

Atchison Commits To New Innovation Center

(KAIR)--The Atchison City Commission has approved financial support for a new Innovation Center in the City.

The Center would actually be based in St. Joseph, Missouri, but a satellite site, with the same opportunities and equipment, would be built in Atchison, on the site of the old American Legion building.

Atchison Community Development Director Stefanie Leif says the center would be unlike any other similar projects, and would be a tremendous asset to anyone with an idea for a new business, but without any resources to act on it.

She says the focus of the center would be arts, technology, and industry. Equipment such as 3D printers, which would normally be very difficult to access, will be available for anyone who has a need to bring their idea to life.

Leif adds there is a high cost associated with the project, but funding is being sought from multiple sources. She says they are working with the MOKAN regional council to apply for an Economic Development Administration grant to really get this project off the ground. About \$500,000 is needed up front, which would be matched from the grant.

The Commission voted 5-0 to commit \$50,000 over five years to the project, contingent on the grant approval.

Commissioner Jack Bower said he is very excited about the project, calling it an accelerator that could potentially have business innovators staying in the city.

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