

TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TO PLACE PROPERTY IN CHOCTAW COUNTY, IN TRUST STATUS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

JAMES DRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

A COUNCIL BILL

TO AUTHORIZE the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the below described property in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, in 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 rules and regulations for the Nation and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law;

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 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, and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (the "Secretary") to acquire land in trust for Indians;

WHEREAS, the Nation has fee title to 6.05 acres, more or less of real property located in Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Choctaw County, Oklahoma. Please see "Exhibit A" for property location. The subject property is within the former, historic reservation boundaries and current jurisdictional boundaries of the Nation. The property is described as follows:

Part of the W½ NW¼ SE¼ of Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East, Choctaw County, Oklahoma, being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows to-wit: Beginning at the center of said Section 21; thence East 236.5 feet; thence South 1320 feet; thence West 236.5 feet; thence North 1320 feet to the Place of Beginning. LESS AND EXCEPT HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY, being a parcel of land described in Book V485, Page 638-642, filed on September 16, 2025 in the Office of the Choctaw County Clerk;

WHEREAS, this trust acquisition is being requested in conjunction with land previously submitted for trust acquisition in Council Bill CB-94-20, dated 07/14/2020. Please see "Exhibit B" for copy of CB-94-20. This property is also located in Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East, Choctaw County, Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, the Nation has determined the need for additional trust land to its land base to accommodate increase in government services to tribal members to promote tribal self-determination and sovereignty, self-sufficiency and economic independence. The Nation has more than 200,000 enrolled members, approximately 48,000 living in the tribal service area. *See* BIA, American Indian Population and Labor Force Report, (2013). As the Nation's membership continues to grow, so too does the need for additional land to support governmental operations, community services, and long-term planning. Placing the subject property into trust will help address that need by expanding the Nation's land base in Choctaw County for the benefit of its citizens

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WHEREAS, the subject property is located in the W½ NW¼ SE¼ of Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Choctaw County, Hugo, Oklahoma. It is currently owned by the Nation and the property will be utilized to facilitate self-determination and provide governmental services to Tribal citizens. Currently the adjoining property is improved with a tribal community center, a Wellness Center, and governmental offices for Facilities Management and Social Services. The acquisition of the subject property in trust will allow for the orderly growth and future development of this governmental and community-service area, improve Tribal citizens' access to community gatherings, and enhance the Nation's ability to carry out programs and services for the benefit of its citizens. No change in land use is contemplated, and the Nation plans to continue utilizing the subject property for the same governmental and community-service purposes;

WHEREAS, the Nation seeks to request the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to accept this fee title to the United States of America to be held by the United States of America 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 Choctaw County, Oklahoma in trust status with the United States of America.

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 into trust status in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regulations, policies, and procedures for the acquisition of land the property described as follows:

Part of the W½ NW¼ SE¼ of Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Choctaw County, Oklahoma, being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows to-wit: Beginning at the center of said Section 21; thence East 236.5 feet; thence South 1320 feet; thence West 236.5 feet; thence North 1320 feet to the Place of Beginning. LESS AND EXCEPT HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY, being a parcel of land described in Book V485, Page 638-642, filed on September 16, 2025 in the Office of the Choctaw County Clerk.


BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this trust acquisition is being requested in conjunction with land previously submitted for trust acquisition in Council Bill CB-94-20, dated 07/14/2020. That property is also located in Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 17 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, Choctaw County, Oklahoma.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Tribal Council that, the Tribal Council hereby acknowledges, ratifies, confirms, and approves the Nation's prior, current, continued, and planned future use of the subject property to facilitate tribal self-determination, support governmental operations, and provide governmental services for the benefit of Tribal citizens. The Tribal Council further acknowledges and approves the existing improvements located on adjoining Nation-owned property, including the tribal community center, Wellness Center, and governmental offices for Facilities Management and Social Services. The Tribal Council further finds and declares that no change in land use is contemplated, and that the subject property will continue to be utilized for the same purposes.

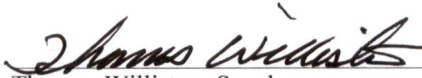
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CERTIFICATION

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 Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma on May 9, 2026. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 48 -26 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes and zero (0) abstaining.


James Dry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Date: 5.9.26


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Batton, Chief
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma