

# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA



93RD SEMI-ANNUAL  
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

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**

**93<sup>rd</sup> SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL**

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**NORMAN, OKLAHOMA**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024**

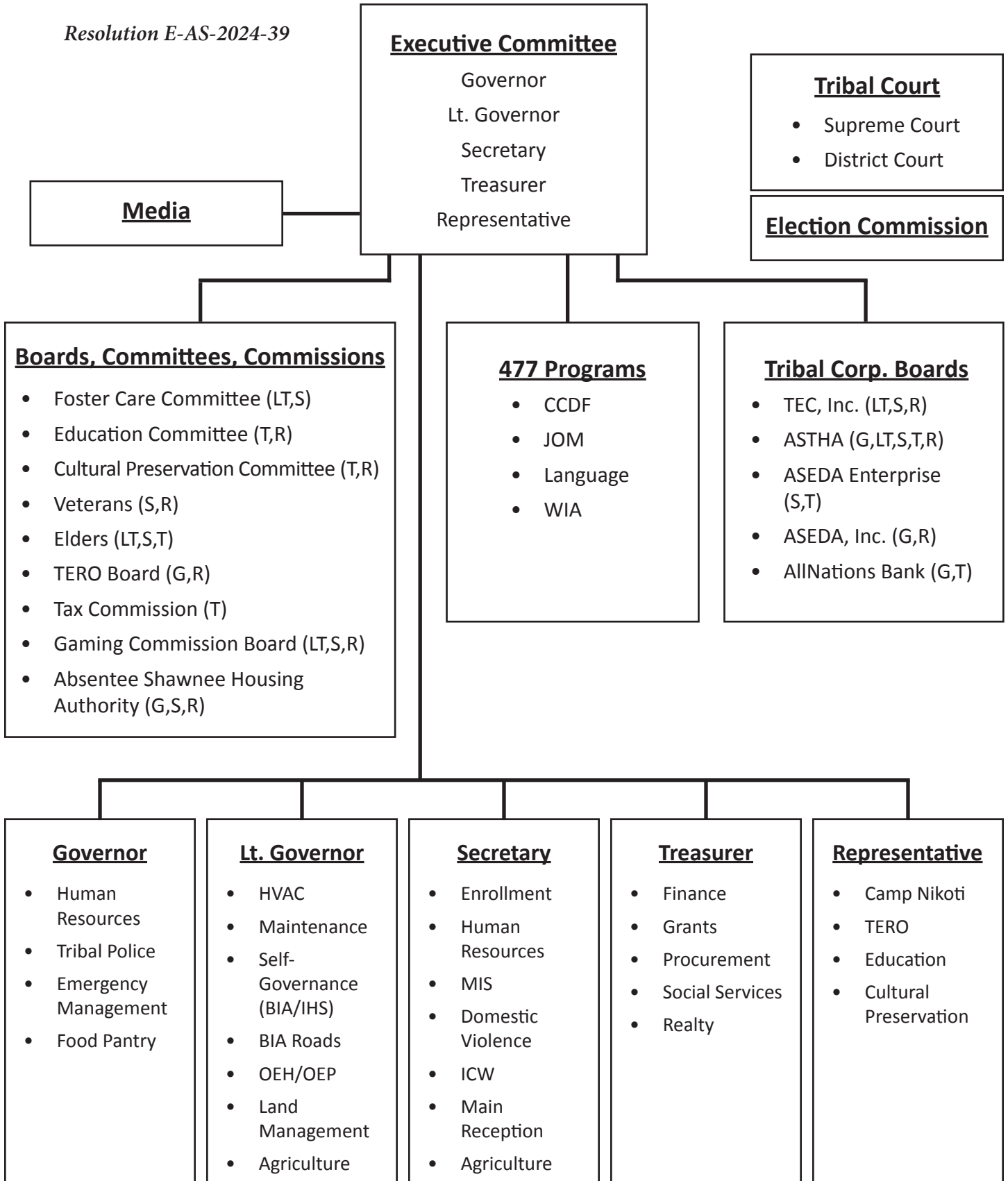
**10:00 A.M.**

**AGENDA**

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

# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

*Resolution E-AS-2024-39*



( ) 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  
92nd SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING  
AST MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING  
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA  
Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The 92nd 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 27, at 10:03 a.m.

**INVOCATION AND POSTING OF THE COLORS**

Posting of Colors: Absentee Shawnee Veteran-Walter Larney  
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 78 Tribal members present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Governor Johnson asked if there were any comments or discussions. Edwina Butler-Wolfe asked; in the future can the minutes include the Tribal Members questions. Governor Johnson entertained a motion to approve the October 14, 2023 Minutes **Motion to approve: Walter Larney**  
**Second Motion: Phyllis Johnson**  
**The Following vote was recorded: 34 Yes, 1 No, and 5 Abstain.**

**V. SPECIAL REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. **GOVERNOR JOHN JOHNSON-Thank you again. I want to Thank Tribal Members because of January last year, the Emergency Management put out a notice that we are going to get severe bad weather and that we needed to get prepared and y'all listened. Get your groceries, get your medications, get your wood, get your gas, get bottles of water because it was going to be so freezing cold that pipes will probably be breaking and they did. Everything went well and I prayed and I thank you all for taking the warning. Now, Emergency Management has reported that severe weather is coming today and tonight and tomorrow. So now we can get out there and clean our cellars, put water in there, get flashlights, anything in case this tornado comes through here.**

HAF program is a housing assistant fund. We have over 282 applications with 12 in process right now. That amount came up to 1.5 million dollars. So if you are a homeowner and you live out of state you can still apply. We have done applications for Arizona, Arkansas, Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee and we got about 45 more families that we can assist. So if your house is to be paid off in the next 6 months or so, please plan on getting this funding. This is about \$8,000 per household. I would suggest that you look to the future to have this done.

Food Pantry, we have a new supplier from Texas which is the Midwest Food Bank to provide more items for us. They receive other items besides just food. So there's actually going to probably be some paper plates, plastic spoons and other items that we can select from our pantry.

Two projects that we have completed, the CCDF building, Child Care Development. There's a new building right over here for After School. It's got about 6 to 8 office spaces. It's got a gym. Also, we got a playground in the back. This project should have been done years ago. They were in a prefab building over here for years and now they got a brand new facility. Also, our second project is the Police department that's right behind us that has apparently around 8 to 12 offices. This building also took a long time because this grant was actually submitted and taken before COVID. It took 2 years after COVID before we could even start but the buildings are complete.

I want to go back to CCDF we're building another new facility at Horseshoe Bend, which is in Johnson County. That's been a big time coming that should have been done a long, long time ago. If you get a chance go out there. They're already started construction.

Right now, I would like to recognize a gentleman by the name of Leonard Matthews. Please stand up. He's our new maintenance man that just started. He has done a fantastic job. He came to the round table meeting that I have on Monday mornings. His first one and I made a comment I guess I was a little stern on it because I was upset but he came to me after the meeting and said what do you want me to do and I said I want Tecumseh Square cleaned up from all that debris over there, from all the trees, concrete, rebar, everything. Next day, he was over there, by himself cutting. In the next two days, he had a whole team of all the workers from maintenance to go over there to help get that cleaned up. If you go by and look at it, it looks so nice. Thank You Leonard, I appreciate that. Also, he came up and discussed with me that we needed to put Pre-emergent on our campus here and that I said we can hire a company to do this but he said, I can do it myself because we have the machine. All we just need to do is put a pump in it. It did save a few thousand dollars. He asked the ladies that do housekeeping to help clean out the flower beds and replant and they did. Thank You.

The next task is tackling building #3, an empty shell. It's because we've had so much damage from rain leaking into the building all this time not knowing until we finally seen some water spots in the basement. Then by pulling up the carpet we found mole and asbestos. He started looking into the walls and tearing off the panel, everything was just rotten down and eaten up. He showed me the window seals, no wonder it stank, it was all rotten out. It's an empty facility



right now but we are looking to remodel that building we're not going to tear it down, we are going to start over and make the court room bigger. Human Resources and Domestic Violence will still go back in the building. That's our future plans.

Back to Tecumseh Square, you probably heard me say this that I was going to put a Food bank in there for the USDA but I found out that I couldn't do that because it can't be enjoined with another department. It has to have its own facility. So I gave my part, my quarter of the facility to 477. Which they will discuss that here in a little bit and that will handle the entire department for 477. I will let you know that it's going to be a bigger area for us to have General Council and probably 25 to 30 departments.

The EC decided about a year and a half ago to put land acquisitions into place to start to try to get the fee land into trust. It has been 40 years that nothing has been done. So we made the effort of going ahead and start and this (showed a folder) is all land that we own that we are trying to put into trust. We went all the way to Washington, DC to Mr. Newland to see if we could get these signed so we could put land into trust. He has the power to do that. We have not gotten anywhere. We've been there twice. We've sent this all back to him. We've done our work to try to get this land into trust. Now I don't think it's going to happen. So I think it's time for us to think out of the box. We can't do anything here in our five counties. It's time for us to find property somewhere else. Now I'm not saying move. I'm just saying we need to purchase land out of this area here so no one could tell this tribe, what they can or cannot do. That comes from Mr. Barrett. I've talked to him, I've sent emails and I've sent certified letters, no response. Even BIA asked us to please try to make appointments with this gentleman but he hasn't replied yet. So in the future, I think you're going to see that we can purchase land in Purcell, Lexington, Guthrie, Yukon and Oklahoma City that goes past where he can't tell us what to do.

Once again, I want to Thank You All for coming today and I hope you support us in the future for we can move forward to purchase land somewhere else. This is all I have to report, once again, Thank You So Much for being here today and going to turn this over to Lt. Governor.

**B. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR EZRA DELODGE**-Good Morning everybody, bear with me today. I've been under the weather for most of the week, so I'm still not 100%. Have a couple of things to talk about. Some of the departments we have made some really great strides in what we've done and what we've been able to do going forward with some of the new hires, some of the direction that we gave our departments as Governor Johnson mentioned earlier.

Our maintenance department is kind of one of the bigger ones that we deal with that we have the most interaction with our tribal members. I feel the gentleman we hired has been a great addition to our staff and to our team. He saved us substantial amount of money with some of the work he's able to do with the skill and abilities he brings to the Tribe. So it's a great asset to the tribe and

I'm sure some of you dealt with them already and just know that we're working to get better on everything we do.

My Philosophy is we can always get better every day, not better than anybody else but better than whom we were the day before. So you know we strive for that. We try to bring the services and continue services and build on those services for you our tribal members.

Our BIA department the director, Twyla's been doing an excellent job and she's got herself on some national boards that really nobody in Oklahoma ever been on for a department. So that's outstanding job and it speaks to the work she's done to have our tribe recognized when no other tribe, no company has been recognized. So she's moving that department in a great direction and she's doing a lot of effort and putting her time into it and as the other departments are as well.

You know we're looking to get better and I ask these guys all the time, how we can get better, how we can improve, what can we do better to provide services and continue to better ourselves with the services we bring. You know again it's never an easy job to do.

You know sitting in these seats up here and I applaud anybody that's ever done it before that's going to do it in the future. You're never going to get it right half the time and you're not going to make everybody mad, so you make some people happy. I appreciate the job and you know as my time in office comes to an end I just want to thank the tribal members for allowing me to do this, putting me in this position to make these decisions for our tribe. It's been an honor and a blessing and you know I wish the tribe nothing but success and everybody that comes up here in these seats after me and hope they do a good job and hope they can bring the services and continue to build on what the EC and the previous EC's have built for the tribe.

We see it every day we're getting better. A lot of our health departments and our bank have improved. There are improvements that have been made and I think it's a good foundation that's been started and that's been built on and hopefully we can continue to grow.

I thank you all here today for your time and your attention and like Governor Johnson said earlier, stay weather aware, we're supposed to get some weather this afternoon and just make sure that everybody's safe. Thank You.

- C. **SECRETARY MISTY MCGIRT**-The video you are about to watch was created to address the effects of historical trauma in our tribal community, many times these unattended wounds are at the core of much of the self-inflicted pain experienced by Native Americans much like fire. This pain can be devastating destructive or wisely harness to become the fuel that helps us rise up and move forward in like with joy, purpose and dignity.

Video played-These good videos always get me every time. As you may know April is National Child Abuse Prevention month and so many of our own tribal children and youth are affected by child maltreatment in one way or another every day. If you need information on how to recognize and report maltreatment as well as how to support loving families and safe tribal community we have

booth in the back for Indian Child Welfare. I am looking forward to implement on things of how we could do better for our children. We do need more foster parents within our tribe because we would love to keep our children with our tribe and families but we need tribal members to step up and help us do that. We we are in the process of getting our building ready. So whenever that is done, we will put it out there, so be looking for that. We would like for everyone to see it. It's a great building and it's a great new home.

Domestic Violence, well as you know Governor said building 3 is currently being renovated right now and on hold but once we get back and moving, like I said there's things there too that we are looking to move forward and help the Domestic Violence within our community. I have attended several conferences so far with Domestic Violence and ICW. Learning a lot and again I want to thank my tribal members for giving me this opportunity to learn. I'm still learning. I hope you know within my term that I can make something come of it, make it better, and help my staff make it better for our people.

In our Enrollment department, we did look into the passport that was brought at last General Council to the full ID but it's a route that we're still looking into it in the future. It is good to some extent but right now, we're not ready for it but it's not going to be on hold. We are going to look into it more and keep it because you know it is something for our future to implement on the cards. Also if you have a tribal Shawnee name you can have that choice of putting that on the card. This was brought up to me by many tribal elders that families don't know the names of the people who passed. So that's where we're at on the cards.

The HR department is always hiring. We have many jobs open so apply. We're always looking for help within all of our departments. That's all I have for today. NeYiWa

D. TREASURER JOSEPH BLANCHARD-Morning Everybody, glad to see you here today at the 92<sup>nd</sup>. I see a lot of folks out here that you know we get a chance to interact with on a regular basis and you know there are so many of the programs that the tribe provides services and that a lot of you participate and take part. Thank you for doing that. I'm glad that you chose to be here today. As I get started I want to say Thank You to our directors who given up a Saturday to come here. If you have questions about specific programs or concerns, you'll be able to visit and talk with these individuals after the discussion is over. I see several of our board members here from the various boards I see Health board members, I see Bank boards and I see our C people and some Tax commission folks. I'm glad those folks are here as well, majority of them are tribal members.

Just real quickly, governor kind of touched on it a moment ago about the fee to trust applications and its process. So there was six applications originally submitted and there were eleven that followed successively. One was based on the previous year in 2023. So those are actually under a different set of rules under the CFT and then these most recent eleven that were submitted under a new regulation that was just approved and enacted back in January. You know governor mentioned going to DC a couple of times. I know he's been there for

the Tribal Leader Summit which is usually in November during Native American month to visit with President Biden and his staff. I think there was some major legislation that was approved and signed most specifically an executive order which is almost like law. The President's law that talks about the way that we interact with Tribal governments and the way we treat our Tribal governments and the cooperation that's supposed to exist, Treaty responsibilities. That's how the Partnership are supposed to be the government and itself, the interactions with leadership and us being a tribe and that's what this whole discussion has been about the last year and a half, has been more specifically about our tribe exercise in Tribal Sovereignty and being able to express our self-governance.

The last two weeks we are getting ready to create a RFP request for proposal that will go out to the state and our local region. We're looking at future business opportunities. We are looking at expansion. This is discussion we've had as executive leaders. You the tribal members have asked us to treat this as a business as a true corporation and we attempt to complete your request. There's a part of what Miss Butler-Wolfe mentioned ago, Policy procedure Robert Rules of Order. The techniques and the regulations and guideline that we/you utilize in our system and how we govern. So when the RFP comes out what we're looking at is and I've expressed to our tribal leaders and I've said this to you as well in our Newsletter statements in our previous General Council booklets you know back 2010, 2012 somewhere in that time frame, the Tribe dropped our blood quantum from a quarter to an eighth. At that time we were just over 3,000 people. All the changes that have been incorporated since that time frame, we've increased roughly by 100 tribal members every year. So between now and then we've increased 15 to 1600 people. Now that's important because when we generate revenue from our gaming system and our C store and just our business ventures in general. You're robbing Peter to pay Paul in the concept because you still have the same tax base. You still have the same amount of money you generate yearly but now you've got more people, you continue with business opportunity. Business growth is important so as the seasons are changing I've expressed to my directors. I've also coordinated with the tax commission with the ASEDA board and along with our gaming organization to look at future expansion and opportunities for growth in the future. What we anticipate is opportunities for restaurants. We're looking at potential expansion in our gaming system so then there's a hotel opportunity but we're trying to make the best use possible of our lands and how we utilize those and the benefit of our programs but then of course that providing service back to our tribal members.

Moving onto programs and departments, before I get to the departments, let me emphasize this as another point to what secretary mentioned. So she talked about and showed you a video regarding foster care. So my plea to you today is as we're all aware and for whatever reason you know Native people make up less than 1% of the overall total population. So when we put those numbers together, the question becomes or the idea behind a lot what we do as individuals, we feel sometimes our voice is not heard or we feel like well why should I do or why should I participate.

**My plea to you today is about voter registration. Why is that important? Not participating in our tribal elections, that's not where we stop. We also need to participate in our local elections, our regular government our state government our national government. It's important because when we go to DC and we're having conversations with these elected officials who are supposed to represent us which kind of like our governor for the state of Oklahoma, he's supposed to represent 4 million people but I'm sure you would agree with me that most of his decisions regarding native people and the revenue generated from our tribal businesses doesn't benefit us as a group. It's their prerogative it's their agenda and they do what they want to do, so for me I am requesting simply go out and register to vote, participate. Whether you're a Democrat, Independent Libertarian, and Green Party whatever, get involved in a process, and learn your candidate. Participate, cast a vote. We already know this but our great leader has said, when we stand together you've got this bundle of sticks, the bundle is strong. So when we do that and we collectively believe and walk the same direction we are better as a group. We're better as a people there's less issues but it's better to have numbers than to go and fight the battle alone. When we go to DC, we're going as 2 or 3 of us, sometimes Governor by himself to argue on behalf of the tribe. It's better when we get to DC and there are State Congressional folk, House Representatives, the Senators it helps that they are understanding and compassionate and willing to agree with us and support us. Without allies at the National level even at the local level it makes it difficult to move and process forward so the next 2 months and before November we are getting ready through social media and the newsletter. We will be conducting voter registration opportunity here on campus. We see it all the time; Rock the Vote. Rock the Native Vote. We are going to be coordinating those because just by show of hands of how many voted in the last presidential election. That makes me happy that half the room voted.**

**My question here, why the other half didn't vote? So I move forward. You know our language, our Cultural is essential to who we are as tribal people as Absentee Shawnee people without it we cease to be what the United States call Native American Indian, so language and culture is highly important and I only say that because as you are all aware it's that time of year, Spring Bread Dance ceremony time.**

**So I know in the next 3 weeks I would assume because the timing of the year and looking at nature a lot of our dance grounds will be calling and having their Council meeting and setting dates. Treasurer commented on the importance of the language and culture and the responsibilities of ceremonial leaders. He also stated there are plenty of grounds to attend. He also stated; if you don't have a place to call a camp or you don't know you can come to his camp. My family is always willing to host.**

**I have six programs under my oversight and another 5 or 6 committees that I'm liaison to and that I participate heavily in their discussion. If you look into your General Council booklet, my programs all provided reports. The few that I have the liaison responsibilities to these councils and boards are here today they're on the agenda as well so they'll be providing their information.**

If you've never noticed at the end of these meetings I'm usually the last person here till 2 or 3, because I stay after to have those conversations with tribal members. I make myself available to hear your concerns and if that's not allowable because of weather today trying to be weather aware. Call me, email, setup an appointment to come to the office.

You know I work well with my calendar, all of us have phones and our calendars are attached to our phones. As executive committee members we put in a lot of time and effort just because you may not see us here on campus doesn't mean that we're not working. I respect the folks and the people who have put me here to handle this responsibility and function and as we are going to do our best that we can do and fulfill and succeed and continue to progress our Tribe forward. Turning back over to Governor.

- E. Representative DeWayne Wilson-Hello my name is DeWayne Wilson, Tribal Representative. When we sit around here in the last few years dealing with COVID, okay dealing with that Russian money and stuff like that not only did we start spending money to build; what we forgot about was invested in our people. So when I came in it was 2021. 2021 you know I started having conversations with the Lt. but when we sit here and talk about this, you know what I've learned here is when we talk about Economic Development because really we're a one revenue source tribe. Okay, we get a little bit from Tax. We need to be doing a better job and I'm sitting here saying this EC does. Okay who was even up here in these seats we need to be learning to make more money for this tribe. Okay here's an opportunity - what we learned since we've been here and or since I've been here. We used to sit around here and think we have to put businesses on Trust land. We don't. We can put businesses on Fee land. Okay so when I set here and look what we've done and said throughout the years and I see what our neighbors are doing to North of us. Okay that may be Trust land. But how are they doing it. Okay we know they got deep pockets. We need to get there okay. I'm going to say the executive committee probably a year or so ago came up with, where's Mrs. Butler. She bought some property at one time there were that executive committee back then. Out here on 177 at hardesty street road. Okay, well we had conversation because it's in a floodplain. We didn't want to build it. What do we do, what do we see. We see our neighbors to the North build it. What do we see? We see our neighbors to the North what they're doing they're putting land in that floodplain. Okay they're going to extend their ballparks; they're extending their Resort center, their hotel - all in a floodplain. We need to be more aggressive that effect. Okay yeah it's going to cost some money and I'm just sitting there saying this - that when you sit here and look, look at these individuals up here, we need to be thinking that way. I'm sitting here trying to bridge the gap between the tribe and the Health department so that we can provide more services okay and correct me if I'm wrong Chris, that's what I'm trying to do because I feel like they're different entities. When I came in and to me they're not different entities. The Casino is same way. When I sit here and deal with Sam and you know his people and stuff like that you know. When I first came in you know it was just different entities. It just felt

that way and it shouldn't be. This is about our Tribe. So when we sit here and look at Fee land to Trust land we gave that an opportunity. And it may or may not work out as far as turning Fee land into Trust land but that shouldn't be stopping us from being more Economic Development or providing that to our Tribe to make money in other ways instead of just being the casino aspect of this okay. Now when the governor talks about thinking out of the box when I first came in June 2021 probably the first or three months, I've had questions and I took three of those questions and I went with it. One of those questions is why are our neighbors able to do what they're able to do and help out a lot of not only their tribal members but a lot of other tribes. Okay who was it that brought property. He didn't want to talk to this tribe. Okay well I found out, there's a program they've had, they've had it since 1998. It's called 477. Now I'm going to come back to what Treasurer was saying a minute ago about numbers. It's a numbers game out there and most people know that Chris of those that have to sit around their turn in these numbers these reports it's a number game so that we can sit around here and provide more services correct me if I'm wrong. Okay that's what they've been doing for 30 years. Back in the 90's they went decendancy. Their numbers jumped from like 7000 to like almost 40,000. So what happened when they sit there and turn those numbers into the Federal government? They started getting millions of dollars. They went 477 Public Law. I've been kind of talking about it. But it's a numbers game that's why they're able to do other things with their tribal members and with other tribes. We know they've been doing it for 25 years, Briana correct me if I'm wrong. They're hitting 25 to almost 30 million a year for CCDF funding is that about right? Yeah, okay so if we sit here and look at that and bring those numbers up under the 477, that increase, that funding is going to increase. That's what we're trying to do. We're just in the beginning stages. When we sit here and talk about 477 into Tecumseh square. You know when I first started researching this and talking going to these conferences, they were talking about this One-Stop Shop. I started researching and saying, "Hey this is where this is coming from; this is how they're doing it" so I go ahead and talk to these other tribes; how they're doing it. It's just that to and when we sit here and provide services to our tribal members - look at these new programs. This is what when I hear the governor, when I talked to him yesterday. He was talking about thinking out of the box. This is the prime example of us thinking out of the box but this kind like if we go Economic Development are things going to change if we sit around and put a hotel around here or at the Casino. It's an income, its employment for our tribe. I'm looking for tribal members to want to get into those things. What we're looking at Shawnee building a new, probably here's a good another good example we're putting a clinic over there. We're buying; we're going to end up buying all this equipment. What else are you going to need in that building? You're going to need people in there. Okay and we need to be doing a better job right now through our education through 477. This is why again when me and Briana talking. What we're trying to do as far as what is it? OJT. Yeah okay it's that we can get people certified whether it's like coding or x-ray technician things of that nature. Okay if they wanted to go to a four year program you

know as far as through our Education program we can do that. That's going to take 3, 4, 5 years. I'm going to say we need to be preparing ourselves to put people in there; to put our tribal members in there. Okay we don't need to wait till it happen. Then we sit around here and start saying "Hey, well what about our tribe, what about my family" you know things of nature. We need to be thinking now for the next 5 or 6 years. This gentlemen and I'm talking about the Treasurer here. I'm always hounding him I need to look 5 or 10 years down the road. Okay that's the way we need to be looking. All right we don't need to be sitting around here in our day to day sometime and sometimes I'll sit here and say that to the EC as well. I don't like dealing with employee issue or day to day operations. Okay but I do I want to give Briana - I wanted her talk about the 477 programs and those services that we're going to be providing to the tribal member's, not only tribal members preference but we're going to be providing those services to other native tribes that's how we get those numbers up. Okay but there is a preference for our tribal members. I'll say go ahead Briana.

Briana-Good Morning, my name is Briana Ponkilla, the 477 Director. I was previously the CCDF child care program director. So I've worked with the CCDF Grant. The CCDF grant is one of the largest grants in 477 as far as financial funds that get put into 477. The 477 comes out of the Public Law 102. 477 which is a Federal Law which allows tribes to combine similar grants that do the same activities under employment education training and supportive services. So these are grants that do similar activities are the current grants that we have now under our 477 Plan are CCDF Childcare Development fund, Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act, Job Placement and Training and Johnson O'Malley. These are the four different grants that we have. So these are grants that the Tribe has had in the past or traditionally had. They are not new grants so we're combining what we currently have so we're not getting new funding.

This is funding that we've already received and allows us to do. 477 help us to be more intentional with our funding and with our services and so that we can be more comprehensive to our participants on what they're doing. When you come in and fill out an application. We can see what your needs are and what we can do and you don't have to go to different departments.

You come to one place, One Stop Shop and we can go through those things. What we do is we sit down with the participants and we go over an individual self-sufficiency plan. So what we're trying to look at is what your goals are what your barriers are what your strengths are and how we can help you overcome those barriers to reach your goals.

You don't have to be unemployed to participate. You can be employed but you may want to maintain your employment that's a goal. If you want to enhance your current position, say you're an assistant and you want to become management that's a goal. You're moving up so it doesn't necessarily have to be unemployed. We can any Tribal member reach their goals to be self-sufficient. If you're working at a fast food place and you're working frontline and you want



to become management we can help you do that because when you're a participant wages increases that increases their self-sufficiency.

So our ultimate goal is for individuals to be self-sufficient for Tribal members to be able to help themselves so they don't have to use Social Services or rely on other programs like that and that would help their families in the future.

