

BIG SIZE, BIG IMPACT

Sun, 08/25/2019 - 12:00am

Manufacturing building to be bigger than two football fields

RUSSEL SKILES

A building spanning an area about the size of two and a half football fields is being planned by the firm which announced plans this past week to establish a modular home manufacturing site here.

Sean Overeynder, director of Lamesa Economic Development, said Friday that McKinney-based TatumTek LLC is planning a 150,000-square-foot facility at the western edge of Lamesa.

"That is a huge building," Overeynder said.

"That's the equivalent of about three and a half acres – that's how big that building will be."

While that building is part of the company's initial plans, Overeynder said, TatumTek's plans also call for construction of another 100,000-square foot building within five years.

"They are working on architectural and engineering right now," Overeynder told the *Press-Reporter*.

He told the Lamesa City Council on Thursday that the former Weaver Gin property, located on the north side of U.S. Highway 180 at the western edge of Lamesa, will be the site for the facility.

The company plans to have about 52 acres of land in that area annexed into the city limits.

"This is a very, very big deal for Lamesa," Mayor Josh Stevens said.

"It could most definitely be the first step for a lot of really good things."

In addition to establishing a \$20-million facility that will go on the city's tax rolls, Overeynder said, the company will create about 150 jobs with salaries ranging from \$18 to \$30 per employee.

Based on their projections, TatumTek also will collect about \$18 million in sales tax revenue during a 12-year period covered in an agreement with the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), according to Overeynder.

LEDC officials offered TatumTek a \$300,000 incentive, based on the company meeting various stipulations, to locate their operation in Lamesa.

"The \$300,000 that they're getting is based on a very stringent 12-year agreement," Overeynder said earlier this past week.

This is definitely a very, very big deal for Lamesa.

Josh Stevens Lamesa mayor

City Council members on Thursday approved an amendment to the LEDC's budget allowing for \$300,000 to be moved from fund balance to a budget line item for grants.

Council members praised Overeynder and the boards of both LEDC and the Lamesa Economic Alliance Project for the work they are doing for Lamesa.

"You are doing a heck of a job," Mayor Pro Tem Doug Morris said. "What you are doing for our city is remarkable."

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