

## Logistics Company To Add Jobs

Kristen Early | Posted: Friday, June 24, 2016 11:07 am

A Greeneville company will receive \$1.16 million in Tennessee Economic Development Funds to make building improvements at the Chasan Industrial Complex on Snapps Ferry Road, the former Magnavox facility.

In exchange for the funding, which the state will issue as a reimbursement, over the next five years that unnamed business will maintain its presence in Greeneville, add 105 jobs and expend nearly \$4.3 million in capital investments, according to Business Development Consultant Matt Garland, of the state Department of Economic and Community Development.

Garland presented the economic incentive proposal Thursday to the Industrial Development Board of Greeneville and Greene County. He declined to provide a name for the business, but said it is a logistics company that would pay higher than the median wage for the community.

Board member Scott Niswonger noted that the company already has construction underway at the site.

According to Greeneville Building Official Bert Seay, there is only one logistics company with construction underway at the industrial complex -- Forward Air Corporation.

No officials were willing to confirm that this is the company that will receive the grant.

Niswonger, chairman emeritus of Forward Air, made the motion for the IDB to approve the state's request to accept and distribute the grant. In an interview following the meeting, Niswonger declined to name the company receiving the grant. When asked about his current role with Forward Air, he said: "I have been retired as the CEO of Forward Air for 10 years. I have no current role with the company."

Garland explained that the state department cannot provide funds directly to the unnamed company. Instead, the company will provide the state with its receipts after completing building renovations such as HVAC and window replacements.



### Forward Air

The Chasan Industrial Complex is the site of a Greeneville logistics company's expansion, which is anticipated to bring 105 jobs.

The county would accept the funds from the state and forward them to the company. There is some liability to the county should the company expend funds on a non-reimbursable item, Garland said. However, he said the state has a pre-approval process to help prevent any such issues.

The company had considered moving to Texas or other areas, but chose to keep its expansion in Greeneville based on the incentives available from the state, he said.

"Had it not been for the thought process that this would be approved, they would have located somewhere else," Niswonger said.

"This is a situation where you could say we're trying to preserve jobs," Chairman and Greeneville Mayor W.T. Daniels said.

"It's a pretty solid project for you guys. It's a big win in terms of additional jobs," Garland said.

The IDB unanimously approved the measure, although a quorum had to be obtained through teleconference, as is allowed in board policy.