

**TENTH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL SESSION
OCTOBER 1, 2025
CONCHO, OK**

RESOLUTION: A Resolution to Authorize the Governor, Reggie Wassana, to sign a Public Law 93-638 6-month Contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Probate and Estate Services

RESOLUTION NO: 10L-SS-2025-1001-002

DATE INTRODUCED: September 25, 2025

SPONSOR: Kendricks Sleeper, District A2

CO-SPONSOR: Rector Candy, District A4

SUBJECT: A Resolution to Authorize the Governor, Reggie Wassana, to sign a Public Law 93-638 6-month Contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Probate and Estate Services

WHEREAS: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribes organized pursuant to a Constitution approved by tribal membership on April 4, 2006 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and,

WHEREAS: Article VI, Section 5(a) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the “power to make all laws and resolutions in accordance with the Constitution which are necessary and proper for the good of the Tribes;” and,

WHEREAS: Article VII, Section 4(d) of the Constitution requires that the Legislature or Tribal Council give prior authorization for the signing of contracts by the Governor; and,

WHEREAS: The Department of Interior (DOI) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) prepares, reviews, approves, and submits probate cases for the Tribes. The Tribes have not compacted to prepare probate cases for their tribal members for submittal to the BIA. Currently, the national backlog of probate cases stands at 48,000 and is a national issue.; and

WHEREAS: The Tribes have identified a need for probate and estate services as the current backlog for Cheyenne and Arapaho probate cases is currently 414; and

WHEREAS: In accordance with 25 CFR § 900.8 (d) that an “authorizing resolution” is required from the Tribes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Tenth Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes approves and authorizes the Governor, Reggie Wassana, to sign a 6-month

Contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Probate and Estate Services to begin October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 or until funds are expended; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Governor is directed and authorized to carry out all acts necessary and proper to implement the intent of this resolution.


Kendricks Sleeper
Speaker of the Tenth Legislature
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

ATTEST:

I, Jodi White Buffalo, Legislative Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a True and Accurate Copy of the Original Bill No. 10L-SS-2025-1001-002 which was acted upon by the Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in the Tenth Legislature Special Session, by a roll call vote on the 1st day of October 2025.

VOTE RECORD:

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
A1	Diane Willis	✓			
A2	Kendricks Sleeper	✓			
A3	Travis Ruiz	✓			
A4	Rector Candy	✓			
C1	Bruce Whiteman, Jr.	✓			
C2	George Woods	✓			
C3	Thomas Trout	✓			
C4	Byron Byrd	✓			
TOTAL		8			
Passes (X) Fails () Tabled () Allowed to Die () No Action ()					



Jodi White Buffalo, Legislative Clerk
Tenth Legislature, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

ATTEST:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 7, subsection (a)(iv) of the Tribes Constitution reads in part: "All Bills passed by the Legislature shall be presented to the Governor for signature or veto. All laws shall take effect thirty days after signature by the Governor or veto override by the Legislature unless any Member of the Tribes submits to the Coordinator of the Office of Tribal Council a petition signed by at least one hundred fifty Members of the Tribal Council seeking to repeal the law or resolution at the next Tribal Council meeting. If the Tribal Council fails to repeal such law or resolution at the next Tribal Council where the matter has been properly placed on the agenda for the Tribal Council meeting, such law or resolution shall become effective immediately."

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 4, subsection (g) of the Tribes Constitution reads: "The Governor shall have the power to sign any enactment passed by the Legislature into law or to veto any enactment passed by the Legislature within ten days of passage with a written explanation of any objections; and if the Governor takes no action within ten days, then the enactment shall become law in accordance with this Constitution."

{ ☒ } APPROVED

{ ☐ } VETOED: Attachment ____; Governor's written explanation of any objections.

On the 1st day of October, 2025.



