

Bonham/BEDCo 2021 'Top Ten' Development Accomplishment

With the sunset of 2021 rapidly approaching kindly permit me to share these brief reflections on what I see as BEDCo's 'Top Ten' accomplishments during this second full year with *the 800 #lbs. Covid-19 'gorilla' if not in the room then just down the hall raising cane!*

Fannin County's unemployment rate has rebounded after the initial pandemic-induced shock of 2020. It again hovers at or near historic lows [3.5%]. It remains a very tight market for Bonham-based employers across all sectors. The story is the same in neighboring Denison and Sherman where HR manager and operations staff struggle to fill current openings while also ramping-up for the impending growth destined for *'Texoma's inviting shores.'*

#10 Joint **City-Tourism-BEDCo** Task force hard at work to select a **webpage (re-)designer** to provide Bonham a more *visually impactful* web presence and commonality of *look, feel and lay-out* across 'our' three critical components that constitute Bonham's cyber 'front door' 24/7/365!

#9 BEDCo's Board's continued continuity resulting from our City Council's board appointments & reappointments has fostered a sense of **stability and continuity ~ important characteristics** as staff responds to record levels of interest and inquiries. Developers of all sorts want to see *stability, predictability in processes, boards, and outcomes!*

#8 **Public recognition**, appreciation and praise **honoring** the civic mindedness and decades-long **community service** from past volunteers and former elected officials like Roy (& Linda) Floyd & the Floyd Family, and Emily (& Pat) Porter along with the Porter Family.

#7 BEDCo recently hosted several of our **TEXOMA economic development neighbors** to review some of our common challenges, share local solutions, and discuss opportunities for expanded intra-community cooperation

#6 + #5 **Bonham's Jones Field Airport!!** **A.** There is a collective resolve between **the City + BEDCo + Whitlock Aviation to bring the commercial sale of 'Jet A' fuel to Jones Field Airport in the coming months!** Availability of 'Jet A' is a huge pre-requisites to more fully capitalize on this municipal asset!. **B.** In BEDCo's FY '22 budget **\$395,000** has been allocated for construction of a '*North Taxilane*' and associated infrastructure (*primarily drainage*). By funding this project a dozen or more acres of *prime Jones Field real estate* become *income generating* sites for Jones Field through ground-leasing with strong potential for private-sector investment to build a half-dozen or more larger hangars. By '*priming the pump*' we can expect several million dollars of new {taxable} construction to be added to the municipal rolls. **C.** These will further increase the level of aviation-related activities and flight operations originating from Jones Field. **D.** *And let's not forget* how quickly and successfully our Bonham Marketing & Tourism Director's spectacular initiative working with a few general aviation enthusiasts across our entire region to **revive Bonham's 2021 Festival of Flight!** BEDCo proudly underwrote much of the fuel costs for the Air Show participants so they could practice and put on their amazing performances that beautiful October day. **E.** Earlier in the year BEDCo sponsored the TX Hwy 78 signage and funded what is certainly the first in recent memory (**F**) *Jones Field Airport* marketing flyer

#4 **Trans Cable – Internal expansion** starting now and extending over the next three (3) years in two (2) phases. Viewed together phases 1 & 2 represent another multi-million dollar capital investment by Bonham-based manufacturers in our community. Trans Cable continues to modernize production equipment, occupy additional floor space (*in the former General Cable facility*), will install and operate an additional product line [Phase-2], They will create 14 F/T jobs paying about \$60k

#3 **BEDCo Lot #1** {adjacent to Bonham Holiday Inn Express & Suites}- **under contract** and likely to close before 12/31/21 '**Future Home of Reddy Event Center**' 10,000 SF (indoor + 2,000 SF (+/-) outdoor facility for lease special event. Construction likely CY2024

#2 **BEDCo Lot #2** {between Aaron's & Braum's} - under contract and likely to close April 2022, **mixed-use** commercial/retail use western portion of parcel fronting TX Hwy 121, **Multi-family 17-units or less, 'Townhomes 4 Teacher'** [1st & 2nd year BISD teachers and coaches leasing priority and/or 1st Responders if units available], eastern portion of parcel

#1 **Tongrun International's** decision to remain & expand in Bonham **announcement!** They seek to hiring 175 new production associates, professionals, and support staff. Truly a community-wide coordinated effort to achieve this!

Note the inter-connected & complimentary nature of many of these items. They are foundational for BEDCo's continued success in 2022!

Questions should be directed to Steve Filipowicz, Ofc Ph (903) 583-7555 Ext. 107 sfilipowicz@cityofbonham.org