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April 12, 2016 - Bank of Tennessee leadership and employees, along with Kingsport city leaders, officially broke ground on a new location for their Main Office in downtown Kingsport. Located on the empty lot directly next to the existing location, the new office will feature a two story facility with almost 12,000 square feet and parking areas located on both sides of the building.

Several people spoke at the Groundbreaking Ceremony including Kingsport Chamber Board Chair CeeGee McCord, Mayor John Clark, Downtown Kingsport Association Director Sherri Mosely, Roy L. Harmon, CEO and Chairman of the Board at Bank of Tennessee, and Chairman of Bank of Tennessee Holding Company, BancTenn Corp, William B. Greene Jr.

Greene commented, "Back in 1974, I was in banking in Carter County, It was obvious that the banking industry in the TriCities was falling apart. So my father and I made the decision to get some local directors, sold some stock and started Bank of Tennessee with \$1,875,000. Over the next 40 years, we grew and now have locations from Middle Tennessee to North Carolina".

"The great thing about being a locally owned and operated company is that we empower our employees, in all our locations, with the ability to make decisions and take care of customers. Many of our competitors have headquarters in Charlotte or Atlanta or Memphis. So people in other states are making decisions that impact the financial lives of people here in our community," said Greene. "But here at Bank of Tennessee, decisions are made by people you can walk up to and shake hands with."

The new building will feature a brick and precast concrete exterior with substantial glassed areas that showcase a modern, welcoming design. A patio area will be located in the front of the building facing Center Street where employees and customers can enjoy the outside atmosphere of downtown Kingsport. The open lobby area will contain work stations for Customer Experience Officers at Bank of Tennessee. These highly trained employees will be able to handle almost any kind of financial transaction or request that a customer has.

"The traditional bank layout of a line of tellers hidden behind a wall will be replaced with a more open, friendly environment," said Roy Harmon, CEO and Chairman of the Board for Bank of Tennessee. Harmon continued, "The banking industry has changed so much over the past decade with the advancements of technology and other services. While Bank of Tennessee has been a pretty early adopter of these improvements, we are still focused on delivering face-to-face experiences that our customers enjoy. Our location in the Green Hills area of Nashville was the first to provide this type of interaction between our staff and customers. The feedback has been great and we are excited to bring it to the TriCities."

The design goal for the East Center Street location was to provide employees and customers an open, enjoyable place to work and transact business. The contemporary design will include natural light in all the office spaces, a fitness center for the employees, a board room designed for employee training and community events, showcase areas for local artists, and energy efficient lighting and appliances.

The 5 million dollar construction project will begin in the next few weeks and is targeted for a May 2017 completion date - 43 years after Bank of Tennessee opened its doors in downtown Kingsport in a mobile unit.

Professional partners for this construction project are all local companies - Reedy & Sykes Architect and Design, Burleson Construction Company Inc., and Southeast Venture.

Bank of Tennessee is a community bank headquartered in East Tennessee, including its divisions Carter County Bank and Mountain Community Bank. For more information, visit www.bankoftennessee.com or call (423) 378.9500. Member FDIC.

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