Treen To Announce Funds For New Assembly Center

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Gov. Dave Treen will be in Lafayette this afternoon to announce that he will ask a legislative budget committee for additional funding for the proposed Lafayette Civic Center.

Treen is expected to be at Martin Hall on the USL campus at 2:30 p.m. to make the announcement. The governor has a press conference scheduled in Baton Rouge at 1:30 p.m. and will probably fly to Lafayette by helicopter afterward.

The extra money is needed to enable the state to accept the low base bid for construction of the facility and to accept alternate bids for seating and a kitchen.

The additional funds are available from the state's Capital Construction Interest Account. An additional $8.2 million is needed to get the project under way.

"We will ask the City of Lafayette to provide at least 25 percent of this excess and we will ask the Legislative Budget Committee to authorize the other 75 percent to be drawn from the Capital Construction Interest Account," Treen told The Advertiser this morning. "I expect the Legislative Budget Committee will meet no later than Monday of this coming week. I have already requested Senator Rayburn to call a meeting of the Committee and he has agreed to do so."

A majority vote of the legislative budget committee could allocate the additional funds for the Civic Center. Treen also said he will "seek to persuade a favorable vote" by the committee.

Sen. Allen Bares told The Advertiser today that Mayor Dud Lastrapes had said the city can bear its share of the financial burden. Lastrapes was unavailable for comment this morning.

The City Council must take action to appropriate the city's share in time for a Dec. 23 deadline for acceptance of the low bid.

Treen is also expected to say today that he will work with the local legislative delegation and project architects to review a third bid alternate which includes acoustical ceilings, lighting and terrazzo flooring.

More Than Expected

The state had planned to pay $30 million for the facility, with the city providing an additional $10 million. But bids for the project came in at almost $18 million higher than expected.

After a review of the project and bids, it was decided the facility could be built using the $36.6 million left in the construction fund, plus an additional $8.5 million. For the past several weeks, members of the

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