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Fairfield company to expand and add 10 jobs

By Eric Robinette

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — A manufacturing firm will expand its Fairfield facilities to the tune of \$2.4 million, bringing in 10 new jobs by 2016, according to the city.

Fairfield City Council approved at its meeting Monday a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement that provides Alba Manufacturing a property tax abatement in exchange for financial contributions to area schools, according to Fairfield Economic Development Manager Greg Kathman.

Alba Manufacturing designs, engineers and manufactures heavy-duty pallet conveyor systems for several industries, including food and beverage, aerospace, warehouse, distribution chemical and materials processing, according to a city council report.

The company was established in 1973 and built a 67,000-square-foot facility at 8950 Seward Road in Fairfield in 2001. Currently, it has 71 full-time employees, which include engineers, sales, service and production workers, according to the report.

"Due to steady growth and increased product demand in recent years, Alba needs additional manufacturing space. Should the expansion project proceed, (the parent companies) will construct a 21,000-square-foot warehouse addition and lease it to Alba," reads the report prepared by economic development staff for city council.

In addition to retaining its 71 existing jobs, the company will create at least 10 new jobs within two years of the completion of the construction. According to the city report, construction should be finished by August 2016.

The Community Reinvestment Area Agreement calls for a six-year, 60 percent property tax abatement on the value of new construction. In exchange, the company will contribute \$4,000 a year to Fairfield City Schools and \$120 a year to Butler Technology Career and Development Schools. The Fairfield Board of Education already approved that agreement at its June 29 meeting.

According to an Ohio Department of Development Questionnaire filled out by Alba, the company's existing payroll is \$3,168,197. The new payroll will add an additional \$456,000.

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