

Auto parts factory plans expansion in Fairfield

Sue Kieseewetter, Enquirer contributor 7:29 p.m. EDT March 25, 2016



(Photo: .)

FAIRFIELD - An automotive parts manufacturer plans to add a 72,000-square-foot addition to its Seward Road plant.

Pacific Manufacturing Ohio will use the space to expand its stamping operation, said Kim Hall, the facility's assistant general manager.

She said the firm decided to expand its Fairfield operations for two reasons: tax incentives and the labor pool.

"It was between Ohio and Tennessee," Hall said.

Last year the Japan-headquartered company opened a second United States manufacturing plant in Jackson, Tennessee. Both it and the Fairfield plant produce metal stamping products for automobiles, including body frames/shells and engines, with Toyota a major client.

Fairfield City Council on Monday will consider approving a Community Reinvestment Area agreement that would give Pacific a seven-year, 65 percent property tax abatement on the addition only.

If approved, construction would begin next month and would be completed no later than June 2017, according to the agreement. Hall said she anticipates the addition to be finished by the end of this year.

"It's always good when companies choose to stay in (Fairfield) and grow," said Greg Kathman, Fairfield's economic development manager. "Pacific is one of our largest companies in Fairfield and certainly one of our largest manufacturers."

Pacific opened in Fairfield in 1999 and has three buildings. With 540 full-time employees, Pacific ranks as Fairfield's seventh largest employer, Kathman said.

"This (expansion) shows the company has confidence in its Fairfield location. It's the right place to make this large of an investment."

The \$50 million project includes construction costs of \$5 million and \$45 million for additional machinery and equipment over the next three years. Employment is gradually expected to increase by 62 during that period.

More employees would increase the company's payroll by about \$1.94 million annually, according to papers filed with the city. The company's 2015 payroll was about \$26.5 million.

Hall said the extra space is needed because of increasing work for Toyota and another company it is negotiating with she declined to name.

To meet the demand, a second shift is likely to be added.

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