

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO PLACE PROPERTY IN LEFLORE COUNTY IN TRUST STATUS
WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

A COUNCIL BILL

TO AUTHORIZE the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation") to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place this acquisition of land into trust status with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article IX, Sections 4 and 6 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Choctaw Tribal Council (the "Council") shall enact rule and regulations for the general good, and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Chief shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of chief executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with authority to acquire land for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of its people and taking further advantage of the opportunities for self-determination and economic independence. As a recognized Indian Nation, the Nation is eligible to utilize the fee to trust application process set out in the 25 CFR § 151 including Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of June 18, 1934, as amended, which is codified at 25 U.S.C. § 5108, formerly 25 U.S.C. § 465, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (the "Secretary") to acquire land in trust for Indians;

WHEREAS, the Nation has fee title to 4.08 acres of real property located at 302 Kerr Ave, Poteau, LeFlore County, Oklahoma. The subject property is adjacent to trust land on the southwest boundary. The property is described as follows:

Lot 5 in Block I of Poteau Industrial Park, LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma

WHEREAS, the Nation has determined the need for additional trust land to its land base to accommodate increase in governmental services to Tribal Members to promote tribal self-determination and sovereignty, self-sufficiency and economic independence. The Nation has approximately 200,000 enrolled Members with approximately 47,649 living in the tribal service area. See BIA, American Indian Population and Labor Force Report, (2010). The Nation expects tribal membership to increase along with tribal services. This growth is expected to continue, and this acquisition will address the Nation's need for additional land;

WHEREAS, the subject property is located at 302 Kerr Ave, Poteau, LeFlore County, Oklahoma, adjacent to trust land in Poteau, Oklahoma. See Exhibit A. It is currently owned by the Nation. The property is improved with a 21,444 square foot storage warehouse that was built in 2003. The Nation plans to continue utilizing the property for the same purposes. There will be no change in usage;

WHEREAS, the Nation, through its Chief, seeks to request the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to accept this fee title to be held by the United States in trust for the benefit of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; and

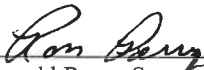
WHEREAS, the Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to place the above-mentioned property in LeFlore County in trust status with the U.S.A.

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THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED that the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma authorizes and approves the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, or his designee, to make a request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to place the subject property located in LeFlore County, Oklahoma into trust status with the United States of America in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs policy and procedure for the acquisition of land.


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 September 14, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 99 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.



Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Barton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 9-16-24

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Purpose/Need of Council Bill: This Council Bill authorizes and approves the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, or his designee, to make a request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to place property in LeFlore County, Oklahoma into trust status with the United States of America in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs policy and procedure for the acquisition of land. This Council Bill supports the Nation's strategic goal of strengthening financial growth and economic sustainability, as well as supporting service delivery to improve Tribal Member quality of life, by acquiring additional trust land to accommodate the continued growth of tribal membership and tribal services within the Choctaw Nation.

**Title of Council Bill: TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO PLACE PROPERTY IN
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Agency: Choctaw Nation – Land, Title & Natural Resources

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request By/Project Director: Donna Loper, Executive Director of Land & Title

Suggested Legislative Committee Review: Member Services