



**LEGALS**

CONTINUED FROM PG 7

please EMAIL the RFQ in PDF format or provide a DROPBOX LINK, including all evaluation criteria items in order, to jbatteese@minamition.com and CC: doldes@minamition.com

SIX (6) hard copies of the RFQ response/proposal are also required and can be mailed or delivered to Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, 3531 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354. The telephone number is (918) 541-1300, ATTN: JIM BATTESE. Hardcopies must be in hand by the RFQ deadline.

Selection of an AE team will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. AE qualifications and

experience in bridge design using Federal Highway Administration guidelines. 0-25 points

2. Proposed design completion schedule with identified critical path items and 30%, 80%, 88% & 100% design completion milestones. 0-25 points

3. AE qualifications and experience with bridge and civil design and construction extending across state lines. 0-30 points

4. Verifiable Indian Preference of both AE and General Contractor (proof of tribal enrollment and/or majority company ownership if claiming Indian owned business). 0-10 points

5. Proof of existing business insurance and ability to 100% bond payment and performance. 0-5 points

6. Design-Build contractor proof of SAM.gov 'No Exclusions' showing contractor is not debarred from receiving a federal contract. 0-5 points

A 100% payment and 100% performance bond will be required at the time of contracting at 30% design. A Certificate of Insurance for the full contract price, naming the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma as a certificate holder or additional insured, will also be required at contracting. The AE team must be registered on www. SAM.gov and with no exclusions

prior to contracting.

This is a Request for Qualifications only. There will be no official pre-RFQ on-site visit/presentation. No additional questions will be taken at this time.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma reserves the right to select an AE team from the responses and with or without conducting interviews. The AE will be notified with an email. Negotiate the product design documents up to 20% guaranteed maximum price estimate prior to a fully negotiated contract. Assumptions and clarifications are to be included in the 30% contract package.

If pricing and scope cannot be negotiated, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma can release the AE and move to another contractor. The AE assumes risk prior to a fully executed contract. The contractor will fully complete the project until the appropriate inspections and approvals are completed and handed over to the Owner.

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Contract award is dependent on Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation release of grant funds.

(Published in the Miami News Record November 21 and 25, 2025)  
LPXLP



## Thanksgiving is leading day of the year for U.S. home cooking fires



An estimated 1,446 home cooking fires were reported to U.S. fire departments on Thanksgiving Day in 2023, reflecting a 388 percent increase over the daily average, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked as the second- and third-leading days of the year for home cooking fires.

"Thanksgiving is a hectic holiday with multiple dishes cooking and baking at the same time, and along with guests, entertaining, and other distractions, it can be easy to lose sight of what's on the stove or in the oven," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "With all these factors at play, it's no surprise that we consistently see a dramatic spike in home cooking fires on Thanksgiving."

The annual average between 2019 and 2023, cooking accounted for the majority of U.S. home fires on Thanksgiving Day (80 percent) and 40 percent of the civilian injuries; no civilian deaths were reported. Overall, cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths. Untenanted cooking is the leading contributing factor in home cooking fires and fire deaths.

"Keeping a close eye on what's cooking and minimizing the likelihood of getting distracted can greatly reduce the risk of cooking fires," said Carli. "As simple as these preventative measures may sound, they truly can help ensure that everyone enjoys a festive, fire-free holiday."

Following are additional tips and recommendations from NFPA to help everyone cook safely on

**Thanksgiving:**

- Never leave the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. Some types of cooking, especially those that involve frying or sautéing with oil, need continuous attention.

• When cooking a turkey, remain at home and check it regularly.

• Make use of timers to keep track of cooking times, particularly for foods that require longer cook times.

• Keep things that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food wrappers, and towels at least three feet away from the cooking area.

• Avoid long sleeves and hanging fabrics that can come in contact with a heat source.

• Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If a small grease fire starts, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan, then turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again.

• For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. Only open the door once you're confident the fire is completely out, standing to the side as you do. If you have any doubts or concerns, contact the fire department for assistance.

• Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Hot foods and liquids should be placed away from table and counter edges.

In addition, NFPA strongly discourages the use of turkey fryers that use cooking oil, which can cause devastating burns. For a safe alternative, NFPA recommends purchasing a fried turkey from a grocery store or restaurant or buying a fryer that does not use oil.

## GRADY COUNTY DEPUTY NAMED 2025 OKLAHOMA OFFICER OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, Nov. 13, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond awarded Grady County Sheriff's Office Deputy Kenton Blumenthal as the 2025 Oklahoma Officer of the Year. Blumenthal was recognized at a ceremony in Oklahoma City along with the state's Regional Officers of the Year and all nominees.

Drummond said Blumenthal's actions in December 2024 to protect citizens during a dangerous, multi-county pursuit exemplify his courage, quick decision-making, and commitment to public safety.

"Deputy Blumenthal is highly deserving of this honor," Drummond said. "He is an exceptional law enforcement officer whose bravery ended a tremendously perilous situation that threatened communities across multiple counties. I congratulate Deputy Blumenthal and thank him for his service."

A third-generation law enforcement officer who has served Oklahoma communities since 2017, Blumenthal demonstrated exceptional courage during a multi-agency, high-speed pursuit late last year.

The armed suspect, who had a history of violence, had stolen a vehicle and endangered citizens across multiple counties and cities for nearly an hour. The suspect rammed through roadblocks, struck a police vehicle, and drove past Blumenthal's own residence at over 100 mph while the deputy's child played in the front yard.

When the pursuit ended at the suspect's residence,

Blumenthal and another deputy pursued him on foot through challenging terrain. The suspect concealed himself in tall grass in an apparent ambush attempt, then suddenly stood and drew two pistols, pointing them toward the deputies.

Blumenthal made the split-second decision to use deadly force, neutralizing the threat and ending the dangerous situation.

Blumenthal was chosen from regional winners. He represented the Southwest Region. Other regional winners recognized for extraordinary public service were:

- Investigator Darren Gordon of the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office – Northwest Region

- Officer Nicholas Winters of the Coweta Police Department – Northeast Region

- Deputy Chief Gary Colley of the Stringtown Police Department, Sheriff Kody Simpson of the Atoka County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Jimmy Taylor of the Atoka Police Department, and Detective Aaron Thomas of the Stringtown Police Department – Southeast Region

Regional winners were selected by judging panels of city, county, tribal, and state criminal justice professionals.

Det. Zachary Havenar of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism was named the Lethality Assessment Protocol Officer of the Year, recognizing his commitment to domestic violence victim safety and trauma-informed use of the LAP screening tool.

The ceremony also featured the presentation of the inaugural Johnny Christian Award, honoring the legacy of Bryan County Sheriff Johnny Christian, who served Oklahoma law enforcement for more than 25 years.

Marton "Bo" Williams of the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service received the award, which recognizes an officer who embodies Sheriff Christian's integrity, leadership, and dedication to mentoring others.

Drummond said he created the Officer of the Year program to recognize and celebrate the best and brightest of Oklahoma's remarkable federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.



Grady County Sheriff's Office Deputy Kenton Blumenthal is named the 2025 Oklahoma Officer of the Year.

# Oklahoma Coverage

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