

ASCENSION PARISH LIBRARY

2024 Library Operations and Maintenance – Budget Message

A total of \$11,630,000 in receipts is anticipated for the forthcoming budget period, January through December of 2023. This includes parish ad valorem taxes, state revenue sharing, interest, grant funds, charges for photocopies, gifts, and fees. The majority of the library's revenue comes from the ad valorem millage of 5.6, as approved by the voters in 2020.

The estimated library budget expenditures for 2024 total \$10,482,068.40, with a remaining 2024 fund balance of \$1,147,931.60 to be added to the beginning fund balance.

A transfer of \$4,000,000 from the Library Operations and Maintenance General Fund balance to the Library Construction account will allow for the coverage of costs due to the Donaldsonville branch renovation and the construction of the St. Amant branch.

The library added a satellite location in Donaldsonville at the Hickley M. Waguespack Center in cooperation with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office. The library anticipates the completion of the renovation of the Donaldsonville branch as well as the completion of construction for the St. Amant branch. These renovation and construction projects will highlight the next generation of library services with the inclusion of makerspaces and audiovisual recording services.

The library continues to expand services to the public in other areas, including materials, digital collections, online learning, programming, and outreach, as well as maintaining staff levels to accommodate those services.

The 2024 budget will enable the library to provide buildings and grounds maintenance, staffing, services, resources, and materials to continue serving the needs of Ascension Parish's citizens. The budget reflects increases in library electronic materials for public use and increases in salaries and benefits for employees. As anticipated by the library in 2023, the budget will reflect a contingency/reserve from 2024 to 2025 for future operations and maintenance of library services and facilities, as well as any major repairs and capital outlay projects.

2024 Library Construction – Budget Message

A total of \$102,000 in receipts is anticipated for the forthcoming budget period, January through December of 2024, plus the transfer of \$4,000,000 from the General Fund. The estimated library construction expenditures for 2024 total \$12,687,413.00. The anticipated expenditure of \$12,687,413.00 will result in an ending fund balance of \$878,729.85. These expenditures will be used to complete the renovation of the Donaldsonville branch and the construction of the joint-use facility in St. Amant.

The fund balance from the previous year includes funds transferred into the construction account in previous years from the general fund account as per Library Board motion. These funds were saved by the library over the last ten years to supplement the current building program.

All funds in the construction account are earmarked for use in current and future construction and capital improvements, which may include the acquisition of furniture, equipment, technology, resources, and library materials.

John Stelly
Library Director
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