



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Commission

From: Lornie Stalder, Public Works Director

Date: July 31, 2026

Subject: Deadwood Public Library Sandstone Restoration Project

The Deadwood Public Library is one of the City's most significant historic landmarks and a lasting symbol of our community's commitment to education and preservation. Construction of the library began in 1904 following philanthropist **Andrew Carnegie's** \$15,000 donation in 1903. Since its dedication in 1905, the Carnegie Library has served the residents of Deadwood and Lawrence County while standing as an important piece of our architectural and cultural heritage.

After more than 120 years of exposure to South Dakota's harsh weather conditions, several of the library's original sandstone features have deteriorated and now require restoration. The affected elements include the **sandstone entry steps, sandstone foundation, sandstone fence, and capstones**. If these repairs are delayed, continued deterioration could result in additional structural damage, increased restoration costs, and the potential loss of original historic materials.

Competitive Masonry has provided a proposal in the amount of **\$37,056.60** to complete the necessary restoration work. The scope of work includes:

- Resetting the sandstone capstones.
- Repairing damaged sections of the sandstone fence.
- Removing and replacing all deteriorated convex mortar joints on the porch, entry stoop, and sandstone fence.
- Removing and replacing all failed caulking to prevent water infiltration.

Preserving the Deadwood Public Library is an investment in one of our community's most recognizable historic structures. Maintaining these original sandstone features protects the building's architectural integrity, extends its service life, and demonstrates the City's continued commitment to preserving the historic character that makes Deadwood unique. Proper restoration today will help prevent more extensive and costly repairs in the future while ensuring this landmark remains an asset for future generations.

I respectfully recommend approval of the proposal from Competitive Masonry in the amount of **\$37,056.60** to complete the necessary sandstone restoration work at the Deadwood Public Library.