

2027-28 Library Budget Update



Whitewater
PUBLIC LIBRARY

September 2026

Agenda

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Summary

Beginning in 2019, the library has used its fund balance in order to balance the budget, as costs (especially for wages/benefits) have increased and the city appropriation remained flat.

In 2026, the library will use approximately \$181,532 of its fund balance, decreasing the total to about \$365,729. This situation is not sustainable.

Library administration has been working with the City Finance department in order to find solutions to stabilize the library's financial position. The city is recommending an increase to the appropriation, from 475K to 530K for 2027. However, this is not enough to cover our current costs and major cuts will need to be made in order to keep the library operational.

City Appropriation

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	ESTIMATE 2026	Average
220-43720-55	CONTRACT REVENUE	218,099	233,020	213,740	229,240	219,770	227,710	230,000	
220-49290-55	TRANSFER IN-GENERAL FUND	470,000	470,000	485,000	470,000	627,558	469,370	475,000	492,282
220-34300	Fund Balance	686,859	609,146	536,438	952,131	594,243	547,261	365,729	
	Net Increase/(Decrease)	15,141	(77,713)	(72,708)	415,893	(357,887)	(46,983)	(181,532)	
LIBRARY-SPECIAL FUND		2020 ACTUAL	2021 ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	
100	Personnel & Benefits	580,515	613,960	645,458	687,641	641,428	669,645	784,020	
200	Professional Svcs	30,398	32,079	30,498	42,338	11,708	13,878	26,787	
300	Commodities & Other Exp	100,015	102,597	111,578	165,349	106,321	111,052	108,625	
500	Library Board	1,445	85,953	25,354	-	30	5	-	
		712,373	834,589	812,888	895,328	759,487	794,580	919,432	
	Increase to salaries/benefits			31,498	42,183	(46,213)	28,217	114,375	
	FTE Count	9.70	10.40	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50		
	Expenditure Restraint Program	2.10%	3.25%	8.20%	5.90%	3.50%	3.40%		34.55%
								CPI-U	40.50%

Current: 475 K

2027: 530 K

*This is the City Finance department
recommendation based on their calculations.*

County Funding

2027

County funding will be down 35% in 2027 due to the library being closed in 2025 during construction. The impact of this is delayed because it is based on annual circulation numbers.

2028

2026 circulation numbers determine the 2028 county reimbursements, and they are currently on track slightly ahead of 2024. We are projecting to go back to the baseline of around \$230K.

Ongoing

Efforts to increase circulation will be prioritized with the goal of increasing county funding.



Budget Deficit - Proposed Solution

Baseline numbers for 2027 and 2028 as **currently staffed**
(but including the appropriation increase):

2027 Deficit: (**\$215,824**)

2028 Deficit: (**\$122,663**)

Proposed Solution:

- Keep all current staff.
- Reduce library hours from 61 to 53 per week.
- Reduce all part-time staff to ~1040 hours per year (~20 hours/week).
Current WRS will not be affected. PT staff will lose health/dental/vision, paid sick/vacation time, paid holidays, and other paid benefits.
- Add a shelver position at 12 hours/week.

2027 Deficit: (**\$105,482**) – *still a large gap due to the temporary decrease in county funding, city is recommending using contingency funds to cover this gap.*

2028 Deficit: (**\$12,321**)

New Hours

Mon-Thu: 9 am-7 pm

Fri: 9 am-6 pm

Sat: 10 am-2 pm

Library events and meeting room
reservations may still take place
after hours.

Current FTE

10.4

New FTE

9.25

Impact of Proposed Solution

What to expect with this plan:

- We may lose excellent workers with this change; loss of skill and institutional knowledge; burden/cost for rehiring and training
- Workplace morale and staff motivation will decrease
- Reduction in library hours = reduction in library services and will be felt by the public
- Chaotic period for at least 6-12 months as we adjust
- May have longer wait times for services, including help at the front desk
- It will take longer for new materials to get processed and out on the shelves, as tech services will need to cover public services
- Programming, partnerships, outreach, and marketing efforts will decrease as professional staff will need to cover public services
- Home Delivery and Memory Cafe programs may need to be cut
- Book Club support may need to be reduced or cut
- Staff project time will be cut - this means no designated/focused time for clerks to read emails, work on trainings, etc.
- Stabilizes the library's financial position in both the immediate and the long term

Future Budget Projections

Action steps for the future:

- Continue to advocate for appropriate increases in the city appropriation. City finance has indicated that they will continue to use their formula to increase future appropriations.
- We expect two retirements within the next 3 years and will adjust positions to keep costs down.

Transition Assistant Director to Public Services Coordinator position

Assistant Director salary range: \$58,107-\$78,444

PS Coordinator – same pay grade as the YS and MS Librarians: \$50,257-\$67,846

Current AD Salary: \$68,443

If PS Coordinator came in at the minimum: \$50,237

Savings of \$18,201

Split the full-time Technical Services position into 2 part-time positions, with no benefits

Current cost (including benefits): \$79,775

Salary Range: \$19.43-\$26.24 per hour

Cost of 2 part-time TS Clerks at 1040 hours/year at the minimum rate: \$40,414

Savings of \$39,361

**Potential future
savings
\$57,562**

Discussion