So some of the things to know is that we are not an emergency program so if you do come in and something's emergent we will do the best that we can to help those things done quickly but it may take a little bit of time because of our policies. We may request that participants exhaust other funds through other programs for example Li Heap Program we may ask tribal members to go there first or through their Tribe. We ask participants to actively work within their individual self-sufficiency plan to receive services. So it's not just a handout, we want the participants to be able to be doing something to help themselves as well.

Currently we have six staff in our 477 regular staff and then we have four temporary subsidized workers and we're always trying to find subsidize employment which is we pay them to work in different departments that are not necessarily 477. We also could do that with outside businesses and things they're willing to work with us and have an agreement. We can pay our participants to go work at another business.

Currently we have 204 adult cases and 139 youth cases for a total of 343 cases and that's just as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. We have at least 10 coming through now. We're very busy we're doing our summer youth employment also which is under our program so that's kind of increased things as well.

Some of the services that we provide are employment training opportunities, our classroom job search skills, interview techniques, resume preparation, subsidized and unsubsidized employment. So we try to help people find jobs, education assistance, and career development counseling work readiness for Education. We can do vocational training, Career education fairs, substance abuse counseling and supportive services. We do child care, transportation, relocation assistance. We can help with books, tuition things like that. Education may not be able to assist with or outside of their limits and then extracurricular uniforms clothing, supplies, work attire, testing fees, gas assistance, basic tools that you may need for your job and then minor vehicle repair. We do have guidelines and limitations.

We do work with the participant when they go through their ISP and try to find those things that may prevent them to be employed or continue in employment.

So the future 477 as the Governor said we're planning to build renovate so that all of our programs can be housed in one. Currently we're kind of separated but that way it can truly be a One-Stop Shop where the participants go to one place and we can be able to provide those services so that you're not going to different places.

We're also looking at adding additional grants that we currently have into 477 that also have similar activities. Just to be even more comprehensive and more holistic on how we approach providing services and then we also would

like to create satellite offices in the different counties that we service Oklahoma, Cleveland, Payne and Cleveland.

So currently we provide services everywhere but a lot of our participants are from Payne County. So we'd like to reach out to the other areas so that we can get more participants and increase our staff.

So it is a number game as the governor said. CCDF has always been open to all natives in our service area. So CCDF wasn't tribal member specific but we always met the needs of our Tribal members. This program will still meet the needs of our Tribal members as well as other natives because even as Tribal members we have other family members that are from different tribes so we want to be able to help everybody all natives within our service area to provide those services to be self-sufficient. I think that if we've done this before this is just kind of taking that little bit further with different programs. Thank you for your time and I appreciate it.

Representative DeWayne Wilson-I want to elaborate a little bit more. You know we're getting a certain amount of funding from WIA, JOM, and OJT, these accounts or funding sources. Some of them we were getting from BIA if I'm not mistaken Twyla. Is that when we sat there and put this funding, the CCDF funding with these other programs we're able to provide more to these people not only in services but hopefully for more money as well. That's exactly what we did with the Education program. This Executive Committee sitting here passed \$492,000 dollars to put into the Education Department. It's a new process and with any new process there are changes. I want to tell you about our neighbor to the North. Their 477 program, how many people they have in their 477 program. There are 22 plus staff over there to our brothers to the North. She's here and talk to yall about was it 6, 5, 4, she's got 4 staff. That's when we sit here and looked at Tecumseh Square and what we're trying to do over there in Tecumseh Square and put this in a One Stop Shop. We're looking probably 10 or 15 but we need those types of staff we're looking to go there. I wanted to sit here and kind of say to yall that there's changes' coming. We have to change with that. If you want Economic Development, we've been talking about it. When it comes to traffic, I don't know Edwina if you look at it back then all I know is I've been here most of my life and you see the traffic going down 177 there it's a no brainer. If we got to sit here and bring in dirt and ask people for donating dirt or whatever the case may be that's what we need to be doing because people do it all the time. We need to be learning from other people other tribes. Because we're behind and anybody that knows me, I know some of some of my family is out there. I don't like being behind. I'm an OU fan, I like that number one. That's kind of the way I am. I'm no sense. No sense king of guy. I do Thank Yall for coming. Things are happening. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your time. NeYiWa

- VI. **CASINO REPORT: Sam Caruso-Thunderbird Casino.** Good morning everybody. It's good to see everybody out here today. I want to thank the General Council for

giving me the opportunity to come here and to serve you and the Executive Committee as well. If you look in your packet on page 92, there are some of the things I'm going to be discussing with you today. Also you'll see our Mission and our Vision and our Core Competency and you'll also be able to see some of the numbers that I want to talk with you about.

So our Mission is taking Pride our history and when we say that we're always reminding our team members in our orientation throughout their time with us that we are there because of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe that our organization is there and that we serve the Absentee Shawnee Tribe that and so we always talk about taking pride in our history and we're empowered to create an entertaining experience for our guests to achieve success our commitment is to pride opportunities for the tribe and each other and that's what we're trying to do out there is make sure that we're providing those opportunities back to the tribe where we can and when we can.

Our Board of Directors currently is Darren Shields he is our president. He is out here today, Leslyan Tanyan vice president and Alice Kassanavoid, she's our secretary and if you notice in your packet we do have two vacancies there and so if you want to serve. Please make sure you get with Secretary. Please send your resumes over to her and that's something that the executive committee, I know considers on a regular basis. So we still have those two opening for the board and then under management you see my name there Sam Caruso. I am the general manager. I've met most of you but if I haven't met you I'm sorry but that's who I am Sam Caruso, the general manager.

On the next page, he talked about Payment, Disbursements to the Tribe, Statistics and Profit & Loss over the years. He also commented that the casino is steadily been making the properties better and increasing the revenues.

What I like to tell people, what I like to remind anyone is that we're going to hit a plateau at some point because there are only so many machines we can put out there. There's only such a level that we can get to, so at some point we will hit a plateau. One of those things that we can do to make the properties better is to add extra amenities, add extra space where possible but if anyone knows about even the Norman property the little property there can only expand so far and then parking becomes a problem and other issues become a problem out there. Infrastructure becomes a problem, water and waste becomes a problem. So we have to start looking at those things and reinvestment into the properties.

Right now we're not able to reinvest at a high rate back into the properties that includes infrastructure that includes operations. We're not able to invest at a high rate because we're trying to get as much revenue back to the Tribe as we can possibly get back to the Tribe and so those are always some things to consider. One of the things that we're looking at for the future is that we have had a feasibility study completed for a potential Hotel on the Norman property. I can give you more details about that feasibility study as we go on it's just been completed for us and so we still have to go through there and digest what it says that's just the very

beginning stages of what you would look at if you eventually want to have a hotel in the property. Feasibility is one of the first things you look at there so as far as our operations go that's what we have there.

I do want to remind everybody about the July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend Celebration that we have in July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The flyer is inside your booklet on page 94. We do have a joint job fair with Health, the Casino and the Tribe. We all work together to try to get people on board and especially focused on tribal members.

I do want to make a statement about the current operation that's going on right now. I think people that have visited the casino and people that talk about the casino know that we're in a manual mode right now on our property. We've been in manual mode for approximately 10 days right now there is an end in sight and probably we're looking at early next week when we'll have that fixed and that issue remedy.

I do want to make a statement about it as you are aware we've had a cyber-incident that has occurred on our properties while I cannot discuss details of the issue due to potential legal matters. I can let you know that the issues are being resolved when possible AV able to report more on the matters that I can make public okay so those are just things that I have to say at the beginning just only because there's always a potential for legal issues that come along with these sorts of events there's not a whole lot I can always say in public especially in writing especially in the report but there are some things I can tell you like this like we're talking about right now in the meantime I can let you know that our revenues remain steady we just looked at our revenues coming in.

Our average revenues are staying steady. So some people have asked me hey Sam what's happening to our revenues while this is going on and I can happily tell you those revenues to the state steady they stayed where they were they need to be and that's due to the hard work of the 184 team members that you've got working for you out there. They're doing a great job of keeping everything up, keeping everything running in this situation. Not all of our systems were affected because we have good remediation and good mitigation out there and so not all systems were affected so everything's kept at a certain level so revenues are staying up. We're doing really well on that. No personal and private information has been lost at this time, there's no evidence of that so no personal private information is lost. Nothing has been compromised. If we're made aware of any instances where has occurred we'll definitely put an announcement out there we'll let you all know if we find out that is urve at this time there's no evidence of that. We'll address those things accordingly when they happen and then the other question I keep getting is about our free play, tribal member free play is being accounted for and accumulated so whenever the services come back up online, you'll get all your free play back. I think you're up to \$30 right now including this meeting and then we're going to add an additional \$10 for inconvenience so that'll be \$40. Once everything comes back up online. So we have all those things going for you and I know you guys will have more questions and of course I'll be available here. I always answer any kind of

questions you guys have and if I can answer them I will answer them. I'll get you the information that you all need so that's all I have for today. Thank You All Very Much

**VII. AST TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, INC REPORT: I'm Chris Larkin, Executive Director of Health. We start off with that and I have some good news. I'm not going to go specifically with everything that's in the packet. You guys have your packet there but I do want to hit some of the highlights; we had our strategic planning meeting with the EC, our Health Board last weekend and a lot of things kind of came to light and what sets us apart and how great this Clinic actually is and what you guys have and a lot of people don't recognize it.**

**So I just wanted to hit some of the highlights on some of the different things what sets apart. We are the benchmark for healthcare not just in Tribal Health but in Health Care in general throughout the state. I've had people from Oregon that contacted us for our accreditation and asked how you know, how we do it. In fact our Tribe did the first accreditation back in 2019. I believe we have the highest score of eight Tribal facilities in the nation.**

**Some of the other things that I wanted to highlight, just in the past 6 months we've had leadership, these are people that have flown in from Washington DC for us specifically from the CDC, from the Alzheimer's Association. Five members flew in to see us and visit with Dr. Nael and our Behavioral Health Department for a research grant that we're potentially up for. We have over 90 Physicians which is unheard of. I'm on the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and whenever I'm talking with the Chickasaws and the Choctaws. They ask us how we do it. Being a small tribe our Behavioral Health Department has three psychiatrists, two psychologists, two psychiatric nurse practitioners plus other therapists and we're actually expanding that program whereas a lot of them can't even get a fulltime psychiatrist. So I mean we are doing exceptional with what we've got and a lot of that goes back to Dr. Lofgren and also on his recruiting and everything else that we're able to do. Our specialist that we have, this is another thing that always sets us apart. I was looking for an endocrinologist there's only 47 in the state of Oklahoma within 77 counties. We have two of them. Access Pharmacy 7 days a week not something that you'll find from any of the other healthcare systems.**

**We are one of the only tribes that actually do Restorative dentistry. My children go to the Creek nation and if you go to the Creek Nation for dentistry you're going to get a tooth pulled that's basically it. We actually do the restorative as far as Bridges, crowns. You know everything else along those lines so I mean something to be very proud of so those are just some of the things I wanted to mention we do.**

**I know Pediatrics has been a bit of a thing. We do have two pediatricians that are coming on board with us so in May we will have Dr. Fernando starting May 13<sup>th</sup>. So we'll end up with three full-time pediatricians at Little Axe. One full-time at Shawnee clinic until we're able to build a larger facility because right now we just don't have room.**

That brings me into construction because that's the main thing I think everybody really always likes to discuss with the Healthcare System. We will have our Ribbon cutting or Opening basically on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 4 pm, everybody is invited. We've decided to finally have everything up and going come Monday. We should have our Certificate of Occupancy for everything within the facility. So everything is supposed to be done on Monday where the City of Norman actually releases it to us. We are pretty much done but if anybody's ever had to deal with Norman you understand that things can always get held up so we are excited about that.

We have the Architects on board for the Shawnee Clinic. We put out the RFP for construction managers. I think we received four submittals so far. So we will be doing interviews in a couple of weeks. We will be doing interviews for the architect they will have their final conceptual rendering to us I believe on May 17<sup>th</sup>. So that is definitely coming together. It may be the first quarter of next year when we should be able to start breaking ground. That's going to be amazing thing because then the Shawnee clinic will have the exact same things as Little Axe. Basically everything is going great.

One bit of bad news, I will say because I think everybody knows Dr. Stafford, is going to retire on I think May 10<sup>th</sup>. Our Health fair will be July 12<sup>th</sup> and then Title VI, is to open back for in-person congregational meals on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Title VI at the Resource center is back. Thank You Guys.

**VIII. ALL NATIONS BANK REPORT:** Stephen Smith, Good morning everyone. We're delighted to be back again with you at the General Council. He stated that the Chief Financial Officer is here to fill in on the portion of the presentation for Jill Maple who is out sick. Slide presentation was not available, so the report will be verbally and you've have some information in your book on page 117. We will post the PowerPoint on our website if you'd like to look back at it. We'll just go through the information in your presentation in the book. This picture has our Board of Directors. Steven Smith explained who they are and where they work. Then our inside directors that work at the bank are employed, Myself Steven Smith, Chairman President CEO; Bruce Dawson is a new member of our team that joined us this year. He is our Chief Lending Officer for the bank and he's the Community President for our Shawnee Market then Jill Maple is also a Director. She is our Community President as I mentioned a Chief Financial Officer at our Calumet location. We have a total of eleven staff members. We are very small bank and run really lean on staff, so all of our staff members wear multiple hats.

We've had a little turnover this year. We have added a few new people for retirements and that sort of thing and we have the strongest team we've ever had since I got here. We have one person working with the bank that was here when we got here and she's been with the bank 49 years and she's certainly has been excellent. We also have with us Christa Elmore would you stand. Christa is on our Holding Company Board for the bank along with Eastman and Wade and that is the Shareholder's Representative Board.

I'll hit a few financial items on asset growth. We grew 2.8 million from 2022 to 2023. We're at first quarter we went all the way up to 61 million from 49 million. At the end of the first quarter there was a little bump in total assets because of some revenue that public funds get from tax revenues at the first of the year that dwindled down over the years but we also have been able to get deposits from the Tribe that have added to our deposit base along with some other fairly large depositors that give us a bigger asset base.

Our loans have grown from 23 million up to now 33 million in the last year and a half to two year. This is our highest level of a loan that we Banks ever had and that's 21% from 2022 to 2023. That's the key to profitability is profitable good strong loans. As I mentioned on total assets that's up but deposits parallels that it's up to 55 billion which is the highest level Banks ever been at so we've been growing and growing in profitability.

More importantly on net income as you know when I came in the bank was in a trouble condition. We've had complete turnover in the staff and a lot of the troubles were due to staffing but we've had complete turnover. In 2022, we had a profit of \$277,000. We went back and looked at the records that the most of the bank had made in 20 years. We nearly doubled that in 2023 to 14,000. We are projecting for 2024 of \$62,000 and we intend for that to just keep growing, we've had \$163,000 for the first quarter of this year and all of those are record numbers for what we've had. Our Capital base has grown from 4/6 million in 2021 to 5.4 million at the end of 2023. Our Income of a Returned Equity of over 10% and Returned Assets of nearly 1% that's kind of standard of a good bank. If you have a 1% Return on Assets that's generally considered a well-run profitable Bank. We intend to continue to add to that and get that up where we're in the top. Our aim is getting the top of our peer group as far as profitability. Our operation again just some notable milestones; this year deposit growth highest income we've had in 20 years, record load of total loans and assets.

Also this year we joined the, what's called the National Bankers Association. It is a National Trade Association for minority owned depository institutions. Our affiliation with this trade association has given us access to some sources of assistance of deposits that focus on minority depository institutions like AllNation Bank. So we have access to some lower cost deposits from various foundations and entities and individuals that want to support the Mission of Mission driven Banks like ours and so we have that through the National Bankers Association. We've just started with that and got a few thousand dollars that's come in from that on deposits at a lower cost.

We also participated in a Technology Assessment that was paid for by a Grant from City Bank and are just now wrapping that up on our future plans for use of technology and upgrading our technology so that's some of the things we've been able to access through that Trade Association.

I'd like to mention also some benefits of banking with us. We really PRI ourselves and really do truly do this of providing 101 individual customer service. We have extra benefits that included with your accounts as Tribe members and very high, very high above market interest rate on your accounts currently 5%. The person you want to see, is Debbie still here, right there is our Branch manager for

the Shawnee branch. She recently took that position as our other Branch manager retired. She's a Branch manager; she'll get in the teller window, she'll open account, she'll make you a Consumer loan and she is our resident Mortgage Loan Specialist. If you would like to see her at the branch, we can open your account and pay the highest rate that you'll get in market in conjunction that two accounts; we have preferred checking account is paid 5%, free checks, free online banking, no minimum to earn interest, a lot of features and benefits that you would normally see with an account to the public but it's just for the Tribe members. Same thing on savings accounts, it pays 5% and that has no withdrawal fees of course they're all FDIC assured and no minimum to earn interest but that's currently 5% so that's a very high rate for a savings account and we have every other service that you know Banks nor provide. So we would love to help you.

With your borrowing needs I'd like to introduce Bruce. Bruce joined us this year he comes from a very experienced background working in Loan Review and Risk Management Lending and Executive Management within Banks and Bank President. He has also in the past worked with a troubled bank so he's got a little bit of that experience of helping with that. We're not at that point that we need that anymore, Thank Goodness we're out of that. Bruce is going to talk a little further on our Shawnee location.

Good Morning Everybody. I just wanted to tell you briefly about the Shawnee location here but as Steve mentioned, I started at the bank the first of the year and it's important for me to tell you why I'm here. I may not look it but I've been in banking over 25 years. I've been a consultant. I've done work in maybe 20 different states. I've been in lots of banks. A former bank executive, I was a bank president and I've worked with Steve before and he had been telling me about this wonderful bank here in Oklahoma and I wouldn't know if it's bragging but it's pretty close about how interesting it was. The communities, the people, the owner the Tribe owner and I became very intrigued. We talked back and forth and there was a time when he needed another hand and he talked to me about it and I thought well I don't know. I've done that before getting older and I said do you want to do what you've been doing for the last 25 years, getting up dragging yourself to work and watching the clocker. You don't want to be in a situation where you can change people's lives and I'm talking about the people that we work with they're wonderful people. They all just about every one of them has just come in the last few years. The people in these communities and Calumet and Shawnee are wonderful people. The Tribe, tribal members, I've got to know a number of you, most of you have not seen me before but I will eventually get to know you but when he said that and I had been talking to him I said this is something I want to be a part of.

Steve's gone over the numbers with you and it's remarkable. We make half a million dollars last year with 11 people. Once worked at a bank had 48 people. The annual milestone that we wanted to hit was a million dollars, 48 people six branches in metropolitan areas and Steve and his team made half a million dollars with 11 people. You can't hardly run a bank with 11 people. It's very difficult but we're doing it, won't be long with us making a million dollars. Some of you I know do a lot of your banking there but I would encourage you to come by and see us because we can do a lot. We may be small but we're extraordinary. We can do anything with



the big guys. I've been at big banks, small banks everything in between and I've always banked a small bank. I just know it works better but when you come in I just like to tell you who you going to see. Steve mentioned Debbie in the back, she is absolutely wonderful. She knows more about banking than I'll ever know. I'm in her office every day. She does lending, she does accounts, and some people just come in to talk to her. She finally says well what can I help you with and they don't need anything, they just wanted to come see Debbie. We have Kyle King. He does lending, he does accounts, and he's an expert in motorcycles. If you've got something going wrong with your bike come in and talk to him. He's been in banking over 15 years and then we have Wendy Galez, she's new to the bank, she's new to banking but she's very talented and she's great to work with she's an asset to the bank and if they get in a dire situation will they come and what I can do. Maybe I can help them maybe I can't but the bank has never been in better situation. It's never had a better crew and it has never been more motivated to help the Tribe and I know you've heard some of the objectives and the goals of the Tribe going forward looking down the road providing for the future economically and if you want to be a part of that I encourage you to come by and open up an account or grow your account, borrow money and if you don't have any immediate needs at least come by and say hello and get to know us get to know me. That's all I have, Steve you have anything else.

Thanks president, I appreciate that we just encourage everyone to bank with us. One way which we give back to the Tribe is through the accounts that we offer extra benefits and the higher rate of interest. We also pay a higher rate of interest on the Tribes, the Tribes deposit itself that they place quite a bit with us. We pay a very high rate of interest higher than what they get with the other bank. We had discussions about that just not to put you on the spot or anything guys but anyway I thank you very much for your attention and we appreciate very much being able to serve the Tribe through our banking, All Nations Bank. Thank You

IX. ELECTION COMMISSION: James Spybuck, Good Morning Everybody. I'm your Acting Election Commissioner. Diana Wilson your Election Commission has stepped aside because her brother is running for office. So I've been your active election commissioner since January. She will return, resume her duties after the June election to correct all my mistakes I have made. Just wanted to remind you that in June the third Saturday will be the election for Lt. Governor, we vote on. Vote for either Diane Ponkilla or Isaac Gibson and the Representative Dewayne Wilson or Anthony Johnson so that'll be the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, please come and vote. Thank You.

X. QUESTIONS/ANSWERS- OPEN DISCUSSION

Edwina Butler-Wolfe-my question is to the governor only. What are your plans on the extension of the Tobacco Compact and the Gaming Compact with the state of Oklahoma? Do we have a plan in place?

**Governor- if you remember it's to redo itself and its 50/50 at this point with a compact. Treasurer has talked about maybe negotiating with the compact. Maybe going 60/40, 75/25 but right now it's 50/50 with all Tribes.**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-okay I see other tribes signing the compacts today so have you sat down with the Governor Stitt about that because some tribes are getting some deals so what are we doing to push our tribe of getting that Compact signed.**

**Governor-I will have to get with Mr. Stitt, if you want me to go 50/50. It's the same as it was last year or the years before 50/50. I know you're asking but do you remember when we had this same question when you were there and we didn't have the coming back cause you wouldn't sign.**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-That was during the time that Governor Fallon was in cause we were waiting on her election to see if she was going to be reelected or not so she was not, so that's why we moved forward to do a negotiation with her and that's why we signed it that was during her election year so that's why that wasn't signed. So that's my answer to your question.**

**Governor-Thank You**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-so my next question is the HAF program an income base application that Tribal members have to have a certain base income.**

**Governor- Yes, it's up to \$70,000 if you make over that amount you can't have this assistance.**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-Okay, so my other question, I wanted to clarify a little bit about. You all talked about the land over there 177 and Hardesty Road. A lot of people had asked why when I was in governorship why did we purchase that and because it was a flood zone as you call Governor. I was going to let you know that the feed store across the road there was going to help us during that time, to help us build the land up to build something there and I know we did a feasibility study there and it did show that there was not enough traffic through there to build a store but I was just wanted to clarify reason why that was because that was something that Frank Oliver from the Hardesty and his sisters wanted to sell that to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe so that's why we purchased that land. It's a good piece of land and like I said you just have to build it up. Dewayne said that it can be built up then you can place something on Non-trust land and you just have to pay taxes and years to come it may pay off to build something there and then could be able to get it in Trust.**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-so my other question is to Lt. Governor. Why did you not put an article report in the book?**

**Lt. Governor-Are you talking about the general book today. I just didn't have time to I mean I was going through other things and I had talked to many about that earlier about my report and we had some discussion about it but because I was preoccupied with other things I just wanted to orally get my report and thought that would suffice for a report being given for today's meeting. Thank You**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-Has the Mayor of Shawnee ever came out to visit any yall about anything going on in the City of Shawnee.**

**Governor Johnson answered, no he hasn't.**

**Edwina Butler-Wolfe-stated, so whenever I was in office in 2019 he did come and visit me that's before he became their Mayor. He was telling me he was going to run. He wanted us to go in partners with them and be up with them with whatever was going on in the City of Shawnee. He got elected and then I was no longer here so that's why I'm asking that question if anybody has ever come out to from the city to ask you because I've seen on the commercials, he has a commercial about working with the tribes but he only specifically shows CPN's functions and stuff. So that's why I'm asking you and the reason why I'm building up to myself as everybody that lives in the city limits of Shawnee that I am running for mayor and if you're not a registered voter I have paperwork for you to get registered. I can register you to vote in that election which is June 18<sup>th</sup>. So you want to meet with me after this meeting. I've got all the paperwork and Maps to sit down and let you know what section of the city you live in. Thank You**

**Twyla Parker-introduced she's the President of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Elders. I have no question, I just want to make an announcement that the elders have been running a 50/50 pot in the back here and we have raised \$554 dollars. So all you people that bought 50/50 tickets we are going to be paying out today is \$277 dollars. We're going to be doing the drawing here in the next 5 minutes. We're going to find someone to do the drawing and then we'll be announcing who the winner is. Any questions, everybody got tickets.**

**Janene Alford- This is on Tribal Energy Assistance resolution. Treasurer this is for you. In 2023 you made changes and I had some repercussion on that because I did the application and all of that but I wanted to show you forms where the application is still incorrect. I have a copy of that if you'd like to see it.**

**Janene Alford-Governor I asked last year where are we at on as far as getting other tribal members outside of the jurisdiction the capability to use that \$350 dollars, wherever they need to and I'm talking about Arizona, Tulsa, Cleveland just wherever our tribal members live.**

**Now you also expressed to me last year that you are an Optometrist and have been for 35 years so I can kind of see for you that would be a significant importance that our Tribal members have eyeglass exams wherever they live. That should be foremost important when you were an Optometrist.**

**The other thing is the Tribal website that has not been addressed as well because we had gotten with the Media director and I think the executive committee had an opportunity to visit with her and given her free range to the Departments. Has she gotten any information directly from them or have you all made a stipulation to the Departments to help her get the information to the out of jurisdiction Tribal members in order to obtain what we can have because it's constantly your out of area.**

**I believe last year I asked to see if you all could do something to help the Media director get the departments in line to give her the information that she needs where she can put it on our website and that's been from last year as well and I have no updates on that.**

The last thing I want to cover is how do we get or how do we go from gift cards to hams? Now I think all of our Tribal members know what they need within their family. The gift cards were good, the checks were good maybe some of them did need those hams but leave it up to the Tribal members to decide what they would like to have not to where our five executive community members are making that final decision. Our Tribal members are put you in that office so with that with the gift cards and the ham put it back to the members to decide what they would like to have.

The other thing the last I have, in our Constitution that states that the Shawnee members of the EC members can live in nine jurisdictions. Well, I disagree with that because it should only be five just like it currently is that needs to be addressed.

Last thing I have is any updates from the Preferred Contract Health Service guidelines this one has no updates since 2015. It is 9 years old you have any updates on that because I know Mrs. Blanchard and this gentleman Dr. Lofgren.

Chris Larkin-Yes, I believe we were working with that with Mrs. Blanchard and you and the governor and this was last year and they did present something as a matter of fact, I responded to Tribal members last night because they asked the same question. There's still a lot of contradictory language in it, everything else Dr. Walker and I have both discussed that we'd like to send it out to have it kind of professionally done because it is so long and people count on it so much that we need it to be as perfect as possible.

Janene Alford-So since its 9 years old I think Mrs. Blanchard retired last year, she stated to me at the time that you all were doing updates.

Chris-I've got them up on my desk.

Janene Alford-do you have any, do you know when those will be completed where we can review those, and will it be this year?

Janene Alford-I think that's all I have and Treasurer, will I be able to show you the application on the Energy Assistance program.

Treasurer-Yes, I will be happy to meet with you.

