Lafayette-based MidSouth Bancorp Inc. announced Monday that its subsidiary, MidSouth Bank, has entered into an agreement with Jefferson Bank and First Bank & Trust Co. to acquire five Jefferson Bank branches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

First Bank has proposed to acquire the holding company of Jefferson Bank via a bankruptcy proceeding. In turn, MidSouth would acquire the five Texas branches from First Bank through what's called a Rule 363 sale, which calls for approval of the bankruptcy court, as well as regulatory approvals and is subject to customary closing conditions. As part of the transaction, MidSouth expects to acquire about $70 million in loans and to assume more than $150 million in deposits.

Rusty Cloutier, president and CEO of MidSouth, said he couldn't cite the price tag for the branches before the bankruptcy is finalized — a process that takes another 30 to 60 days.

MidSouth's deal is expected to be completed before July 31, and Cloutier emphasized that it would not be federally assisted. The last time the company acquired a bank was in 2004 when it purchased the assets of Lamar Bank in Beaumont, Texas. Lamar had a branch in Vidor, Texas. MidSouth has since expanded in Texas, with additional branches in Houston, Conroe and College Station.

Cloutier is bullish on the Lone Star State, and he's made it known that MidSouth is shopping for more banks, yet he wouldn't say where.

“We continue to look at other opportunities,” he said. “Right now, we're going to bring those five branches online, but we're working on other opportunities as we speak.

“Texas picked up three congressmen in 2000, and this time around, it has picked up four. By 2025, it's projected that one out of every ten people in the U.S. will live in Texas. Demographically, it's very strong.

“We still have 30 branches in Louisiana. This is an opportunity for us to be a lot bigger and be a lot more competitive.”

MidSouth Bancorp reported assets of $1 billion as of Dec. 31.