

Bridge Logistics crosses into Butler Co. in search for HQ

Freight broker's rapid growth brings need for larger building

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Bridge Logistics Inc. is scouting sites in Butler County for a new headquarters building that can accommodate the freight-brokering firm's rapid growth.

"It was hard get the first couple million (in annual sales) but now that the foundation blocks are in place, it's getting easier," said Bridge Logistics CEO Jim Campbell. "I don't see anything slowing us down."

The three-year-old company is on track to nearly double revenue to \$8 million this year and expects to double employment to more than 20 over 18 months. It was recently named a finalist in the Courier's "Fast 55" program, which recognizes rapidly growing privately held companies.

Campbell hired Lebanon-based developer Henkle Schueler & Associates to find a suitable site and hopes to relocate in the next year. West Chester, Monroe and Hamilton are among places Bridge has considered.

Bridge Logistics occupies a 25,000-square-foot leased facility in West Chester. It's looking to double that space and buy land to accommodate up to 100,000 square feet of warehouse and office space.

The project will likely cost between \$2 million and \$4 million, said Joe Kramer, executive vice president for Henkle Schueler. Kramer said the company's growth prospects could inspire local governments to offer tax breaks to Bridge Logistics.

"It seems to be a market segment that has some growth to it," said Kramer. He said Clermont County's Total Quality Logistics shows how governments pay to keep growth companies within their borders.

Like Bridge Logistics, TQL is a third-party freight broker founded by former Castellini Group executives. This year, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority offered \$4.6 million in tax breaks to entice TQL to build a new headquarters at Ivy Pointe in Miami Township. TQL promised to retain 400 jobs and create 586 new positions.

Bridge Logistics contracts with trucking companies and manufacturers to haul paper products and other freight from factories to warehouses and retail outlets.