

Proposal from Nelson's Fireworks to the city of Roanoke

We would like to find a way that puts the continued existence of our store on Hwy 114 in line with the best interests of Roanoke going forward. To that end, we offer this proposal as a kind of broad starting point. We are not particularly "married" to any of the following ideas, but rather, we simply want to do whatever we can to keep our business as something that Roanoke can take pride in.

The investments we can make in improving and upgrading our property are necessarily tied to the window of time we can expect to continue operating. The longer the window, the more we can do. With that in mind, we'd like to present the following ideas.

A five year extension

We will install a sprinkler system in the building up to the codes of Roanoke. To do this, however, we would need city water. Currently, we do not have city water (or sewer). We don't really "need" these services to run our business, but in order to install the sprinkler system in the building in a reasonable manner, we would need city water.

A ten year extension

We would put up some kind of fountain/sign on the NW corner of our property welcoming travelers on eastbound 114 into Roanoke. The nature of this piece can be largely determined by the city. We would be happy to pay for its creation and installation.

Additionally, there are two other items we would be willing to do. The following two items are roughly equal (at least at the initial things we've looked at) and we would do one of the two items with a five year extension and both with a ten year extension.

- 1) Building façade. We do not have any certain “look” that we want. Sure, we want the building to look nice, but frankly, we want the building to look however it needs to look to allow us to continue to stay in business. We have already had some renderings done with one design. They can be provided if there is interest.

- 2) Parking lot upgrades/landscaping. If we are going to be in business longer term, we would be happy to improve the parking lot. Again, the exact nature of the improvements can be largely influenced by what the city would like. I have heard it is important to those in the fire service industry that any improvements be rated to handle the city’s emergency vehicles.
Additionally (again, city water would be a necessary condition for this), we would like to landscape the parking lot area. As an example, the barrier around the front of the lot (similar to the short barriers you see at car dealerships) could be masked by a long row of bushes. Trees could dot the parking lot. Again, we are not going for any particular “look”, just something easy on the eyes.

We anticipate being able to implement all these improvements within the first 12-18 months of an agreement.

Finally, going forward starting this year, any years we are allowed to continue operating our store, we would like to make an in-kind contribution to the fall Celebrate Roanoke fireworks show. Our business is strictly consumer fireworks, but we are a founding member of the Pyrotechnic Artists of Texas and have many extensive long term connections with those in the display industry. I am confident we can both improve the show and contribute to its sustainability.

Again, our goal is to simply do the things that will best align our staying a member of the Roanoke business community with the best interests of the city. These are a few ideas we think might further that goal. We are certainly open to other ideas. We are not a huge operation, but we do have resources, and would be more than happy to employ them to the betterment of Roanoke.