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Council to consider waiving loan to pharmaceutical company

By Jennifer Meyer
Staff Writer

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A \$61,000 forgivable loan from the Ames City Council to a business in the Iowa State University Research Park could facilitate an expansion that would create 20 new jobs with an average salary of \$78,800.

The council will determine whether to approve the forgivable loan to Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc., a pharmaceutical company that recently acquired Fort Dodge Animal Health, during its meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica will apply for financial assistance from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to expand its Health Management Center in Ames, as well as facilities in Fort Dodge and Sioux Center.

The expansion in Ames would be on additional leased space at the research park.

City Manager Steve Schainker will recommend for the council to approve the loan.

"The proposed project has the potential to provide expansion of quality jobs and property tax base and without additional public infrastructure," he wrote in a report to council.

The forgivable loan would be the local match for the funding application. The match is needed for IDED to review the application, which it will decide later this month whether to approve.

The forgivable loan is contingent upon approval of the application to IDED.

Funding would come from the city's Economic Development Fund, which had a balance of \$677,000 as of June 30.

Following action on the loan, the council will hold a workshop meeting on initiatives in the Water and Pollution Control Department.

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