

Sample short film budget

Category	Subcategory	LineItem	Cost (Cash)	In-kind	Notes
Above the Line	Writer	Script rights & rewrites	\$0.00	\$500.00	Writer waiving fee as in-kind
Above the Line	Producer	Producer fee (prep + wrap)	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	Small crew so producer is hands-on
Above the Line	Director	Director fee	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	Non-union director, 5-day shoot + prep
Above the Line	Cast	Lead cast (3 leads @ \$800)	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	Flat for 5-day engagement
Above the Line	Cast	Supporting cast & day players	\$600.00	\$0.00	Day players + background
Production	Camera	Camera package rental	\$1,800.00	\$800.00	Partly in-kind discount from NM rental house
Production	G&E	Lighting & grip package	\$1,800.00	\$200.00	Small G&E package + partial in-kind gear
Production	Sound	Production sound mixer + kit	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	Mixer + boom + 2 lavs
Production	Art Dept	Production design + props + set dressing	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	Some props donated or sourced free
Production	HMU/Wardrobe	Hair/Makeup/Wardrobe	\$700.00	\$0.00	Experienced but compact team
Production	Locations	Location fees & permits	\$200.00	\$300.00	Mostly donated locations
Crew	Staff	1st AD	\$900.00	\$0.00	Experienced AD for 5 days
Crew	Staff	Line producer / PM (on set)	\$800.00	\$0.00	Oversees scheduling + logistics
Crew	Staff	Gaffer	\$850.00	\$0.00	Experienced crew, 5 days
Crew	Staff	Key Grip	\$750.00	\$0.00	Grip + some truck driving
Crew	Staff	Camera AC / Media manager	\$750.00	\$0.00	Focus puller + DIT
Crew	Staff	Script supervisor	\$600.00	\$0.00	Continuity + notes
Crew	Staff	PA's (2 PA's)	\$600.00	\$0.00	Production support
Travel/Meals	Travel	Local mileage & gas	\$400.00	\$0.00	POV reimbursements
Travel/Meals	Lodging	Crew lodging	\$400.00	\$0.00	If outside ABQ/SF
Travel/Meals	Meals	Crafty & snacks	\$600.00	\$0.00	Bulk shop + ice + beverages
Travel/Meals	Meals	Catering / hot meals	\$900.00	\$0.00	1 hot meal/day
Post	Editorial	Picture editor	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	Assembly + revisions
Post	Editorial	Assistant editor / ingest	\$300.00	\$0.00	Project setup + sync
Post	Sound	Sound design & mix	\$900.00	\$0.00	Stereo mix + light ADR
Post	Picture	Color grading	\$500.00	\$0.00	Festival-level polish
Post	Deliverables	Masters / DCP / backups	\$250.00	\$0.00	DCP + archival drive
Other	Insurance	Short-term production insurance	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	GL + equipment coverage
Other	Legal/Accounting	Legal review + payroll	\$600.00	\$0.00	Deal memos + accounting
Other	Marketing/Festivals	Poster, trailer, festival submissions	\$900.00	\$0.00	Modest festival run
Other	In-Kind Contributions	General volunteer labor & donated goods	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	Misc donated items, space, services
Other	Contingency	7% contingency	\$1,940.00	\$0.00	Calculated on cash-operating subtotal
TOTAL			\$30,000.00	\$5,300.00	\$30K cash spend, \$35.3K effective value