

## Firm seeks \$6 million from BA

by: ROBERT EVATT World Staff Writer  
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BROKEN ARROW — FlightSafety International, a flight-simulator machine manufacturer that employs hundreds of people in Broken Arrow, asked the city on Tuesday for a \$1 per-year lease and \$6.6 million toward construction of a new \$30 million facility.

The City Council voted 5-0 on multiple measures Tuesday evening to further study the issue.

Rick Armstrong, vice president of simulation for FlightSafety's current Broken Arrow facility, said the company wants to build on 17 acres of city-owned land near the southeast corner of 71st Street and Lynn Lane Road to allow for growth of up to 1,000 employees as well as for a more streamlined operation.

"We've got a complex engineering and manufacturing process, and it's taking place in four buildings," he said. "We could be more efficient and productive."

Acting City Manager David Wooden said approval of the plan is necessary partly because FlightSafety has been contacted by other cities for possible relocation.

"We believe the FlightSafety group is very important to the city of Broken Arrow and that we should work toward keeping them in the city," he said.

Wooden said the action could be funded through a city economic development bond, a bond through the state of Oklahoma or a tax-increment financing district.

He estimated that the economic activity brought about by the action would pay for it in nine to 25 years.

FlightSafety, which is based in New York City and is owned by Berkshire Hathaway Inc., employs 687 employees in Broken Arrow and more than 4,000 companywide.

Armstrong said the company doesn't have a specific timetable for reaching 1,000 employees in Broken Arrow, although he is confident that demand for his company's products will soon grow.

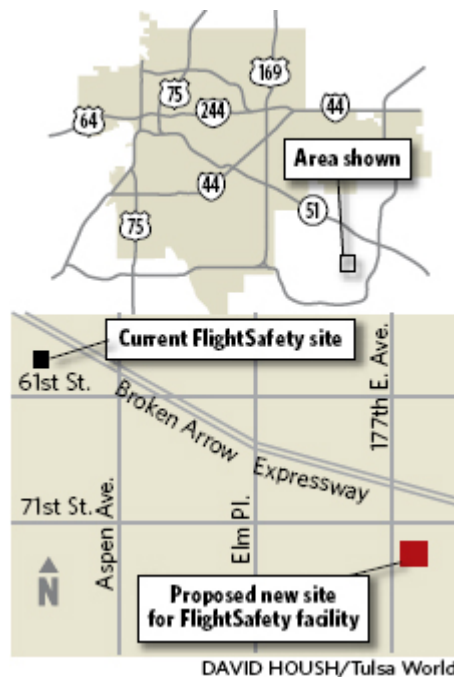
"Even though aerospace is in a bit of a lull, we still have a long-term growth forecast," he said. "When the markets turn back up, we want to be prepared to expand our employment."

FlightSafety owns 120,000 square feet of its campus at 2700 N. Hemlock Circle and leases the remaining 140,000 square feet. The company hopes to begin construction of the proposed new facility by January and finish it by February 2011.

The five actions approved by the City Council are authorizing the city attorney to obtain a title opinion on the property; authorizing Wooden to negotiate with FlightSafety; authorizing the city's Development Services Department to rezone the site; authorizing the city's Engineering and Construction Department to evaluate water line relocation and stormwater drainage requirements; and requesting that the Broken Arrow Development Authority ask the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp. to review potential funding mechanisms.

FlightSafety designs and manufactures full-motion flight simulators and operates the world's largest fleet of advanced flight simulators at 43 centers around the world, training more than 75,000 pilots, technicians and other aviation specialists annually.

It also sells simulators directly to airlines and the U.S. military.



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**Associate Images:**



**Civil Service test pilot Tony Arrington speaks with simulator engineers last year about the characteristics of a TH-1H helicopter at FlightSafety International in Broken Arrow. Tulsa World file**

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