Gov. Treen To Seek $3.4 Million Needed To Complete Cajundome

By KATHLEEN THAMES
Adviser Staff Writer

Gov. Dave Treen said this morning he will ask the legislative Budget Committee for another $3.45 million to help finance construction of the Cajundome. He held a press conference at the Lafayette Regional Airport to announce the additional funding. His message was expected and contained no surprises.

The $3.75 million represents 75 percent of the $5 million needed to complete the Civic Center. The city must come up with the remaining $1.25 million.

The funds will be used for items such as a parking lot, additional acoustical equipment, elevators and signs.

"We will go to the legislative Budget Committee to get 75 percent of that ($5 million) from the capital interest account," Treen told a roomful of elected officials, including state representatives and senators, City Council members and USL President Ray Authement.

For Cost Overruns

Treen explained that money in the interest account is to be used "specifically for cost overruns." He estimated that there is now $30 million available in that account.

"The funds are there for that purpose," he said.

Treen added that it is now up to the local legislative delegation to support his request for more Cajundome funds.

The governor said he has "every reason to believe" the legislators will be successful. He also said: "I will give all-out support to the legislative committee."

Asked when the legislators would be prepared to meet with the legislative budget committee, state Rep. Ron Gomez replied: "Tomorrow."

If the Budget Committee agrees to provide the additional $3.75 million and the city comes up with the additional $1.25, that will put the total construction price of the Cajundome at about $54 million.

So far, the cost of the facility has been projected at about $48 million, with the state chipping in $38.2 million and the city contributing $12.7 million.

USL donated the land next to Cajun Field where the Cajundome is being built. Mayor Dud Lastrapes said today construction of the Civic Center (Cajundome) is ahead of schedule.

Lastrapes said the next step for the city is to appoint a commission to oversee operation of the Cajundome and hire a manager for it.

"I think we all agree it's going to be an asset to the community," he said.

Second Time Around

This is the second time the state has been asked by the Lafayette delegation to provide additional money for the Cajundome. When the bids for construction initially went above projected

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)
Treen Seeking Cajundome Funds

(Continued From Page 1)

cost, the state provided an additional $8 million.

“I think this is probably the final pitch,” Lastrapes said.

Councilman Wilfred Pierre said after the press conference that he expects the City Council to go ahead now and appoint a commission to operate the Cajundome and Municipal Auditorium. It had delayed the creation of the commission pending a formal commitment of additional funding from the state.

“There should be no other hindrance

that would keep us from formulating the commission,” Councilman Wilfred Pierre said, adding that the next step is for the city to educate itself about operating a facility the size of the Cajundome and hire a director to run it.

Councilman W.M. “Dub” Hudson agreed. “It’s time to appoint the commission. There’s no doubt about it,” he said.

Treen arrived at the airport at about 9:40 a.m. for the 9:30 press conference. But he met with members of the local legislative delegation before announcing the funding at about 10 a.m.

“I just wanted to refresh them on the figures, the $8.2 million we’ve put on before,” he said.

The Cajundome is scheduled to be completed by July 1984.