

City of Independence - Strategic Planning Project Information Sheet

Project Title: Library Furniture Updates

Department: Library

Contact Person: Laura Blaker

1. Estimated Total Cost: \$59,000

2. Project Timeline: 2026-2027, 2031-2033

Replacing tables and chairs in the community room, office chairs for staff, and hard back library chairs in the main library will enable easier community room setup and teardown and replace worn and damaged chairs in the library. The project could be done in phases, possibly in this order:

- Community Room Chairs/Tables Replacement (approx. \$25,000 in 2026)

- Office Chairs Replacement (approx. \$3,000 in 2027)

- Library Hardback Chairs and Stools Replacement (approx. \$31,000 in 2031-2033).

 - 55 Hardback Chairs, purchased over the course of three years to replace existing

 - 6 Hardback Stools, purchased between 2031-2033 to replace existing

3. Project Description:

This project will allow the library to improve the practicality of the community room with easier setup and teardown, portable tables with good mechanics, and more comfortable chairs. Other chairs will be replaced, primarily in the public area of the library, as many of the chairs used by the public and the staff are damaged and worn from use.

4. Project Justification / Community Benefit:

The library's community room is used heavily, with over 300 uses last fiscal year, including library programs and use by organizations and businesses. Our current tables are heavy and have been breaking and loosening more frequently the last several years. They are very heavy, and not user-friendly for the public or for program set-up. The community room is often used by people who have traveled from other counties and states (30 counties and 7 states represented last fiscal year) for meetings, and the space is a reflection of the City.

The 17-year-old library has welcomed over one million visitors to date. The continual usage of chairs means that eventually they get damaged and worn and replacements are needed. Maintaining our beautiful library will benefit the city through increased engagement, lifelong learning, and will bring people to the City who may otherwise choose to go elsewhere. Almost 8,000 checkouts last year were from people who reside

outside of Buchanan County, an uptick of 17%. The more people who come to the library from outside our area, the more who will support our local economy by spending money in our city.

A City's public library reflects the value it places on education, culture, and community engagement. Libraries are open to all and enrich lives, promote lifelong learning, and facilitate personal growth and discovery.

Updating the library furniture is closely linked to these **City Initiatives**:

- Encourage a supportive environment for businesses, workforce, and economic development.

- Support and encourage tourism.

- Developing a vibrant future.

- Community involvement and engagement.

- Support high-quality City Services.

5. Key Dependencies or Potential Roadblocks: