GOOD NEWS:
Dome deficit cut to $209,691 — USL to earn $58,000 bonus

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The Cajundome used only $209,691 of City Hall's $500,000 annual subsidy to it this year, according to a fiscal year-end report this week.

That makes USL eligible now for a $58,000 check from City Hall. City law requires the city to pay USL each year 20 percent of what dome staff members do no use of the $500,000 annual subsidy.

Dome officials predicted that about $250,000 in help from City Hall would be needed this year to pay the dome's bills, according to financial projections.

Only $209,691 was needed instead, said Greg Davis, the dome's director.

The fiscal year ended Oct. 31. The total earned was $1.21 million.

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The total spent was $1.42 million, according to a financial report.

In a 1987 contract with USL, city officials agreed to give the Cajundome up to $500,000 a year to pay bills and USL would get a 20 percent bonus for whatever amount under $500,000 dome staff does not use.

The dome has operated at a deficit ever since opening in the fall of 1985.

In each of the past four years, however, it has not used all of the $500,000 annual subsidy, according to dome reports. Last year, it used about $350,000 worth. USL received a check from City Hall for about $30,000 for that year's savings. USL officials have spent the bonus in the past on dome-related improvements.

The dome’s $1.42 million in spending the past 12 months included $166,000 on utilities, $486,000 on salaries, $23,000 on travel and meetings, $26,000 on telephone bills, $95,000 on insurance, and $337,000 on events.