Reggie Wassana, Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS:

From the Legislative Branch to the Office of Records Management

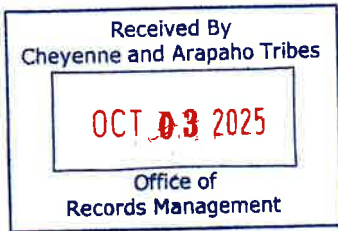
ATTEST:

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 7, subsection (a)(v), of the Tribes Constitution reads, "The Office of Records Management shall compile all Laws and Resolutions into a comprehensive Code in an orderly manner that shall be published annually."

Office of Records Management Staff, hereby certify that the foregoing is a True and Accurate Original Resolution No. 10L-SS-2025-1001-002.

Space below is reserved for Stamp:

Received (Date) Office of Record Management



Signature: _____

Cheryl Blind

Print Name: _____

Cheryl Blind

Title: _____

Director

Date: _____

10/03/25

Office of Records Management

Department of Administration, Executive Branch

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
PUBLIC LAW 93-638, AS AMENDED

CONTRACT APPLICATION

The following information shall be submitted in sufficient detail (each item must be completed) to permit review and evaluation for the proposed contract as required by **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subpart C, Subsection 900.8** and in light of the declination criteria set forth in **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subpart E**:

1. The full name, address and telephone number of the Indian tribe or tribal organization proposing the contract. **[25 CFR 900.8(a)]**

Full Name

Complete Address

Telephone Number

2. If the tribal organization is not an Indian tribe, provide the following:
[25 CFR 900.8(b)]

- (a) A copy of the tribal organization's organizational documents (e.g., charter, articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc.).

Check items attached:

- ☐ Charter
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation
- ☐ Bylaws
- ☐ Other (Explain)

- (b) The full name(s) of the Indian tribe(s) with which the tribal organization is affiliated.

3. The full name(s) of the Indian tribe(s) proposed to be served. **[25 CFR 900.8(c)]**

4. A copy of the authorizing resolution from the Indian tribe(s) to be served.

[25 CFR 900.8(d)]

Resolution No.

Resolution No.

- (a) If the Indian tribe or tribal organization proposes to serve a specified geographic area, it must provide authorizing resolution(s) from all Indian tribes located within the specific area it proposes to serve. (No resolution is required from an Indian tribe located outside the area proposed to be served whose members reside within the proposed service area.)

Resolution No.

Resolution No.

- (b) If a currently effective authorizing resolution covering the scope of an initial contract proposal has already been provided to the agency receiving the proposal, provide a reference to that resolution.

Resolution No.

5. Name, title, and signature of the authorized representative of the Indian tribe or tribal organization submitting the contract proposal. [25 CFR 900.8(e)]

Name

Title

Signature

6. The date of submission of the proposal. [25 CFR 900.8(f)]

Date

7. A brief statement of the programs, functions, services, or activities that the tribal organization proposes to perform, including: [25 CFR 900.8(g)]

- (a) A description of the geographic service area, if applicable, to be served.
- (b) The estimated number of Indian people who will receive the benefits or services under the proposed contract.
- (c) An identification of any local, Area, regional, or national level departmental programs, functions, services, or activities to be contracted, including administrative functions.
- (d) A description of the proposed program standards.
- (e) An identification of the program reports, data and financial reports that the Indian tribe or tribal organization will provide, including their frequency.
- (f) A description of any proposed redesign of the programs, services, functions, or activities to be contracted.
- (g) Minimum staff qualifications proposed by the Indian tribe or tribal organization, if any.
- (h) A statement that the Indian tribe or tribal organization will meet the minimum procurement, property and financial management standards set forth in **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subpart F**, subject to any waiver that may be granted under **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subpart K**.

Note: The Indian tribe or tribal organization may provide a certification from a licensed accountant that the procurement, property and financial management systems of the Indian tribe or tribal organization meet the standards set forth in **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subpart F**.

