



# JACKSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

County Manager: Kevin King

401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Suite A-207, Sylva, North Carolina 28779

Phone: 828-631-2295 • FAX: 828-631-2208

Email: [kevinking@jacksonnc.org](mailto:kevinking@jacksonnc.org)

Lorenzo Claxton  
CDBG Director  
301 N. Wilmington Street  
4346 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4346

December 3, 2025

Dear Mr. Claxton,

Jackson County requests that the North Carolina Department of Commerce serve as the Basic Agency for the “Project Rise Water Expansion” project, for which the County is requesting \$700,000.00 from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Matching funds will be provided by both Jackson County and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as outlined in the table below:

Federal	Appalachian Regional Commission	\$700,000.00	26%
Local	Jackson County	\$1,021,700.00	37%
Other	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	\$1,021,700.00	37%
Total		\$2,743,400.00	100%

This project will allow for essential upgrades and expansion of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ current water infrastructure in the Whittier community in Jackson County.

Thank you for considering this request and for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

Kevin King, County Manager  
Jackson County





# The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

**Principal Chief Michell A. Hicks**

**Vice Chief Alan B Ensley**

December 3, 2025

Appalachian Regional Commission  
1666 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20009

**Jim Owle**  
Chairman  
Birdtown Township

**David Wolfe**  
Vice-Chairman  
Yellowhill Township

## Tribal Council Members

**Lavita Hill**  
Big Cove Township

**Venita Wolfe**  
Big Cove Township

**Michael Stamper**  
Painttown Township

**Shannon Swimmer**  
Painttown Township

**Michael Smoker**  
Snowbird &  
Cherokee Co. Township

**Adam Wachacha**  
Snowbird &  
Cherokee Co. Township

**Bo Crowe**  
Wolftown Township

**Mike Parker**  
Wolftown Township

**Boyd Owle**  
Birdtown Township

**Shennelle Feather**  
Yellowhill Township

Subject: Letter of Support - Whittier Water System Expansion Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is pleased to support Jackson County's application for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding to expand water service to the Whittier community. This collaborative project will extend the EBCI water system across the Tuckasegee River to serve the Jackson County Fairgrounds and the broader Whittier area, addressing critical infrastructure needs in this underserved region.

The EBCI is committed to this partnership and will contribute \$1,021,700 toward the estimated total project cost of \$2,743,400. Jackson County has committed \$1,021,700 in matching funds, along with the \$700,000 in ARC funding, to complete this vital infrastructure investment.

This project represents a significant step forward in regional collaboration and economic development. By extending our water system to serve both tribal and county lands, we are investing in the long-term sustainability and growth of the Whittier community. Reliable water infrastructure is essential for protecting public health, supporting economic development, and improving the quality of life in rural communities.

The EBCI has the technical capacity and operational experience to ensure this project is successfully completed and maintained over the long term. Our water system currently serves our tribal communities with high-quality, reliable service, and we are proud to extend that same level of service to our neighbors in Whittier.

The EBCI looks forward to partnering with Jackson County and the Appalachian Regional Commission to bring this important project to completion. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Michell Hicks, Principal Chief  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians