



Cherokee

Cherokee County, created at statehood and named for the Cherokee Nation, is part of the area settled by the Cherokee Indians after the Trail of Tears.

Tahlequah, the county seat, was established as the capital of the Cherokee Nation in 1839. It is the site of the Cherokee Heritage Center; Tsa-La-Gi Ancient Cherokee Village, an authentic replica of a Cherokee community during the 1600s; and the Cherokee National Museum. The Cookson Hills, surrounding Tahlequah, were noted as hiding places for outlaws and bandits, including the James Brothers and Belle Starr, around the turn of the century. Lake Tenkiller and the Tenkiller Wildlife Management Area, as well as the Illinois River, provide additional recreational opportunities in Cherokee County.

Northeastern State University in Tahlequah provides a source of higher education in the area. The university's beginning dates back to 1846 when the Cherokee National Council authorized the creation of a National Male Seminary and a National Female Seminary. In 1909 the Oklahoma Legislature authorized the purchase of the building, land, and equipment of the Cherokee Female Seminary to form the Northeastern State Normal School at Tahlequah.

For more county information, call the county clerk's office at 918/456-3171.

Districts

County Officials

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Cong. 2 | Court Clerk | Shirley Glory (D) | Tahlequah |
| St. Sen. 3 | Clerk | Marshel Bennett (D) | Tahlequah |
| St. Rep. 4,14,86 | Sheriff | Norman Fisher (D) | Tahlequah |
| D.A. 27 | Treasurer | Inez Peace (D) | Tahlequah |
| Ct. of Appeals 2 | Assessor | Judy Rousey (D) | Hulbert |
| Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 2 | Election Brd. Sec. | Connie Parnell (D) | Tahlequah |
| Supreme Ct. Jud. 7 | Dist. 1 Comm. | Doug Hubbard (D) | Tahlequah |
| E. Cent. Jud. Adm. 15 (Div. 1) | Dist. 2 Comm. | Bobby Botts (D) | Hulbert |
| | Dist. 3 Comm. | Mike Ballard (D) | Park Hill |

Property Valuations

| | 2003-2004 Assessment | 2004-2005 Assessment | Increase or Decrease |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Real Estate and Improvement | \$96,399,220 | \$103,155,458 | \$6,756,238 |
| Personal Subject to Tax | \$13,861,496 | \$14,303,167 | \$441,671 |
| Total Locally Assessed | \$110,260,716 | \$117,458,625 | \$7,197,909 |
| Homestead Exemptions Allowed | \$7,916,468 | \$7,948,227 | \$31,759 |
| Net Assessed Locally | \$102,344,248 | \$109,510,398 | \$7,166,150 |
| Public Service Assessment | \$10,713,952 | \$11,014,984 | \$301,032 |
| Net Assessed Valuation | \$113,058,200 | \$120,525,382 | \$7,467,182 |

County Seat—Tahlequah (Pop. 15,405) 2003 Estimate

Area (Land & Water)—776.40 square miles

Per Capita Income (2003)—\$19,625 (Ranks 65th of 77 counties)

Population Stats (2000)—Fem.—21,658, Male—20,863, **Ethnicity**—Wh.—23,483; Bl.—504; Am. Ind.—13,580; As.—115; Other—21; Pacific Is.—16; Two or more races—3,042; Hisp.—1,760

Births (2003)—606 • **Deaths (2003)**—395

Unemployment Rate (2003)—5.3%

Labor Force (2003)—19,880

Number of Establishments (2002)—671

Number of Manufacturers (2002)—23

Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$863,621
TANF—\$218,694 • Supplements—Aged—\$147,061;
Blind—\$3,926; Disabled—\$493,940

Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles—18,096;
Farm Trucks—964; Comm., Trucks, Tractors,
Trailers—751; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—569;
Motorcycles—466; Manufactured Homes—34; Tax
Exempt Licenses—173; Boats—3,421

Institutions of Higher Learning—Northeastern
State University, Tahlequah

Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder—2; Rape—22;
Robbery—8; Fel. Assault—121; Breaking and Entering—
328; Larceny—772; Motor Vehicle Theft—86; Arson—7 •
Total Crime Index—1,339; Crime Rate per 1,000—30.69

Farms (2002)—1,221 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—
220,739

County Population

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1907 (Okla. Terr.) | 14,274 |
| 1910 | 16,778 |
| 1920 | 19,872 |
| 1930 | 17,470 |
| 1940 | 21,030 |
| 1950 | 18,989 |
| 1960 | 17,762 |
| 1970 | 23,174 |
| 1980 | 30,684 |
| 1990 | 34,049 |
| 2000 | 42,521 |
| 2004 Estimate | 44,106 |

Recreation Area—Rocky Ford,
Sequoyah, Tenkiller state parks

Major Lakes—Ft. Gibson, Tenkiller

Major Stream Systems—Illinois
and Grand rivers, tributaries to the
Arkansas between the mouth of the
Canadian and Cimarron rivers

Museums and Historic Sites—Ft.
Chickamauga at Cookson; Cherokee
Nat'l Museum, Tsa-La-Gi Village,
Tahlequah; Adams Corner Rural
Village, Tahlequah

Minerals—oil & gas, crushed stone

