



Kiowa Tribe

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August 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiowa Tribe Responds to Legislature's Propaganda

CARNEGIE, Okla. -The Kiowa Tribe will be going to the polls later this month to vote on the Legislature's budget. Within their proposed budget are many flaws and misleading information being floated around.

Here is some clarification:

- In response to a news release from Speaker Angela McCarthy dated August 7, 2020, McCarthy suggested: "false claims" coming from the Executive Branch. There have been **no "false claims"** coming from the Executive Branch.
- According to the constitution, the legislature does not have the authority to spend the CARES Act federal assistance.
- The budget the Chairman submitted to the Speaker occurred January 30, 2020. At that time, the pandemic crisis did not happen until March.
- Application for the CARES Act federal assistance took place mid-April.
- CARES Act funding was received May 6.
- The Chairman's budget election did not pass on July 18.
- It failed because the legislators campaigned to vote it down and implied CARES Act funding wasn't included in the proposed budget submitted on January 30.
- CARES Act funding wasn't applied until mid-April and amounts were unknown until May 6 and June 15.
- Legislator's amounts are incorrect with their proposal and will leave millions unbudgeted and unable to be spent by December 30, 2020, deadline.
- Legislators are supposed to list CARES Act assistance correctly and propose to place it in finance. They only have the authority to appropriate funds for expenditure per the constitution. Only the Chairman can sign for the funds to be expended.
- The KIC knew of the federal assistance available through the COVID-19 Response Center. Up until the injunction 12-hundred had applied for assistance and received it. At least 3-hundred checks are waiting to be delivered and 15-hundred were waiting to be processed. Which proves KIC knew of the assistance available.

- The speaker mentioned a lengthy four-page application. The application is two-pages, and the COVID-19 team worked with each individual and walked them through the process.
- Recent budget modification on March 28, 2020, was approved with an additional \$6M to the 2019-2020 budget. It includes \$1M for the establishment of the Enterprise development program which cannot be budgeted for COVID-19 expenses without the approval of the KIC per the constitution.
- \$350K contingency was utilized March and April to assist with all COVID-19 expenditures until the CARES Act money was received in May.

Throughout the pandemic, the Kiowa Tribe remained open with essential services along with the Executive Branch. Services were available and undisturbed during the pandemic and remain open today. Social Services, AOA, tax commission, food distribution, CHR, transportation, maintenance, administration continue to provide services even though the tribe is closed to the public.

It has always been the legislator's wish to give every tribal member \$1K with the COVID-19 assistance. The CARES Act does not allow for a per capita payment. The legislators say it is not a per capita payment. According to Webster's Dictionary and the CARES Act guidelines definition of a per capita is "equally to each individual". Giving each person \$1K is just that and not allowable.

A cloud of mistrust should exist on the legislature's budget. We urge you to vote no on August 22, 2020.

Be on the lookout on the Kiowa Tribal website for supporting documents of events that have occurred when the State of Emergency was issued on March 19, 2020. www.kiowatribe.org.