



1 Cherokee Council House
2 Cherokee, North Carolina
3

4 _____
5 DATE
6

7 RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)
8

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all resolutions in conflict with this resolution are rescinded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

30

31 Submitted by: Cyndi Lambert, Birdtown