Janene Alford-Thank you very much

Treasurer- Just real quickly Secretary and I were discussing while you were presenting and talking about the health issue, we were trying clarifying which Mrs. Blanchard because it's a common name in the tribe so we just wanted for the record to identify that. I'm assuming you're talking about since its PRC, retired Glendine Blanchard.

Janene Alford-the eyeglass program that was from last year, I asked about.

Treasurer-it wasn't Optometry but for the Health Preferred. Preferred Care is kind of like coordination benefits that you have it goes from here to here nothing in between because it's reading to different fun.

Chris-They were trying to figure was it Glendine that you were talking about that was retiring, yes I believe she was.

Treasurer-that's what I was clarifying, Blanchard for the record because there are 400 Blanchards. Then additionally for the other questions that you have, is Mindy here? Do you have a comment about the programming that she was suggesting or talking about regarding the update for programs and departments?

I'm Billie James and I'm a tribal member of course and my question is for whoever is directly over the C store. I only buy my gas from the gas station and occasionally there's a white van that pulls up and brings Budweiser and Frito Lay and candy bars. I'm wondering why we are buying our supplies from a third party. Why aren't we buying directly from the suppliers? I mean this extra cost to the Tribe. Who oversees this?

Treasurer-I'm the liaison to the C store. Is Miss Frazier here today? She's the president to ASEDA. I can answer on that is of course we use multiple vendors. We just don't use one and of course like our policy within the Tribal system is we try to emphasize using multiple vendors to buy the product that we do at the best price and best rate. Sometimes it isn't Pepsi or Coke because you know Great Plains sells Coke but if you're going to look at the price of pop lately I believe the 12 pack for us as a store C store for us to buy it at wholesale cost it's still runs \$10 to \$11 per 12 pack when we can go to an outside vendor as Sam's, Wal-Mart or you know whatever other location and buy it at a reduced cost. That's ultimately what it's about but I will direct your question to the group that's over the store. Thank you for your concern and I'll make sure to get you an answer.

Billie James-Thank You

Phyllis Johnson- In the past, the Police department used to offer self-defense courses and I would like to see if maybe yall can offer that again in the near future.

Officer-that's definitely something we can look into.

Phyllis-okay and when you teach us these things and we need someone to practice on.

Phyllis-So my next question is what's the purpose of the Health board?

Health Board Director-My name is Darren Shields and the Vice chair of the Health board been there about three years. Our purpose is to direct the Executive director also underneath him more of a guidance of how we improve our Health system. Now I'm not just thinking about infrastructure. We're also looking at different programs and I know the biggest problem is been our Shawnee clinic but we been aggressive when I say aggressive; where I have programming or where I have some of the buildings laid out and our next step is to do a master plan of the area. Just not the building alone I mean I mention that I like to see a basketball court, a community building not just for direct care but bring in ?? More holistic approach but these things will come into play just like we just did a Strategic plan. This is ongoing and it should forecast 35 years what we want to do but in addition we will be providing a survey, another community survey to actually get more input. So to dig down to see what the Tribe really needs but also to identify where we can continue to grow. I know that's vague but I'm happy to talk with anybody after this and kind of give you a little bit more other details if you need.

Phyllis-one of the reasons for asking, if there's issues going on within the clinic I know they go to Dr. Lofgren and Chris but are you ever informed of the issues that patients are having in the clinic are yall ever informed with that?

Darren-Yes, we go over that in our meeting every month.

Phyllis-Okay and when yall are told about the issues going on in the clinic what is your goal?

Darren-we get list of patient complaints but also next to our table what we see the resolution to those and if there's something that looks out of character. We acquire within our board and ask for additional information but we also have to be sensitive to confidentiality but we're also trying to make sure that the Policy of procedures will follow but also suggest a better improvement.

Phyllis-Are tribal members ever allowed to come to yall directly?

Darren-Far as I know I think so. I can provide you my email, phone number.

Phyllis-next question is anyone here to talk about the Tiny Homes?

Treasurer-I'll let Taylor address that briefly. If he can't then I'll try.

Taylor-hello I'm Taylor.

Phyllis- I understand that the rent for the Tiny Homes is \$400 dollars and the deposit is \$400 dollars.

Taylor-the rent is \$400 and then for the Rental program for the elders and older is \$400 for the rent and then \$200 dollars for the deposit.

Phyllis-so a lot of our elders are on a fixed income. Have yall ever thought of lowering that for someone that's on a fixed income?

Taylor-I haven't had to talk with EC or Treasurer but I have been working with the elders that they can do \$25 here and there to complete the \$200 or I'll bring it up with the EC and see if we can wave or potentially lower that.

Phyllis-where does the money go that they're paying for?

Treasurer-it goes back into the Tiny Homes fund and so it pays for the administrative cost to run the program. It pays for the individual salary that does all the maintenance. You know cuts the grass, come in and do the simple repairs. Fixes the water conditions whatever happens on that location of property.

Phyllis-Basically they're just to rent they never can purchase one?

Treasurer- that's correct.

Phyllis-next question in regards to contract health. I've had a lot of complaints from tribal members and non-tribal members in regards to Contract Health. So when they call Contract Health they are being treated like they're stupid or dumb so they don't feel like coming forward so I get to come and ask questions for them but one of my questions that I have and it did happen to me. If we have insurance and tribal member, Contract Health should not force me to try to come to Plus Care. That is my choice and as a director that we have, she's the one that was trying to say I had to go to Plus Care. I don't choose Plus Care all the time. I've tried them once but I would prefer to go out due to my health issues. I can't get the care I need at Plus Care so if that can be addressed that would be great and the issues that were brought to me was from Absentee Shawnee Tribal members. They're not answering the phone; they have referrals that aren't being taken care of in a timely manner like that so if that could be looked at that would be great.

Chris-I want to say before anything gets to my board Vice chair or chairman please, give me an opportunity to try to fix it before it goes there and then if I don't satisfactory handle it then you know by all means go ahead email me. So please give me a chance.

Phyllis-I do want to Thank You all because yall have been good about me bringing some of the problem member issues and yall have taken care of it and one of the main things that they deal with was Shawnee Clinic have them be forced to wait outside and so I thank you all for taking care of that and they no longer have to wait out in the car. Thank you and while I'm up here I do want to mention, I think some of them are here. Earl was here, Marilyn I think that's all I see but they deserve recognition. What they go through every day bringing, taking our tribal members to and from appointments. Not just tribal members they have some that are not but add-ons and they care for their patients for our tribal people and they even go above and beyond to check on them if they don't make it to the appointment. They call them and make sure they're okay so they deserve some recognition for what they do every day for our people. Dr. Reading is here, Katie Yates, Sissy Blanchard, Payton Watson they are some of the best employees that Physical Therapy have and are also awesome to have them and I hope we never them. They go above and beyond to take care of us so with that being said from one other thing I would like to say and this is for me I would love to see more Absentee Shawnee tribal employees in our clinics. I recently had to go take someone to the Creek Nation hospital and let me tell you that ours is more beautiful but when I went inside that building, my heart was warm to see Creek, Creek, Creek, and Creek everywhere at Creek. So it was good for me to see a lot of natives working in that facility not they are not all Creek there also Absentee Shawnee as well so it makes us feel good when we go into a facility and we see our own people there so if somehow and I know they mentioned the 477 program maybe we can get some of our young people in the health field because that is where it's going to be stable employment.

Chris-we can utilize the 477 but also we have our Summer Intern program which Dr. Reading heads up and I think right now we've got 10 applications and that is primarily for our AST tribal members to come in and do a paid internship with us. It's open to any tribal members but our AST tribal members do have preference so that's what we're trying to do is get some of our youth. It's open for seniors those that are in college those that are still trying to figure out for sure what they might want to do but we try to grow them ourselves so they can come back and work.

Phyllis-Thank you to Dr. Lofgren and you as well Thank You.

Walter Larney-My name is Walter Larney and I just want to let you know that over in Seminole county, the Seminole Nation got a Merchant Cemetery there National Cemetery and the director is Eric Foster and we already had a meeting with the cemetery committee. We got the cemetery going and it's for all veterans to be buried there and the director's name is I'll give you his phone number it's 405-388-7639 and all you to do is have a spouse or a family member take a death certificate and DD214 to the Vet Center over there and that's at the Mekusukey Mission. So thought I would mention that if yall need have a veteran that needs a place to go that's deceased and there's no cost for the family and the preset crypt in the ground ready for them to be put in. Thank You

**Twyla Parker-get out your blue turquoise tickets, we're doing the 50/50 drawing. We got some people that want to leave before the storm.**

**James Spybuck-before everybody leaves take your card, voter card and give it to the election commission. Thank You**

**X. ADJOURNMENT.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Donna Kay Johnson**

**SECOND MOTION: Rena Pederson**

**ALL IN FAVOR: All in favor**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 12:30 PM**

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SECRETARY MCGIRT, Tribal Secretary  
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians  
Oklahoma  
Dated this th day of October, 2024.





# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



## 93rd Semi-Annual General Council Governor Report

**April 2024:** The new 5940 square foot AST police Safety Center held its grand opening on April 24, 2024. This was a very big accomplishment for the Police officers and staff. They have waited patiently since 2018 to have this building done. They now have one centralized location for the Police Department and Emergency Management. This new addition was a project well over due and I am very pleased with the outcome.

**May 2024:** On May 1, 2024 the AST Health Clinic held the expansion ceremony. This expansion added 40,000 square feet and renovated 17,000 square feet. It added 47 more treatment rooms and added 2 more lanes to the drive-thru pharmacy. This project took two years to complete. I am very pleased with this expansion it was much needed for our LA Clinic.

**June 2024:** I attended the Oklahoma Sovereignty symposium at the Skirvin Hotel along with the other members of the Executive Committee. I met with many leaders of Oklahoma at state and tribal levels. This symposium allows tribes to attend and made aware of the updates coming and to get better acquainted with local and state leaders. Also in June, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe hosted the first ever Native Leadership Oklahoma. This event introduced our tribe and our programs to all surrounding tribes. We gave insight of all our tribal programs and departments, our culture and what we offer to our members. This event was a big success, we received lots of great feedback and many compliments. I look forward to hosting this event in the future.

**July 2024:** The Absentee Shawnee Tribe and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe received a personal invitation to attend the grand opening of the Great Council State Park in Ohio. The Executive Committee, the Cultural Preservation department, and the Elders committee were all in attendance at this event. The Ohio state park also dedicated a "Tecumseh" at the entrance of the museum and dedicated it to the Native American people.

**August 2024:** As everyone prepared to head back to school, several events were held across campus. The clinic had a back to school drive-thru for backpacks and school supplies. The 477 Program and Education department also helped with school supplies to all eligible applicants. All Nations bank held a luncheon; "AST Teens Financial Education Class", the luncheon was to show young adults the importance of budgeting and banking.

This concludes my semi-annual General Council report for October. 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

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



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



## ***ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY***



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

### **General Council Report – October 5th, 2024**

#### **Department Staff**

##### **Police Department**

<b>Brad Gaylord</b>	<b>Director of Public Safety</b>
<b>Jason Brinker</b>	<b>Captain</b>
<b>Steven Crisp</b>	<b>Captain</b>
<b>Jason Reid</b>	<b>Investigator</b>
<b>Rickey Jones</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>Joshua Bledsoe</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>Chance Fine</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>Lisa Williams</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>Anthony Hicks</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>JP Neely</b>	<b>Patrol Officer</b>
<b>Linda Day</b>	<b>Police Specialist II</b>

##### **Emergency Management**

<b>Levi Walker</b>	<b>Emergency Manager</b>
<b>John Lantz</b>	<b>Assistant Emergency Manager</b>



# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

## **Police Mission Statement**

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

## **Emergency Management Mission Statement**

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



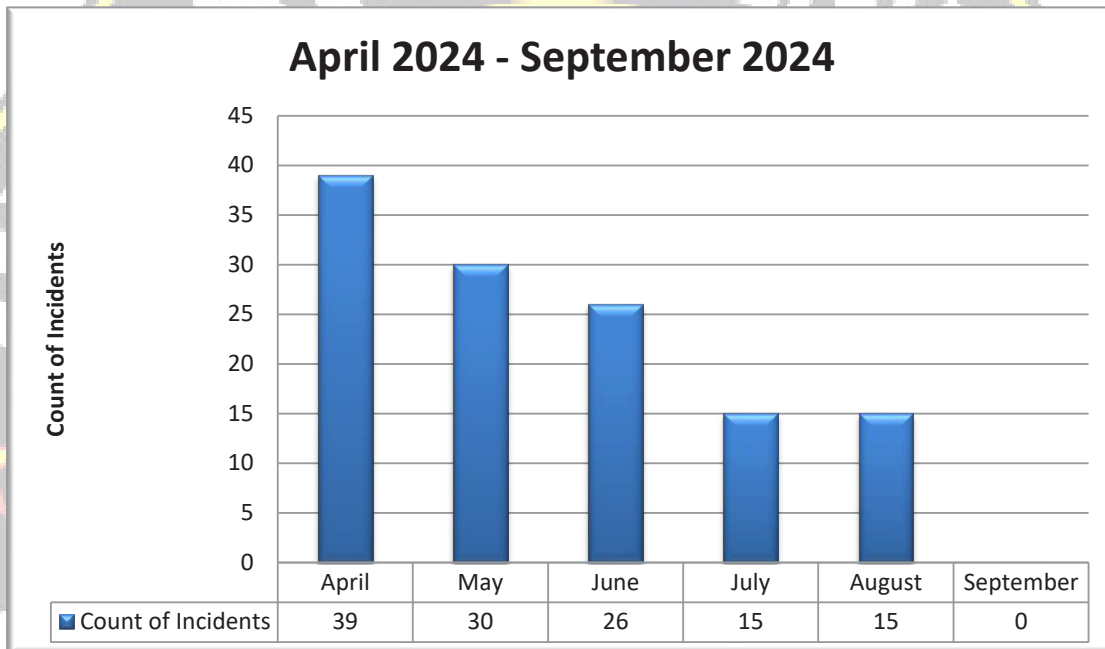
# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

## **Calls for Service Total - 133**

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 04/01/24 – 09/01/24

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

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:**

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

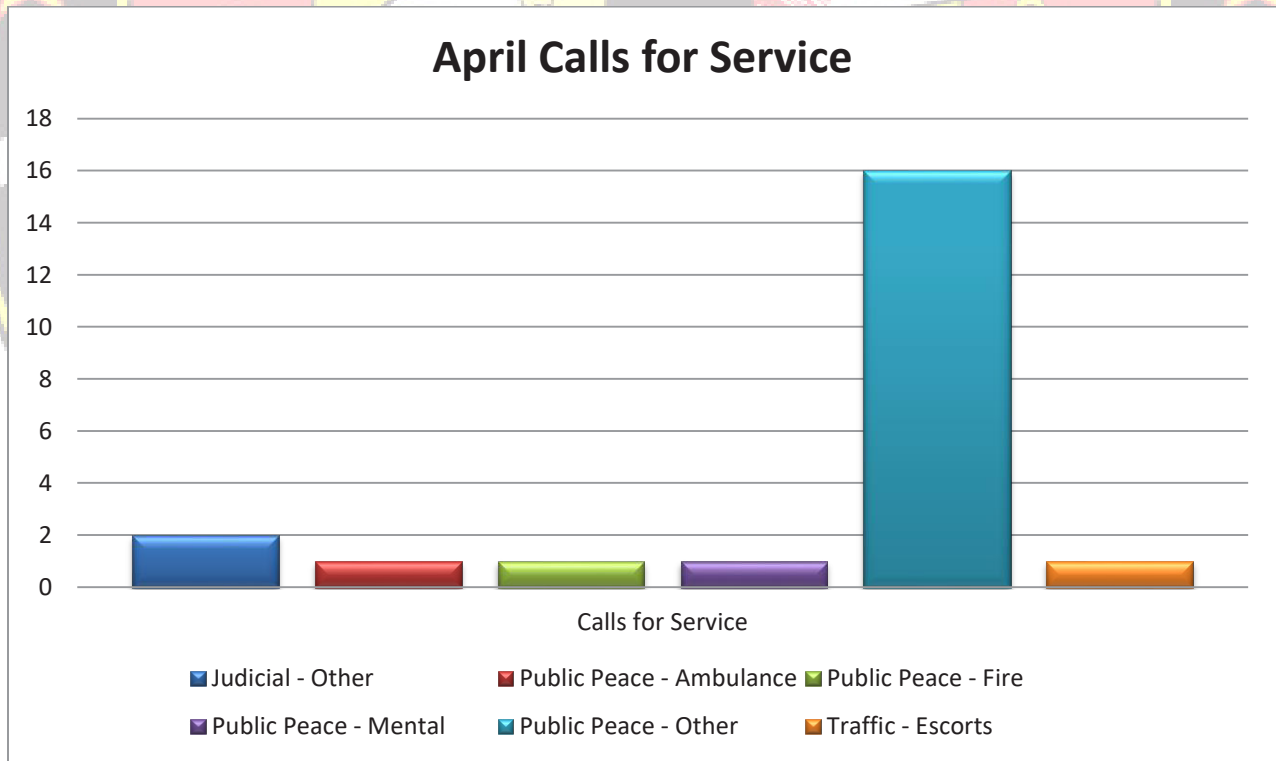
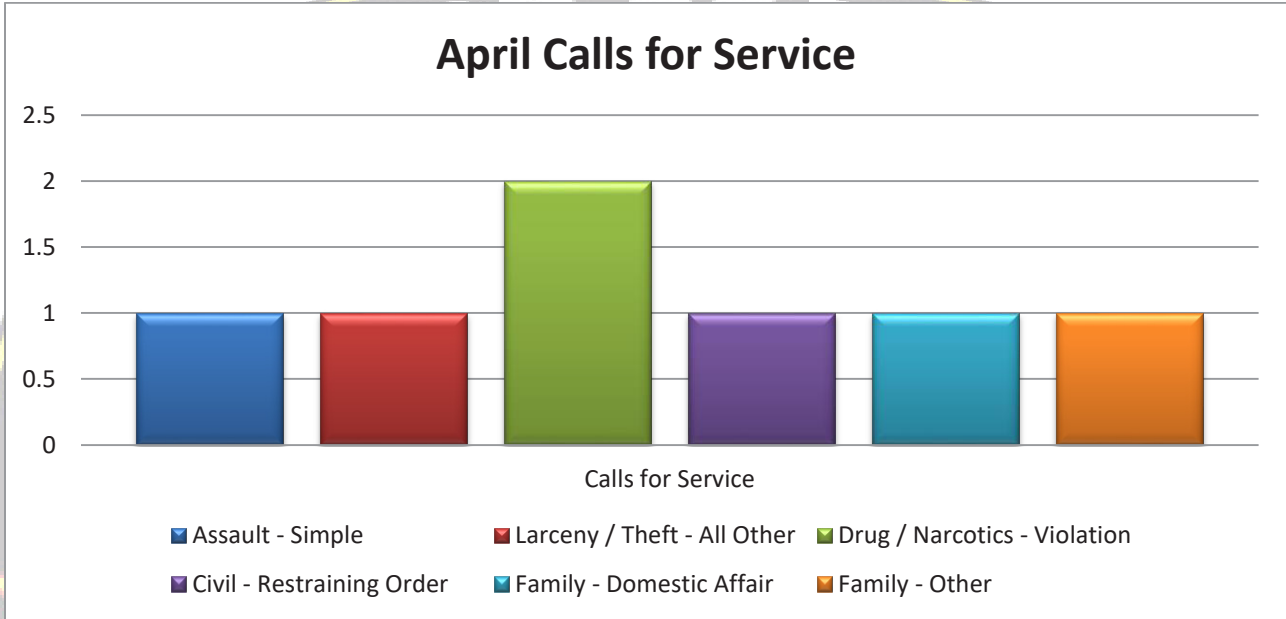


# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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

April 2024  
Total – 39

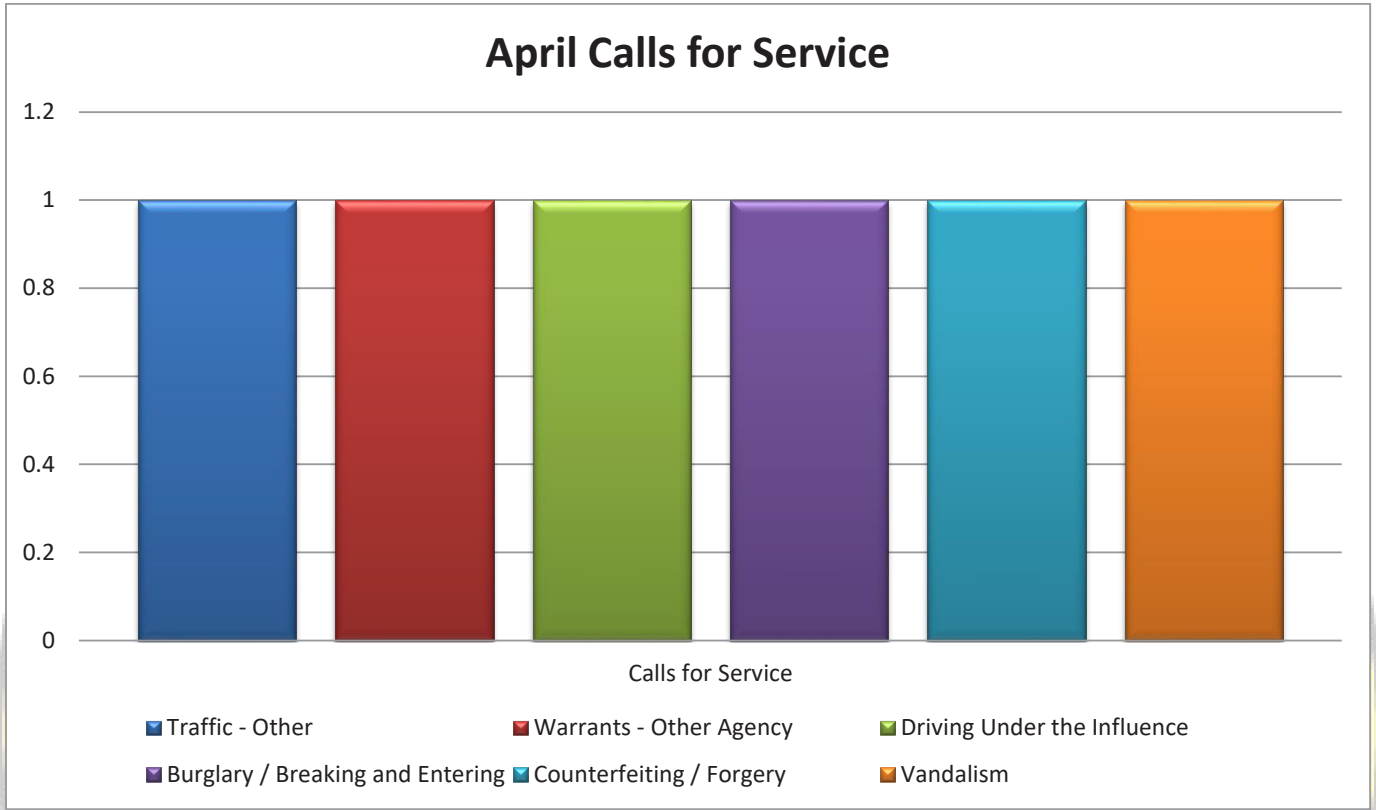




# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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



### **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.

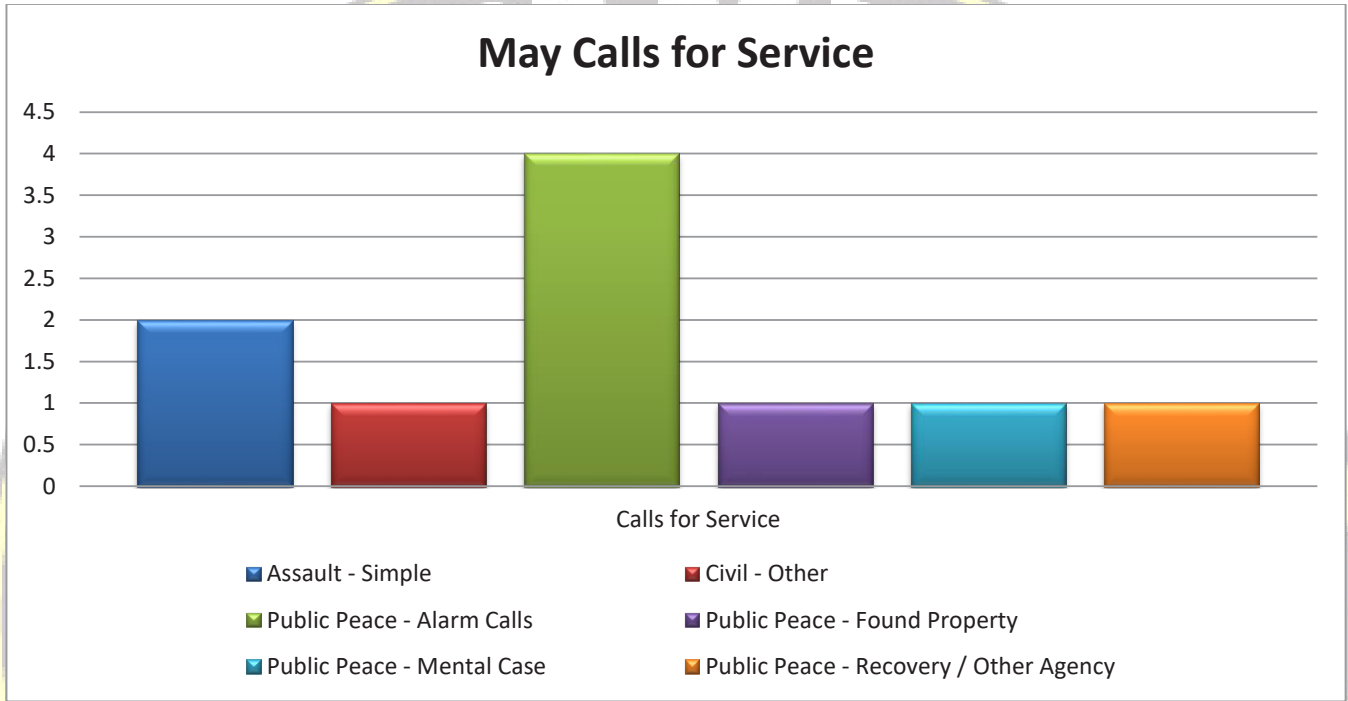


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

**May 2024  
Total - 30**

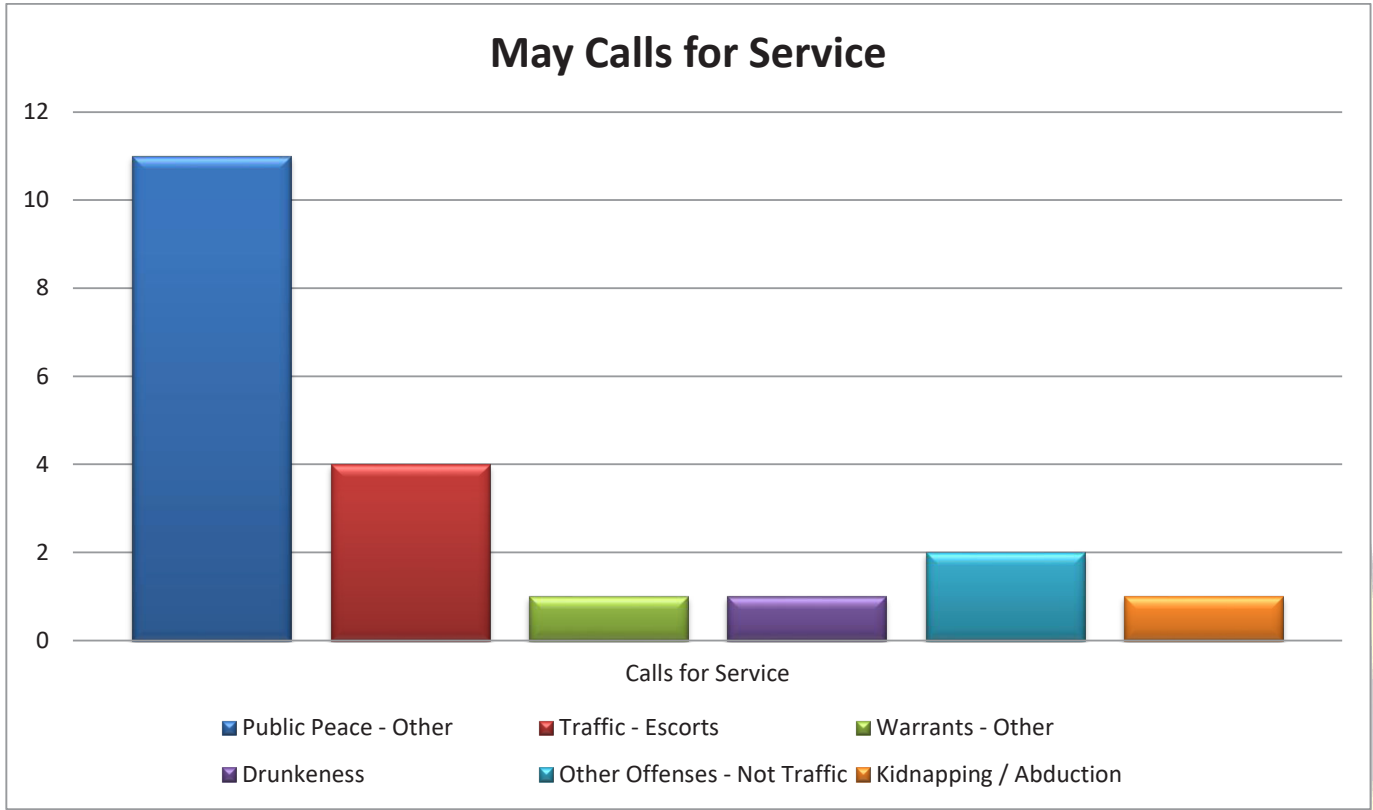




# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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



