

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. TO THE USDA FOR A RURAL UTILITY SERVICE RECONNECT 4 PROGRAM GRANT

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE a Resolution supporting Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. in its application to the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) for a Rural Utility Service ReConnect 4 Program Grant.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, “The Tribal Council shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation.”;

WHEREAS, The USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas;

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. provides telecommunications services to rural communities in Eastern Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. wishes to apply to the USDA for a Rural Utility Service ReConnect 4 Program Grant for the purpose of expanding broadband throughout the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the “Nation”) generally, and more specifically in the Pushmataha County area of Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. commits to provide service over or on the tribal lands identified in the Proposed Funded Service Area (“PFSA”) contained in their grant application for the betterment of the Nation’s reservation and tribal members;

WHEREAS, the Nation wishes to support Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc.’s application to expand broadband throughout the Choctaw Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to support Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc.’s application to the USDA for a Rural Utility Service ReConnect 4 Program Grant in order to expand broadband services on the Choctaw Nation reservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the application of Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Rural Utility Service ReConnect 4 Program Grant.


CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on February 11, 2023. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 11 -23 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE
COMPANY, INC. TO THE USDA FOR A RURAL UTILITY SERVICE RECONNECT 4 PROGRAM
GRANT**



Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 2-14-23

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. TO THE USDA FOR A RURAL UTILITY SERVICE RECONNECT 4 PROGRAM GRANT

Purpose/Need of Council Resolution: The purpose of this Resolution is to support Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc.'s application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Rural Utility Service ReConnect 4 Program Grant. These grant funds are available to applicants for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. is a telecommunications provider that wishes to apply for these grant funds, and if awarded, will use the funds to expand broadband service in the Pushmataha County area to include 1094 homes. As part of its application, Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc. must show that the Nation supports its expansion of broadband services on the Choctaw Nation reservation. Supporting Oklahoma Western Telephone Company, Inc.'s grant application will contribute to the Nation's strategic plan/goal of achieving digital transformation by increasing broadband access for tribal members.

Title of Council Resolution: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. TO THE USDA FOR A RURAL UTILITY SERVICE RECONNECT 4 PROGRAM GRANT

Choctaw Nation Department: Information Technology

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by: Robert Griffin, Project Director; Jimmy D. Williams, Executive Director; Kelly McKaughan, SEO Integrated Services