8. The amount of funds requested, including: **[25 CFR 900.8(h)]**

- (a) An identification of the funds requested by programs, functions, services, or activities, under section 106(a)(1) of the Act, including the Indian tribe or tribal organization's share of funds related to such programs, functions, services, or activities, if any, from any Departmental local, Area, regional, or national level.
- (b) An identification of the amount of direct contract support costs, including one-time start-up or pre-award costs under section 106(a)(2) and related provisions of the Act, presented by major categories such as:

- (1) Personnel (differentiating between salary and fringe benefits);
 - (2) Equipment;
 - (3) Materials and supplies;
 - (4) Travel;
 - (5) Subcontracts; and,
 - (6) Other appropriate items of cost.
- (c) An identification of funds the Indian tribe or tribal organization requests to recover for indirect contract support costs.

This funding request must include either:

- (1) A copy of the most recent negotiated indirect cost rate agreement;
- Or,
- (2) An estimated amount requested for indirect costs, pending timely establishment of a rate or negotiation of administrative overhead costs.
- (d) To the extent not stated elsewhere in the budget or previously reported to the Approving Official, any preaward costs, including the amount and time period covered or to be covered; and,
- (e) At the option of the Indian tribe or tribal organization, an identification of programs, functions, services, or activities specified in the contract proposal which will be funded from sources other than the Bureau.

9. The proposed starting date and term of the contract. **[25 CFR 900.8(i)]**

Proposed start date:

Proposed ending date:

Proposed term: ____ years

10. In the case of a cooperative agreement, the nature and degree of Federal programmatic involvement anticipated during the term of the agreement.
[25 CFR 900.8(j)]

11. The extent of any planned use of Federal personnel and Federal resources. **[25 CFR 900.8(k)]**

12. Any proposed waivers of the regulations in **25 CFR, Chapter V, Part 900, Subparts A - P. [25 CFR 900.8(l)]**

13. A statement that the Indian tribe or tribal organization will implement procedures appropriate to the programs, functions, services, or activities proposed to be contracted, assuring the confidentiality of medical records and information relating to the financial affairs of individual Indians obtained under the proposed contract, or as otherwise required by law. **[25 CFR 900.8(m)]**



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Southern Plains Regional Office
P.O. Box 368
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

In reply refer to:
Regional Directors Office

STATEMENT OF WORK
PROBATE EFFORT AGREEMENT TO REDUCE BACKLOG

Project Title: Probate Effort Agreement to Reduce Backlog
Contract Type: Time and Materials
Period of Performance: October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.0 Objective

This project seeks to reduce the backlog of cases by establishing process improvements, defined roles, and sharing of evidentiary documents which are required by Code of Federal Regulations: 25 CFR Subpart B § 15.105: What Other Documents Does The Agency Need To Prepare A Probate File?

2.0 Scope

This grant is awarded to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma ("Tribe") to assist in reducing the backlog probate cases of their tribal members by collecting data, documents, and other by collecting items under Paragraph 5.0. This is a one-time, 6-month grant. There are currently 414 cases in backlog for Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes tribal members.

3.0 Background

Department of Interior (DOI) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) prepares, reviews, approves, and submits probate cases for the Tribe. The Tribe has not compacted to prepare probate cases for their tribal members for submittal to the BIA. Currently, the national backlog of probate cases stands at 48,000 and is a national issue. A major contributor to the backlog is obtaining the required evidentiary documentation listed in 25 CFR Subpart B § 15.105: What Other Documents Does The Agency Need To Prepare A Probate File?

4.0 Inherent Federal Functions

A probate case review for certification by the BIA to submit cases to the Office of Hearings and Appeals for adjudication will remain. The Southern Plains Regional Office is currently performing the tasks associated with the inherent federal functions. The inherent federal function for the Probate program is the signature authority contained in 25 CFR Subpart C 15.204: A probate file is complete for transfer to OHA when a BIA approving official includes a certification that (a) states the probate file includes all information listed in 15.202 and 15.105 that is available, and (b) lists all sources of information BIA queried in an attempt to locate information listed in 15.202 that is not available.

CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

5.0 Technical Requirements

The Tribe shall be responsible for the following activities to assist with the reduction of backlog of probate cases and assist with updating Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) profiles for their tribe and tribal members by the means listed below. The Tribe will also follow CFR Regulations regarding the following:

1. Death Notifications – this procedure provides requirements for the process of receiving notifications of a death and beginning a probate case for a deceased tribal member who owns interest in trust assets.
 - a. The Tribe will notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs Probate Office when a tribal member has deceased via email to the BIA and will include any or all the following documents:
 - Birth certificate, death certificate, tribal membership card, CIB, CDIB, or CIE, adoption records, and/or obituary.
 - b. The email in which the Tribe will send the death notification and documents will be to the BIA email. Email will be provided.
 - c. Death notifications need to be sent to the BIA as soon as possible due to assure the individual's IIM is placed in an estate status.
2. Required Evidentiary Documentation – The documents required by 25 CFR 15.105 are the following: death certificate(s), birth certificate(s), adoption record(s), marriage license(s), divorce decree(s), evidence of common law marriage(s), original or copy of decedent's will or a Court Certified copy, name change(s), tribal enrollment information such as a tribal membership card, CIB, CDIB, or CIE, contact information for all living heirs, and Affidavit of Family History.
 - a. BIA will identify the documents needed per case. Each case circumstance will be different. Once documentation is identified, BIA probate specialist assigned to the case will communicate with the Tribe on documentation required.
 - b. The Tribe will be responsible for obtaining or securing the documents needed per decedent's estate and submitting those documents to BIA.
 - c. The Tribe may purchase the documents from the Oklahoma Department of Vital Records and Statics.
 - d. The Tribe may purchase the documents from the Oklahoma State Court Network or the online database known as On Demand Court Records.
 - e. The Tribe may purchase the documents from any database or court.
 - f. If the Tribe has access to the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System, the Tribe will upload the documents into the case prep file as soon as the documents are received.
 - g. If the Tribe does not have access to the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System, the Tribe will scan the documents and send via encrypted email to the BIA email and mail the original or copies to the BIA Probate department.
3. Tasks and Associated Deliverables - Communication and monitoring plays a vital role in the success of reducing the probate backlog.

- a. BIA and Tribe will provide clear and frequent communication regarding issues or delays, technical assistance, or other.
- b. Timely submission of deliverables is essential to successfully completing this requirement. As soon as a document is received by the Tribe, the Tribe will submit the document(s) to the BIA via email. The Tribe may mail the documents in a group batch weekly.

6.0 Reporting Requirements

- a. The Tribe will prepare and submit a biweekly report on documentation obtained or efforts exhausted if documentation is not obtained.
- b. Bi-weekly report will be submitted to BIA Contact every other Friday.

7.0 Travel

The Tribe will follow their travel policies and procedures along with federal guidance for travel. Travel may be required to and from state agencies, courthouses, other tribes, etc. Out-of-state travel is not necessary.

8.0 Contractor's Key Personnel

The Tribe will follow their policies and procedures.

9.0 Data Rights

The collection of data derived from this grant will become the property of the tribe and funding agency.

10.0 Funding

This funding shall be applied wholly and exclusively for the purposes of this project.

- a. The grant will not exceed \$70,000.
- b. In the event the probate case backlog for the Tribe has been successfully completed, any remaining funds shall be used for probate purposes only.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Southern Plains Regional Office

P.O. Box 368

Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

In reply refer to:
Regional Directors Office

SEP 17 2025

The Honorable Reggie Wassana
Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
100 Red Moon Circle
Concho, OK 73022

Dear Governor Wassana:

In alignment with the Secretary of Interior's 2025 -2029 priorities for probate and estate services, a one-time grant in the amount of \$70,000 is proposed. Please find the attached Statement of Work for reference.

Along with a Statement of Work, please find the application contract which will need to be completed and submitted along with the application requirements. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are also required to submit the following:

- a. Proposed budget not to exceed \$70,000

Kindly submit the contract application, the application requirements, and a proposed budget to Mr. John Worthington, Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services, Southern Plains Regional Office, **no later than close of business, Monday, September 22, 2025**. Electronic submission via email is acceptable. Should you require any assistance, please contact Jessica Harkreader at Jessica.harkreader@bia.gov or 918-864-3705.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Morgan
Regional Director