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Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief

June 8, 2026

TO: Cory Bunch, Chief of Staff
CC: Bryan Warner, Deputy Chief
Cabinet / Sub-Cabinet
Council Leadership
Councilors representing Adair Co.

**Administration Memorandum
Declaring a Public Health State of Emergency
for Adair County Relating to County-Based EMS**

I. Background

Adair County provides county wide EMS services through a county created public trust. Cherokee Nation has made significant in-kind and cash investments in Adair County EMS since 2019 in an effort to help sustain its operations. More assistance is needed.

Adair County's relatively low per capita income, county and local taxation levels and policies, lack of local emergency room services, the relatively high rate of uninsured patients and the insufficiency of state and federal support has left the county's EMS system vulnerable and potentially unsustainable at adequate levels. More specifically, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Adair County Emergency Medical Services Trust, operator of EMS for the county, has advised the Principal Chief that its operations are in fact unsustainable at the level needed to maintain minimum services. The Trustee has advised that staffing for four ambulances is the minimum required and that the county faces a fiscal deficit to meet this service level in excess of \$150,000.

Adair County's EMS deficit occurs, not coincidentally, against the backdrop of the State of Oklahoma's apparent failure to create a sustainable fiscal environment for public safety services in many rural counties such as Adair County. It is unfathomable that any county exists in the State of Oklahoma which cannot sustain basic services such as EMS. To add further injury upon injury, state leaders are actively considering legislative efforts relying to taxation and healthcare that could result in further deterioration of rural health systems,

including EMS, that threaten the state Medicaid Expansion program, reduce state revenue through continued income tax cuts and limits or freezes on ad valorem taxation capacity. Such past and present policies appear to be a direct cause and effect with respect to the present unsustainable conditions for Adair County EMS.¹

In short, Adair County faces a crisis that is wholly man made, ie, the public policies of the State of Oklahoma have utterly failed to adequately fund essential life saving services to many Oklahomans who happen to live in a relatively rural and low income parts of the state.

II. State of Emergency Declared

For the reasons set forth in Section I, above, and under the authority vested in this office under the Cherokee Nation Emergency Management Act and the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, a ongoing public health state of emergency exists within Adair County with respect to county-based EMS.

III. Directives

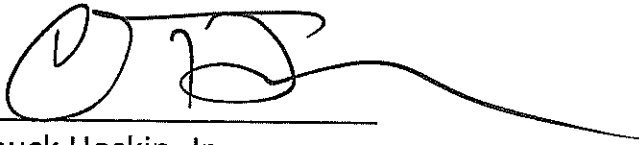
- a. **\$150,000 PHWFA Wellness Partners Emergency Grant for Adair County EMS by June 30, 2026:** Chief of Staff Bunch will:
 - i. Cause to be issued a payment of \$150,000 to help sustain Adair County Emergency Medical Services Trust for its EMS operations for the Adair County fiscal year 2027², **no later than June 30, 2026**. The purpose of this emergency grant is to provide short term assistance to Adair County EMS to provide minimum service levels while Cherokee Nation, Adair County and other stakeholders further explore strategies for long term sustainability. The grant will be subject to a memorandum of understanding which meets Cherokee Nation’s interests in, among other things, substantive deliverables, transparency, accountability and tribal exclusivity.
 - ii. Review available funds during Cherokee Nation’s FY 2027 fiscal year to determine what, if any, additional support is available and advise the Principal Chief as such **by December 31, 2026**.
- b. **Coordination as to State and Federal Public Policy and Resources, Policy Analysis:** The Executive Director of Government Relations shall coordinate with

¹ The economic conditions in Adair County would be catastrophic but for the Cherokee Nation’s massive presence. For example, our last economic impact report (2023) revealed that we employ over 1,300 people and have an annual economic impact of nearly \$113 million. That study predates recent additional job creation, home construction and public infrastructure development measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

² Adair County’s fiscal year 2027 begins July 1, 2027, which is in Cherokee Nation’s FY 2026. Cherokee Nation FY 2027 begins October 1, 2026.

Adair County EMS to assess public policy changes or proposals which support improvements to rural EMS services generally and Adair County in particular. By September 30, 2026, The ED of Government Relations and Cherokee Nation's Chief Economist shall provide the Principal Chief with analysis of federal, state and local funding sources available to Adair County EMS and analysis of the impact of state and local tax and spending policy on Adair County EMS operations, no later than September 30, 2026.

- c. **Review of EMS Conditions Across the Reservation:** The Marshal of the Cherokee Nation will report on the fiscal conditions of EMS services across the Cherokee Nation and issue a report on the subject to the Principal Chief no later than September 30, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHUCK HOSKIN, JR.', is written over a horizontal line. A long, thin, curved line extends from the end of the signature to the right.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief