

Airport Improvements Part of Auburn Budget Discussion

(KLZA)-- The Auburn City Council discussed a number of items concerning improvements at the airport east of Auburn when they met Monday evening.

Long on the wish list of those utilizing the Auburn facility is a hard-surfaced runway. The Council discussed a funding request for \$110,700, which would go toward the project. Mayor Scott Kudrna said the Auburn Airport understands the facility is at the top of the list to receive a grant to hard-surface the runway.

The \$110,700 would be used for preliminary engineering for the grant applications.

The money for the engineering would also count towards the 10-percent match of the \$2.6-million price tag of paving the runway. Auburn would have to pay \$260,000 for the paving.

During an earlier meeting, it was explained the Auburn Airport must have a certain amount of planes utilizing hangars to qualify for continued federal funding. There are no grant funds for a new hanger, but an interest-free loan is available from the state. Costs are estimated at \$350 - \$450,000. Auburn would be required to put up around \$105,000 or 30-percent of the cost with an annual payment of around \$25,000 to pay off the loan.

All of the local funding is included in the budget proposed by Mayor Kudrna. The Auburn Council will hold a public hearing on the budget proposal and approve a final budget in September.

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