## **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.



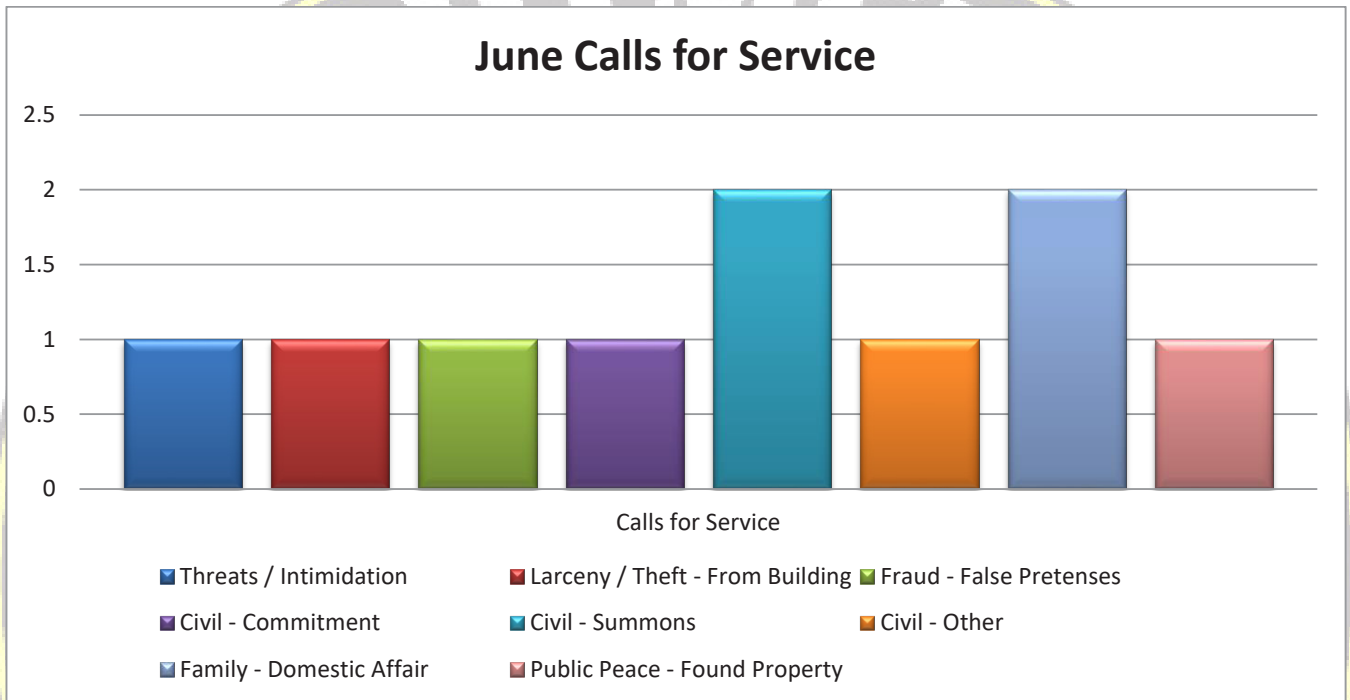


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

**June 2024  
Total – 26**



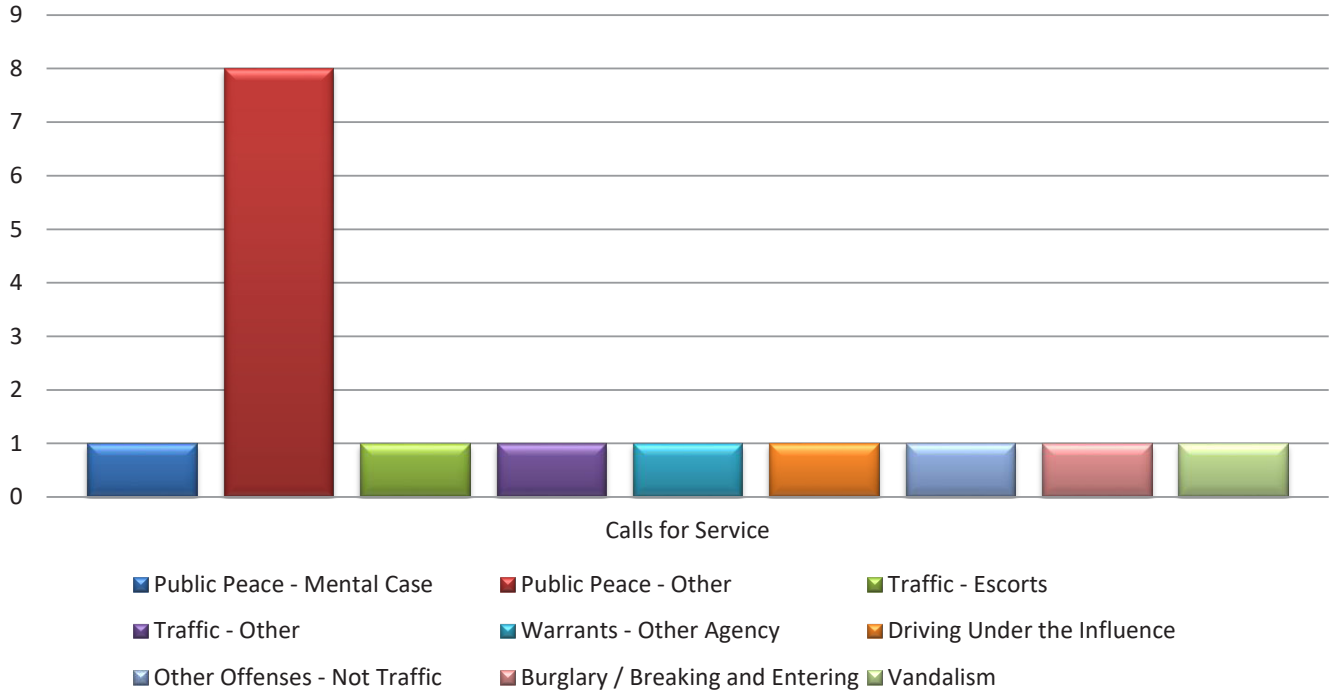


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

## June Calls for Service



## 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.

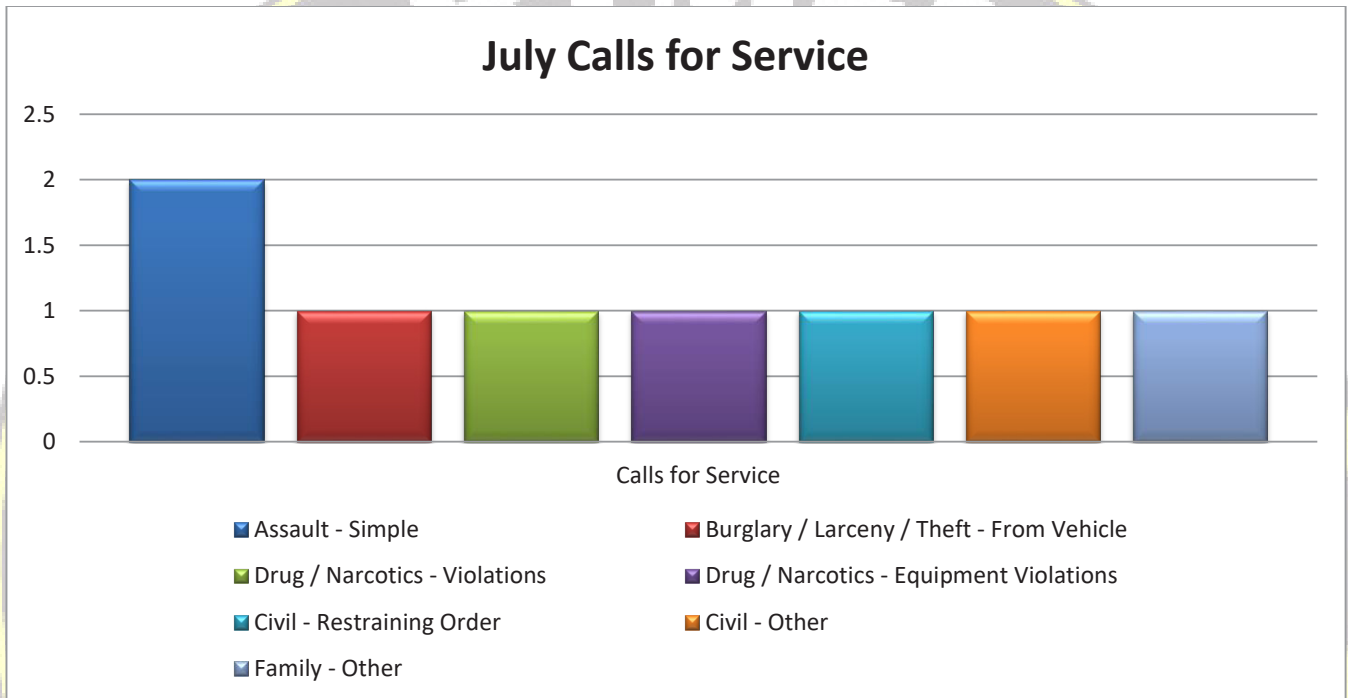


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



**2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801  
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**July 2024  
Total – 15**

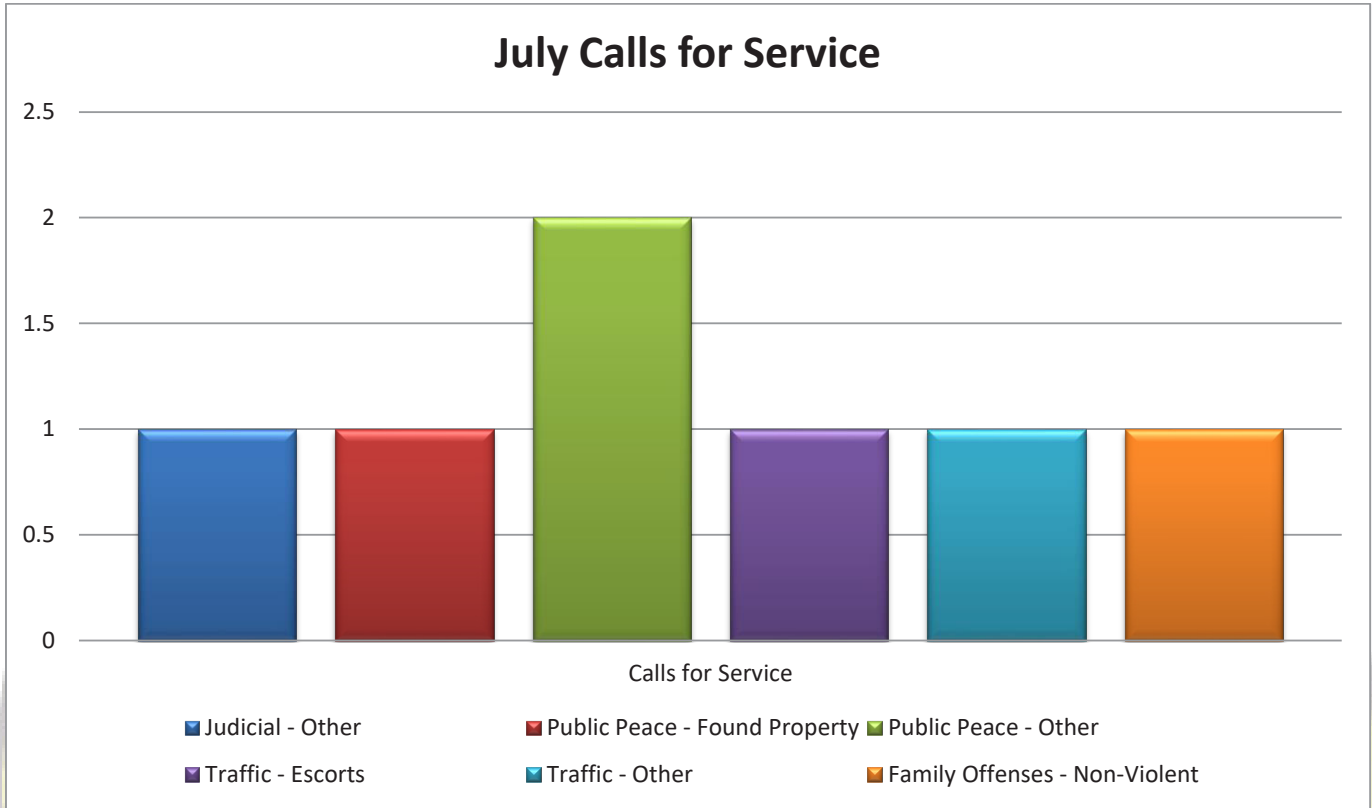




# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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



### 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.

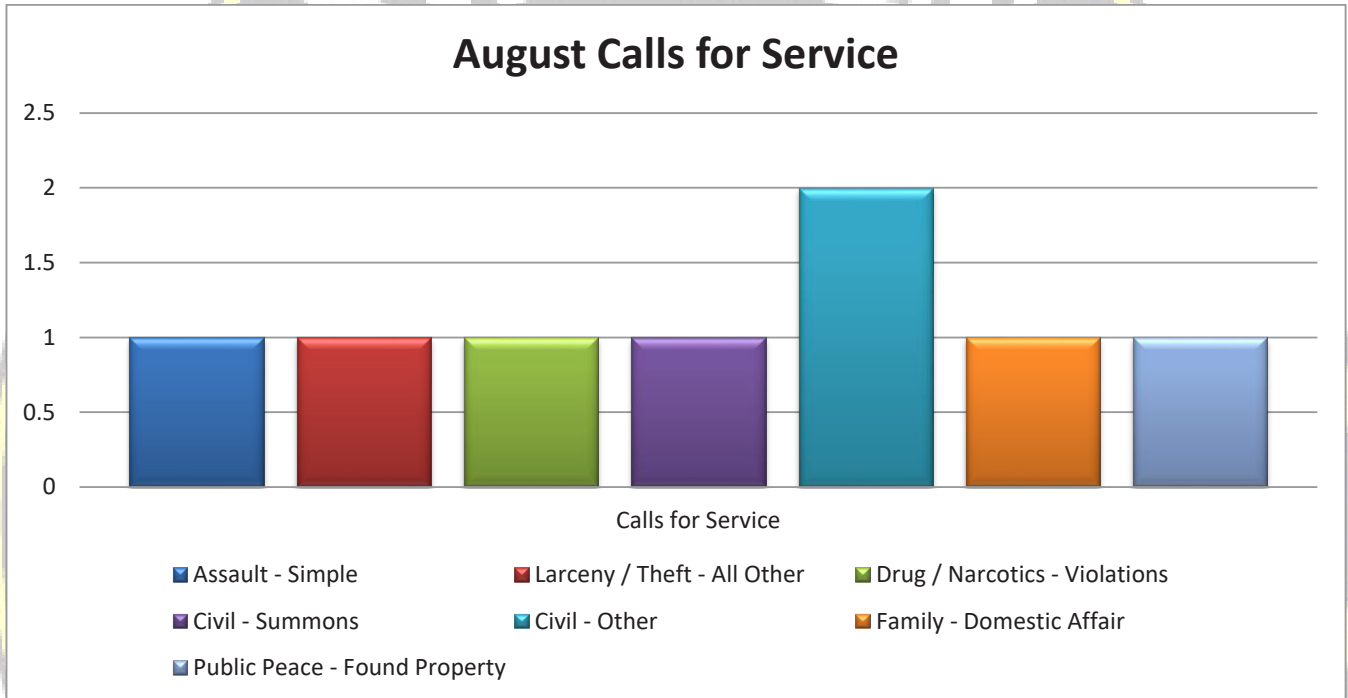


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



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

**August 2024  
Total – 22**



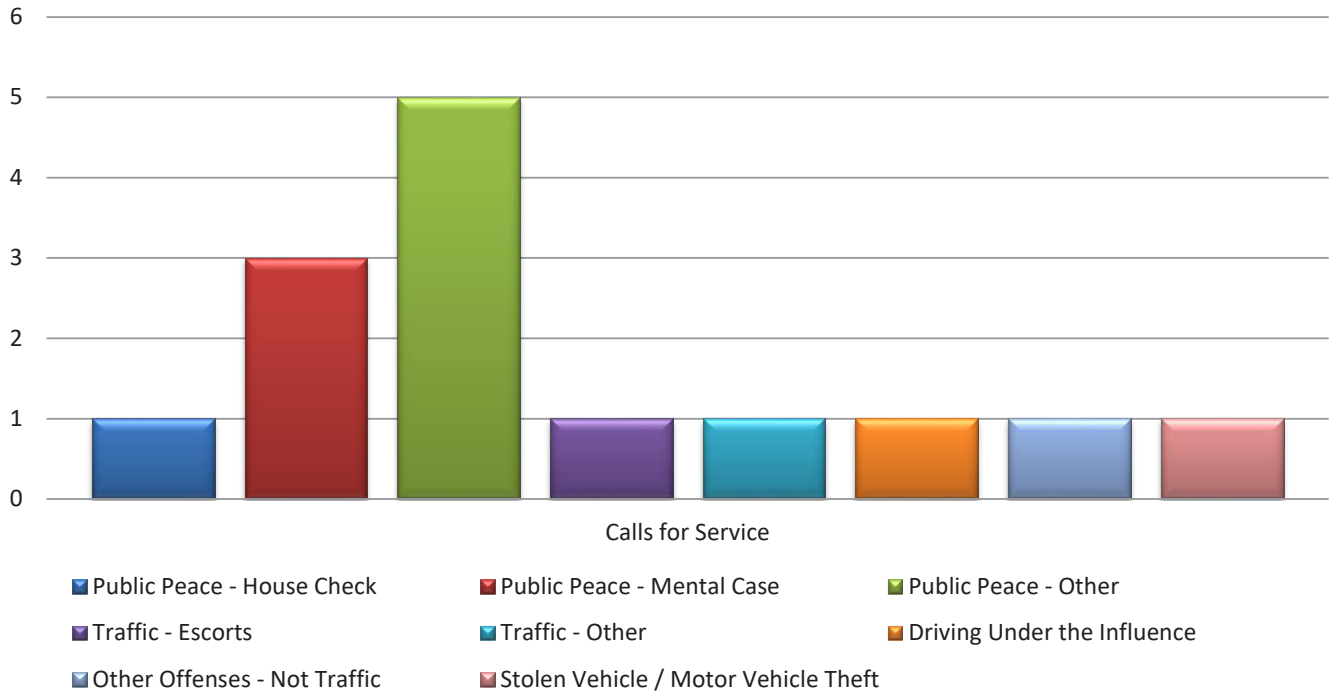


# ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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

## August Calls for Service



## 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.

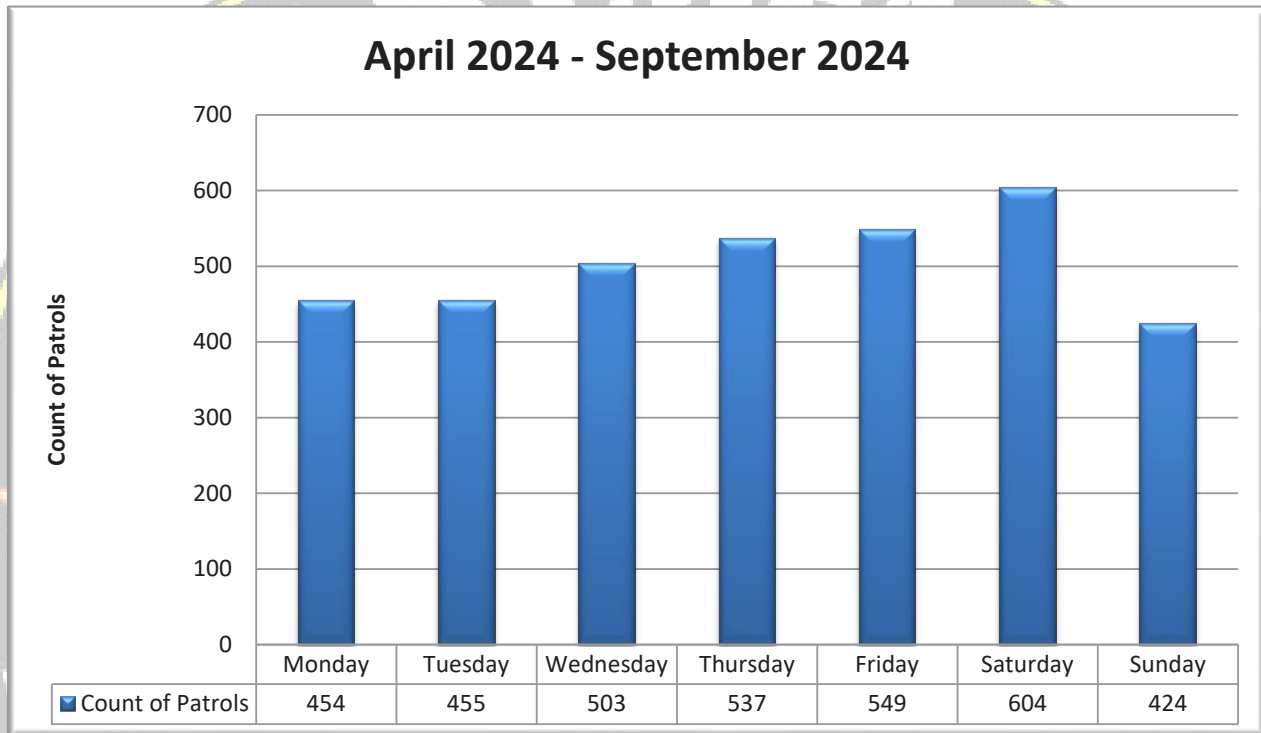


# **ABSENTEE SHAWNEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



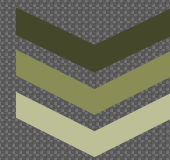
**2025 S. Gordon Cooper Shawnee, Ok 74801  
Phone (405) 275-3200 Fax (405) 878-4535**

## **Daily Patrols Total – 3,526**



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 3,526 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.

# September 2024 GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT



Levi Walker, Emergency Manager

Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Office of Emergency Management

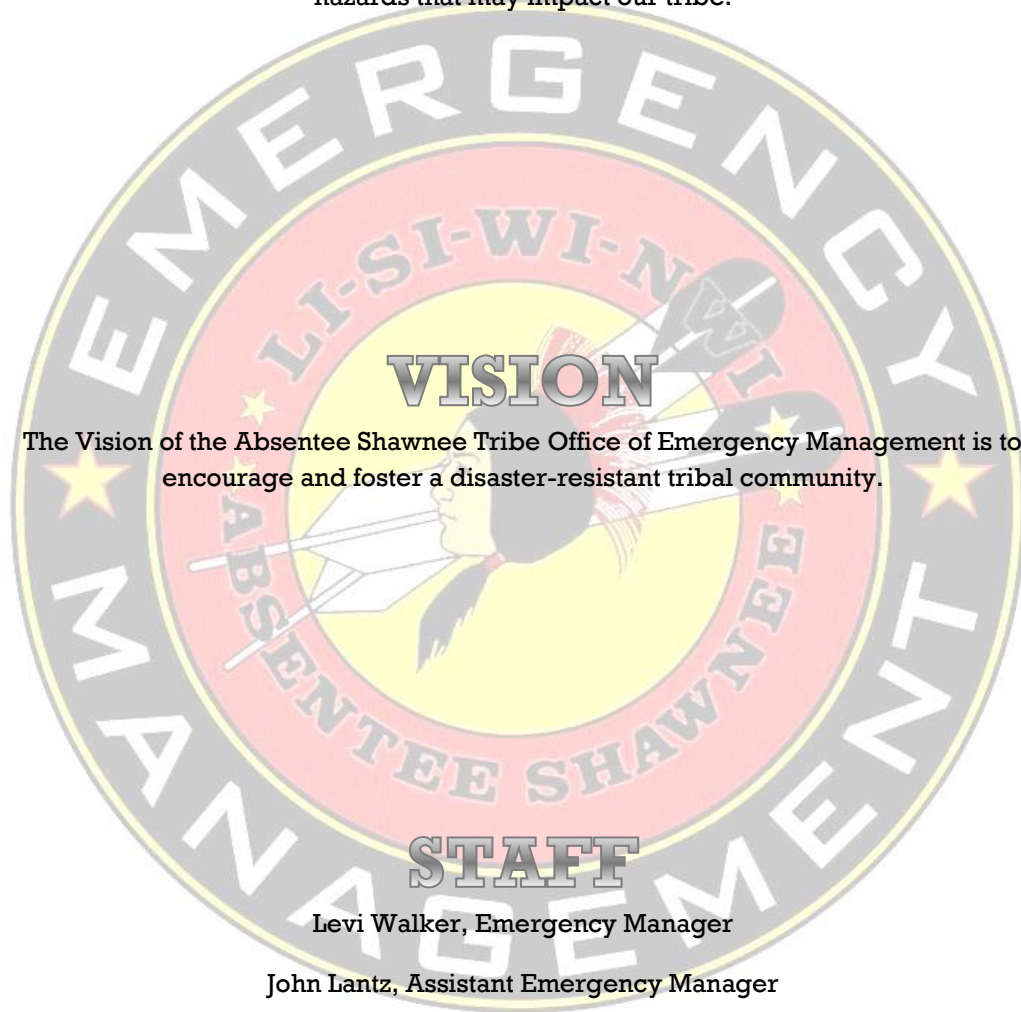






# MISSION STATEMENT

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.



