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## American Airlines to add 300 jobs in Tulsa, use \$22 million award for expansion

From Staff Reports

Dec 13, 2023



A Boeing 777 undergoes work at the American Airlines maintenance facility in Tulsa. American was awarded \$22 million by the state Department of Commerce and will add 300 jobs.

Stephen Pingry, Tulsa World Archive

From Staff Reports

**A**merican Airlines has been awarded \$22 million by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and will add 300 jobs in Tulsa, officials said Wednesday.

American was awarded the funds for the company's planned infrastructure improvements and expansion to its existing Tulsa facilities.

The funds will allow American to continue making a multimillion-dollar capital investment in ongoing improvements to the company's Tulsa location and allow for the creation of over 300 additional jobs.

"We graciously thank Gov. (Kevin) Stitt, Lt. Gov. (Matt) Pinnell and the state of Oklahoma Department of Commerce for recognizing the important work our team does and appreciate their investment in the future of our Tulsa maintenance base," said Greg Emerson, American Airlines vice president of base maintenance and facilities.

"American has a long, rich history in Oklahoma, and this investment in our Tech Ops-Tulsa facility and team members ensures a bright future for years to come."

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American is one of Tulsa's largest employers. It operates its largest maintenance base in Tulsa and employs about 5,200 people here.

"We at the Tulsa Regional Chamber applaud the state's \$22 million award from the state's Business Expansion Incentive Program to American Airlines and its maintenance base in Tulsa," said Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal.

"American Airlines has been essential to Tulsa's economy since the mid-1940s, providing employment to generations of people in this region. This investment, which is earmarked for ongoing improvements and hundreds of additional jobs, again illustrates American Airlines' long-term commitment to economic development in this city and state."

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, in partnership with the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, announced that American is among five recipients that will receive grant awards for the Business Expansion Incentive Program and P3 Pooled Finance Program.

The awards represent more than \$405 million in capital investments to the state with an anticipated creation of 365 jobs and nearly \$40 million in annual payroll.

The Business Expansion Incentive Program assists Oklahoma companies in making major capital investments in depreciable items such as machinery, equipment and buildings, while the P3 program facilitates local infrastructure development where there is also a benefit to for-profit companies.

The following other entities were awarded funds through the two programs:

Berry Global Group Inc.

City of Fredrick

City of Lawton

Oklahoma Custom Coating LLC (Ecoat.us)

Berry Global, a leading manufacturer in health care, hygiene and specialty products, was awarded \$700,000 from the BEIP Program for the company's planned infrastructure expansion and installation of a state-of-the-art printing press within its existing facility in McAlester. This expansion will allow Berry Global to make a \$17.7 million capital investment and create 21 additional jobs.

"We are excited to bring a world-class, state-of-the-art printing press to McAlester with the support of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce," said Robert Weilminster, executive vice president, Global Operations Health Hygiene and Specialties. "This investment will further enhance our position as a leading supplier of breathable printed films in North America while

allowing us to expand our talented and diverse workforce.”

Oklahoma Custom Coating, located in Seminole, received \$450,000 to renovate existing facilities to establish its headquarters, as well as purchase new paint equipment for operations. This award will allow the company to make a \$5.4 million capital investment for improvements and the anticipated creation of 36 new jobs with \$1.6 million in new payroll.

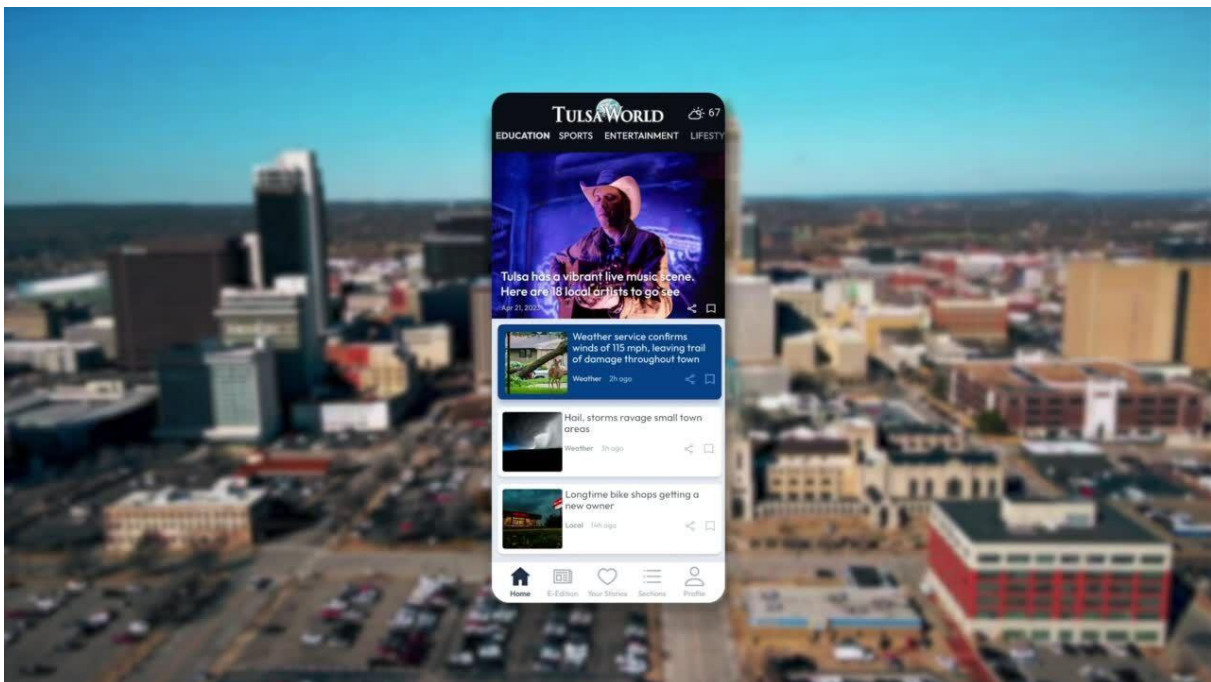
“The BEIP program kept our planned new headquarters in Oklahoma and allowed us to expand the scope of our project to increase capacity and better serve our customer base,” said Adam Adkisson, vice president.

The city of Lawton and FISTA were awarded \$9.6 million on behalf of FISTA Innovation Park. FISTA is a highly specialized facility that supports aerospace and defense as well as STEM education programs and also serves as an incubator for aerospace and defense businesses.

“Lawton Fort Sill is excited to receive an award to continue renovating the FISTA and make infrastructure improvements in proximity to Fort Sill,” said Krista Ratliff, president and CEO of FISTA.

“The award will enable investment in an administrative space, a state-of-the-art STEM lab for our students, along with an incubator and accelerator to help entrepreneurs grow their innovations into actual business models. This is going to allow FISTA and Lawton Fort Sill to lead the nation in innovation.”

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Patrick Prince

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