

Legals

(Continued from page 7)

1956, BOLT FIBER, 389.85, TELEPHONE SERVICE 1957, RJ KOOL MIDWEST, 1026.54, REPAIRS 1958, AAVCOR, 70.00, RANDOM DRUG TESTING 1959, AADVANTAGE LAUNDRY SYSTEMS, 119.00, LEASE 1960, PRESTO-X, 336.00, INFESTATION 1961, OZARK LEASING A PROGRAM OF DE LAGE, 179.30, LEASE 1962, GRAND TELEPHONE CO., 193.16, TELEPHONE SERVICE 1963, SECRETARY OF STATE, 25.00, BOND FILING 1964, MCCORD, ROBERTD., 3850.00, JANITORIAL SERVICE 1965, UNIFIRST CORP, 302.43, UNIFORMS 1966, LINDLY S INC., 23.77, MISC 1967, TOTAL COVERAGE ELECTRIC, 21822.52, FAIR GROUNDS PROJECT 1968, TOTAL COVERAGE ELECTRIC, 8714.24, FAIR GROUNDS PROJECT; Health 129, OKLAHOMA STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH, 31412.10, MISC 130, BRIDGES, SEAN, 47.85, TRAVEL 131, BRIDGES, SEAN, 548.12, TRAVEL 132, 3G PRINTING, 417.60, MISC 133, LEAF, 678.97, LEASE 134, TH ROGERS LUMBER CO., 74.95, MISC; Highway 1119, AT&T MOBILITY, 369.03, MONTHLY SERVICE 1120, ULINE INC, 627.16, MISC 1121, HIGHLAND HYDRAULICS, 298.08, PARTS 1122, SPINNER S TIRE, 80.00, REPAIRS 1123, ATWOODS DISTRIBUTING L.P., 479.97, DEF 1124, LAKELAND-CPP, 1621.41, FUEL 1125, QUILL CORPORATION, 154.96, OFFICE SUPPLIES 1126, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 70.86, OFFICE SUPPLIES 1127, AAVCOR, 70.00, RANDOM DRUG TESTING 1128, AAVCOR, 80.00, RANDOM DRUG TESTING 1129, WHITE STAR MACH & SUPPLY, INC., 558.78, FILTERS 1130, YELLOWHOUSE MACHINERY, 242.64, FILTERS 1131, NEO DIESEL SERVICE, 280.58, REPAIR 1132, GRAND SAVINGS BANK, 19260.19, LEASE PAYMENT 1133, WELCH STATE BANK, 2197.49, LEASE PAYMENT 1134, PRYOR STONE INC., 4541.90, BASE ROCK 1135, CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY, 312.19, FIRST AID SUPPLIES 1136, GUY ENGINEERING, 5237.41, ENGINEERING SERVICES 1137, GUY ENGINEERING, 6906.04, ENGINEERING SERVICES; Hwy-ST 352, KEMP STONE CO INC., 4759.27, ROAD MATERIALS 353, LAKELAND-CPP, 3004.67, FUEL 354, MONSON SIDING & ROOFING, 13200.00, LABOR 355, LAKELAND-CPP, 2031.20, FUEL 356, PRYOR STONE INC., 9496.43, BASE ROCK 357, PRYOR STONE INC., 2827.43, GRAVEL 358, SOUTHERN TIRE MART LLC, 1337.08, TIRES 359, LAKELAND-CPP, 2769.50, FUEL 360, WARREN CAT, 8155.20, GRADER BLADES 361, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 234.99, PARTS 362, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 80.35, PART 363, LAKELAND-CPP, 4036.50, FUEL 364, CURTISS TATE TIRES AND SERVICE, 1057.76, TIRES; Mtg Cert 12, QUILL CORPORATION, 359.48, OFFICE SUPPLIES; Rural Fire-ST 831, AEP, PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF OKLA., 157.27, MONTHLY SERVICE 832, LAKELAND-CPP, 567.57, BLANKET 833, BOLT FIBER, 77.13, MONTHLY SERVICE 834, REC/NE OKLA ELECTRIC COOP, 710.62, ELECTRIC SERVICE 835, AEP, PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF OKLA., 432.21, ELECTRIC SERVICE 836, THE BURROWS AGENCY, 1046.00, INSURANCE 837, AT&T MOBILITY, 324.32, INTERNET SERVICE 838, LINDLY S INC., 1094.35, PROPANE 839, FROMAN OIL & PROPANE COS. INC, 2900.00, MISC 840, TWIN OAKS MART, 95.40, FUEL 841, HAUSER WATER RESOURCES, 2100.00, REPAIRS 842, PETE'S CUSTOM SERVICE, 1000.00, REPAIRS 843, PETE'S CUSTOM SERVICE, 1000.00, REPAIRS 844, KATNER MILLS (NAPA), 167.92, BLANKET 845, LAKELAND-CPP, 925.77, BLANKET 846, MFA OIL, 1027.64, BLANKET 847, FIRE SAFETY USA INC, 891.05, BLANKET 848, ULINE INC, 1118.94, SUPPLIES 849, PETE'S CUSTOM SERVICE, 3000.00, REPAIRS; SH Svc Fee 262, NETWORK ENHANCEMENT SYSTEMS, 1525.00, PRINTER 263, VANCE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM, 482.75, VEHICLE REPAIRS 264, CURTISS TATE TIRES AND SERVICE, 460.09, TIRES 265, AAVCOR, 160.00, RANDOM DRUG TESTING 266, JOHN STEWART PSY. D. P. C., 145.00, MMPI 267, TOWN OF W. SILOAM SPRINGS/ POLICE DEPT, 69000.00, DCSO VEHICLES 268, JOHN STEWART PSY. D. P. C., 145.00, MMPI 269, LINDLY S INC., 664.18, JAIL SUPPLIES; Use-ST 114, TOTAL COVERAGE ELECTRIC, 9500.00, FAIR GROUNDS PROJECT. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #6 - A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck for approval of citizen's participation or comments. All comments must pertain to today's agenda items. Speakers should hold their comments to three minutes. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried. Rocky Carroll was late to the meeting and asked the number of the bill Poindexter said was of interest. Poindexter said the number is 843.

AGENDA #7- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to open the floor for new business. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried. There was none.

AGENDA #8- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to approve hearing Human Resources report by HR Director Vicki Cossairt. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried. Cossairt reminded employees that the vision insurance provider Vision Care Direct is now known as Unity Vision.

She said there has been some confusion about comp time and

holiday pay. She said Martin Luther King Day Jan. 19 was a holiday, then bad weather happened on Friday and the road crews had to work. Time and a half over time is only paid for time worked over 40 hours in a work week and since no one worked on Monday, comp time will not be paid on Friday. However, since the bad weather continued Saturday and Sunday, Saturday will count as over time. Sunday begins a new work week. In any case, if you worked past Friday, you will receive comp time.

Cossairt expressed condolences for long-time County Payroll Clerk Linda Lish who passed away. She said an extensive search was made for the next of kin to receive Lish's benefits.

Cossairt said she has received several questions about the number of employees the sheriff has and since the inference seems to be he has more than previous sheriffs, she collected some numbers. In 2025, Sheriff Thomas started the calendar year with 49 employees and ended with 49 employees. Over the year he made 32 hires and had 30 exits. In 2024, Sheriff Beck started the year with 51 employees and ended the year with 49. He had 34 hires and 32 exits. In 2023 Sheriff Beck started the year with 51 employees and ended the year with 56 employees. He had 32 hires and 17 exits.

Cossairt said turn over costs are expensive and cost the county about \$1.5 million each year.

AGENDA #9- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to discuss with possible action financial assistance agreement for new CDL driver Jerry King. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

Cossairt explained King has just completed CDL training paid for by the county and this contract says he agrees to stay in the county's employ for at least one year. Callihan said this is his employee, Callihan made a motion, seconded by Beck to accept and sign the contract. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #10- Not needed.

AGENDA #11- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to discuss with possible action cancellation of Project JP 29344 for construction and realignment of New Life Ranch Road and NBI 14128 Bridge 99 over Flint Creek, and its removal from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Transportation Plan. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #12- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to receive and file year 2025-2026 officers for the Delaware County Health Department as follows: Requisitioning Officers – Kristen O'Herin, Luke Elliott, Darla Cole, David Chissoe; Receiving Officers – Teresa Kelly, Danielle Hair, Stephanie Goins; Inventory Officer – Kristin O'Herin. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #13- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to select Guy Engineering for right of way acquisition using ODOT's procurement process using the pre-approved service providers' list for Bridge #37 on E 350 Rd. on behalf of District #2. ODOT job #JP 31230(04). Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA #14- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

DELAWARE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ATTEST: BARBARA BARNES- COUNTY CLERK DAVID POINDEXTER, CHAIRMAN JAKE CALLIHAN, MEMBER DAVID BECK, MEMBER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in the Afton-Fairland American Thursday, February 12, 2026

OTTAWA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2026

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, January 20th, 2026, with the following members present: Chairman Mike Furnas, Commissioners Robert Clark and Scott Hilton. Notice of the meeting was posted at the south door of the Ottawa County Courthouse January 14, 2026 at 3:39 P.M. Commissioners' Meeting Agendas and Minutes can also be found online at ottawa.okcounties.org.

