



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

## **(Reestablishing a Tribal Land Office and Approving an Operating Budget)**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(s) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power “...to regulate subordinate organizations for economic and other purposes”; and
- WHEREAS,** Regulating, administering and planning for uses of the Tribe’s lands is one of the most vital functions of the Tribe’s government, and is necessary to provide homes, promote farming, and other beneficial uses to ensure that the Tribe’s land is used efficiently and properly; and
- WHEREAS,** Several years ago, during a period of financial instability, the Tribe de-established the Land Office’s budget and personnel, and placed the Land Office under the Office of the Attorney General; and
- WHEREAS,** Since that time, the Tribe’s Land Office has operated with only sporadic personnel, and has effectively been sustained only through the efforts of the Tribe’s Realty Office, which is a 638-contracted program, and for which staff time cannot be spent on tasks beyond the scope of work provided in the contract; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe lacks a master map of all assignments and leases, and currently every inquiry for existing assignments comes from searching through voluminous hard copy files and from the recollection of Land Board members; and
- WHEREAS,** To effectively manage its lands, the Tribe must digitize all historic land assignment files and track all existing and future assignments using Geographic Information System (GIS) software; and
- WHEREAS,** Moving to a GIS system will allow the Tribe to expedite the application process for home, business, farm site, and other beneficial use assignments, and enable better management and administration of existing land uses; and
- WHEREAS,** Such a GIS system would also benefit the Planning Department, whose mission is consistent with those mandates and goals provided in the Tribe’s Land Code; and
- WHEREAS,** To acquire, implement, and maintain a digital-based system for the Tribe’s Land Office will require the restoration of a Land Office, with sufficient staff, and the reestablishment of an annual operating budget for the Land Office in the amount of \$158,484.00 (draft budget estimate attached and incorporated herein); and

Tribal Land Office  
**PROPOSED BUDGET**

FISCAL BUDGET:

7100 Salary – Land Office Director \$16-20 p/hr 80 hrs. bi-weekly	33,280.00	41,600.00
7100 Salary – Land Office Clerk/GIS Clerk \$12 - \$16 p/hour 80 hrs. bi-weekly	24,960.00	33,280.00
7100 Salary – Land Office Secretary \$12 p/hr	24,960.00	24,960.00
<b>Total Salaries:</b>	<b>83,200.00</b>	<b>99,840.00</b>
7250 Taxes & Benefits-Clerk/Assistant (35%)	29,120.00	34,839.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$116,896.00</b>	<b>\$134,679.00</b>
<u>Operating Expense</u>		
7410 Office Supplies		
2 Desktop Computers	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1 scanner/copier annual lease	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
ink and paper	\$300.00	\$300.00
GIS System (2 licenses)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
GIS Training	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
7430 Operating Costs	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Board Stipend		
<b>Total Operating Costs:</b>	<b>\$17,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,700.00</b>
<b>BUDGET TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$134,596.00</b>	<b>\$ 152,379.00</b>

**Resolution No. 06-2023-156**

**WHEREAS,** The Council finds that adequate, sustained funding of the Land Office is essential, and that reestablishing the Tribal Land Office with an annual operating budget is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby re-establishes the Tribal Land Office as a department and the Tribal Treasurer is hereby instructed to reestablish an operating budget for the Tribe's Land Office, in the amount of \$158,484.00, of which \$6,000.00 is to be budgeted for Land Board member meeting pay, and to annually sustain said budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Tribal Engineer and Tribal Surveyor are hereby instructed to assist the Tribe's Land Office with completing surveys.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **JUNE 13, 2023** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez      6.26.2023      Vaneyssa Johnson      6/26/2023  
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman      Date      Vaneyssa Johnson, Tribal Secretary      Date