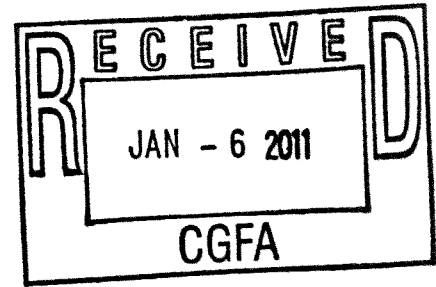




WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY



January 5, 2011

Dan Long, Executive Director
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62705

Dean Mr. Long:

Western Illinois University requests to present to the Commission the capital improvement projects which include the renovation and improvement of certain buildings, laboratories and classrooms, and the replacement of steam lines to be financed with Certificates of Participation in Accordance with Public Act 096-0015. These Certificates will be sold through a public offering to finance the projects. The University assesses a facilities enhancement and life safety fee which will be used to pay debt service. Board of Trustees approval was received on Friday, December 17.

These projects include approximately \$5 million for steam line replacements and \$6 million for roof replacements, electrical upgrades, heating and cooling upgrades, building repairs and maintenance, replacement of classroom equipment and science lab upgrades.

WIU has experienced serious, multiple breaks in aging steam lines requiring parking lots to be torn up and leaving buildings without heating and cooling. Phase II is to install new steam lines serving approximately 1.5 million square feet of space including four academic buildings and six residence halls. This phase will include approximately 2700 linear feet of shallow tunnels to replace the original direct buried steam lines that are fifteen years beyond their life expectancy.

Several campus roofs and high voltage electrical feeders have either reached or are beyond their expected life. There are also several building repairs needed for life safety, building comfort, aesthetics and to meet accreditation criteria. Roof replacements include the Heating Plant Annex, Browne Hall, Morgan Hall, Waggoner Hall and Tillman Hall roofs. Up to 25 high-voltage electrical feeders will be replaced to ensure redundancy and uninterrupted electrical service to campus buildings. Crumbling retaining walls, building exteriors and interiors will be addressed as well as upgrading heating, cooling, air conditioning and ventilation systems, replacing leaking water pipes and updating electronic classrooms.

WIU did not receive any capital renewal funds from the State of Illinois in fiscal years FY04 through FY09 which totals a loss of approximately \$7 million that would have been spent on roof replacements, building repairs and systems and electrical upgrades. WIU's deferred maintenance backlog is estimated to be almost \$500 million for appropriated buildings.

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We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these projects with you prior to formal submission to the Commission. Dave Steelman, WIU's Director of Governmental Relations, will be in contact with you in the near future or he may be contacted at 309-333-9389. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Jackie Thompson

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