

## Additional Project for Funding Consideration

### Replacement - Automated Materials Handling System (aka check-in/sorting machine)

Justification – In 2017, the Mead Public Library implemented RFID technology as a more efficient method of circulating physical items. RFID equipment can read RFID tags within a certain proximity, as opposed to barcode technology, which requires precise, line-of-sight alignment. This makes the library staff more efficient when checking in or checking out materials in our high-volume environment. It also makes it easier for patrons to use self-service technology. As a part of an RFID-enabled system, many larger libraries use an AMH system to allow patrons to check in their own materials. The benefit to patrons checking in their own materials is clearing those borrowed items off of their record.

- Our AMH machine was purchased in 2017, meaning it is aging rapidly in the technology world. New vendors and technology are available in 2024 to provide this service
- The current RFID tags used by Mead are standard for the industry and could be used with any new AMH machine, meaning there is no need to re-tag library materials
- In 2023, our AHM machine checked in **389,573** items, so it is a key piece of our operations
- The public facing check in station on our AMH machine has had an unacceptable amount of downtime over the past several years. We estimate that it was **unavailable** for the public **4.5 months in 2023 (37.5%)** and has been unavailable to the public for one month in 2024
- The main problem is obtaining replacement parts, since the company is now located in Germany
- After our staff formally complained to our current vendor regarding our support costs, the vendor reduced our annual support fee for this unit in 2024 from \$16,845 to \$8,843
- We have quotes for a new AHM machine and would use **\$250,000** as a replacement budgetary figure
- This piece of equipment was submitted as a CIP request around 10 years ago, and was not approved several years in a row