

## GARLAND COUNTY EDC ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER ACTIVITIES

For More Information Contact : Kay Brockwell, Director of Business Recruitment & Retention, GCEDC  
501-321-1700  
kay@hotspringschamber.com

Garland County Economic Development Corporation has released its first quarter economic report for 2011. The report discusses economic indicators for the first 3 months of the year available through the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, as well as economic project activity performed by the Garland County Economic Development Corporation.

As job creation nationally remains slow, the Hot Springs labor market experienced a 600 net job increase from February 2010 to February 2011, bringing total number of employed in Garland County to 37,600. Unemployment improved 0.1 percent over the same time period to settle at 7.8% for February 2011. Housing sales remain slower than previous trends, however home price did increase approximately 17% from \$126,955 to \$149,405 according to UALR's Economic Research Division.

Garland County Economic Development Corporation , which is the contracted economic development program for the City of Hot Springs and Garland County reported 4 new expansion projects in the area during the first 3 months of the year that cumulatively will create almost 150 new jobs and spend more than \$15 million in capital investment once completed.

Among the expansion projects are area companies, AAR, General Cable Corp. and Flakeboard. Each of these company have publically announced their expansion plans and/or have entered into job creation agreements approved by local City and County boards. According to the report, GCEDC also responded with proposals for six new potential industrial projects which are considering locations in the Central Arkansas area, representing a total of 352 new jobs at an average pay rate of \$15 to \$18 per hour, and a total capital investment of \$35 million. A representative of one of those projects visited the area in March. GCEDC is also continuing to work on two new business location projects carried over from 2010, one an aviation related manufacturer and one a medical products manufacturer, both of which have visited the area. An announcement concerning the aviation company is expected within the next three months, according to the report.

The report also lists several services and events organized for the business community by GCEDC, as well as strategy and marketing initiatives that are under way. Those include:

- Assuming the management role as primary contact for industrial projects and properties in Hot Spring and Montgomery counties.
- Marketing the expanded region and the ability to respond to projects that require proximity to interstates or main-line rail service.
- Strategic planning initiative for the region.

- A memorandum of understanding with the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance for cooperative efforts to develop workforce, education and transportation initiatives in the region.
- Defining niche opportunities for business recruitment within the state's revised industry targets, to best leverage local resources and advantages with state programs.

The projects were listed in GCEDC's quarterly report which was submitted to the Hot Springs Board of Directors and the Garland County Quorum Court this month. The reporting represents a new format for GCEDC's quarterly filings with the city and county, CEO David Byerly said.

"We have always had a commitment to keep our economic development partners informed and engaged, both public and private. Although we work in an business that demands the highest commitments to confidentiality, it is in ours, as well as our partners', best interest to discuss what we can when we are able," Byerly said. "This reporting system and ongoing dialogue with the City and County elected officials is critical to making sure that everyone is on the same page regarding economic efforts. Stan Grise, GCEDC Board Chairman and CFO at Munro, Inc. stated "Communication is key to success. We operate in an environment that often puts communication and confidentiality at odds with one another but it is our challenge to find the balance to protects both. We remain very active in our economic efforts for Hot Springs, Garland County and the entire region. The things we are doing to make our area more competitive for growth, investment and job creation are comprehensive. It would be easy to be lured into thinking that small steps aren't as important as big steps, but each step is one in the right direction. Each step, both big and small, makes us a stronger community for business to grow and compete successfully."

The GCEDC report is on file with the City of Hot Springs and Garland County in accordance with their contractual agreement and is available for viewing at either of those two offices. The report is also available to be viewed on the internet at GCEDC's webpage located within the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce website.

**Garland County Economic Development Corporation**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through March 2011

	<u>Jan - Mar 11</u>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>6 Income</b>	
6040-000 County Contract	18,750.00
6050-000 City Contract	25,000.00
6052-000 City Economic Dev Prog	2,500.00
6090-000 Rent Income	47,634.96
6550-000 Misc Income	4.10
6560-000 Interest Monthly	40.40
6562-000 Piney Interest	25.46
6570-000 Interest Quarterly	49.79
<b>Total 6 Income</b>	<u>94,004.71</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	94,004.71
<b>Expense</b>	
8014-000 Chamber Contract Fee	70,545.00
8015-000 Chamber Economic Dvpm	4,500.00
8016-00 City/County R/R progr	11,481.55
<b>831 Postage</b>	
8310-000 Mail/General	289.49
8312-000 Mail/Express	14.69
<b>Total 831 Postage</b>	<u>304.18</u>
<b>832 Telephone</b>	
8320-000 Telephone Service	135.12
8321-000 Long Distance	36.37
8322-000 Cell Phone	1,164.51
<b>Total 832 Telephone</b>	<u>1,336.00</u>
<b>833 SUPPLIES</b>	
8330-000 Supplies/Office	544.44
<b>Total 833 SUPPLIES</b>	<u>544.44</u>
<b>834 Copier</b>	
8340-000 Copier/Supplies	56.96
<b>Total 834 Copier</b>	<u>56.96</u>
<b>836 Travel/Sales/Marketing</b>	
8362-000 MRLA	34.00
8364-000 M/S-Misc	1,415.85
<b>Total 836 Travel/Sales/Marketing</b>	<u>1,449.85</u>
<b>838 Meetings/Professional</b>	
8380-000 AED	209.60
8383-000 MTG/Miscellaenous	1,604.23
8384-000 Mtg IEDC	2,093.61
<b>Total 838 Meetings/Professional</b>	<u>3,907.44</u>
<b>839 Education</b>	
8390-000 Education/Staff	7.47
<b>Total 839 Education</b>	<u>7.47</u>
<b>840 Dues</b>	
8400-000 Dues/AED	300.00
8402-000 IEDC	345.00
<b>Total 840 Dues</b>	<u>645.00</u>
<b>843 Outside Labor</b>	
8431-000 Legal Services	4,391.50
8433-000 Consulting	64,455.41
<b>Total 843 Outside Labor</b>	<u>68,846.91</u>
8440-000 Depreciation	515.85
<b>846 INSURANCE/GENERAL</b>	
8462-000 Ins/Liability	146.01
<b>Total 846 INSURANCE/GENERAL</b>	<u>146.01</u>

12:14 PM  
04/20/11  
Accrual Basis

**Garland County Economic Development Corporation**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through March 2011

	<u>Jan - Mar 11</u>
<b>847 Existing Industry</b>	
8472-000 EI/Mtgs, committee	1,523.83
8474-000 EI/Industry Appreciati	343.50
8475-000 EI/Research Costs	325.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total 847 Existing Industry</b>	2,192.33
<b>851 Other</b>	
8515-000 Miscellaneous	1.99
	<hr/>
<b>Total 851 Other</b>	1.99
<b>8600-000 - Ground Rent</b>	7,353.00
<b>8601-000 Tech Bldg Liab. Ins</b>	1,067.49
<b>8602-000 Tech Bldg Pmt-Interest</b>	9,050.60
<b>8604-000 Misc. expenses</b>	5,025.00
<b>8605-000 Depreciation</b>	9,482.34
	<hr/>
<b>Total Expense</b>	198,459.41
	<hr/>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u><u>-104,454.70</u></u></b>