## VISION

The Vision of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management is to encourage and foster a disaster-resistant tribal community.

## STAFF

Levi Walker, Emergency Manager

John Lantz, Assistant Emergency Manager



# EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is now located 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 disaster-resistant 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 man-made. 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
- 2024 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)



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

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 man-made), 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.



# FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

The fire safety program was established in late 2020, this program consists of 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.





# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Office of Emergency Management continues to hold the position of Chairman for the Pottawatomie County Local Emergency Planning Committee. All community members are 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.

2020 marked the first year the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Emergency Management was the Co-Chair of the LEPC Training Committee. By being the Co-Chair, Emergency Management is responsible for the training and exercises of the LEPC. This includes ensuring training and exercise needs for annual grants are met. In 2021 the AST Office of Emergency Management became the lead Chairman of the committee. Our office provides 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. We have begun planning a full-scale exercise for the year 2025 in conjunction with multiple supporting agencies. (CPN Emergency Management, Shawnee Emergency Management, SSM St. Anthony's, Red Cross, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Shawnee FIRE, Shawnee PD, FEMA Region 6 Tribal Liaison, OEMA SE Regional Coordinator, District 6 LERC)

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*

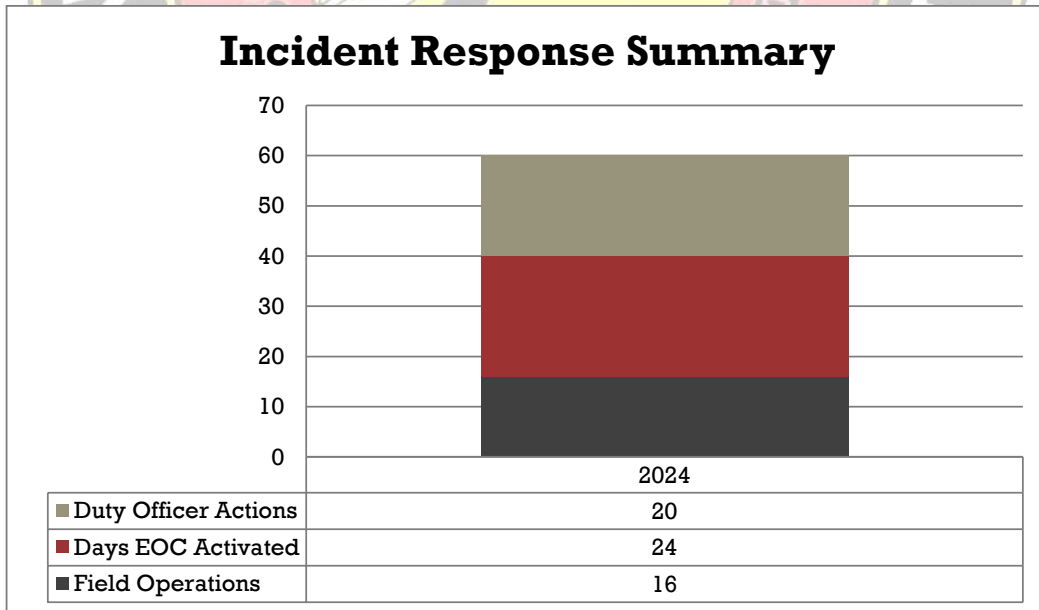
OK-First: OK-First is an outreach program of the Oklahoma Mesonet that provides Oklahoma's public safety community with weather education and access to critical real-time weather data. Since beginning classes in 1997, OK-First has trained more than 2,000 public safety officials and currently has more 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.



# 2024 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.







# 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.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

AST Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management has attended many community Public Safety events in 2024 such as the **Pottawatomie County Touch-A-Truck** event where local agencies bring out their response equipment, vehicles and personnel to interact with the public and provide insight on first response activities within the community.

Additionally we have had the honor to participate in the **AST Youth Public Safety Club** where we meet periodically to talk about new public safety topics and spread awareness of unseen aspects of what it is like to work in the field of public safety.

2024 was the first year since the COVID-19 Pandemic the Oklahoma State Capitol opened their doors for the **Statewide Emergency Management Day**. This is a day where Emergency Management and Public Safety Staff from across of the State of Oklahoma come together to meet and build partnerships and provide updates on response activities throughout the year.





# OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR



Greetings All,

I took office on June 28, 2024 the Office of the Lt. Governor is located in the east end of the Governor's building #2. The contact information for Lt. Governor is ext. # 3503, cell number is (405) 432-0733 and Lt. Governor's Executive Administrative Assistant ext. # 3504 and cell number is (405) 617-4105.

The Lt. Governor has oversight of HVAC, Maintenance, Self-Governance, BIA (IHS, Roads), OEH/OEP, Land Management and Agriculture. And the Boards, Committees, & Commissions I attend are Foster Care Committee, Elders, Gaming Commission. TEC, Inc., and the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Healthcare Authority.

Diane Ponkilla, Lt. Governor's Department consists of Deric Spoon, Executive Administrative Assistant, Joseph Morton, Projects Coordinator, Twyla Blanchard, BIA, Self-Governance, Roads, Land Management Director, Jarrod Lloyd, OEH/OEP Director, John Mann, Agriculture Interim, and Lenard Mathews, Maintenance Director.

The Lt. Governors Department serves direct assistance to the AST Members with the AST Homeowners Emergency Repair Assistance. To utilize the assistance you must be AST, own your home, live in it a year and this must be your primary residence. This program is an emergency basis only; it does not do renovations or cosmetic repairs. It will assist elderly with handicap accessible equipment with a doctor's note. Once repairs are complete the homeowner is fully responsible for the up keep/maintenance. The program has cost limitations on repairs and we can only assist locally in the surrounding service area. The HVAC program uses the same criteria as the AST Homeowners Emergency Repairs Assistance. OEH/OEP can assist AST Members with water well and septic installation and repairs. These programs have an application process which is yearly. This is not an entitlement program and AST Homeowner's are not automatically entitled to receive assistance.

My goal as Lt. Governor is to communicate and be involved with each department I have oversight of and eventually cross train the employees to learn and know what each department duties and responsibilities are to better serve the tribe, tribal members and tribal community.

Ni yi wa



# MAINTENANCE



The maintenance staff consist of one assistant director (Stacy Coon) , One whom also assist with the general maintenance, One office manager (Robin Rolette) who does an incredible job, five maintenance technicians, three housekeepers, two of which are from the 477 program (Thank you Kim Porter and Stephanie Martinez) . I ask a lot from this staff and they step up each time willing to try something new and work as a team. This helps them to grow in their personal development and as a team. Thank you!

We have continued to have monthly training on the job site and or at the shop. Many are learning new skills which are helping them in their job and making the department more efficient. I am especially proud of the new members to the team. They are willing to help or lead on many of our projects and don't hesitate to ask for assistance or some training from the other members. They are all greatly appreciated.

In early June Joe Morton and I attended training in Tribal Project management and became certified. This will help the tribe in future construction projects.

I have prepared a short list of projects we have completed in past few months.

1. A few months ago we helped in the replacement of the TPO roof on building three and solved most of the water intrusion problems on the east side of the basement. We also developed a scope of work to be done on the inside of building three and are assisting procurement with the bidding process.
2. The maintenance department is working on replacing the main steel underground gas line that has been leaking with a new upsized polyethylene gas line sized for the building load.
3. Building two on campus has been in need of repairs for quite some time. The department removed the top 4' of the back chimney that was in disrepair and capped it off. (No more trees growing out of the top). We have started the replacement of the fascia boards and replacing all deteriorated wood behind the fascia. We hope to complete this portion early fall.

Maintenance has taken on the task of installing the water collection system at the camp. It involves capturing water run-off from the multipurpose building and storing it in a large above ground tank. This stored water would then be pumped to irrigate the ball fields etc.

I would like to thank everyone for being so supportive and enabling our department to accomplish so much in a very short period of time. Thank you for your support and dedication.



# BIA SELF GOVERNANCE



## Self-Governance

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

The BIA Self-Governance Office oversees the annual funding agreement of funds received from the BIA for Aid to Tribal Government. Currently the BIA Funding Agreement supports a portion of the annual budgets for the Roads, Planning, Police, Education, Enrollment, Indian Child Welfare, Social Services, Tribal Court and Realty Departments.

## BIA Roads Program

The Roads formula and obligation limitation are the major topic of discussion. If Congress changes the formula, it will affect all tribes. Several meetings have taken place within TIBC, NCAI, and TTPCC. We are waiting to find out the final decision and when it will go into effect.

On July 9th and 10th Donnie Marshall and I attended a Bridge Construction, Maintenance, and Repair class held at Gordon Cooper. The class was put on by OSU LTAP/TTAP. We were able to go to some bridges and see how they are inspected. The Otoe Missouria, Choctaw Nation, Pawnee Nation, Lincoln County were also in attendance.

I am happy to announce our safety project on 156th S-Curve out by the Resource Center has been completed. I would like to thank the City of Norman for helping with this project. Hopefully we will see less wrecks in this area.

August 26th- 29th, Lt. Governor Diane Ponkilla, Donnie Marshall and I attended the National Transportation in Indian Country Conference in Durant, Oklahoma. It has been announced we are allowed to use our TTP funds as the match on various grant opportunities. One consideration is changing from BIA to FHWA. This will help get our TIP approved quicker as BIA takes too long to approve.

Our next project will be the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. We were awarded \$263,322.00 for the SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) Grant. The agreement is currently being drafted and once signed, we will begin the work in October 2024 and should be completed by July 2026. The purpose of the grant is to create a plan with the goal of promoting safety to prevent death and serious injuries on public roadways within the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's jurisdiction.

I am currently in my second year as serving as the Secretary for the Intertribal Transportation Association (term ends beginning of December 2024), Southern Plains Representative for the Tribal Transportation Coordinating Committee that reports directly to DOI (term ends September 2025), on the Southern TTAP Steering Committee and just recently been nominated to serve on the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Tribal Advisory Board (awaiting on approval from the Senate).

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





## Office of Environmental Health & Engineering (OEH&E) Environmental Programs

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### Staff:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

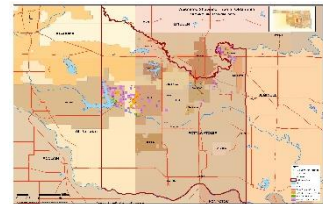
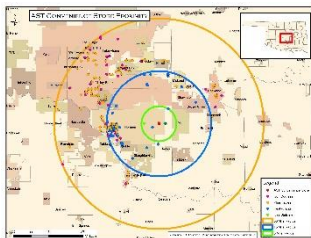
The Office of Environmental Health & Engineering is responsible for maintaining the Tribes public water systems and wastewater utilities for the Thunderbird Casino, AST Health Clinic and the Tribal Youth Camp. Our office performs monthly, quarterly and annual water sampling for analyses that are submitted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

## AST ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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

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

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



The AST Environmental Program has implemented a Recycling Program with the assistance of the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) back in 2012. The program has been growing as we continue to obtain equipment, recycling containers and gain community support. To date we



have setup four cardboard recycling containers located on the tribal complex and six recycling trailers located on the north side of the Little Axe Tribal Health Clinic, one behind the L.A. Thunderbird Casino with the others on the complex. We encourage individuals to participate by bringing your recyclables to one of the drop off locations or Recycling Facility located on the south side of the Tribal Campus adjacent to the



OEH&E building #13. If you have old tax or other personal documents you would like shredded please bring them by our recycling center and we will assist you with your paper shredding needs. As the program expands we will be placing more recycling containers, throughout the community. At this time we are only collecting shredded office paper, corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans. As the program expands we will collect other types of materials in the near future. To date we have collected over 500 tons of recycled cardboard and shredded paper. With the recycled material being taken out of the solid waste stream reduces the tribes overall solid waste cost. Our recycling efforts include educating the public on the benefits of collecting recyclable materials and the effects and benefits of reducing the solid waste stream.

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

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



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. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Absentee-Shawnee-Tribe-Brownfield-Response-Program/1439930279621958> . We also have a link on the Tribes website that lists the properties we currently have on our Brownfield property inventory. If you have land that may have had or currently is used for petroleum production that you have concerns about please call our office.

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

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



# OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**



# ENROLLMENT



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

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

## **Enrollment Office Duties:**

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

## **Announcements:**

- Tribal Names being added to CDIB cards- MIS has created an online form for members to submit. You can choose to have your name on your card, or just to have us store it.
- Address Update form online-MIS created an online form just for members to update their address with Enrollment, Tax, and Media. This short simple form helps keep your information up to date.
- Please keep the Enrollment Department up to date with any "life changes". It is important to update us with any changes to marital status, custody, and addresses.
- Staff attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tribal Enrollment and Enhanced Tribal Card Conference at the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in August. We are looking into grants to possibly fund the Enhanced Tribal Card program as well as more office space.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ➤ Why do our CDIB Cards expire?

This requirement is set forth in the Membership Ordinance. This also helps us keep members information up to date and accurate. Expiration dates also helps safeguard members, if cards are lost or stolen they cannot be used indefinitely. **Cards expire four years after the issued date; expiration dates are located on the bottom right hand side of your CDIB card in red.**

### ➤ Why do we have to show proof of identity to request a new CDIB card?

By requiring proof of identification this ensures we are issuing cards to the correct person. Identity theft is rampant and this protects not only the Tribe but members as well.

### ➤ Why do the Roll Numbers seem “messed up”?

The 1976 Base roll was done alphabetically. This is why an older member may have a higher roll number than a younger member. Once this base roll was established roll numbers began to be given in order by the date the application was received.

### ➤ Why are both parents required to sign the enrollment application for a minor?

The requirement is set forth in the Membership Ordinance. Exemptions are made for individuals who can provide legal documentation of full custody, if only one parent’s name appears on the state issued birth certificate, or if the minor is in ICW/DHS custody.

### ➤ How do I update or renew my CDIB card if I am unable to come into the office?

We have a form that can be printed off our website, emailed, or mailed to the requestor. This is a short form that must be signed in the presence of a notary and returned along with a copy of the requestor or legal guardian’s state ID or driver’s license. The form can be returned via mail or email.

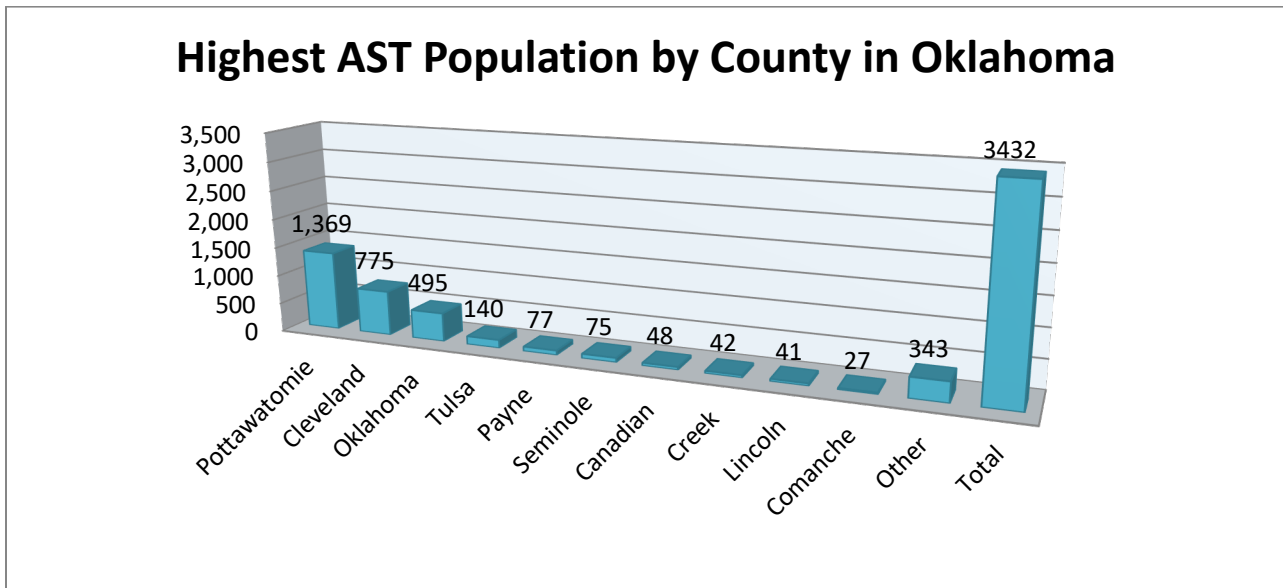
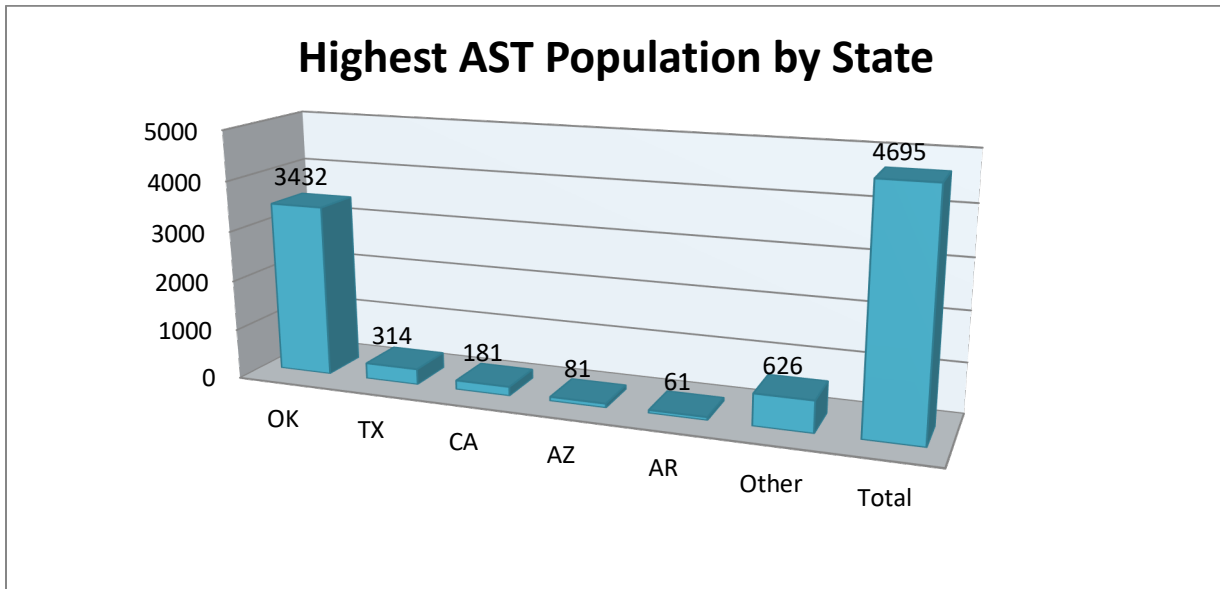
### ➤ How do I submit an Enrollment Application if I am unable to come into the office?

The Enrollment Application is on our website; staff can also mail or email the application. The Enrollment Application **MUST** be returned via mail, UPS, or Fed Ex as the applicant’s original state issued birth certificate is required to be submitted. There are four (4) forms within the application that must be notarized prior to submission. The front page outlines required documents; staff can also answer any question you may have.

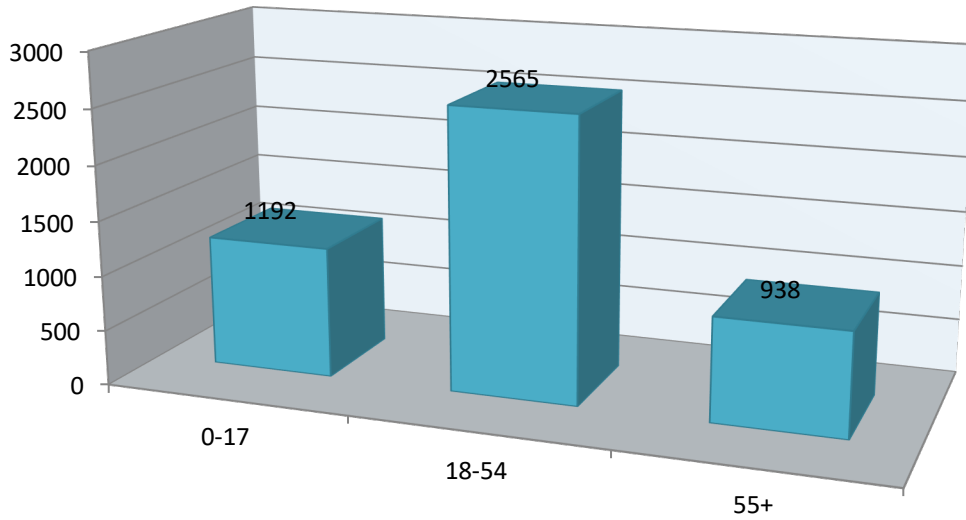
## Enrollment Statistics April 2024-Present

### Resolutions:

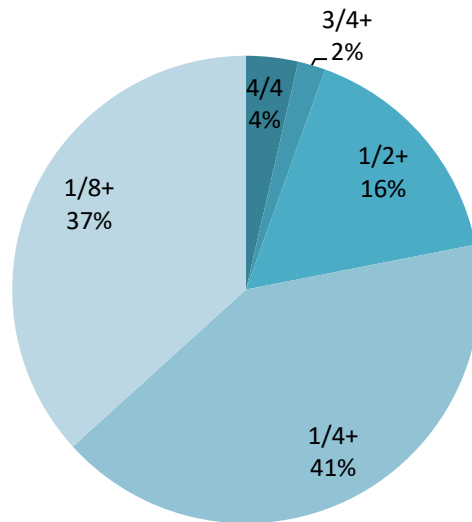
- Certification of Membership Roll: 1
- Membership: 4
  - Total New Members: 38
- Conditional Relinquishment: 1
- Voluntary Relinquishment: 1
- Rejection: 2
- Amendment: 1



### Member Age Data



### Blood Quantum Summary





# HUMAN RESOURCES



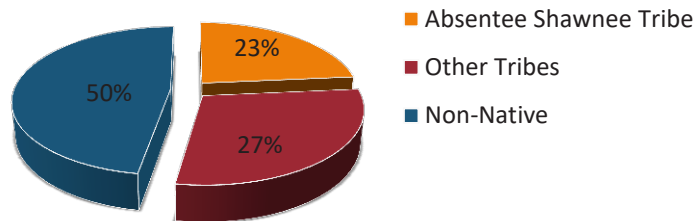
*“Our mission is to provide quality human resource services to attract, develop, motivate, and retain a diverse workforce within a supportive tribal environment.”*

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.

With the ever growing needs of the Tribe, attracting and retaining the best talent is important to the development of each department. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma currently has 612 employees; out of 612 employees, 50% of our employees are Native American.

In spring of 2024 Human Resources worked with MIS and implemented the off boarding process. This internal process has helped departments keep track of tribal assets when onboarding and off boarding employees. We are excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to work with the Executive Committee to bring services for all employees and Tribal Members. 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.

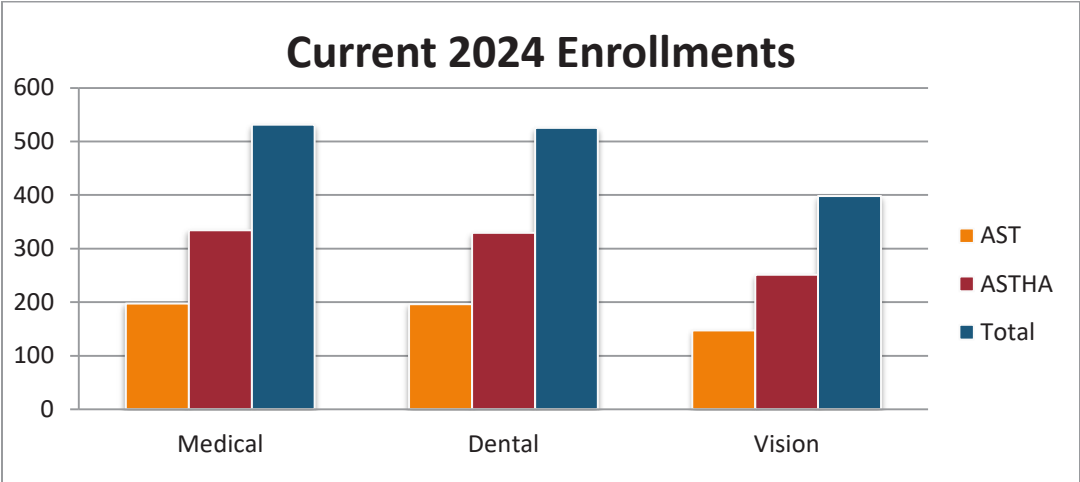
## Tribal Representation



# BENEFITS

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In November 2024, the Human Resources Department will host our annual open enrollment. We have plans to host both informational benefit meetings, and in person assisted enrollment. The purpose of these meetings is to help our employees understand any changes, and be as prepared and informed as possible. These meetings have proved to be very beneficial in the past as it allows employees to meet one on one with our insurance representatives. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe provides a healthy benefit package to its employees. The employee benefit package includes leave options, health and wellness offerings, and educational opportunities. The Human Resources department has been working 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 eligible 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, 2024, the plan balance was approximately \$18,345,991.48. The Human Resource Department hosted two in person meetings with our Standard broker to encourage employees to invest in their future, and discuss plan changes that occurred in 2024.



## TRAINING

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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.

Four staff members attended the Annual Society for Human Resource Management State Conference in April of 2024. This conference allowed for staff members to build relationships with peers, and gain invigorating knowledge in relation to the ever changing environment of Human Resources. There were classes that discussed numerous topics including talent acquisition, mental health, leadership, employee engagement, and HR technology.

Three staff members were certified and recognized as THRP II by the National Native American Human Resources Association (NNAHRA). Tribal Human Resources Professional THRP II 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.

Also Tribal HR and Health HR staff members achieved certification with SHRM's Mental Health Competency certification program this summer.

The Human Resources department values the feedback of employees and Tribal Members. Feedback helps us identify services and programs that are valued or highlight areas where improvement is needed. We encourage any Tribal Member or employee with feedback to email [HR@astribe.com](mailto:HR@astribe.com) 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 Parish, HR Generalist II

Rebecca Hyde, HR Benefit Specialist II

Michele Nowell, Health HR Officer

Dayna Dick, Health HR Manager

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](mailto:HR@ASTRIBE.COM)



# INDIAN CHILD WELFARE



## General Council Report Oct. 2024

### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) activities for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Our ICW program continues to work diligently to protect the best interests of our tribal children and families, ensuring compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and tribal regulations.

