

## City offers \$150,000 for port customer

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The City of Pensacola is offering \$150,000 as an incentive for a company to do more business at the port.

The money will come from the Community Redevelopment Agency and encourage Offshore Inland Marine to become a more permanent part of the port, where it has been a tenant since last year.

One quirk: Offshore makes its money servicing the offshore oil and gas industry, and the City Council has opposed offshore drilling.

Oh, well.

Offshore Inland and the port have tentatively agreed on a two-year lease that will generate \$340,000 to \$550,000 a year for the city-owned facility.

The City Council will discuss the proposals today. Committee meetings begin at 1:30 at City Hall.

Since mid-December, four vessels have come to the port for Offshore Inland's Service Center and stayed "extended periods," according to a memo from City Manager Al Coby. The visits generate lots of economic activity: dozens of people working at the port, more than 250 hotel room nights for contractors, and 140 passengers using Pensacola-Gulf Coast Regional Airport, just to mention some of the expenditures. Coby says the \$150,000 in economic incentives makes sense since the port is part of the downtown area served by the CRA.

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