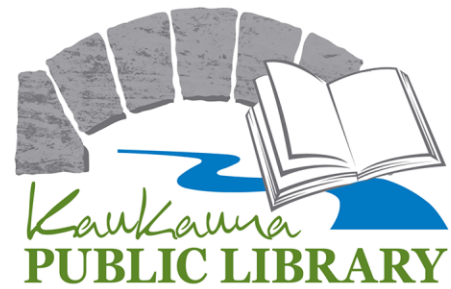


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustee
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 1/21/2026
Re: Budget Updates



The City is closing the 2025 budget on January 31, 2026. We have been waiting to generate the December expenditure report for the last few remaining items that need to come from 2025. I will update at the meeting whether it is a draft or the actual for December.

Anticipated county allocations for 2026 are \$340,853. That is an increase of \$66,578, since 2022 when we implemented our strategic plan.

In library vendor news, Baker & Taylor, one of the largest book vendors in the U.S. went bankrupt in late 2025. This has put a major strain on libraries. The good news is that we did not use them as a vendor heavily, the bad news is that our current vendor took on more clients than they were capable of because many public libraries used B&T as their predominant vendor.

We have heard that our primary vendor has hired hundreds of new employees to deal with the overload of customers and orders, but we are still seeing increasingly late shipments. We are going to be increasingly late getting materials out by release date because of order fulfillment and shipping times. We get varied discounts from vendors, so this change in major vendors will likely have an impact on the cost of materials due to supply and demand. Our vendor has a significant amount of demand now that we only have one major book vendor in the U.S. It appears that Amazon may be trying to make space for themselves as library vendors, however we have not yet had a chance to see what they are offering for discounts. OWLS is paying for membership for us to look at some smaller vendors for purchase, but we have not had the opportunity to do so yet.