

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Proposed Tuition Revenue Bond Project: Life & Fire Safety / Fire Marshal Issues

Total Project Cost: 28,500,000

Requested Funds: 28,500,000

Estimated Annual Debt Service Request: \$ 2,484,760

Project Description:

- This tuition revenue bond request will provide one – time funding to cover the probable estimate of costs for “code violations” in a 2015/2016 State Fire Marshal report.
- The “code violations” in the report were mainly created by constantly ‘evolving’ code requirements to facilities that were code compliant at the time of construction or rehabilitation.
- The State Fire Marshal report, which covered 33 buildings on campus, focused on vertical penetrations and means of egress violations of nine University buildings.
- As stated above, all buildings all were code compliant when built or renovated (spanning from 1917 to 2006) and had passed multiple state fire inspections before 2015, however, these nine facilities failed the inspection. West Texas A&M University, upon receiving the report, engaged two architect firms in early 2016 to assess the “code violations”, define the scope of the work and to determine the extent of the work needed to bring “code compliant built” buildings into compliance with the current code. They proposed ‘viable’ design options to correct ‘non-complying’ conditions, consulted with the University to gain consensus and determined the “Best Option” solutions for each building. An Opinion of Probable Cost was provided as well as a timeline to complete the design and construction to correct conditions. The final reports were released to the University in early 2017.
- The TRB would cover the costs of correcting current conditions to updated code requirements for building egress issues including but not limited to stairways that are unenclosed and not protected, stairways discharged into the interior of the building and unenclosed basement stairways that created vertical openings.

External/Internal:

- Due to building codes changes and the inability to “grandfather” these facilities under the building safety codes when they were built or remodeled, WTAMU will need Tuition Revenue Bond funding in order to be compliant with the State Fire Marshal.

Results – Major Accomplishments during next 2 Years:

- WT has addressed other life safety and fire marshal findings in the report.

Consequences of Not Funding:

- The State Fire Marshal could close the facilities until the findings are corrected. This would place an undue hardship on the University with regards to instructional and laboratory space.