

Largest lease of 2018 to bring 300 new jobs to Olive Branch

MEMPHIS BUSINESS JOURNAL

About 300 new jobs are on their way to Olive Branch as Milwaukee Tool beefs up its largest distribution center on the continent.

The new jobs are one piece of a [three-part expansion of Milwaukee's Mississippi operations](#), which includes an additional 360 jobs split between Greenwood and Jackson.

In total, the expansion will bring a \$33.5 million investment to Mississippi, Milwaukee spokeswoman [Heather McGee](#) said.

As part of this investment, **Milwaukee will lease an additional 700,000 square feet** in Crossroads Distribution Center — the largest lease signed in the Mid-South so far in 2018.

"Our Olive Branch facility gives us the capability to accommodate the fast-growing demand for Milwaukee products throughout North American markets and abroad," McGee said. "By expanding our Olive Branch facility, we'll be able to serve our customers faster and more efficiently."

About six years ago, [Milwaukee leased 600,000 square feet in Crossroads](#). Since then, it's been slowly adding to its operations there; **as of late last year, the company employed about 780 employees in 860,000 square feet in the distribution park**, according to [Memphis Business Journal research](#).

While the overall Mississippi expansion was announced in December, the company didn't sign its new, 700,000-square-foot lease until March, and the number of jobs bound for Olive Branch specifically hadn't previously been publicized locally.

For the expansion, Milwaukee landed a total of almost \$16 million in incentives from the state — about \$14 million of which came via grants and loans to Greenwood for public infrastructure improvements and the purchase of the building Milwaukee will occupy. Only \$350,000 of the incentives were earmarked for the Olive Branch expansion.

Newmark Knight Frank's Scott Pahlow represented Milwaukee in the lease; Cushman & Wakefield/Commercial Advisors' Patrick Walton represented the landlord, Granite REIT.

Jacob Steimer

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