$3.9 Million OK'd For Cajundome

BATON ROUGE (AP) — A legislative committee has approved another $3.9 million for Lafayette's Cajundome, bringing the total cost of the assembly center to almost $58 million.

'This is absolutely the last time’ more money will be requested, Assistant Commissioner of Administration Warren Landry told the Legislative Budget Committee Tuesday.

He said he was quoting former state Sen. Edgar “Sonny” Mouton of Lafayette, who pushed construction of the assembly center while a state senator and later while employed as former Gov. David Treen's executive counsel.

The assembly center began as a $24 million building, growing to $44.8 million when ground was broken in January 1982. The building — financed by the sale of $30 million in bonds sold in 1979, 1980 and 1981 — was supplemented by $6.2 million in interest earnings in December 1981 and $4 million in interest earnings in 1983.

Total state funding was $40.2 million until Tuesday when the legislative panel voted the additional money.

City To Pay One-Fourth

The City of Lafayette, pledged to pay a fourth of the costs, appropriated $13.4 million through Tuesday. The city must come up with another $1 million to meet the further allocations approved by the budget committee.

The city requested the additional items, saying they “are necessary to reduce the projected operating deficit.”

“The inclusion of the items in the facility would enhance and expand use of this facility,” said Roger Magendie, director of the governor's office Facility Planning and Control, in his explanation of why the city wanted to spend the additional sums in change orders to the original construction contract.

The Cajundome has a 14,000-seat capacity and is expected to be used for University of Southwestern Louisiana sporting events, conventions, trade shows and banquets.

Panel Will Probe Near Miss

BALTIMORE (AP) — An investigative panel will determine whether air traffic controllers who directed two passenger planes to land on the same runway at the same time made an “error in judgment” or some other factor caused the near miss, federal officials said.

The two planes flew within 100 feet of each other in altitude over Baltimore-Washington International Airport in one of three near miss reports at BWI in three days last month.

The architect is Neil Neubass of Lafayette. The general contractor is Blount Brothers Corp. of Montgomery, Ala.

The committee approved the following itemized list, detailing what the additional $3.9 million is to be spent for:

12 commercial lease boxes, $950,000; electric signs, $750,000; production sound system, $478,685; escalators, $450,000; elevators, $225,000; landscaping, $200,000; rentable veranda party space, $185,000; brick paving, $150,000.

Also, brick silicon, $140,000; concession equipment, $40,000; sidecoiling grills, $30,000; exterior lighting, $28,800; north stage drapery and framing, $20,000; and building directory, $1,500.