1. Call to order.

2. Pledge of allegiance.

3. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve minutes of January 12th, 2026. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

4. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve claims presented to the Board for payment: 2025-2026 CH Improv-ST 95, A T & T, 104.33, INTERNET SERVICE 96, CENTRAL POWER SYSTEM, 1975.00, BUILDING MAINTENANCE 97, FOUR STATE AIRCO, 1200.00, REPAIRS 98, BANK OF AMER-

ICA, 35.56, CLEANING SUPPLIES; General 1313, AMERICAN NEWSPAPER INC, 37.32, LEGAL NOTICE 1314, A T & T, 104.33, INTERNET SERVICE 1315, CITY OF MIAMI, 7375.00, SERVICE AGREEMENT 1316, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES*, 263.00, SERVICE AGREEMENT 1317, HOMETOWN WATER & COFFEE SERVICE, 74.75, SERVICE AGREEMENT 1318, HOMETOWN WATER & COFFEE SERVICE, 71.75, SERVICE AGREEMENT 1319, EASYICE LLC, 220.81, SUBSCRIPTION 1320, EASY ICE LLC, 220.81, SUBSCRIPTION 1321, LAKELAND FINANCIAL SERVICES, 393.69, MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 1322, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 62.48, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1323, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 126.07, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1324, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 161.71, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1325, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 131.42, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1326, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 164.08, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1327, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 112.07, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1328, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 165.94, COPIER MAINTENANCE 1329, NEO PEST CONTROL, 450.00, PEST CONTROL 1330, AMAZON SERVICES LLC, 201.88, VEHICLE REPAIR 1331, PITNEY BOWES INC*, 41.00, POSTAGE 1332, A T & T, 104.33, PHONE BILL 1333, TELECOMP HOLDING INC, 762.75, PHONE BILL 1334, LAKELAND OFFICE SYSTEMS *, 36.17, CONTRACT BASE RATE CHARGE 1335, CENTRAL POWER SYSTEM, 329.67, REPAIRS 1336, CENTRAL POWER SYSTEM, 1555.00, BUILDING MAINTENANCE 1337, A T & T MOBILITY, 68.74, INTERNET SERVICE 1338, OK SECRETARY OF STATE, 25.00, NOTARY APPLICATION FEE 1339, CENTRAL POWER SYSTEM, 1580.00, BUILDING MAINTENANCE 1340, BOLT FIBER, 217.85, INTERNET SERVICE 1341, AMAZON SERVICES LLC, 47.90, SUPPLIES 1342, MIAMI NEWS-RECORD, 185.62, LEGAL NOTICE 1343, FOUR STATE TRAILERS, 242.99, PARTS 1344, BANK OF AMERICA, 1210.72, VEHICLE REPAIR 1345, CODE3 SECURITY, 1823.20, SECURITY SERVICES; Health 118, SALLIE SILLS, 84.00, TRAVEL EXPENSES 119, VIP PHONE SERVICES, 2895.55, PHONE BILL 120, CITY OF MIAMI, 996.60, UTILITIES 121, MODOC NATION, 35.00, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 122, JEREMY LAMB, 900.00, JANITORIAL SERVICES 123, RITE-TEMP REFRIGERATION LLC, 555.00, LEASE PAYMENT 124, HOMETOWN WATER & COFFEE SERVICE, 28.25, BOTTLED WATER 125, OTTAWA CO TREASURER, 5166.26, REVALUATION COST; Highway 842, ACE HARDWARE, 39.99, PARTS 843, HENRYS WELDING SUPPLY & MORE, 48.18, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE 844, UNIFIRST CORPORATION, 65.02, UNIFORM RENTAL 845, HENRYS WELDING SUPPLY & MORE, 32.00, SHOP SUPPLIES 846, OTTAWA CO RWD #4, 26.25, UTILITIES 847, TREVIPAY, 262.56, SUPPLIES 848, PB HOIDALE CO INC, 430.40, BATTERIES 850, ATWOODS OF VINITA, 235.00, SAFETY EQUIPMENT 851, OSU-CTP, 30.00, TRAINING 852, AUTOMOTIVE OF FAIRLAND*, 131.97, WELDING SUPPLIES 853, AUTOMOTIVE OF FAIRLAND*, 17.95, PARTS 854, BANK OF AMERICA, 268.35, OFFICE SUPPLIES; Hwy-ST 347, KATNER MILLS*, 1319.73, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE 348, MIDWEST MINERAL INC / BANK OF AMERICA, 4979.72, MATERIALS 349, EQUIPMENTSHARE.COM INC, 1448.00, PARTS 350, LAKELAND PETROLEUM, 1184.50, FUEL 351, LAKELAND PETROLEUM, 938.12, FUEL 352, WALLIS LUBRICANT LLC*, 2990.00, OILS 353, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 716.02, FILTERS 354, M&J EQUIPMENT SERVICES LLP, 1583.42, VEHICLE REPAIR 355, M&J EQUIPMENT SERVICES LLP, 2604.94, VEHICLE REPAIR 356, M&J EQUIPMENT SERVICES LLP, 3667.33, REPAIRS 357, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 618.90, FILTERS 358, INTERSTATE BILLING SERVICE, 174.90, FILTERS; RM&P 13, MIDWEST PRINTING CO*, 1873.00, OFFICE SUPPLIES 14, KELPRO INC*, 48.00, RECORD RECREATION; Rural Fire-ST 86, A T & T, 513.55, PHONE BILL; SH Svc Fee 130, MIAMI TROPHY & SCREEN PRINTING, 44.00, UNIFORMS. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

5. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve purchase card claims and payment in the amount of \$ 1,514.63. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

6. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve submitted financial statement for Sheriff's commissary fund. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

7. Motion by Hilton, second by Clark, to approve designation for Ottawa County District #2 requisitioning and receiving officers Robert Clark and Brian Scott as requisitioning. Paul Hoover and Gretta Day as receiving. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

8. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve submitted financial statement for Sheriff's commissary fund. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

9. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve easement authorizing encroachment on properties: cleaning out ditch & back sloping, possible tree removals for property owner Barbara Stoner. Legal Description as follows: W ½ NW ¼ and NW ¼ SW ¼ of Section 9, Township 27N, Range 22E, Ottawa County. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

10. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to approve the following blanket purchase orders. #2769-#2798. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

11. Motion by Clark, second by Hilton, to adjourn. By vote: Hilton, aye; Clark, aye; Furnas, aye.

Mike Furnas, Chairman
Robyn Mitchell, County Clerk

Delaware (Continued from pg. 1)

ledger. But they will get their comp time for the end of the week on Thursday. It's all the same difference.”

She also addressed an issue of the number of sheriff personnel.

“At the Sheriff’s request, I went back and made some comparisons. Under Sheriff Ray Thomas, for the calendar year 2025, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, he started with 49 employees. He ended the year with 49 employees, for an average of 49. He had 32 hires and 30 exits.

For the calendar year 2024, Sheriff James Beck started the year with 51 employees and ended the year with 49 employees, an average of 50 employees. He hired 34 and had 32 exits. Cossairt said in calendar year 2023, Sheriff Beck had 51 employees. He began the year with 51 employees and ended the year with 56 employees.

“So, I think that the numbers are pretty well consistently close across the board,” she said.

She talked about turnover in the various offices, “because turnover is quite expensive. Every time we turn a person over, it costs this county

a minimum of one time, the salary for that position. So, I wrote these positions down by administrative deputies, detention, and investigators. I calculated the average salary, and that would be an unforeseen cost of about \$1.5 million every year with turnover. They’re concentrating on turnover. We’re going to try to improve those costs and productivity time.”

The commissioners also approved a contract with CDL driver Jerry King and the officers for the Delaware County Health Department.

know may be a victim of human trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 (text 233733) or visit human-traffickinghotline.org. In an emergency, call 911.

Multi-Agency (Continued from pg. 1)

in a court of law.

Victim protection & privacy

The task force will not release personally identifiable information or specific location details about potential victims. Additional details will be withheld where disclosure could compromise safety or ongoing proceedings.

