

By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

There will soon be some new jobs available thanks to a new company looking to extend its business in Liberal.

The city commission approved Wednesday the sale of 12.9 acres in Liberal Industrial Park to Wilson Trailer for the company to build a sales and services facility.

The new building will consist of six service bays, and it will also have space to sell new and used trailers. The new facility will create between eight and 10 jobs.

Jeff Parsons, director of economic development, said the city began working with Wilson Trailer and discussing this purchase in the middle of last year, and the facility should be finished and operational in January 2015.

Ray Ridgway, branch manager of Wilson Trailer, said one of the main appeals of a location in Liberal was the traffic that passes on the corridor on the 83 Bypass, which Ridgway says the company didn't get a lot of. He also said that extending business to Liberal just made sense.

"We have more information forthcoming, and we're still in contact with contractors and other people," said Ridgway. "We want to make sure to have everyone agreeable with where we want the facility because we know that there are other facilities close to there."

This project will also include the construction of a new road to extend from Tucker Road south to their lot location for their facility, which will cost \$160,000. The cost of this extension is said to be offset by the sale of the lots plus the future sale of an additional 7.1 acres that will be opened up with the extension.

The site will be southeast of the current location of Gardner Cryogenics.

“They have been tremendous to work with, very cooperative,” said Parsons of Ridgway and Wilson Trailer. “They’ve been great and very easy to work with on this.”