



Laura Belin &lt;laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com&gt;

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**Qs related to new ISU aircraft**

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**Hunt, Angie [SRC]** <amhunt@iastate.edu>  
To: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2024 at 2:19 PM

Laura,

The plane averages around 300 hours of flight time annually and is used primarily by coaches for recruiting trips.

The Cessna has been used. It and the King Air are both stored at the James Herman Banning Ames Municipal Airport. The purchase price for the Cessna was \$5.06 million. The King Air is appraised at \$3.32 million. The cost of the required maintenance for the King Air, around \$1 million, was invested in the purchase of the Cessna.

The athletics department operates and covers the costs for the Cessna as it has for the King Air.

Angie

**From:** Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 6:56 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Qs related to new ISU aircraft

Thank you.

On Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 4:35 PM Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu> wrote:

I'm checking with athletics on a couple of your questions. I'll follow up in the morning.

**From:** Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:55 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Qs related to new ISU aircraft

Thanks for this information, Angie.

How much did the Cessna cost ISU Foundation, and how much does ISU expect to receive when selling the King Air?

As far as I know, the Cessna is not big enough to carry whole teams for athletic competitions. What do you mean by the Big 12 increasing travel for athletics? Are the coaches going to use the Cessna while other athletes are bused to the locations of games and matches?

Or will athletics staff be primarily using this plane for recruiting trips?

How many times a year has ISU Athletics been using the King Air? How many times has ISU used the Cessna so far?

Where is the Cessna being stored while plans are made to sell the King Air?

If I understand you correctly, ISU athletics has been covering the costs of operating the King Air already. Is that accurate?

On Tue, Feb 6, 2024 at 3:42 PM Hunt, Angie [SRC] <[amhunt@iastate.edu](mailto:amhunt@iastate.edu)> wrote:

Laura,

In response to your questions, the Cessna plane was purchased for the athletic department's primary use. The King Air needed mechanical updates and with the expansion of the Big 12 conference increasing travel for athletics, it made financial sense to purchase the Cessna.

The purchase of the plane was facilitated through the ISU Foundation using cash reserves of the athletic department. No general funds or tuition dollars were used. While this did not require Board of Regents approval, the university advised board leadership of plans to purchase the plane.

The King Air will be sold. Based on the appraised value and cost of mechanical updates for the King Air, the net cost for the Cessna will be approximately \$750,000. The costs of operating the plane are part of the athletics department budget. The total annual operating cost will be approximately the same.

Angie

**From:** Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:29 AM  
**To:** Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Qs related to new ISU aircraft

Hello Angie,

Something came up for me this afternoon so if you can get me answers by the close of business today (rather than noon, as I mentioned before), that would be fine.

Yours,

Laura

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 10:59 AM Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Thank you!

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 10:58 AM Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu> wrote:

Laura,

Good morning. I'm working on your request and will follow up when I have more information.

Angie

**From:** Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 1:57 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Angie [SRC] <amhunt@iastate.edu>  
**Subject:** Qs related to new ISU aircraft

Dear Angie,

I have learned that Iowa State University now owns a Cessna aircraft, Model 560XL from 2004 (see attached screenshot from the FAA's Iowa-registered aircraft database).

My questions:

1. What was the reason for purchasing another airplane?
  
2. Who will primarily be using the plane? Is this going to be mainly for President Wintersteen to make fundraising trips or attend conferences? Or will other ISU personnel be using the aircraft?
  
3. Has ISU sold the King Air, or does ISU plan to sell the King Air, or is the King Air no longer usable for some reason? My understanding is that the Cessna 560XL has about the same passenger capacity as a King Air 350, so I'm trying to understand the reason for the upgrade.
  
4. Did the Iowa Board of Regents approve this purchase? I have not seen anything on the board's agenda or minutes indicating that the Regents were considering a new airplane for ISU.
  
5. How much did ISU spend on the Cessna 560XL? Did the deal include a discount for trading in the King Air?
  
6. What funds were used to purchase the Cessna 560XL? I didn't see any appropriation for an airplane in the FY2024 budget for the Regents institutions, or in the FY2024 budget from the state's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.
  
7. What are the operating costs per flight hour for the Cessna 560XL, and what are the operating costs per flight hour for the King Air?
  
8. What are the expected infrastructure costs for storing and maintaining the Cessna 560XL? Has ISU rented or purchased a new hangar, or is the space previously used for the King Air available?

Thank you in advance for any information you can provide on this, ideally by noon on Tuesday, February 6.

Yours,

Laura

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