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**CHEROKEE NATION**<sup>®</sup>  
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Office of the Principal Chief

**Chuck Hoskin Jr.**  
*Principal Chief*  
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**Bryan Warner**  
*Deputy Principal Chief*  
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**January 17, 2025**

**TO:** Dr. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff; Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State

**FR:** Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief

**CC:** Bryan Warner, Deputy Chief; Cabinet, Sub-Cabinet; John Garrett, Supreme Court Chief Justice; Luke Barteaux, Presiding District Court Judge; Jon Asbill, Sr. Construction Administrator; Mike Shambaugh, Speaker of the Council.

## **ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM SEEKING RECOMMENDATION FOR POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR A DISTRICT COURT FACILITY**

The purpose of this memorandum is to direct the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of State to perform an analysis and form recommendations as to potential locations for a district court facility by March 14, 2025.

### **I. Background**

On January 16, 2025, I [announced](#) that the Nation reached an \$80 million settlement in our trust accounting case with the United States, with net proceeds at approximately \$60 million. As part of that announcement, I advised that Deputy Chief Warner and I would propose to the Council of the Cherokee Nation [legislation](#) to authorize \$60 million for the construction of a Justice Center in Tahlequah and \$10 million for the construction of a district court facility at a location other than Tahlequah, to be determined at a later time.

### **II. Chief of Staff and Secretary of State to Recommend Potential District Court locations**

In order to select the optimal location (specific property or community if no property is readily identifiable) for the district court facility, Chief of Staff Bunch and Secretary of State Bowlin should make recommendations based on any relevant factors, including but not limited to the following:

- Population data
- District court caseload statistics
- Availability of Cherokee Nation owned property.
- Accessibility by citizens

Chief of Staff Bunch and Secretary Bowlin should also engage internal stakeholders on the subject, by invitation to meet, review materials and participate in site visits, including:

- Attorney General Chad Harsha
- District Judge Luke Barteaux
- Chief Justice John Garrett

Finally, in making a recommendation, Chief of Staff Bunch and Secretary Bowlin should be mindful that the needs of our judiciary very likely includes more than one field courthouse in the near future. Accordingly, a recommendation of a particularly location need not be interpreted as coming at the expense placing a court facility at some other location or region. Rather, the issue here is where this first courthouse, funded at \$10 million, should be located.

Chief of Staff Bunch and Secretary of State Bowlin should provide recommendations of one or more suitable sites for a district courthouse by March 14, 2025.

Wado,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Hoskin Jr." in a cursive style.

Chuck Hoskin Jr., *Principal Chief*