

Tribal Interior Budget Council FY25 Budget Submission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC), provides a forum and process for Tribal Nations and Federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for Indian programs in the Department of the Interior (DOI) in the spirit of the President's Government-to-Government consultation and collaboration policy.

Background

The full report (pg. 10-13), describes a step-by-step process of TIBC's budget formulation process, and demonstrates the methodology used to calculate estimates within the TIBC budget recommendations for FY25 BIA/BIE Budget. In addition to the overall funding request, the report includes recommended DOI actions to address critical issues within the Department as it relates to Indian Country. FY25 marks the fifth submission under the amended budget formulation methodology, and is annually being improved upon by Tribal representatives and Federal partners.

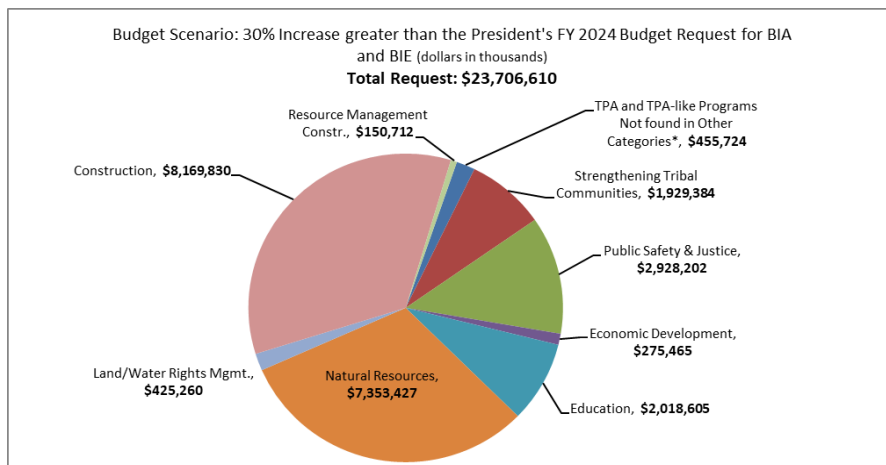
Of all the budget formulations metrics utilized in the TIBC budget proposal, the most concrete and critical data provided is "cost estimates" either found in reports published by DOI or through collaborative development with Indian Affairs (IA)-OBPM and relevant federal agencies. Commonly referred to as baseline numbers, provide TIBC with budget estimates used to establish what the minimum funding needs are to provide Tribal Nations with the most basic level of obligation/service that every US citizen is expected to receive.

Cost estimates in the full report, where provided, are a baseline amount; and do not truly reflect the full funding needs of every IA program. If full cost estimates, as identified by Tribal Nations and Federal partners were available, the overall budget request would be significantly greater in size. Notable cost estimates within the report include:

- Small Tribe Supplement (\$29.5M) - amount needed to bring all tribes to \$300k minimum payments using 2022 Base funding levels.
- Law Enforcement (\$1.3384B) - Tribal Law and Order (TLOA) Report.
- Replacement School Construction (\$6.2B) - based on replacing schools rated in poor condition that have not yet been funded at the average cost to build each school.
- Road Maintenance (\$400M) - based on deferred maintenance estimate

Results In Brief

TIBC FY25 Tribal Budget Submission includes a total funding request of **\$23.7 billion** dollars, this is a amount reflects a 30% Increase scenario of FY24 Presidents Budget, plus the Existing Cost Estimates provided by DOI and other Federal partners. In addition to the overall budget request TIBC Representatives have given nine programs a deliberative increase, and five suggested actions within the DOI-IA's budget request to Congress.



Deliberative Program Increases (pg. 13-18):

- **Tiwahe Initiative-** (\$10M) Expand upon a Tribally supported program to include 10 new Tiwahe pilot tribes.
- **Law Enforcement Facilities Operations & Maintenance-** (\$6M) Increases for Law Enforcement Facilities other than Detention.
- **Alaska Native Subsistence Program-** (\$5M) Support and expand projects in the Federal Subsistence Management Program in implementing Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act.
- **Water Filtration Systems-** (\$1M) Installation of water filtration systems onto existing structures.
- **Land Acquisition-** (\$5M) Continue land acquisition efforts by acquiring land for landless and land limited Tribes.
- **Fire Protection-** (\$6.33M) Increase, enhance, and improve over 40 Tribal fire protection programs.
- **Tribal Data Management Capacity-** (\$3M) Support activities to strengthen and enhance Tribally owned data management and collection capacities. *(Proposed Program)*
- **Administrative Operations-** (\$10M) Address FTE vacancies, increase department bandwidth capacity, and improve the delivery of services through all three levels of Indian Affairs Programs. specific attention to Awarding Officials and Reality Officers. *(Proposed Program)*
- **Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) -** (\$5M) Tribal Historic Preservation Offices which has been proposed to be relocated along with NPS funding levels under the BIA-OTS. *(proposed program)*

TIBC Suggestions for Department of Interior (pg. 3-8):

- **Land Water and Conservation Fund (LWCF) -** Request of a 10% Tribal set aside to address growing needs of Tribal Nations within the LWCF.
- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) -** The President’s FY 2024 Budget Request should include policy solutions and request funding to eliminate this discriminatory practice that excludes Tribal Governments in the PILT Program.
- **Mandatory Funding Status -** Moving federal spending for IA obligations to mandatory spending will fix the unintended effects that mandatory obligations through discretionary spending, such as lapse in funding via continuing resolutions.
- **School Safety Resource Officers (SROs) -** Funding directly to the BIE ISEP program allows transfer to OJS and include the funding for both “24/7” and “day” schools, for a more efficient and effective implementation of SRO’s. TIBC specifically called upon DOI to dedicate these funds to BIE.
- **Tribal Education Departments (TEDs) -** Dedicate funding outside of BIE funded programs and establish a TED programs within Indian Affairs.