

**ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL SESSION
MAY 28, 2026
CONCHO, OK**

RESOLUTION: A Resolution to Approve and Support the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Engagement with the Nature Conservancy and its Efforts to Establish a Tribal Entity and Co-Management Agreement with New Mexico.

RESOLUTION NO: 11L-SS-2026-0528-002

DATE INTRODUCED: May 22, 2026

SPONSOR: Travis Ruiz, District A3

CO-SPONSOR: Bruce Whiteman, Jr. District C1

SUBJECT: A Resolution to Appropriate Funds for a Vacation Buy Back.

WHEREAS: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe 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 provides that Legislative power shall reside with the Legislature; 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 VI, Section 5(d) of the Constitution authorizes the Legislature shall have the power to raise revenue and appropriate funds for expenditure; and

WHEREAS: The Personnel Policies of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes (9L-RS-2022-12-001) grants employees vacation hours as an employee benefit that accrue on a weekly basis. An employee may only carry over eighty (80) hours of vacation leave to the next calendar year; and

WHEREAS: In previous years, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes authorized employees to sell back excess accrued vacation hours prior to their expiration; and

WHEREAS: Due to increased costs of living and other financial pressures affecting employees, the Legislature finds that a limited, one-time vacation leave buyback program is appropriate to provide eligible employees the opportunity to receive compensation

for excess accrued vacation leave that would otherwise be lost at the end of the 2026 calendar year; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eleventh Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes hereby appropriates up to \$290,000 in Tax Commission funds for the limited purpose of funding a vacation leave buyback program for eligible permanent full-time employees of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for calendar year 2026, and any unexpended funds remaining from the appropriation shall be returned to the Tax Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the vacation leave buyback program shall apply only to accrued vacation leave in excess of eighty (80) hours and shall be limited to the purchase of no more than eighty (80) hours of accrued vacation leave per eligible permanent full-time employee; provided that the appropriate Executive Branch department(s), as designated by the Governor, shall develop and promulgate the required application form, establish a limited application window for eligible employees to request participation, verify eligibility and available accrued vacation leave, and coordinate with the appropriate department(s) to process timely submitted and approved buyback requests; provided further, that upon the close of the application window as designated by the authorized department, the buyback program shall terminate, no further applications shall be accepted, approved, or fulfilled, and only timely submitted and approved applications shall be eligible for payment under this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the vacation leave buyback program authorized by this Resolution is a one-time authorization, shall not be construed as creating a vested right, recurring benefit, or annual obligation of the Tribes.

Kendricks Sleeper
Speaker of the Eleventh 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 Resolution No. 11L-SS-2026-00528-002 which was acted upon by the Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in a Special Session of the Eleventh Legislature, by a roll call vote on the 28th day of May 2026.

VOTE RECORD:

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
A1	Pamela Sutton				
A2	Kendricks Sleeper				
A3	Travis Ruiz				
A4	Rector Candy				
C1	Bruce Whiteman, Jr.				
C2	Milan Roman Nose, Jr.				
C3	Thomas Trout				
C4	Mariah Youngbull				
TOTAL					
Passes () Fails () Tabled () Allowed to Die () No Action ()					

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5, subsection (a) of the Tribes Constitution reads in part: “Tie votes in the Legislature shall be decided by the Governor.”

		YES	NO	ABSENT
Governor	Reggie Wassana			

Jodi White Buffalo, Legislative Clerk
Eleventh 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 _____ day of _____, 2026.

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. 11L-SS-2026-0528-002.

Space below is reserved for Stamp:

Received (Date) Office of Record Management

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Office of Records Management
Department of Administration, Executive Branch
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