### Current Case Load

As of this reporting period, our ICW department is managing a total of 47 cases:

- Tribal Cases: 35
- State Cases: 12

### Monthly Referrals

On average, our department receives 10 referrals per month, currently we have received 82 referral since January. These referrals come from various sources, including:

- State child welfare agencies
- Community members
- Community organizations
- Schools
- Healthcare providers

### Positive Outcomes

We are pleased to report the following positive outcomes for this period:

- New office: 1318 E. Independence, Shawnee, Ok
- Collaboration with the Absentee Shawnee Elder Committee
- Reunifications: 3 children have been successfully reunited with their families
- Adoptions: 1 child has been adopted by kinship caregivers



### Challenges and Ongoing Efforts

Here are some of the challenges Tribal Child Welfares across Oklahoma face:

- Lack of Tribal foster homes
- Limited access to mental health and substance abuse treatment for our children and their families
- Inadequate funding
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified staff
- Misinterpretation of cultural practices by non-Native caseworkers
- Lack of coordination between tribal and state child welfare agencies
- Overlapping federal, state and tribal jurisdiction

### Compliance with ICWA

Our department continues to work closely with state agencies and courts to ensure full compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. This includes:

- Active efforts to prevent the breakup of Indian families
- Placement preferences that prioritize extended family and tribal placements
- Involvement of the tribe in all cases involving Absentee Shawnee children

### Community Outreach and Prevention

Indian Child Welfare programs play a vital role in preserving Native American families and cultural heritage. Our community outreach, prevention initiatives, and family support services work together to strengthen our most vulnerable and improve the quality of life for their families. These efforts focus on addressing root causes of social issues, providing

resources to those in need, and empowering families to thrive. By offering education, counseling, health services, and other targeted assistance, these programs aim to create more resilient Tribal community and brighter futures for our children.

### Future Goals

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma's Indian Child Welfare program aims to strengthen families and protect children through the following key goals:

- Enhance collaboration with both internal tribal programs and external partners to provide comprehensive, culturally-appropriate services to families in need. This includes building stronger relationships with tribal courts, behavioral health services, tribal 477 programs, cultural preservation programs, and state/county child welfare agencies.
- Increase successful family reunifications by providing intensive support services, parenting education, and resources to help parents address challenges and create safe, stable homes for their children.
- Expand prevention and early intervention services to reduce the need for out-of-home placements. This includes developing new programs focused on substance abuse prevention, domestic violence prevention, and strengthening parenting skills within the community.
- Preserve cultural connections for Absentee Shawnee children by prioritizing kinship care and tribal foster homes when out-of-home placement is necessary.
- Advocate for policies and practices that uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act and promote tribal sovereignty in child welfare matters.
- Invest in staff training and development to ensure the program utilizes best practices in trauma-informed care and culturally-responsive services.
- Implement data tracking systems to measure outcomes and continuously improve program effectiveness.

Through these efforts, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe aims to create a stronger, more resilient community where all children can thrive within their families and culture.

### Conclusion

While Tribal child welfare programs continue to face significant challenges, there are promising efforts underway to address these issues from Tribes across Indian country. By focusing on cultural preservation, strengthening tribal sovereignty and foster collaboration between tribal, state and federal entities, there is hope for improving outcomes for Native American children and families in the child welfare system across Indian country. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Indian Child Welfare department remains committed to protecting our children, preserving our families, and ensuring the continuity of our tribal culture. We will continue to work tirelessly to improve outcomes for our children and families.

### To report abuse or neglect

Occurring **on** AST trustland

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

Occurring **off** of AST trustland

- OKDHS hotline: 1-800-522-3511





# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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

The services offered by the Rising Warrior Department include emergency assistance to victims, through safety planning, shelter placement into one of the local domestic violence shelters, emergency based transportation, emergency food, emergency clothing and other basic needs as they relate to the 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.

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

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

**Kristy Kisor** is our Outreach Coordinator through OVW. She works to identify future partners or community entities willing to assist with needs of victims/survivors. Kristy assists in crisis intervention, safety planning, coordination emergency shelter, transports on an emergency basis or if scheduled, offers referrals, provides case management and assists with coordination payments for housing and emergency necessities. In addition, she will also provide and participate in community education/awareness activities/events.

**Monique Harris** is our Cultural Outreach Coordinator. She provides advocacy and assistance to victims of elder abuse, adult victims of child sexual abuse and survivors of homicide victims. Monique also provides outreach/education and will be coordinating support and cultural groups to those who have experienced the above mentioned victimizations.

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

If you or someone you know is dealing with domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, sex trafficking or stalking, please contact our office for **confidential** support and assistance. Our intake for services is available to be completed and submitted online for easier access. You can find our intake at <https://www.atribe.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 (405) 827-1796
- Kristy Kisor, Outreach Coordinator (405) 827-4213
- Monique Harris, Cultural Outreach Coordinator (405) 432-9469
- Morgan Stewart, Sexual Assault & C.V.S. Coordinator (405) 432-9657

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

## **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**



# OFFICE OF THE TREASURER



Hello AST Family, Friends, and Acquaintances:

Let me start by saying, “Welcome to the 93rd Semi-Annual General Council Meeting!”. I always enjoy this time of year for a few reasons - the changing of the season and cooler temperatures; OU football; Fastpitch softball starts to wind down; and, of course, our Fall Bread Dance time is near. Like many, I have plenty to be grateful for this year. Fulfilling duties and serving as your Treasurer has been a great honor the last four years and I look forward to continuing in that capacity for the next four. As I mentioned in the last few reports, many great things have occurred during our tenure and we are excited for the work still yet to come.

For those unaware, I have the following Departments and Programs, with a total of 30 employees under my direct oversight: **Finance, Grants, Procurement, Realty, and Social Services**. Additionally, I serve as the liaison for: **AllNations Bank, AST Health Systems (ASTHA), ASEDA, the C Store, Tag and Tax, Education Committee, Cultural Preservation Committee, and the Elder’s Association**. The majority of these have operated as expected and there are no major concerns as they continue to be productive and fulfill responsibilities to the Tribe and its members. Directly after my update, one should be able to find the associated reports from the Department heads, which will describe in more detail their objectives and accomplishments.

**FINANCE:** The best news I can share regarding Finance is they continue to handle the Tribe’s daily and monthly financial and business functions. Contrary to some comments, we have received another year of a clean audit. An “unmodified” opinion with no comments, is what we strive for each year. As for training and conferences, the next Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) meeting will be held in San Diego the week prior to General Council. As oversight, I’ve encouraged the Controller to send at least 3 staff to this semi-annual event for updates and information that is necessary for their operations.

**GRANTS:** The last several months, Department employees (3) have worked diligently to assist the Tribe with Grants Compliance, updating records, and submission of reports (quarterly, semi-annual, and annual). To achieve this task, monthly trainings are conducted and coordinated with Technical Advisors from multiple agencies for directors, coordinators, and staff. This has been very beneficial to our system, especially with so many new faces and/or lack of experience with Grant reporting requirements. We keep attendance records as supporting documentation for the Federal programs to confirm participation by each respective program.

**PROCUREMENT:** Most of the membership is unfamiliar with why this department is important. Their staffs (6) sole purpose is “to save the Tribe money”. They do this by employing best buy practices, such as: bulk purchasing; bid solicitation; and asset/inventory control. In addition, they monitor credit card usage and help reconcile receipts for payment. To date, they have made over 1,480 purchases, totaling almost 49K items shipped and received. Please review Ms. Kennedy’s submission for additional information on some of their processes.

**REALTY:** This department maintains all Allotment and Tribal records regarding land acquisition, disposal, deeds, and ownership. They also assist by updating records and receiving payments for all Tribal properties. Last month, staff (5) conducted their annual Farming and Grazing Lease Sale. The sealed bid process allows for members and heirs to receive a yearly payment for use of their properties. For many of our elders, this is an essential part of their annual income. Additionally, this program hosts OILS, for their Wills Clinic. This year, it is planned to be at the end of October near Halloween.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** I won’t go into great detail about this department but many of our Tribal Members will utilize these services at one time or another. They receive applications for Tribal and Federal programs such as: School Clothing Allowance, Burial Assistance, TEA, and LIHEAP.

**TAG/TAX:** The majority of what this program provides is collection of tax revenue. Besides making sure membership can pick up their tags in a timely manner, the staff makes certain the monthly reports coincide with the data, and report their findings to Finance. Please review the notes attached to the Administrator’s Report, especially where the “Treat Law” is concerned.

My office stays very busy throughout the year attending meetings, trainings, conferences, and providing input on Tribal member issues when they arise. I also come out of office to provide extra manpower for those programs that request it. Some may question this activity but when work needs to be accomplished, it doesn’t care who completes the task, just that it gets done. As I end my report, as usual I want to say “Thank You!” to those that continue to provide advice, encouragement, and support. Words alone cannot express my appreciation and gratitude for your efforts as it reinforces and confirms our plan of action.

Do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone should you have any questions or comments

Neyiwa!

Joseph H. Blanchard, AST Treasurer

(405) 695-1487 • [jblanchard@astribe.com](mailto:jblanchard@astribe.com)



## 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.

## Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Finance Department – Finance Employees (9)

Native

- 6
- 60%

Non-Native

- 3
- 40%



# Finance Department - Positions

- Finance Administrative Assistant (1)
- Accounts Payable (2)
- Payroll (1)
- Budget Analyst (1)
- Budget Officer (1)
- Grants Accountant (2)
- Senior Accountant (1)
- Assistant Controller (1)
- Controller (1)

## 2024 Budgets

- **The General Fund Departments and Programs**

Agriculture, Cultural Preservation, Education, Elders Council, Election Commission, Emergency Management, Gaming Commission, Governor, Indian Child Welfare, Lt. Governor, Media, OEH, Police, Realty, Representative, Secretary, Social Services, Sponsored Programs, Tax Commission, Treasurer, Veteran and Grants match fund consists of PPG, Title IV B Part 1, Title IV B Part 2.

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs(BIA) Departments and Programs**

BIA Transportation, BIA Operations, BIA Transportation Planning, Courts, Education, Enrollment, ICW, Police, Realty and Social Services

- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Departments and Programs**

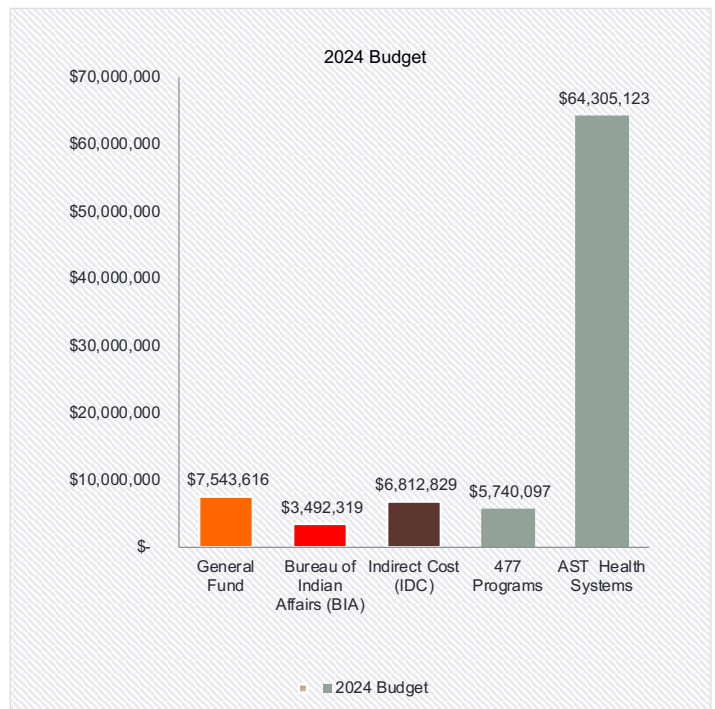
Finance, Operations, Grants, Governor, Human Resources, Legal, Lt. Governor, Maintenance, Media, MIS(IT), Procurement, Representative, Secretary and Treasurer.

- **P.L. 102-477 Program**

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

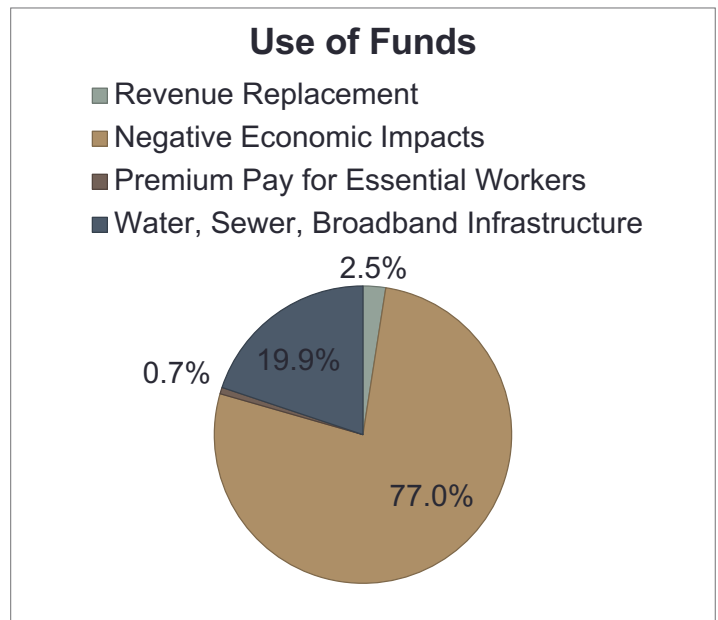
- **Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System Departments and Programs**

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



# American Rescue Plan Act – Use of Funds

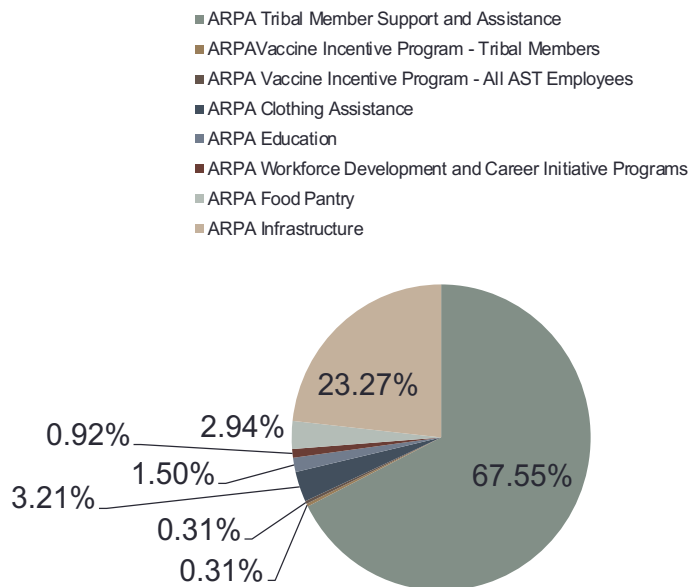
- Replace lost sector revenue: Using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband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



## ARPA Funding Allocation by Resolution

### ARPA ALLOCATIONS

- The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma received COVID 19 funding from the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$22,464,864.99 and \$9,583,112.79 from the United States Treasury.
- The pie graph represents the funding allocation based on resolution passed by the Executive Committee from July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2024. To Date, 77% has been allocated to Tribal Membership for Support and Assistance and 23% has been allocated for Tribal Infrastructure.



## ARPA Tribal Resolutions

### Tribal Employment (Infrastructure) Allocation:

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

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

## ARPA Tribal Resolutions

### Tribal Enrollment (membership) Allocations:

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

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

**ARPA – TRIBAL Member Assistance (7/31/2024)**

**Total Assistance Provided: \$21,469,960**



**Cash  
Assistance  
(Distributions)  
\$20,068,734**



**Food  
Assistance  
\$495,390**



**Education  
Assistance  
\$441,049**



**Clothing  
Assistance  
\$464,787**





# PROCUREMENT



## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Procurement Department to serve and support The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and its entities by purchasing quality goods at competitive prices. The Procurement Department is dedicated to facilitating an effective and efficient procurement process that prioritizes maximum savings. The department utilizes advanced technology, strategic planning, and industry research to succeed in this mission.

## Functions

The role of the Procurement Department is to serve and support Tribal Departments and Grant Programs by procuring products at the best available price. The department purchases everything from office supplies and IT hardware to business travel accommodations, vehicles and equipment, and even construction work. Procurement processes Purchase Orders by purchasing the requested items, receiving the items, adding qualified items to inventory, reconciling the order, and issuing the items to the requesting department.

In addition to purchasing, the Procurement Department manages the asset and inventory tracking system, company cellular devices, company credit cards, service contracts, vendor database, and the purchasing system for the Tribe and Health System. Procurement is also responsible for managing the Tribe's insurance policies and filing automobile, property, and general liability claims.

## Update

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the Uniform Guidance for federal grants and agreements. The guidelines established by the OMB are used to establish a foundation for purchasing and set the requirements for expending federal dollars. The updated document will be known as the "OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance" and will take effect on October 1, 2024. The new OMB Guidance will be taken into consideration during the annual review of the Procurement Policies and Procedures manual.

## Purchasing

The final day to submit Purchase Orders using 2024 budgets is Friday, November 8, 2024. The deadline allows time for items to be purchased, received, and processed through the system before the end of the year.

As of August 31st, 2024, the Procurement Department has processed 1,480 Purchase Orders and received 48,780 items.

## Inventory

The Annual "Drive-Thru" Vehicle Inventory was completed in September and we want to thank the Maintenance Department for allowing Procurement to utilize their warehouse. The Vehicle Inventory includes recording the mileage, scanning the asset tag in the doorframe, and taking photos of each vehicle. We appreciate all of the departments that brought their vehicles.

The 2024 Inventory of Tribal Assets is coming to a close. The Inventory Control Specialist has completed 32 of 43 departments.

A new and improved Inventory Transfer Form was introduced on September 30, 2024 and is available for use. Procurement worked with the Laserfiche Administrator to develop a form that integrates with the inventory database in Microix. The form identifies the asset in the database, acquires the appropriate approvals, and initiates the required action to transfer or dispose of the asset.

## Travel

The Travel Team worked with the Laserfiche Administrator to update the Travel Forms. The travel form is utilized to process requests for Travel Mileage, Virtual Training, Same Day Travel, and Out of State Travel. With the update, travelers will only be required to fill out the information that is specific to the type of request being submitted and the email notifications were updated for clarity.

As a reminder, the REAL ID deadline has been extended. The Department of Homeland Security has extended the Federal REAL ID requirement for domestic air travel from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. This means that anyone planning to travel may continue to use their current driver's license or Oklahoma Identification card to fly domestically until May 7, 2025. For further information, please visit [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

## Department Representation

There are six staff members in the Procurement Department. The staff includes three Native American employees, two of which are Tribal Members, and three non-Native employees.

## 2025

The Procurement Department is making preparations to hold a Surplus Auction in the spring. The auction will include surplus items from the Tribe, Health System, and Casino.



# REALTY



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

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

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

For the Gift Deed cases submitted to the BIA, we received updates in June 2024 as those applications were finally approved by the Regional Director for part 1. Our office is currently working on Part 2 of those Gift Deeds requests. Our office has been in contact with those landowners with their requests. If you have made a Gift Deed Request, please feel free to contact our office as we can give you an update.

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

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

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

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

**\*\*Our office is actively scheduling another Wills Clinic with OILS for the tribe. We are looking to schedule that event for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We will plan for the event to take place at the Thunderbird Casino to accommodate our tribal members that reside in the Little Axe area. 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 had no expiring leases this year so there was no Farming and Grazing Bid Sale. 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.

Bid packets will be sent out to all on our mailing list for the next bid sale. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list for this summer 2025, please give our office a call and we can add you to the list. The Farming and Grazing Bid Lease Sale will be in the **Summer 2025**.

**OIL AND GAS:** The Company that submitted for an Oil & Gas lease proposal has notified our office that they have withdrawn their proposal. There are currently no pending proposals at this time. Should you wish to check up on any current approved leases, please contact the Realty Department.

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

Our office is currently working on **7 ROW renewals** and **5 new ROW proposals**. Landowners, please be on the lookout for mail as you may receive notification letters and consent forms from our office or the contacting company. Once a proposal packet is completed, the proposal(s) will be sent to BIA Southern Plains Regional Office for review and approval.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**\*\*Important Information\*\***

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



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

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

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

**FUTURE GOALS:**

1. Gift Deeds and other conveyances approved by the BIA
2. Plan a Wills Clinic with OILS for October 31, 2024
3. Complete ROW Renewals and New Requests
4. Identify & Resolve Trespass Issues
5. Lease out all available units in the Tiny Home Rental Program

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](mailto:TaylorC@astribe.com)

Cara Hamilton, Probate Specialist, ext. 3594

Email: [CHamilton@astribe.com](mailto: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: Annette Wilson, Social Service Director**

**Nancy Edwards, Social Service Clerk**

**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 2024 = 200**

**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 2024**

**AST Tribal Children: 615**

**New Clothing Cards sent: 10**

**Pending on New CDIB cards: 3**

**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 October 2024 – October 2024 = 19 AST Tribal Members**

**January – October 2024**

Kayla Ryan Johnson	DOD: 1/03/2024	DOB: 12/30/1994	CDIB: 4367
Tanessa Anah Marie Johnson	DOD: 1/12/2024	DOB: 1/11/1992	CDIB: 2987
Jimmy Ray Gibson	DOD: 1/15/2024	DOB: 1/27/1955	CDIB: 0548
Martin L. Starr	DOD: 1/30/2024	DOB: 1/24/1938	CDIB: 1732
Marvin Lee Smith	DOD: 2/08/2024	DOB: 2/01/1961	CDIB: 1426
Steven Ray Murry, Jr.	DOD: 2/10/2024	DOB: 6/25/1996	CDIB: 4254
Redonna Lynn Switch	DOD: 3/04/2024	DOB: 3/07/1963	CDIB: 1612
Wayne Lee Delodge	DOD: 3/10/2024	DOB: 3/10/1971	CDIB: 2570
Charles Kenneth Webb	DOD: 3/22/2024	DOB: 12/10/1957	CDIB: 1787
David William Powell	DOD: 3/29/2024	DOB: 10/26/1935	CDIB: 1250
David Adam Byington	DOD: 4/05/2024	DOB: 12/01/1975	CDIB: 0268
Ronnie Gene Johnson	DOD: 4/24/2024	DOB: 8/16/1954	CDIB: 0721
Sherry Darlene Stone	DOD: 5/18/2024	DOB: 12/14/1958	CDIB: 0299
Clifton Brokeshoulder Jr.	DOD: 6/09/2024	DOB: 04/06/1936	CDIB: 0220
Jessika Lyn Aquinaga	DOD: 6/09/2024	DOB: 11/14/1988	CDIB: 2702
Eugene R. Charley Jr.	DOD: 6/10/2024	DOB: 06/26/1939	CDIB: 0285
Tanisha Marie Garretson	DOD: 6/22/2024	DOB: 03/22/1980	CDIB: 2595
Betty Lou Watson	DOD: 8/02/2024	DOB: 09/15/1940	CDIB: 1773

**October – December 2023**

Kevin Lee Mack	DOD: 10/01/2023	DOB: 6/06/0973	CDIB: 1023
Eddie Keith Brokeshoulder	DOD: 10/01/2023	DOB: 4815/1951	CDIB: 0221
Robert Stanley Walker	DOD: 10/09/2023	DOB: 01/02/1961	CDIB: 1732
Clarence Gibson	DOD: 10/19/2023	DOB: 01/19/1947	CDIB: 0533
Darrell Jackson Morton	DOD: 11/14/2023	DOB: 07/21/1944	CDIB: 1118
Randall Lee Ross	DOD: 11/15/2023	DOB: 08/30/1964	CDIB: 4434
Sue Ann Manley	DOD: 11/21/2023	DOB: 09/17/1937	CDIB: 1038
Christina Ann Spoon	DOD: 12/03/2023	DOB: 10/17/1972	CDIB: 2952
Susan Margret Roller	DOD: 12/08/2023	DOB: 08/04/1961	CDIB: 3903
Zelda Sue Brewer	DOD: 12/13/2023	DOB: 06/16/1938	CDIB: 0213
Henryetta Ellis	DOD: 12/22/2023	DOB: 10/14/1952	CDIB: 0458

**BIA Programs: (General Assistance, BIA Indigent Burial Assistance, Disaster Assistance.) January – October 2024**

**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.

**Total Served – 5            January – August 2024**

**BurnOut – 0**

**Disaster – 0                General Assistance - 2**

**BIA Burial - 3              Denied GA - 2 (out of jurisdiction)**

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

This program is intended to help with heating and cooling cost for federally recognized tribal members who reside in 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 = **30**

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

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



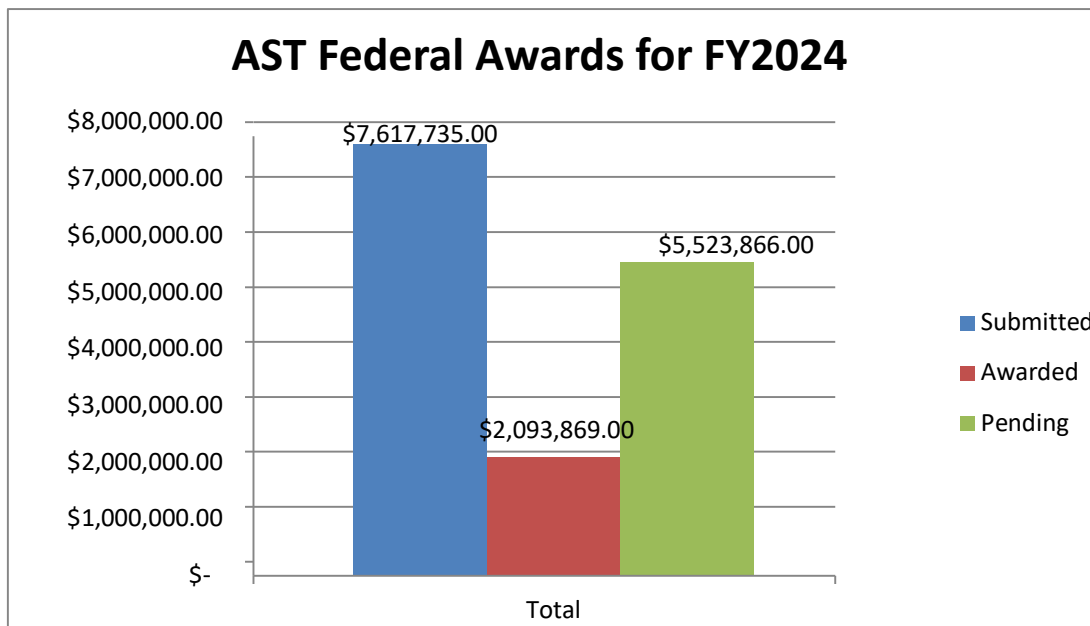
# GRANTS DEPARTMENT



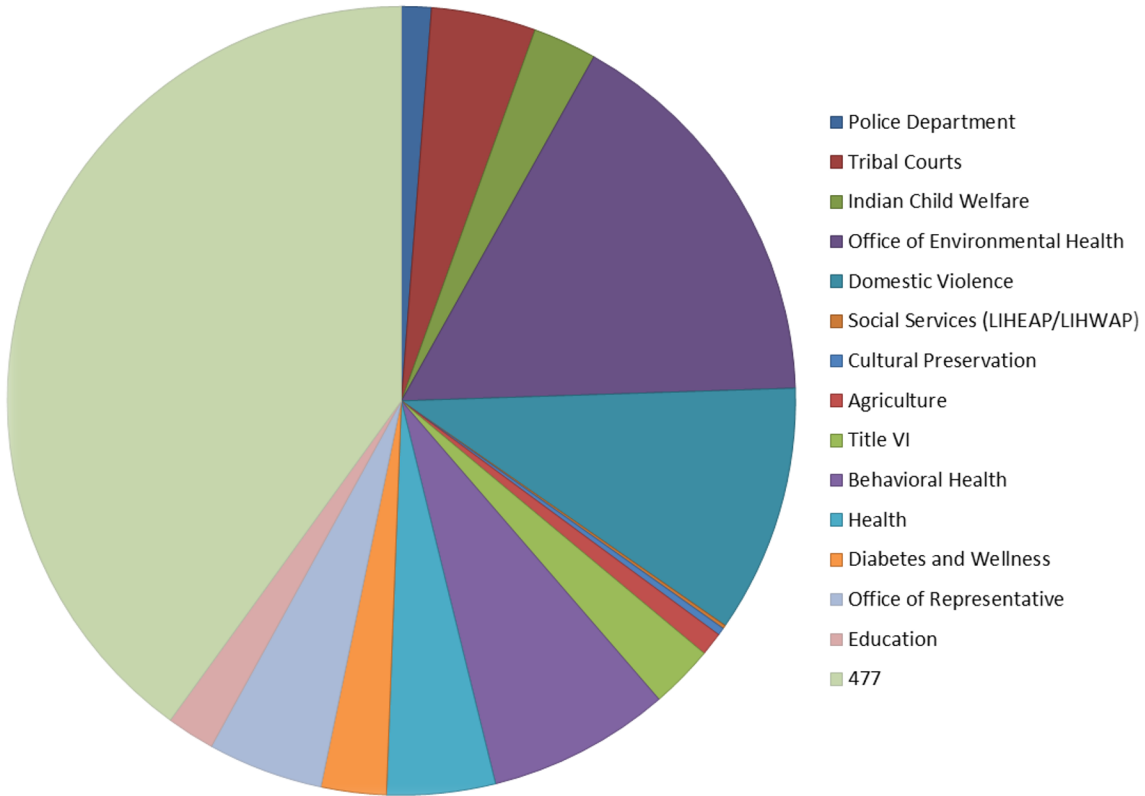
## FISCAL YEAR 2024

### Fall General Council Report

As of September 1, 2024, various departments within the Absentee Shawnee Tribe collaborated with the Grants Department to apply Federal agencies for Fiscal Year 2024 to fund a variety of programs for the Absentee Shawnee people and Tribal government employees. So far the tribe has received 15 grant awards and supplements were funded. To date, the total received federal funding for FY24 is \$2,093,869 for tribal programs. Currently the tribe has 39 active awards and anticipates an additional 11 awards for the current fiscal year.



