

Zoning change for FlightSafety

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More than 300 new jobs are closer to coming to city.

The council unanimously approved a rezoning request from FlightSafety International that will make it possible for the company to build a larger facility in a new location.

The manufacturer of flight-simulator machines plans to replace its campus at 2700 N. Hemlock Circle, south of the Broken Arrow Expressway near 145th East Avenue, with a larger facility, where it plans to expand its employee base to 1,000 from the current 687.

The new facility will be on what is now a wooded hillside where water towers sit on the southwest corner of 71st Street and Lynn Lane Road (177th East Avenue). The water towers would stay, a city official said.

The property was zoned for less-intensive uses, such as multifamily housing, and is now approved for light- industrial uses.

Two people whose property will abut the manufacturing operation said they are concerned about lower property values, noise, traffic flow, drainage and hours of the company's operation.

FlightSafety manufactures flight-simulator machines for the military and commercial airlines and trains more than 75,000 pilots, technicians and aviation specialists each year.