



I finally have a home in West Plains and have my family with me. It is kind of like economic development itself, every thing takes longer than you'd like. I have visited with 40 plus firms and will continue to reach out. I already have several more scheduled. The overall outcomes have been good with everyone saying their businesses are stable or growing.

There are a couple of nice sized expansions we should see by mid-year. However, we continue to have a labor shortage in the high skilled areas of employment. I know our local training folk are working hard to fill those gaps.

We continue to have a shortage of quality buildings to place people who are looking at West Plains. However, I expect some new construction in the immediate future. We still have spaces for retail available and are receiving some inquiries. We should see some movement on that front in the near future.

I am in hopes of receiving the draft of the new website very shortly. The website will be the spring board for our targeted marketing activities. Rome wasn't built in a day but they became an empire. Just got to stay after it.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS



Air Evac Lifeteam was established in 1985 by a group of citizens in West Plains, Mo. The goal was to provide air medical transportation and ensure access to emergency health care for their remote community in the Missouri Ozark region. Although air ambulances were primarily based in metropolitan areas at the time, the company founders believed that the people who needed air medical transport the most were those living in rural areas, often far away from a hospital. That was more than 30 years ago.

Today, Air Evac Lifeteam is part of Air Medical Group Holdings, the world's largest air ambulance service. Air Evac has more than 130 bases across 15 states. Operates the worlds largest fleet of more than 150 Bell 206 long range helicopters.

Here in West Plains they employ over 300 people in their billing and sales center. You can't go south on 63 without seeing all the flags of the places they operate and the helicopter in front of their building. They are one of the largest employers in West Plains and their impact on West Plains is substantial. If you get a chance tell them thank you.



## Seven Items that may impact the need for labor.

They include the following:

**Rising incomes or rising prosperity around the world.** We'll have another one billion people entering the consuming class during the next couple of decades.

**Aging around the world.** This drives the need for additional labor in healthcare, for instance.

**The need to develop & deploy technologies.** Digitization, automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence—these actually require people.

**Investment in infrastructure, such as real estate, buildings, and bridges.** All that construction could drive the additional need for human demand, even though research says more and more of that could potentially be automated.

**Changes in the energy mix.** We'll have smart grids. We'll need to change the generation of energy.

**Decreasing amounts of unpaid labor in the global workforce.** This is, in many cases, domestic work that's often done by women, whether it's childcare, cleaning, cooking, et cetera. More and more of that could enter the market as well.

Area Development Magazine

## ONGOING PROJECT STATUS

Project	Sector	Status
Track	High Pressure Hose	Presently doing a multi-million equipment upgrade
Train	Advanced Manufacturing	Expansion in negotiation at present location
Coliseum	Advanced Manufacturing	Waiting on outcome
Silver Maple	Food Processing	Waiting on outcome
Black Walnut	Food Processing	Waiting on outcome
Giant	Call Center	Expanded at present location
Dock	Warehouse	Will use temporary location while building
Joshua	Restaurant	Realty Search
M2	Advance Manufacturer	Unable to meet minimum requirements
Fish	Food Processing	Delayed
Coil	Advanced Manufacturing	Unable to meet minimum requirements
Cold	Food Processing	Eliminated
Inspirit	Unknown	Unable to meet minimum requirements
Dairy	Food Processing	Unable to meet minimum requirements
Movement	Warehouse	Not close enough to FedEx hub
Kingdom	Food Processing	Unable to meet minimum requirements
Space	Unknown	Did not have large enough acreage
Gingerbread	Unknown	Too far from commercial airport
Plug & Play	Call Center	On short list - 3rd quarter decision
Bay	Call Center	On short list

