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2 **CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE**  
3 **CHEROKEE, QUALLA BOUNDARY, NC**

4  
5 **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
6

7 **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2025)**  
8

9 *AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS FROM THE EASTERN CHEROKEE*  
10 *INDIANS NORTH CAROLINA – 7224 -S52/001 ACCOUNT (ACCOUNT NO. PL7224709)*  
11 *DERIVED FROM THE STONY RIDGE FIRE SETTLEMENT WITH DUKE ENERGY, FOR THE*  
12 *PURCHASE OF A SENNEBOGEN 718 TREE CARE HANDLER*

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is a federally recognized, sovereign  
15 tribal nation with powers of self-governance and jurisdiction over lands held in trust for the  
16 benefit of the Tribe and its citizens; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the EBCI previously received settlement funds from Duke Energy in response to  
19 damages resulting from the Stony Ridge Fire, with said funds held in ***EASTERN CHEROKEE***  
20 ***INDIANS NORTH CAROLINA – 7224 -S52/001*** (Account No. ***PL7224709***) for use in  
21 activities that promote restoration, environmental protection, and fire prevention; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, wildfire prevention and sustainable land management remain essential  
24 responsibilities of Tribal governance, especially in light of ongoing climate threats and increased  
25 risk to natural and cultural resources; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Sennebogen Tree Care Handler is a specialized piece of heavy equipment  
28 designed to perform safe and efficient tree removal, large-scale vegetation management, and  
29 hazard mitigation, especially in rugged and fire-prone terrain; and  
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31 **WHEREAS**, acquisition of this equipment will significantly strengthen the Tribe's capacity to  
32 reduce wildfire risk, support emergency response, and promote long-term forestry resilience  
33 across Tribal trust lands; and  
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35 **WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Cherokee Agency has  
36 reviewed and formally expressed support for the Tribe's intent to purchase this equipment as an  
37 appropriate and strategic investment in forestry safety and land management; and  
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39 **WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds that purchasing this equipment constitutes a responsible  
40 and effective use of settlement funds, in accordance with the original purpose of the Stony Ridge  
41 Fire settlement.  
42

43 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in  
44 Council assembled at which a quorum is present, that: funds shall be withdrawn from ***EASTERN***  
45 ***CHEROKEE INDIANS NORTH CAROLINA – 7224 -S52/001*** (Account No. ***PL7224709***), in

1 the amount of \$675,000 to purchase one (1) Sennebogen 718 Tree Care Handler;

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3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the appropriate Tribal departments are authorized and  
4 directed to carry out procurement of this equipment in full compliance with existing Tribal fiscal  
5 policies and procurement guidelines;

6  
7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Office of Budget and Finance is hereby directed to  
8 complete and submit the required SF-1034 form to the Eastern Region Office of the Special  
9 Trustee for American Indians (OST) to ensure proper documentation and processing of the  
10 associated funds; and

11  
12 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon  
13 ratification by the Principal Chief.

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15 *Submitted by Vice Chief Alan B Ensley*