State officials are negotiating a contract to sell Yaqiuna Hall on the Oregon State Hospital north campus to the city of Salem for housing.

Darrin Brightman, a real estate project manager with the Department of Administrative Services, confirmed the sale to the Salem Housing Authority but declined to confirm the purchase amount.

On a request for proposals on how to use the lot, the state had said it was in talks with a third party about selling Yaqiuna Hall (https://www.oregon.gov/das/Facilities/Documents/Ohnc_RFP2_2016.pdf).

The hall was built as a dorm for nurses, said Brightman, but the Oregon Department of Human Services has personnel there now who are in the process of moving out.

The building is on the southwest side of the site, next to the Dome building, where the Oregon Department of Corrections operates.

Other buildings on the 47-acre site will be demolished early next year, with only two set to be saved at this point: Yaqiuna and the Dome building.

A group of business people had come together this year with a proposal to salvage all of the buildings for reuse, but state officials denied their proposal. The group had offered to take over the costs of demolition.

The move to sell Yaqiuna Hall comes at a time when the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, which oversees the site, has said it may go over-budget on the $8.3 million north campus project (https://www.oregon.gov/das/Facilities/Documents/Ohnc_RFP2_2016.pdf).

Brightman said demolition costs came in less than what the state had expected, but "we are a bit over $8.3 (million)," the amount originally budgeted.

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Work has been under way to rid the facilities of hazardous materials, including asbestos. Abatement is expected to occur in Yaqiuna Hall this December, said Brightman, and the state will hand the building over to the city clean.

The Statesman Journal has submitted a public records request for other proposals that have been denied by the state.

Send questions, comments or news tips to bach@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6714. Follow him on Twitter @JonathanMBach (https://twitter.com/jonathanmbach?lang=en).