



Cherokee Council House  
Cherokee, North Carolina

DATE

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe has long recognized the importance of supporting our Elders,  
honoring their contributions, sacrifices, and the wisdom they carry for future generations;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Heating Assistance Program was established to provide seasonal  
financial support for enrolled Elder households to help meet winter heating needs; and

**WHEREAS**, since the inception of the Tribal Heating Assistance Program, the benefit  
amount has never been increased, despite more than a decade of rising energy costs,  
higher fuel prices, colder seasonal patterns, and the overall increased cost of living; and

**WHEREAS**, the current benefit amount—while deeply appreciated by our Elders—is no  
longer sufficient to carry Elder households through the full duration of the winter season,  
resulting in financial hardship and difficult choices between heating, food, medical costs,  
and other necessities; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting our Elders is not merely a social program but a part of our culture  
reflecting Cherokee values of respect, gratitude, and responsibility to those who came  
before us.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians hereby increases the Elder Heating Assistance Program benefit amount  
by an additional \$250 per eligible Elder household, effective for the next heating season  
following passage of this Resolution.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all resolutions in conflict with this resolution are rescinded  
and the Principal Chief shall carry out the intent of this resolution.

Submitted by: Cyndi Lambert, Birdtown