

Expansions could lead to 30-plus jobs

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While many areas of the country are bleeding jobs left and right, two companies in the Hub City say they'll be adding dozens of jobs in the months ahead to address growing pains.

Later today, the Lubbock Economic Development Corp. will announce that WesTex Document Inc. and CEV Multimedia Ltd. will create a combined 33 jobs as well as make other capital investments.

"Once again, Lubbock is bucking the trend. We have two companies here who are adding workers and not trimming them," said Kenny McKay, director of business retention for the city-appointed economic development corporation.

WesTex Document, a company engaged in shredding files and other records as well as data storage, said it plans to add 11 jobs with salaries ranging from \$28,000 to \$50,000.

John Miller, CEO for the Reese Technology Center business, which got its start in Midland, said it's preparing to open a second operation in Amarillo. "We think we could be adding 15 to 20 jobs over the next year," Miller said.

In addition, the company, with the assistance from First Bank & Trust, is investing \$600,000 in new machinery, equipment and supplies.

"I don't see any slowing in this economy for us. We have a new (data storage) customer out of Carlsbad, N.M., and I have to find qualified employees to help with this growth," he said.

LEDA said it will help WesTex fund two executive positions, a purchasing manager, regional sales manager and customer representatives among others.

WesTex currently employs 35 workers.

"His (Miller) growth there has been phenomenal since starting in 1997," McKay said.

CEV, established in 1984, said it will be adding anywhere from 22 to 25 employees and also plans to embark on a \$2.2 million expansion of its headquarters at 1020 SE Loop 289.

The company also plans to invest an additional \$300,000 in new equipment.

Founded by Gordon Davis, the Lubbock-based company is engaged in the production and sales of classroom electronic textbooks.

It is also the largest multimedia producer of career and technical education materials aimed at transitioning students from high school to post-secondary studies.

LEDA said the jobs being created at CEV will provide salaries ranging from \$25,000 to \$115,000 in areas ranging from production and technology development to IT assistants and business development.

"CEV is a cutting-edge company," McKay said. "We certainly appreciate their growth and keeping their home office here."