

RESOLUTION NO. 1750

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$12,000 TO SUPPORT THE EARLY SETTLEMENT CENTER FOR MEDIATION PROGRAM AND FINDING THAT THE EXPENDITURE SERVES A VALID PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the Early Settlement Center for Mediation is one of approximately thirteen (13) regional centers that form Oklahoma's statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution system established by the Oklahoma Dispute Resolution Act, 12 O.S. §§ 1801 *et seq.*, and administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts of the Oklahoma Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the program provides free, confidential, voluntary mediation services using trained and court-certified volunteer mediators to assist individuals, families, businesses, and organizations in resolving a wide variety of disputes—including small claims, civil matters, neighbor disputes, landlord-tenant issues, code enforcement complaints, and other community conflicts—outside of the traditional court system; and

WHEREAS, the Early Settlement Center for Mediation serves all citizens of Oklahoma at no charge, with particular benefit to residents of Tulsa County and eastern Oklahoma, including the citizens and businesses of the City of Broken Arrow; and

WHEREAS, supporting the program will reduce caseloads and operational costs in the City's municipal court, promote efficient and amicable resolution of disputes involving Broken Arrow residents and City operations, and advance the City's governmental responsibility to promote community welfare and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, Article 10, § 14 of the Oklahoma Constitution authorizes municipalities to expend public funds for legitimate public purposes, and the Oklahoma Dispute Resolution Act expressly declares that such mediation services are intended "to provide to all citizens of this state convenient access to dispute resolution proceedings which are fair, effective, inexpensive and expeditious" (12 O.S. § 1801); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the appropriation of \$12,000 to support the Early Settlement Center for Mediation constitutes a valid and proper public purpose and is in the best interest of the citizens of Broken Arrow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA:

Section 1. The City Council hereby authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of up to Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) from the appropriate City fund or account to support the Early Settlement Center for Mediation program.

Section 2. The City Manager, or his or her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute a grant agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, or other necessary contract with the administering entity (Tulsa County Early Settlement Center or the Northeastern State University

East Program) to implement this support, which agreement shall include appropriate reporting requirements regarding program usage and outcomes benefiting Broken Arrow residents.

Section 3. The City Attorney is authorized to review and approve as to form all documents necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.


Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney