtis	Construction Technician
Jim Wolfburg	Construction Technician
Evans Harjo	Construction Technician
Rocky Larney Jr	Maintenance Technician
Shane Mundell	Maintenance Technician
Nathan Curtis	Maintenance Technician
Chris Welch	Maintenance Technician



# TAX COMMISSION



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." <sup>1</sup> 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

#### **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

#### **Vehicle Registration**

Eligibility: Motor Vehicle tags are available to enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal Members residing in the state of Oklahoma. Must provide current 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

UTV Affidavit for Street Legal Utility Vehicle

Purple Heart Requires DD-214 Requires DD-214 Vet Personalized Up to 7 Characters

"AB-SH" Design and "Logo" Design Collector Tags

#### **New Registrations:**

You can process recently bought vehicles, etc. in person only. Items needed to process a new registration: original title, purchase agreement/bill of sale, lien entry/lien release (if applicable), 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.

#### **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

- <sup>1</sup> Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, Chapter 1, §1.
- <sup>2 3</sup> Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Licensing and Tax Code, Chapter 1, §2 and §3.

#### **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 venders, 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 be 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 waive for the persons, who qualify for exemptions as stated in *Chapter 3, Sec. 4 (e), (f), and (g); and for Non-Profit Organizations*.

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



# **ALLNATIONS BANK**





# AllNations Bank



- **Calumet** (405) 893-2240 **Shawnee** (405) 273-0202
- manbok.bank



	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	7/31/2025
Total Calumet Loans	\$28,425,387	\$33,223,206	\$34,446,654
Total Shawnee Loans	\$5,076,460	\$7,735,331	\$7,880,483
<b>Total Calumet Deposits</b>	\$46,793,742	\$57,381,907	\$64,479,797
<b>Total Shawnee Deposits</b>	\$2,125,184	\$2,890,574	\$2,835,467
Total Assets	\$54,329,667	\$66,503,232	\$74,228,571
Capital Ratio	9.96%	8.95%	8.67%
Ave. Return on Equity Ratio	10.51%	9.91%	12.85%
Adj. Return on Assets Ratio	0.98%	0.95%	1.18%
	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	7/31/2025
Total Income	\$513,524	\$536,560	\$448,683

#### Highlights:

- 1. Year to Date Income as of 7/31 is \$448,683 and we are budgeting \$700,000 income by year end.
- 2. Loan Growth The bank has grown \$8.8 MM in loan assets which is 26% growth in loans in the last year and a half.
- 3. Deposits grew \$18 Million in the last year and a half which is 37% growth.
- 4. Assets grew almost \$20 Million in the last year and a half which is almost 37% growth.
- 5. So far in 2025, we've added online loan payments to the website, launched new tap to pay cards with new designs, online loan applications for business and personal, and online checking and savings opening.
- 6. Free online AI driven budgeting tools at https://anbok.enrich.org/budget



Get paid to use your Debit card!

**AST Preferred Checking** 

**AST Saver** 

Built With Our Tribe Members in Mind Open Online Today!

https://anbok.csinufund.com/









# **ELECTION COMMISSION**



#### ELECTION COMMISSION General Council Report October 2025

#### **Mission Statement**

Our mission of the Absentee Shawnee Election Commission is to uphold the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma's Constitution, Election Ordinance, and the Election Commission Procedural Manual and Policies. To ensure our tribal members their election process is transparent and held with respect, integrity, and trust.

#### **Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.Office hours increase during January, March, and June to support the election process.

#### **Election Commission**

#### **Alternates**

James Cody Spybuck, Jr., Commissioner Brandi Routledge-Hunt, "Acting" Deputy Commissioner Charlotte Ellis, "Acting" Secretary Billie James, "Acting" Commission Member #1 Lorrie Thorpe, "Acting" Commission Member #2 Delana Ayers

#### **Summary**

The 2024 Audit is provided for your review, and we are pleased to report a clean audit with no findings.

Open 2026 Election Commission positions are: Deputy Commissioner (1-year term, prorated), Election Secretary (2-year term, prorated), and Commission Member #2 (3-year term).

Tribal members are encouraged to review qualifications listed in the AST Constitution and Election Ordinance and consider serving in a vacant position. The filing period is January 1-10 of the current year, excluding holidays and weekends.

As a reminder, please watch the tribal newsletter, tribal website, and the AST Facebook page for official election news and notices. For any election related questions, the Election Commission should be your first point of contact.

#### **Contact Information**

Regular Mail: P. O. Box 741, Tecumseh, OK 74873

Telephone: (405) 275-4030 Ext. 3537 Facsimile: (405) 273-1337

E-mail: Election.Commission@astribe.com

### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

# ELECTION COMMISSION 2024 AUDIT

11111	Beginning	Dolomos	
1.1.24	Deallining	рянянсе	

\$ 122.19

Month	]	Deposits Checks		Checks
January	\$	7,500.00	\$	1,391.34
February	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,139.00
March	\$	40	\$	2,587.85
April	\$	¥.	\$	300.00
May	\$	-	\$	-
June	\$	-	\$	1,272.00
July	\$	-	\$	699.00
August	\$	-	\$	-
September	\$	=	\$	-
October	\$	-	\$	-
November	\$	2	\$	-
December	\$	-	\$	<u></u>
Totals	\$	8,500.00	\$	8,389.19

12.31.24 Ending Balance

\$	233.00
Ψ	433.00

COMMENTS/FINDING
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**Expenses:** 

Revenue:

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In the event of an incorrect receipt amount, the original should be voided and a corrected receipt issued.

Audit performed by:	5/14/25
Courtney Green - Budget Officer	Date
Audit reviewed by:	5/10/25
Kyle Charly - Controller	Date



### **MEDIA**



The Media Department is excited to announce that the podcast, Among the Shawnee, is now a video podcast. The first episode was released May 14 and featured some of the ICW staff. To date, six episodes have been released:

Fostering Hope for Tribal Youth - Guests: ICW Director Shawnee Martinez and ICW Case Manager Paige LittleCharley

#### The Power of Tribal Voices – Why Your Input Matters

Guest - Treasurer Joseph Blanchard

#### Voices in Public Health: Exploring Today's Most Pressing Health Issues

Guests - Public Health staff Rita Honeycutt RN and Sianna Morgheim, Community Health Aide

#### **AllNations Bank: Unveiling Financial Freedom**

Guests – Jill Maple, CEO and CFO, and Debbie Coym, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager

#### **477's September Events**

Guests – 477 Executive Director Briana Ponkilla; Outreach Coordinator Melinda Ferrell, and Outreach Specialist Keli Mitchell

#### **Unlocking Alzheimer's Innovative Diagnosis Tools**

Guests - Atheda Fletcher, ASTHS Grant Director for Dementia Services, and Dr. Raphael Francisco, ASTHS

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. The podcast can also be downloaded on YouTube, SoundCloud, Spotify and Apple Podcasts.





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



### ENTERPRISE CONTENT MANAGEMENT



#### **Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Department Report**

Over the past year, the Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Department has worked side-by-side with Tribal and Health departments to improve the way services are delivered and received. Our mission is to replace outdated paper-based processes with modern, secure, and user-friendly digital solutions that save time, reduce costs, and make services more accessible.

At the core of this effort is Laserfiche. It is a leading enterprise content management platform. With Laserfiche, our team designs online forms, automates workflows, and manages digital records so staff and community members can easily submit applications, access services, and track requests without relying on manual paperwork.

Since the start of this year alone, more than 7,000 online forms have been submitted across both organizations. Every submission represents faster service, less paper, and a smoother experience for the people we serve.

The list below highlights just a selection of the current projects we have worked on since April, in addition to our many live processes already in use:

**477 Program**: A dedicated system for staff to monitor, manage, and report on program initiatives.

**Behavioral Health**: Digital intake questionnaires supporting integrated care.

**Building Blocks**: Simplifying childcare enrollment with online submissions.

**Clinical Operations**: Patient intake forms, nurse and provider license reviews, and peer review quality processes.

**Cultural Preservation**: A dedicated system to track and manage cultural projects for long-term preservation.

**Dental Services**: Sterilization logs, spore test logs, and patient medical history forms to ensure infection control and pre-visit documentation.

**Diabetes & Wellness**: Online applications for the 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge, Lifestyle Change Program, and Fitness Intake.

**Health Information Management (HIM)**: Online Patient release forms enabling timely and compliant sharing of medical records.

**ICW**: A dedicated system being developed for case management and improved record-keeping.

**Human Resources**: Digital onboarding, changes, and offboarding requests.

**LT. Governor's Office**: Online applications for the Elderly Home Shelter and Homeowner Emergency Repairs programs.

**Pharmacy Services**: Staff scheduling forms to enhance workforce coordination and shift planning.

**Procurement**: Vendor Application for vendors to apply online for qualification, improving efficiency and vendor engagement.

**Radiology**: Mammography breast history forms to support diagnostic imaging and breast health services.

**Security**: Incident report forms to capture safety events and support response workflows.

**Social Services**: Online applications for Tribal Energy Assistance, LIHEAP, and Burial assistance.

Treasurer's Office: Online Economic Development survey for Tribal members.

**Tribal Member Portal:** A new centralized hub under development that will give Tribal Members a modern, secure login experience. Replacing the current "Members Only" section of the website, the portal will serve as a one-stop location where members can continue to view resources like Executive Committee meetings and reports, while also gaining access to new features as they are introduced.

#### **Closing Note**

These projects highlight ECM's role as a partner to every department. By leveraging Laserfiche, we are helping Tribal and Health organizations move away from paper and toward digital systems that are faster, safer, and easier to use. With many forms already live and many more on the way, ECM is building a strong foundation for continued growth, improved service delivery, and long-term community impact.

# **NOTES**



NOTES	Per sure