Tribal Council OKs $54 million in EMS support

The administration’s plan will help stabilize ambulance services in Adair County.

BY CHAD HUNTER

TAHLEQUAH - In a unanimous vote Jan. 27, the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council agreed to invest $54 million in the tribe’s emergency medical services program.

The proposal from administration includes a new ambulance facility for CN Emergency Medical Services and a new, expanded fleet of ambulances.

“Cherokee Nation’s EMS provides a high level of care and responsiveness across a large area of our reservation,” Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. “Our EMS staff and fleet of ambulances serve the best facilities and the best ambulance services. These funds will get our facilities and fleet to that level.”

According to the tribe, its EMS is a state-licensed, paramedic-level ambulance program that serves Cherokee, southern Delaware, northern Sequoyah and west- ern Adair counties.

The $54 million investment calls for emergency ambulance services to help stabilize ambulance services in Adair County.

“It’s a great, great thing for Adair County folks,” District Tribal Councilor Shanesha Carnes said. “It’s an ambulance service that’s been there for a while. They’re doing well.

An existing partnership with a non-tribal ambulance service will soon terminate, leaving the county to create a new ambulance service through Adair County Emergency Medical Services, according to the tribe.

Under the new plan, Cherokee Nation would provide up to $300,000 in operating expenses through May, at

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CNFO offers incentive for film, TV projects in reservation

Cherokee Nation Film Office is offering a film incentive program to encourage film production within the tribe’s reservation.

BY LINDSEY BARK

TULSA – On Jan. 25, the Cherokee Nation Film Office announced it will offer a film incentive program, providing $5 million in the next three years for productions filmed in the CN’s reservation.

The announcement comes in the three-year anniversary of the CN Film Office during a virtual live stream with CN Film Offices and Original Content Director Jennifer Loren, Cherokee Nation Businesses CEO Chuck Courvat and Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

“Film and television production is one of the most promising and thriving industries in Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation is determined to continue championing that growth,” Hoskin said. “Additionally, the need for diversity, inclusion and accurate representation of the identity within film production has been prevalent through the industry’s earliest years. I look forward to the day when people think of Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation, they will think of Native creativity. They will think of the performers, writers, directors, composers and other talented artists and craftspeople who tell our stories on a global stage.”

Loren said there is a minute percentage of Native American representation in traditional media and there is intent to change it with the new incentive program.

“Xeno Nez and the Cherokee Nation TV projects created within the CN’s reservation.

SEE PHOENIX, 3

SEE McGIRT, 5

CHEROKEE PHOENIX
FEBRUARY 15, 2023
194 YEARS OF JOURNALISM

This exhibit is on display inside the Cherokee Supreme Court Museum in downtown Tahlequah. The museum showcases some of the tribe’s legal history and the history of the Cherokee Phoenix and Cherokee Advocate newspapers.

The Cherokee Phoenix is marking its 194th anniversary this month.

BY WILL CHAVEZ

TAHLEQUAH - Along with making his people literate, Sequoyah’s invention of his syllabary in 1821 was used to inform Cherokee people of the Cherokee Phoenix, the first Native American newspaper.

To obtain a correct and complete knowledge of those things, there must exist a vehicle of Indian intelligence, altogether different from those which have heretofore been employed,” said the newspaper’s first editor, Elias Boudinot.

The young editor, who was 23, planned to print the news and other matters important to Cherokee people in volumes of Cherokee and English.

A 8-by-6-inch news office was established in the new Cherokee capital at New Echota, Georgia, that contained a 1,000-pound printing press. The press and equipment arrived at New Echota on Feb. 1, 1828, after a 300-mile wagon trip from Augusta Georgia, over mountainous traders’ paths.

The press would print the weekly newspaper and other tribal publications.

Deaths and other news stories were published in February 1828, the Phoenix staff worked diligently to master the intricacies of their new machine and hand set copy for the inaugural edition that was printed on Feb. 21.

Rev. Samuel Worcester, a Calvinist missionary who lived in the Cherokee Nation, played a prominent role in founding the newspaper and obtaining the printing press. He had a prospectus for the Phoenix calling for the publication of information on a variety of subjects, the progress in education, religion and arts of civilized life; principal interesting news of the day; and miscellaneous articles calculated to promote literature, civilization, art and religion.

Boudinot, who was the brother of Stand Watie, reminded the readers which have heretofore been employed," said the

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