## Current Federal Awards



Departments/Programs	Awards	Amount
Police Department	1	\$ 400,000
Tribal Courts	1	\$ 1,400,000
Indian Child Welfare	6	\$ 855,666
Office of Environmental Health	6	\$ 5,347,957
Domestic Violence	5	\$ 3,322,016
Social Services (LIHEAP/LIHWAP)	4	\$ 46,827
Cultural Preservation	2	\$ 101,147
Agriculture	1	\$ 310,627
Title VI	9	\$ 852,404
Behavioral Health	2	\$ 2,450,000
Health	5	\$ 1,454,403
Diabetes and Wellness	2	\$ 874,124
Office of Representative	1	\$ 1,545,351
Education	2	\$ 642,743
477	10	\$ 13,082,589
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 32,685,854</b>

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe  
Federal Funding  
Fiscal Year 2024**

Name	Deadline	Amount	Status	Received
<b>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</b>				
ACF, Family Violence Prevention & Services State Grants (FVPSA)		\$ 60,000.00	Submitted	
ACF, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) SEDS Yr 3 NCC		\$ 89,373.00	Submitted	
ACF, Administration for Native Americans Language FY24		\$ 900,000.00	Submitted	
ACF, Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (CWSS)		\$ 24,628.00	Awarded	\$ 24,628.00
ACF, Title IV-B, Subpart 2 (PSSFP)		\$ 34,564.00	Awarded	\$ 24,195.00
ACL, Older Americans Act Title VI, Part A		\$ 196,110.00	Awarded	\$ 196,110.00
ACL, Older Americans Act Title VI, Part C		\$ 74,930.00	Awarded	\$ 74,930.00
ACL, Older Americans Act Nutrition Services Program		\$ 21,799.00	Awarded	\$ 21,799.00
ACL, HIS, Addressing Dementia in Indian Country: Models of Care NCC Yr2		\$ 199,928.00	Awarded	\$ 199,928.00
ACL, Title VI, MIPPA				
ACF, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)		\$ 7,307.00	Awarded	\$ 7,307.00
	Supplement	\$ 12,256.00	Awarded	\$ 12,256.00
	Infrastructure	\$ 486.00	Awarded	\$ 486.00
SAMHSA, Native Connections (NAC) FY23 NCC Yr2		\$ 250,000.00	Awarded	\$ 250,000.00
SAMHSA, Tribal Opioid Response (TOR)		\$ 475,000.00	Awarded	\$ 475,000.00
SAMHSA, SPF-PFS (Ensuring Hope) NCC Yr 5		\$ 300,000.00	Awarded	\$ 300,000.00
IHS, Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)	9/2/2024			
IHS, Tribal Management Grant Program		\$ 75,000.00	Awarded	\$ 70,000.00
<b>U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)</b>				
Native American Library Services Basic Grant		\$ 10,000.00	Awarded	\$ 10,000.00
National Park Service, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO)		\$ 91,147.00	Awarded	\$ 91,147.00
<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b>				
Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)				
	Clean Water Act Section 319	\$ 90,000.00	Submitted	
	Clean Water Act Section 106	\$ 174,000.00	Submitted	
	GAP FY21	\$ 270,000.00	Submitted	
Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program		\$ 137,140.00	Submitted	
<b>U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)</b>				
CTAS PA #1		\$ 700,000.00	Submitted	
CTAS PA #3		\$ 900,000.00	Submitted	
CTAS PA #6		\$ 450,000.00	Submitted	
CTAS PA #9		\$ 500,000.00	Submitted	
OVW Transitional Housing		\$ 550,000.00	Submitted	
OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-aside		\$ 187,984.00	Submitted	
OVC Preventing Trafficking of Girls		\$ 500,000.00	Submitted	
<b>U.S. Department of Energy</b>				
Grid Resilience Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes		\$ 336,083.00	Awarded	\$ 336,083.00
	TOTAL	\$7,617,735.00		\$ 2,093,869.00



# OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Tribal Members,

Welcome to the 93rd Semi-Annual General Council meeting. Thank you to Thunderbird Entertainment for hosting us this year. Thank you to all those who voted and elected me to serve as our Tribal Representative. My service began on June 27, 2024. 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 board meetings to support the growth of our tribal enterprises including the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority, Thunderbird Entertainment and our Tribal Stores. Each of the departments overseen by my office submitted reports on their progress to date, for this General Council report.

If you have any questions, comments, or need my assistance, please contact my office by phone:

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

Sincerely,

Anthony "Tadpole" Johnson, Tribal Representative





# EDUCATION



## General Council Report for October 2024

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Tribal members served to date: 212

Total amount of funding issued to date: \$265,857.69

These numbers reflect students who have received assistance through at least one of the six Education programs: Academic (K-12) program, Zahn program, Job Training Adult Education program, Higher Education: Education Incentive Award program, 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 16 years. The council is involved with teacher education and various programs involving Economics and Personal Finance Education at the secondary school level. They also provide training for the PASSport to Financial Literacy which is a high school graduation requirement in the state of Oklahoma and activities for students like the Meaningful Economics and Entrepreneurship (MEE) competition. Tresha is also currently serving on the Board's Finance Committee.

**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 Skye Sisco. The other partner tribe is the Kiowa Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation is the grantee.

**AST 477 Program – Youth Education Services (formerly Johnson O’Malley):** Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 the Johnson O’Malley Program (JOM) was moved under the AST 477 Program. The AST 477 Program will provide the traditional JOM services in addition to new services. The AST 477 Program held a School Supply Distribution at AST Complex and Brendle Corner for eligible participants. For information regarding the AST 477 Program and its services please refer to [www.astribe.com](http://www.astribe.com).

**Native Connections – Journey to Heal:** The new Native Connections Grant Coordinator is Valerie Scarberry. We will publish and introduction in an upcoming newsletter. We look forward to future grant activities and events.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please contact Tresha Spoon at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department at (405) 275-4030 ext. 6242 or 1-800-256-3341, or email to [tresham@astribe.com](mailto:tresham@astribe.com) with any questions or for information on current programs.



# CULTURAL PRESERVATION



## *“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.

### **Grants**

We currently have two ongoing grants in the Cultural Preservation Department. The THPO grant, which is awarded by the National Park Service, aids the THPO program in the preservation and protection of our ancestral and current homelands.

The IMLS Library Basic Grant aids the Library in the day-to-day operations, archiving records, and the documentation of tribal history. This grant is awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

We are awaiting notice if we were awarded another cycle of grant funding from the Administration for Native Americans. As of print of the General Council book, we have not received any form of notice. Our submission proposal focused increasing the fluency level of at least 10 to 15 tribal members so they could turn around and teach the youth the Shawnee language. Proposed classes were both in person and online as well as creating new Shawnee language material.

### **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 (300) 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>

Our *areas of interest* include historic properties like village sites, mounds, burials or cemeteries, sacred or ceremonial places, and counties of affiliation in twenty-five different states. These states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, \*Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Our THPO staff is currently working on reevaluating our areas of interests to make appropriate updates to all databases, as needed. 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*. In this capacity, his workload focuses on Section 106 projects, programmatic agreement drafts, and government-to-government meetings and consultations with state and federal agencies. Few examples of routine correspondence include U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, Ohio History Connection, Tennessee Valley Authority, and others.

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

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<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>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.

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.

Consultations and Conferences

Our most recently attended in-person meetings are:

- the **Great Council State Park Grand Opening** in Oldtown, Ohio on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - On Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the historic preservation office attended the Grand Opening for the Great Council State Park between Yellow Springs and Xenia, Ohio. From concept to fruition, our involvement with Governor DeWine’s passion project helped result in a beautiful interpretative center. Between all three Shawnee tribes, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio History Connection, and other involved partners; our collaboration created a wonderful state park that we hope tribal members can be proud of in an anticipated visitation.
- the **NATHPO’s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Sacred Places Summit** co-hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in Baraboo, Wisconsin on August 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Mr. Martinez and Ms. Butler learned many different things and all the good things THPOs are doing across the country. However, the most important was all the networking that took place. Mr. Martinez connected with a tribal attorney and the NATHPO Board Chair. Ms. Butler made contact with several agencies who said they would help with anything we needed from the THPO School to training. Also, many contacts were made with several tribes from west that the department plans to visit and help them with their programs and to just have cultural exchange between us.

We do have an anticipated schedule of future travel including:

- the **2024 Annual TxDOT Consultation Meeting** hosted by the Texas Department of Transportation in Canyon, Texas at the Palo Duro Canyon State Park on September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and
- the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tennessee Tribal Summit** hosted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Tennessee Division of FHWA in Nashville, Tennessee on October 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, and
- the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Tribal Nations Conference** hosted by Ohio History Connection and Ohio DOT/FHWA in Columbus, Ohio on October 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

<b>Total Consultation Calls &amp; Project Numbers (Section 106, TCNS, and NAGPRA)</b>	
March 2024 through August 2024	<b>110</b> consultation <b>3,560</b> projects received <b>2,340</b> projects reviewed

Table 1. THPO Activity for March 2024 through August 2024

## 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.

## Language

### Language Staff

The Tribe's Language Linguist/Project Coordinator is **Mr. Scott Miller**. In this capacity, he has been tasked at re-establishing the language program.

### Activity

The language department has partnered with the ASTHA to start a talking circle for Absentee Shawnee elders. The objective is for elders to visit with one another and talk about different aspects of the Shawnee culture. This allows the language program and Historic Preservation Office to hear about the tribe's culture from the elders' perspective. Elders may attend the talking circle as they wish and are free to share their experiences.

The language department has created six different posters from the Shawnee alphabet to parts of a corn plant. The posters contain a QR-code so those viewing the posters can scan and hear what the objects are called in the Shawnee language. Posters will be available to tribal members and provided to the tribe's departments.

The language program is now a department under the 477 Program but also remains part of Cultural Preservation. During the fall, children attending Building Blocks and the Afterschool Program will begin learning to speak Shawnee. Building Blocks children will learn in a see and repeat manner where an object is identified by a Shawnee speaker and the children will repeat what is said. The Afterschool students will learn to say short phrases and words in different topics in Shawnee.

Be on the lookout for new Shawnee language material and make sure to scan those QR-codes.

Ne ko ge! Si li no ke ka no la!

Ne yi wa!

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

## **Gift Shop**

### *Gift Shop Staff*

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

### *Merchandise*

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

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

### *Locations and Business Hours*

Our Gift Shop is located at the complex in the Cultural Preservation building (building 6). We are open in Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are currently exploring the idea of opening on Saturdays especially with the holidays approaching. Please be on the lookout for future announcements.



# TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM



## Tribal Youth Programs Spring 2024 - General Council Report

### **Overview:**

We completed our reapplication for the TYP grant through OJJDP and have been continuing our programs. We have participated in many online webinars and trainings over the past several months also. We worked with one family through our diversion program to help with issues at home with their youth. The program helps to create better communication and understanding between youth and families. We have attended several different parent meetings for different schools, and been to several Tribal consultations. We also have been working with the 477 program to hand out JOM school supplies to all applicants that were eligible.

### **Camp Nikoti Summer Camp:**

Camp Nikoti's 23rd Summer Camp started on June 10th and ended with the Final Reward Day Trip on July 9th. Camp Nikoti is open to all youth ages 10-14 years old. We had camp for four weeks and four days out of the week. We had 40 youth that signed up for camp this year and 32 that attended and completed camp. Out of the 32 youth that completed camp, 17 were tribal youth. Our youth participated in all kinds of activities such as playing games, team building, arts and crafts, singing, gardening, cooking, prevention activities, cultural activities and more. We did two evening events where the kids got to hangout, watch a movie, and enjoy some down time with each other. During one of the evening events we had a water inflatable out for the kids to play on, and we provided Pizza for dinner. We had several guest speakers come out to contribute, present, and do activities with our kids such as: The AST Police Department, Emergency Management, Native Connections, TOR, SAMHSA grants, OEH, Domestic Violence, Education, Cedric Sunray and Tdoha Sunray, Jayden Watson with Eagle Adventure, Diabetes and Wellness, Cultural Preservation and the AST Housing Authority. We would like to thank all of them for taking the time to come out and be a part of camp, and for their help and contributions. We also went on several field trips throughout the summer. We went to the University of Oklahoma's College of Education for the day, Lake We-woka twice, the OKC Zoo, Ron's Hamburger and Chili, and Shawnee Bowl. The end of Camp Reward Day that the youth had to work toward earning, we went to Cracker Barrel in Norman, the Water-Zoo Indoor Water Park in Clinton, Celebration Station in OKC, Toby Keith's Restaurant in Moore, and to watch Despicable Me 4 at the Moore Warren Movie Theater. The kids had a lot of fun and Camp was a great success.

### **Afterschool Program:**

We finished the afterschool program up for last school year on May 23rd, 2024. We had an end of school year party for the students and bought them pizza, snacks, and drinks. We also gave them little goodie bags candy and snacks to take home. We were able to get all of our students work caught up and passing before the end of the school year. We ended the school year with 20 students enrolled in the program. One of our youth started at the beginning of May because they were behind, but we were able to get the youth caught up and passing before the school year ended.

The Afterschool program started this school year on August 8th, 2024. We currently have 18 kids enrolled in the program. 15 of the 18 youth are tribal affiliated students and 14 are enrolled AST students. We average about 13 students per day and we have three people that work with the youth daily. We have been doing lots of activities and playing games. We are working on reading skills daily with all of our youth as well as making sure they are caught up on their homework. We have gotten great support and feedback from parents whose youth are part of the program.



### **Garden Project:**

We just completed our third summer doing a youth garden project. The project starts in February and lasts as long as we can keep our plants alive and producing. We managed to pick about 110lbs of produce the first year, 450lbs of produce last year and just over 300lbs of produce this year. Our afterschool program youth helped us planting the seeds inside in a little green house and watering them each day until the plants got big enough to plant outside. They also took the plants out and planted them in the garden themselves during the afterschool program. We used the produce during our Camp Nikoti Summer Camp program to provide extra snacks during lunch and to cook with for various meals. Our youth and summer workers helped us pick, clean, and cut up the produce for the different meals we made such as ratatouille, eggplant parmesan, hot meat, and others. We also were able to give some of the produce away to employees around the tribe, and to the families of our youth in our different programs. We planted watermelons, banana melons, cucumbers, okra, eggplants, bell peppers, squash, zucchini, various different peppers, various different tomatoes, and some other things. The garden was once again very successful for us and our youth.

### **Soccer League:**

Our soccer program finished its 10th year this past June. We had about 68 kids signed up to play this year and we had 4 different age divisions. The soccer program is slowly growing each year which is what we have been working toward. Our program works with Little Axe schools to use their practice football field to host our practices and games. Games were played Saturday mornings starting on April 6th and ran through Early June. The season last 8 weeks with each age division getting to play at least 8 games. We were able to get all 8 weeks played this year as the weather held out for us. The final weekend we played parents against kids which everyone really enjoyed. Jayden Watson of OKTEP volunteered to help coach the kids and provide healthy lifestyle tips. We were excited and happy that our season was able to be completed and that everyone involved had a lot of fun.

### **Explorers Program/Youth Public Safety Club:**

The explorers program or Youth Public Safety Club is designed to teach our youth about public safety and help our youth build relationships with our tribal police and emergency management departments. We started the program last March and had one monthly meeting until the end of school. Officer Jones and Officer Neely came out and discussed various topics related to the work they do. Levi from our Emergency Management department came out and spoke with the youth about what they do and allowed the youth to tour the mobile command center. We just had our first meeting for this school year in August and will continue having monthly meetings covering different topics through the school year. Our hope is to help youth grow their relationship with these departments and to introduce them to possible future career opportunities. There will be future opportunities for the youth to volunteer to help at different events as part of these groups, as they learn things throughout the program.

### **Indian Club at Local Schools**

We have been working with several different Indian Clubs around the local communities. We worked with Tecumseh schools, Little Axe Schools, Norman High and Norman North High. During our trip to Tecumseh schools, we met with students and did an activity and also provided them with a meal. We were invited toward the end of last school year to go in to Norman North High School and present on some prevention topics. We got to work with 10-12 youth from Norman and Norman North High Schools. We also went to Little Axe High School at the end of last school year to speak and present to them. We finished the school year providing them with a meal and some goodie bags to close out their Indian Club. We also attended Little Axe High Schools first Indian club meeting for this school year and spoke with the youth. We are planning to do several different things with them throughout the school year. Currently we are reaching out to Tecumseh, North Rock Creek, and a couple other schools to potentially work with them doing activities, providing snacks, and presentations.



# 477 PROGRAM



October 2024

The AST 477 Program operates under the guidance of the AST 102-477 Plan that became effective January 1, 2023. We are half way through our second year of our three year plan. We have learned a lot from the first year and we hope that we can expand our services and be more effective and efficient within the next year.

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.

As stated in our last General Council report, under the current 102-477 Plan, the AST 477 Programs will combine like services and activities to serve three components which are employment/training, education and support services. By implementing this plan it is the hope of the AST Tribe to help identify and resolve barriers that participants will face in their pursuit of employment, training and educational endeavors, to strengthen cultural and language development within all AST tribal members to encourage self-sufficiency and to serve tribally determined goals consistent with the policy of self-determination and self-governance. These are just a few programs goals thus far. The main goal is to provide resources and support to help individuals and families become economically self-sufficient.

Some examples of services provided to our participants include: CDL License training, school supply distribution, youth athletic participation fees, GED assistance, higher education assistance, work attire, work tools, budgeting classes, small business assistance, transportation/gas assistance, youth drivers ed, adult supportive services such as child care assistance and rental and utility assistance.

Currently we have 276 Adult Participants, 135 of which are AST and 265 Youth Participants, 171 of which are AST. For 2024, we have 42 Adult Participants, 19 are AST and 4 Youth Participants and 4 are AST. Our total currently active 477 participants is 541 and 306 of those are AST.

The 477 Program has nine (9) staff including the 477 Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Operations Specialist, 2 Case Managers, 3 Intake Clerks and 1 Language Coordinator. Five (5) of my staff are AST and three (3) are other tribes. We are also hiring for an Outreach Coordinator, Additional Case Manager and Intake Specialist. 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.

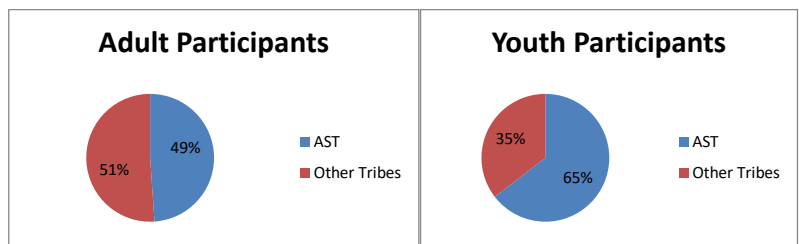
Our future plans are to incorporate similar grants that provide the employment, education, training and support services that the 102-477 program is geared towards. We want to be able to be more functional and use our funds more efficiently and effectively. We will also continue to look for outreach opportunities to find participants job opportunities and support services that fit their needs. For example, we hope to find employers who may be felon friendly or who will work with participants who may have an unsuitable background check and give them a chance to make a living wage or career advancement. We will also be looking at creating our own job opportunities and working with the workforce and career development programs in our area. We also would like to be able to create our own tribal economic development opportunities that fit the needs of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

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 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.

Ni 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 25 Employees. We currently have 43 children enrolled with 11 of them whom started attendance in September.

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 Wednesday, October 16th. The teachers have prepared for Parent-Teachers Conferences which will be October 17-25th. 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, Date TBD.

We will be collecting Donations for the Tecumseh Nursing Homes Elders Starting November 25th. Donations accepted are Throws and Socks. Our 3 Year and 4 Year olds will deliver the Donations on Friday, December 20th at 10:00a.m. to the Nursing Home and will sing Christmas Carols.

Also, our Thanksgiving Dinner for the Children and their Parents as well as our Staff will be Friday, November 22nd at 11:00a.m. @ Building Blocks.

We also look forward to the Winter/Christmas Season. Our Teachers and children enjoy preparing for Christmas time. We will have our Candy Cane Forest Christmas Program on Friday, December 13th at the Multi-Purpose Building in the evening. Winter begins, December 21st , Stay Warm!

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 Child Development Center III (Little Axe)

- Building Blocks III currently has 64 children enrolled:  
- 21 are AST                    - 23 are Tribal affiliated                    - 20 are Non-Tribal affiliated
- There are 19 children on the waiting list, with 5 in the process of enrolling. We are currently accepting waiting list applications for ages 6 weeks old – 5 years old.
- We have 27 employees; 7 are tribal affiliated.
- The facility is up to date on all Fire/Tornado drills with all DHS inspections PASSED.
- We are maintaining our 5 STAR status with 7 master teachers, and 12 staff members currently enrolled furthering their education in college. All staff members are up to date on required trainings and are registered with the Center of Early Childhood professional Development.
- Future plans include splash pads for the playgrounds, and a digital sign.

**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"*



ABSSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL

# HEALTH SYSTEM



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ABSSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, INC.



**MICHELLE RAPP**  
Chairwoman



**DARREN SHIELDS**  
Vice-Chairman



**LYDIA HOBIA**  
Secretary



**MAX TUHSUDA**  
Member



**DEIDRE YARBROUGH**  
Member



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL

# HEALTH SYSTEM

## ADMINISTRATION

We are proud to bring to the Native American community a new era of healthcare not only in the physical sense – with new buildings and facilities and technology – but in the philosophical sense as well. We are committed to setting in motion a new era of healthcare; one that will redefine the standards by which we have both received care and cared for ourselves.



**CHRIS LARKIN**  
Health Executive Director



**DARA THORPE**  
Deputy Director



**DR. MARTY LOFGREN**  
Medical Director



**GENEVIEVE FOSTER**  
Health Financial Officer



**JENNIFER THERIOT**  
Medical Compliance Officer



**DASHA JOHNSON**  
Director of Quality Services



**SANDRA VAUGHN**  
Patient Services Director/  
Risk Management Director



**CHERI HARDEMAN**  
Executive Assistant



**WYNONA COON**  
ASTHS IHS Self- Governance



**MICHELE NOWELL**  
Health HR Officer



**TAMMY PEERY**  
Revenue Integrity Officer



**SHANNON LIVSEY**  
Provider Relations Manager



**ALEX LEWIS**  
Public Relations Director



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM

# LITTLE AXE HEALTH CENTER

Prevention. Progress. Pride.

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

### PATIENT SERVICES



**CONNIE BOTTARO**  
Patient Benefit  
Advocate Manager

### NURSING



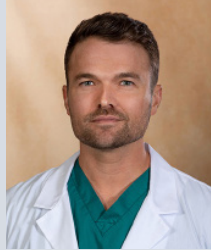
**DEANA AISSAOUI**  
Director of Nursing

### PHYSICAL THERAPY



**ROBERT STONE**  
Director of Rehabilitation Services

### PHARMACY



**CHRIS TURPIN**  
Pharmacy Director

### CONTRACT HEALTH/ PRC



**LAWANA MARTIN**  
Contract Health/  
PRC Director

### PUBLIC HEALTH



**BEVERLY FELTON**  
Public Health Director

### DENTAL



**DR. SEAN WHISLER**  
Dental Director

### SPECIALTY CLINIC



**COREY SHAWNEE**  
Specialty Clinic  
Program Manager

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



**DR. SIAVASH NAEL**  
Behavioral Health  
Medical Director

### DIABETES & WELLNESS



**MARVIN SMITH**  
Behavioral Health Manager

### EHR/CLINICAL APPLICATIONS



**JOSEPH HOLTZCLAW**  
Director of Diabetes & Wellness  
(Interim SDPI Grant Coordinator)



**JAMES WILBANKS**  
Clinical Applications/  
Patient Centered Medical  
Home Director



DEPARTMENT HEADS

LABORATORY



**JANIS BROWN**  
 Laboratory Manager

RADIOLOGY



**TERESA MCINTYRE**  
 Radiology Manager

PROCUREMENT



**REBEKAH GIBSON**  
 Materials Management Director

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



**DARLENE PERRYMAN**  
 HIM Director/  
 Privacy Officer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



**RANDY AUSTIN**  
 MIS/ Health IT Director

TRANSPORTATION



**DARROL DAVIS**  
 Transportation Coordinator

BUSINESS OFFICE/ FINANCE



**AMY HUGHES**  
 Deputy Financial Officer



**CONNIE CHILDRESS**  
 Business Office Manager

FACILITIES



**JOHN KAMMERZELL**  
 Facilities Manager

SECURITY



**JASON BENDER**  
 Security Supervisor



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
 Prevention. Progress. Pride.