Resources for help

If you or someone you



Cherokee Nation photo

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and First Lady January Hoskin (center right) were joined by tribal leaders last Wednesday while visiting the historic Chief Tom Buffington Home in Vinita. Hoskin has begun the process of placing the home on the tribe's Registry of Historic Places.

Historic place

Request made to place Chief Tom Buffington Home on Cherokee Nation Registry of Historic Places

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. took formal steps last Wednesday toward placing the Chief Tom Buffington Home in Vinita onto the Cherokee Nation Registry of Historic Places.

Hoskin and Deputy Chief Bryan Warner signed an administrative memorandum officially making the request to the Council of the Cherokee Nation, which will review the proposal alongside a report on the property prepared by the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources.

If approved by the Tribal Council, the Chief Tom Buffington Home will be the 20th entry in the tribal registry dedicated to preserving Cherokee cultural heritage.

The Chief Tom Buffington Home is located on one-half of an acre at 141 S. Brown St. in Vinita. The 21/2-story bungalow-style home was built for Buffington by J.W. Orr in 1910, and served as his longest and last place of residence.

“The Historic Registry Act of 2019 made the designation and protection of Cherokee Nation historic sites a high priority for the Cherokee Nation,” said Hoskin. “Chief Tom Buffington’s home represents a pivotal chapter in Cherokee Nation history, and by preserving this site, we honor his legacy and the transition our tribe navigated during a challenging period. This site, like so many more locations across the Cherokee Nation reservation, is rich in Cherokee history and must not be forgotten.”

Buffington’s activity in tribal politics was significant from the 1890s through the early 1900s. His term as chief of the Cherokee Nation between 1899 and 1903 marked a crucial transition between chiefs who were elected by tribal citizens, to the federal government’s appointments by Congressional Act until

sovereign voter rights were restored in the 1970s. Buffington also served as a member and president of the Cherokee Nation Senate, district judge of the Delaware District of the Cherokee Nation, and the Cherokee Nation representative to the President’s Council in Washington, D.C. Later, Buffington was mayor of Vinita, with his last term ending in 1917.

“Chief Buffington’s service during one of the most challenging periods in Cherokee history deserves to be remembered and honored,” said Warner. “We have an obligation to not only identify and protect places of great importance to Cherokee history and culture, but to continually preserve these sites as part of our enduring heritage.”

The Cherokee Nation Registry of Historic Places was developed to identify, protect and preserve Cherokee Nation cultural heritage sites. The initial register included 15 properties in 2019. Since that time, four properties have been added, including Little Flock Church, the Illinois Campground, Dwight Mission, and the Oak Hill/Piney Community Buildings.

“We are fortunate to have knowledgeable and hard-working staff in our Department of Natural Resources who are dedicated to this vital work of historic preservation,” said Secretary of Natural Resources Christina Justice. “Our office is committed to maintaining this registry and safeguarding these important locations for years to come, and the Buffington Home is an excellent addition to our growing list of protected sites.”

Under the Historic Registry Act, proposed by Hoskin and Warner and approved by the Tribal Council in 2019, the tribe’s Natural Resources office creates and maintains a database of historical sites.

The act makes it a crime to deface tribal historic sites on the registry and incorporates a permit system for excavation and manipulation of cultural resources on historic sites.

In 2023, the Cherokee Nation Historic Places Preservation Fund Act established a dedicated \$1 million fund to preserve the tribe’s historic sites, ensuring resources are available for ongoing preservation work.

The acquisition of the Buffington House was at the recommendation of first lady January Hoskin as part of her initiative to support public art and historic preservation in more Cherokee Nation communities.

“Preserving the Buffington House is an opportunity to not only remember Chief Buffington, but to preserve and interpret the pivotal period in history during which he served,” said January Hoskin. “It provides us with an opportunity to showcase Cherokee art and history program, extending the impact of the Anna Mitchell Cultural Center located less than two miles from the Buffington House.”

“I am honored that we are pursuing the preservation of this important piece of our history right here in Craig County,” said District 11 Councilor Kendra McGeady. “The Buffington Home reminds us of the resilience and leadership that has always defined the Cherokee people, even during our most difficult times. As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to promote the culture, heritage and traditions of the Cherokee Nation, and protecting sites like this ensures future generations can connect with their history.”

Around 80 locations have been identified within the Cherokee Nation reservation for potential inclusion on the tribe’s registry.