Resolution No. 26-02

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF Elk COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

Section 2. Elk County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2025, the County population was 2,467 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Section 3. Elk County Commissioners hereby obligate ELK County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

Section 4. Elk County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

Section 5. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 74-50,223, financial contributions by the State of Kansas shall be subject to any restrictions imposed under applicable appropriation acts enacted by Kansas Legislature. As required under Senate Bill 125 from the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session Laws, the Elk County population was 15,000 or less as of the 2020 census.

Section 6. Elk County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

Section 7. The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by Elk County and the State of Kansas shall be $15,000 over a term of five years.

Section 8. Elk County shall allocate $9,000.00 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. ElkCounty shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30th each year. Elk County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication. Adopted this 12 day of January 2026 by the Board of Elk County Commissioners, Elk County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
OF Elk COUNTY, KANSAS

ATTEST: