

PCDA Funds To Be Targeted For OSU's Sensor Laboratory

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Ponca City Development Authority on Thursday is expected to take action on a resolution to allocate \$2 million "over not more than four years" to the University Multispectral Lab project.

Monday ConocoPhillips announced it was gifting Oklahoma State University with the Research East lab, and a \$2 million endowment. Apparently the "match" for the \$2 million, which Mayor Dick Stone mentioned in his remarks Monday, refers to PCDA funds.

David Myers, PCDA executive director, is expected to recommend a resolution to the PCDA trustees committing the funds. Resolution calls for committing \$2 million to be paid in four payments of half a million dollars each.

The UML is to employ 80 direct jobs for Ponca City residents and 63 transitory posi-

tions related to the university and customers.

If approved, the first payment would come from the Authority's Reserve Fund, which has a current balance of \$2 million. The next three installments would be budgeted in the subsequent fiscal year budgets, specifically the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 budgets. The current half cent tax measure that supports PCDA is funded through fiscal year 2008-2009.

The money is to be used for facility improvements and equipment only at the Ponca City site, and shall be contingent upon a final agreement that provides PCDA with oversight appropriate to a significant public investment to insure that the funds result in the creation of jobs in Ponca City.

The UML is to have two centers, one in Stillwater at the existing Richmond Hills building and the main center

in Ponca City. According to Myers, Gov. Brad Henry in his State of State address specifically mentioned the Oklahoma State University sensor development, as one of two projects for which the state should provide funding in the current legislative session.

Henry said Monday, "Leveraged by a \$180 million bond issue, we will stimulate cutting-edge research. We will invest in sensor technology at Oklahoma State University. We will invest in cancer and diabetes research at the University of Oklahoma. And, we will support private-sector research throughout the state. It is critical we equip ourselves with every tool needed to develop a research infrastructure that will fuel our long-term prosperity."

Sen. David Myers and Rep. Jim Newport are playing leadership roles in securing this support.