DEPARTMENT HEADS



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
**PLUSCARE**  
 Prevention. Progress. Pride.

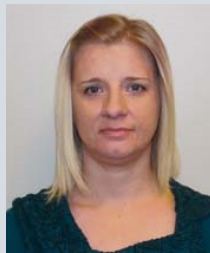
**COMPLETECARE**  
 HOME HEALTH  
 HEALTH. HEALING. HOME.

OPTOMETRY

HOME HEALTH



**DR. JEREMY KING**  
 Optometry Director



**RACHEL TAYLOR**  
 Optometry Office Manager



**STEPHANIE RUBY**  
 Director of Nurses/  
 RN Case Manager



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL HEALTH SYSTEM  
**SHAWNEE CLINIC**  
 Prevention. Progress. Pride.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

PHARMACY

LABORATORY

TITLE VI



**JORDAN HARVEY**  
 Pharmacy Manager



**CRYSTAL WILLIAMS**  
 Laboratory Manager



**DOS OWINGS**  
 Title VI Director



**General Council Report  
5 October 2024**

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



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

Prevention. Progress. Pride.

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

*AST Health System Board of Directors*

*Michelle Rapp, Chairwoman  
Darren Shields, Vice Chairman  
Lydia Hobia, Secretary  
Max Tahsuda, Member  
Deidre Yarbrough, Member*

**Mantra**

Empowering wellness, strengthening communities.

**Vision Statement**

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

**Value Statement**

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



## General Council Report 5 October 2024

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 2024 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 After-hours Clinics with Pharmacy and CompleteCare Home Health, LLC, all servicing our patients. With the desired vision for the organization guiding its direction, the following broad strategic goals should drive the organization's progress over the next 3-5 years.

We must...

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

*...in order to achieve our vision.*

**General Council Report**  
**5 October 2024**

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

- ❖ New Shawnee Clinic Construction: Design Phase has been completed and Flintco has been awarded Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). Planning for Shawnee ground breaking has begun. We currently have \$2M in SAP funding and \$12M in ARPA funds dedicated for future construction. Location: 39665 Benson Park Road, Shawnee, OK 74801 (69.5 acres located adjacent to Tecumseh Lake at the end of Benson Park Road).
- ❖ To better serve our tribal members and the community, remodel of the old PlusCare location has been completed and now houses Behavioral Health with a focus on pediatrics.
- ❖ 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 96 providers). Many of the new patients provide the third-party revenue resources which provide for the exponential growth in services for our AST Tribal members, including walk-in clinics, specialty care, Title VI, PRC increased coverage, expanded pharmacy services and specialty care.
- ❖ ASTHS was selected as the **first** recipient of the NIH N CREW program funding! This funding was highly coveted by not only other tribes, but also universities/ research centers! The N CREW Program supports Tribes and Native American Serving Organizations (T/NASOs) to conduct locally prioritized research to address overdose, substance use, and pain, including related factors such as mental health and wellness. This funding will also open opportunities to future NIH funding (\$49B/yr).
- ❖ ASTHS continues to be the “benchmark” in healthcare throughout the state! In the last 6 months, we have hosted visits from the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Director of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and dignitaries from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Social Security Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and IHS.
- ❖ Our Provider Relations team continues to yield phenomenal results! USC 25 1621e provides legislation to allow Indian Healthcare Providers to be reimbursed at the highest fee schedule by commercial insurance companies regardless of contracting status. This means they must reimburse at the highest rate available. Many Tribes and IHS have gotten individual claims processed at the higher amount, but ASTHS is the **first and only tribe** to receive a full contract issued in compliance with this statute in Indian Country! We began with BCBS because they were the largest and after 8 months of working with numerous representatives and legal teams, we were able to negotiate and secure the highest fee schedule as allowed by law. We are continuing negotiations with all other payors and expect them to follow suit.
- ❖ ASTHS is the **first and only Tribe** in the Nation to negotiate pass-through billing for lab! Previously, clinics have not been allowed to bill for services not rendered in-house (sent out) – only a \$5 collection fee was allowed. Through negotiations with BCBS and United Healthcare, ASTHS is now allowed to recoup the difference of the insurance payment and the outside lab charges. This will have a significant impact to receivables.
- ❖ McKenna Watson-Dye, RN and Lawana Martin, LPN have both been granted Fellow status in the inaugural 2023 Indian Health Geriatric Nurse Fellowship Program pilot. The aim of the Indian Health Geriatric Nurse Fellowship pilot is to empower the I/T/U nursing workforce with the knowledge and skills to serve as local leaders and champions of holistic, evidence-based, integrated care for aging tribal populations.
- ❖ The 2024 Summer Internship program was a huge success! We had an amazing group that hit the ground running! 2024 Interns: Kaiya Almanza, Kaycee Babek, Anna Branham, Allyson Campbell,

## General Council Report 5 October 2024

Nuka Nivy Chibitty, Teegan Franklin, Rylan Fox, Kyleigh Hause, Elizabeth Maxwell, and Brookelyn Pappan. The program is open to all Native Americans (AST preferred) and was held June 3 – July 26, 2024.

- ❖ We were awarded a \$70K Grant to evaluate the potential/ feasibility of an Adult Day Care that can help our Elders maintain or gain independence! If pursued, the location will be housed in conjunction with the Title VI Program in the Resource Center.
- ❖ The inaugural “Tribal Connection: Let’s Share our Culture through the Eyes of our Elders” was held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a joint program through ASTHS and AST Cultural Preservation for our Tribal Elders to be able share stories, history, and to converse with one another. They are currently scheduled bi-weekly and will alternate between LAHC Conference Room and the Shawnee MPB.
- ❖ The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System (ASTHS) continues accreditation with the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAHC). Our next survey is April 2025. 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 AAHC.
- ❖ To enhance the patient experience, we have partnered with PatientPoint® (a digital health education/ information service). 32”x18” touch-pad screens have been placed in the exam rooms allowing our patients and providers to interact with 3D anatomical models that support education and compliance.
- ❖ 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 Compliance Officer continues to ensure all patient issues and regulatory requirements are met with a high degree of assurance.

**General Council Report  
5 October 2024**

**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 2024 Budget for AST Healthcare Delivery System**

ASTHA 2024 DIRECT FUNDS:	\$ 64,341,123
ASTHA 2024 IDC FUNDS:	\$ 9,511,176
TOTAL 2024 HEALTH BUDGET:	\$ 73,852,299

3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FUNDS INTO BUDGET: \$ 36,423,920

**COMPLETCARE HOME HEALTH**

CCHH DIRECT FUNDS:	\$ 855,555
CCHH INDIRECT FUNDS:	\$ 65,907
TOTAL CCHH BUDGET:	\$ 921,462

**\*Total Third Party Revenue Collection (Shawnee and Little Axe combined) 2024 YTD:**

<b>January 1 to July 31, 2024:</b>	<b>\$30,199,985</b>
<b>January 1 to December 31, 2023:</b>	<b>\$56,192,495</b>
<b>January 1 to December 31, 2022:</b>	<b>\$46,110,885</b>

**Demographics of Health Employees/Staff (July 31,2024):**

- Total Health System Employees: 383
- Total AST Employees: 78
- Total Other Native American Employees: 99
- Total Employees Non-Native: 206 (Asian, African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Other)

**Conclusion:**

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

**General Council Report  
5 October 2024**

**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

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

**Shawnee Clinic  
CLINIC OPERATION HOURS**

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

**Shawnee Same Day/Extended Hours Clinic** - To better serve the needs of our patients and improve the access to care, the Shawnee Clinic offers same-day appointments. The Same Day/Extended Hours 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 6:00 PM

Saturday CLOSED

Sundays & Holidays CLOSED on Sundays and all Holidays

\*Closed the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

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

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

**General Council Report  
5 October 2024**

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

**TITLE VI ELDERLY NUTRITION  
GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2024**

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 two 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](mailto:dowings@astribe.com)

On average, Title VI currently delivers meals to 170 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 – August 2024

*Continued on next page*

**General Council Report  
5 October 2024**

2024 TOTAL MEALS								
	HOMBOUND	SHAWNEE HB	SHAWNEE DINE IN	SHAWNEE GUEST	LA HB	LA DINE IN	LA GUEST	TOTAL
JANUARY	3456	746	101	24	128		0	4455
FEBRUARY	3439	860	111	19	142		0	4571
MARCH	3397	816	94	16	133		1	4457
APRIL	3229	816	118	21	156		0	4340
MAY	3597	859	114	28	134	35	38	4805
JUNE	3116	727	91	34	166	43	29	4206
JULY	3546	927	86	33	193	81	42	4908
AUGUST	3528	600	329	26	214	131	42	4870
SEPTEMBER								0
OCTOBER								0
NOVEMBER								0
DECEMBER								0
<b>TOTAL</b>	27308	6351	1044	201	1266	290	152	36612
				1765				





# HOUSING AUTHORITY



## Executive Director Summary

### 2024 Program Activity

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

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

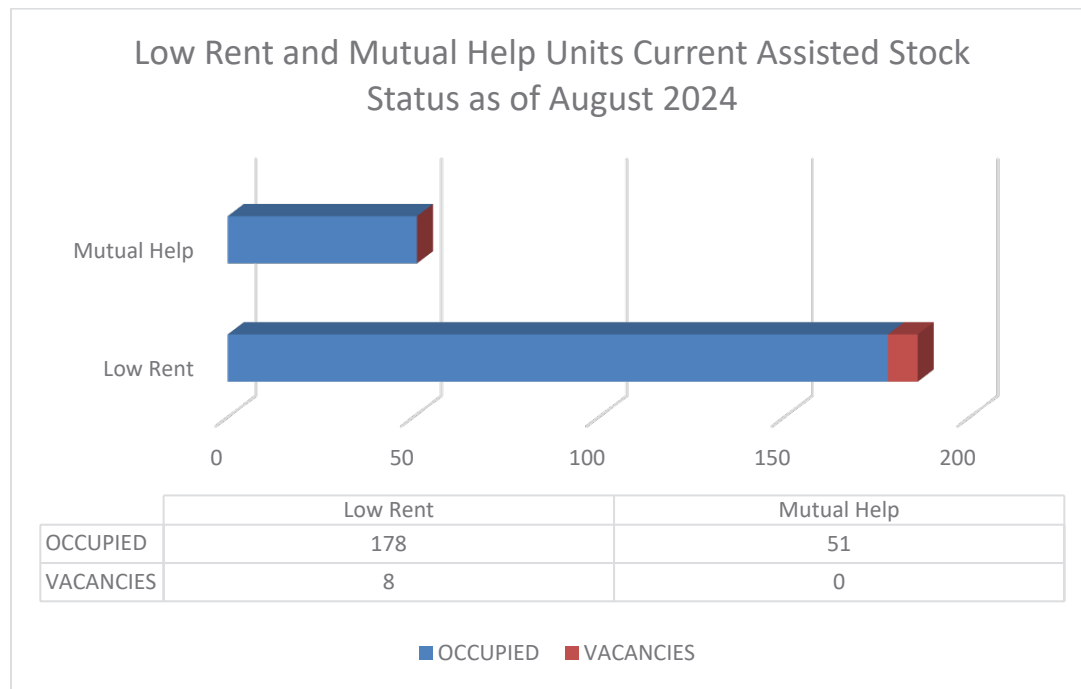


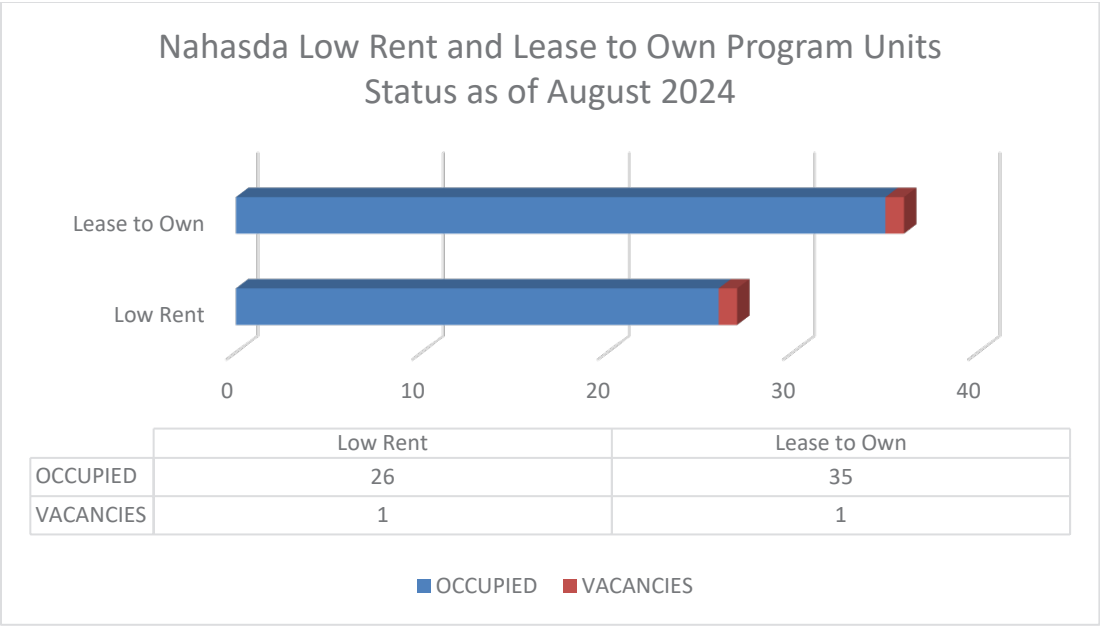
### Low Rent Housing

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

### Mutual Help/NAHASDA Lease to Own Housing

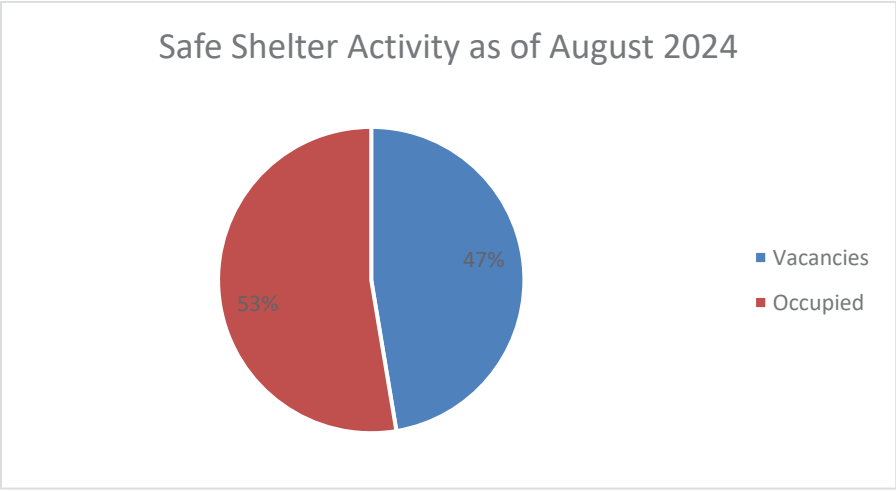
The waiting list for this program has approximately 15 to 20 families at a time waiting for an opportunity for homeownership. This program requires mandatory counseling and has an average waiting period of one (1) year or longer.





**Safe Shelter Program**

The Safe Shelter Program provides a family with short term temporary housing caused by reasons beyond their control. Through the Safe Shelter Program, ASHA aims to prevent homelessness among Indian families while guiding them to permanent housing. In 2024, ASHA served fourteen (14) families with housing in the Shawnee area.



**Resident Services**

The Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has designed many occupancy courses for participants to attend prior to signing a lease agreement with ASHA. Workshops with various topics are also available specific to the type of assistance provided, such as homeownership counseling for down payment assistance and basic home repair knowledge with home rehab assistance. In addition, the Housing Authority has partnered

with other organizations to host events and outreach activities in the community, sharing resources, and giving residents the ability to build relationships among one another.



**Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS)**

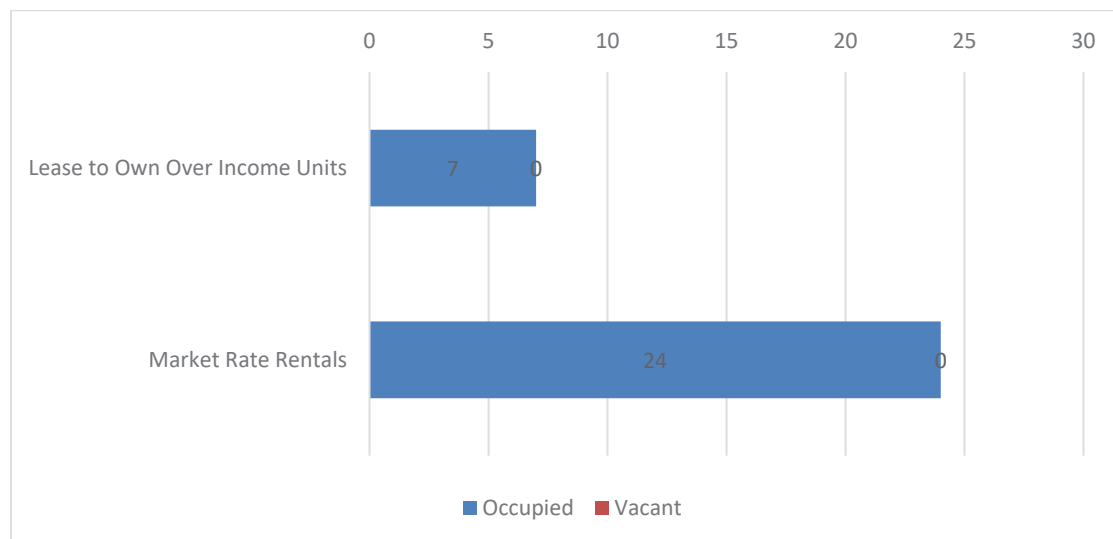
The ASHA has the ROSS program, which offers general case management, partnerships, and other coordination to deliver services for residents for ASHA finding effective ways to improve housing situations. The current ROSS Coordinator remains actively involved with fifty (50) participants in ASHA’s housing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

**College Housing Rental Assistance**

This college housing assistance program serves full time college students with rental assistance 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. In 2024, the program was able to serve five (5) students.

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

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 ASHSA lease to own home is offered as they become available, and the house payment is determined by the appraised value of the home. Recently, a new program offered for over-income families is ASHA’s Tiny Home Lease to Own Program, this 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 AST Members**

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

**Home Rehab Assistance for Enrolled AST Members**

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

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

In closing, I would like to applaud the ASHA staff, board members and tribal leaders who work diligently to 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  
Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority

**Board Members:**

Michael Affentranger, Chairman  
 Redena Miller, Vice-Chaiperson  
 Cynthia Carpenter, Commissioner  
 Kay Wallace, Commissioner  
 Elaine Brown, Commissioner



**Housing Staff:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<b>Sherry Drywater</b>	Executive Director
<b>Tara Ann Winter</b>	Executive Administrative Assistant
<b>Kaylon Wood</b>	Administrative Assistant I
<b>Linda Gouge</b>	Community/Resident Service Administrator
<b>Tara Wallace</b>	Community Relations Coordinator
<b>Melissa Reynoso</b>	Family Service Specialist I
<b>Roseanne George</b>	Family Service Specialist II
<b>Susan Florez</b>	Planning Administrator
<b>Shelly Porter</b>	Finance/HR Supervisor
<b>Sabrina McSwain</b>	Accounts Receivable Clerk
<b>Angela Whited</b>	Receptionist
<b>Crystal Ragsdale</b>	Procurement & Contracting Supervisor
<b>LaHoma Roberts</b>	Program Management Administrator
<b>Tammy Winter</b>	Lease Management Supervisor
<b>Kimberly Vermillion</b>	Resident Education Specialist
<b>Bessie Gonzales</b>	Recertification Specialist
<b>Ashley Smith</b>	Admission & Occupancy Specialist
<b>Karen Fullbright</b>	Admission & Occupancy Specialist
<b>Jacie Satawake</b>	Office Assistant/File Clerk
<b>Robert Sheppard</b>	Project Management Supervisor
<b>Thomas Rompf</b>	Inspector
<b>Jarrold Gentry</b>	Maintenance Supervisor
<b>Jamie Barse</b>	Maintenance Administrative Assistant
<b>Stan Curtis</b>	Lead Maintenance Technician
<b>Nathan Curtis</b>	Maintenance Technician
<b>Christopher Bryant</b>	Maintenance Technician
<b>Shane Mundell</b>	Maintenance Technician
<b>Terry Wilson</b>	Maintenance Technician
<b>Rocky Larney Jr</b>	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

### Tax Commissioners

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

### Tribal Taxes

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

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

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe  
Tax Commission  
October 5, 2024 General Council**

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**Motor Vehicle Information**

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

**Types of motor vehicle tags available:**

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

**New Registrations:**

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

**Renewals:**

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

**Unroadworthy Affidavit**

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

**Absentee Shawnee Tribe  
Tax Commission  
October 5, 2024 General Council**

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



**Absentee Shawnee Tribe  
Tax Commission  
October 5, 2024 General Council**

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**Business Licenses**

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

**Vendor/Peddler Guidelines**

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

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

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



# ALLNATIONS BANK



	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	7/31/2024
Total Loans	\$27,676,800	\$33,501,848	\$36,039,512
Total Investments	\$21,753,303	\$15,606,336	\$22,833,143
Total Assets	\$51,483,945	\$54,329,667	\$69,951,464
Total Deposits	\$47,112,101	\$48,918,925	\$60,125,983
Total Borrowings	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$277,000	\$513,524	\$295,387
Loan to Deposit Ratio (TL/TD)	58.75%	68.48%	59.94%
Capital Ratio	9.50%	9.96%	8.66%
Return on Equity Ratio (NI/TC)	5.65%	10.51%	9.35%
Return on Assets Ratio (NI/TA)	0.54%	0.98%	0.77%
	<b>By Branch</b>	<b>Shawnee</b>	<b>Calumet</b>
	Total Deposits:	\$2.3 Million	\$57.7 Million
	Total Loans:	\$5.7 Million	\$30.3 Million

### Highlights:

1. Net Income continues to be strong. In the 7 mos. this year, we surpassed the entire year total from 2022.
2. Loan Growth - The bank has grown \$2.5 MM in loan assets which is 8% growth in loans in the last 7 mos.
3. Investments grew 46% in the last 7 mos.
4. Deposits grew \$11.2 Million in the last 7 mos. which is almost 23%.
5. Assets grew \$15.6 Million in the 7 mos. which is almost 29%.
6. **The bank just completed a state banking exam and received a good report.**

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



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



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



# MEDIA



The Media Department recently added the podcast to the website to make it easier to find and listen. Search under the ANNOUNCEMENTS tab for AMONG THE SHAWNEE PODCAST. Currently the website is the most popular way to listen to the podcast. If you would like to listen on the website, scan the QR code.



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

Currently the episodes are audio only but the hope is to have video podcasts in the future. Make sure you listen to keep up with programs and events happening within the tribe.

Media traveled to Ohio in June with members of the Executive Committee, AST Elders Council and AST Veterans Association for the Great Council State Park Opening. The July AST Newsletter and Facebook featured the events.

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

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

Media Staff

Mindy Longhorn – Media Director, [mindyl@astribe.com](mailto:mindyl@astribe.com)

Derek Hilderbrand – Print Production Manager, [dhilderbrand@astribe.com](mailto:dhilderbrand@astribe.com).



# ELECTION COMMISSION



## 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

Diana Wilson, Commissioner  
Shirley Adkins, “Acting” Deputy Commissioner  
Charlotte Ellis, “Acting” Secretary  
Brandi Routledge-Hunt, Commission Member #1  
Zackery Smith, “Acting” Commission Member #2

## Alternates

Billie James  
Lorrie Thorpe

## Summary

The 2023 Audit is provided for your review and we are happy to report there were no findings.

Just a reminder: the Absentee Ballot process opens almost two full months prior to the March Primary and the June Annual (Run Off) Elections. Example: the Absentee Ballot request form is printed in the January and February newsletters and available on the tribal website for the March Primary. For June, the form is printed in April and May newsletters and also available on the tribal website. Request deadline is 20 days before elections.

The Election Commission should be your first contact for any Election-related questions.

## 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**  
**2023 AUDIT**

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1.1.23 Beginning Balance \$ 247.23

<u>Month</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Checks</u>
January	\$ 4,519.00	\$ 881.76
February	\$ -	\$ -
March	\$ -	\$ 3,265.99
April	\$ -	\$ 96.72
May	\$ 10.07	\$ 9.18
June	\$ 509.18	\$ 909.64
July	\$ -	\$ -
August	\$ -	\$ -
September	\$ -	\$ -
October	\$ -	\$ -
November	\$ -	\$ -
December	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<u>\$ 5,038.25</u>	<u>\$ 5,163.29</u>

12.31.23 Ending Balance \$ 122.19

**COMMENTS/FINDINGS:**

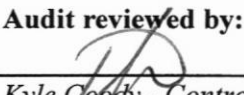
Expenses:

Revenue:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Audit performed by:   
 Courtney Green - Budget Officer

5/13/24  
 Date

Audit reviewed by:   
 Kyle Coody - Controller

5/13/24  
 Date



# COURT



Hello, the Court is doing well and maintaining steady numbers of those we are able to serve. Currently we are having in-person court, and virtual hearings as needed in the Multipurpose Building. This is due to a flood that occurred last December 2023 in the Court side of Building 3. The Court is in the process of getting a new Court Building from a grant that the Court had received for renovation or a new Court Building. Our Court Office is located in the Governor's Building, Building 2. Thank you all for the continued support of AST Court.

Court does have forms available online at [www.astribe.com/court](http://www.astribe.com/court). All filings can be emailed to [court@astribe.com](mailto:court@astribe.com).

**Courts numbers for 2022 were the following;**

Criminal Cases – 6  
Civil Cases – 5  
Divorce Cases (including custody) – 44  
Adoption Cases – 1  
Guardianship Cases – 24  
Protective Order Cases – 18  
Juvenile Cases – 2  
Supreme Court Cases – 0

**Courts numbers for 2023 were the following;**

Criminal Cases – 6  
Civil Cases – 9  
Divorce Cases (including custody) – 35  
Adoption Cases – 0  
Guardianship Cases – 13  
Protective Order Cases – 18  
Juvenile Cases – 2  
Supreme Court Cases-0

**So far Courts numbers for 2024 are the following;**

Criminal Cases – 6  
Civil Cases – 0  
Divorce Cases (including custody) – 40  
Adoption Cases – 1  
Guardianship Cases – 9  
Protective Order Cases – 11  
Juvenile Cases – 1  
Supreme Court Cases – 0

Thank you for your continued support,

*Chelsea Cope*

Chelsea Cope, Court Administrator and Clerk

