

ASCENSION PARISH LIBRARY

2022 Library Operations and Maintenance – Budget Message

A total of \$9,273,227 in receipts is anticipated for the forthcoming budget period, January through December of 2022. This includes parish ad valorem taxes, state revenue sharing, interest, grant funds, charges for photocopies, gifts, and fines. 2022 will be the first year that ad valorem revenue is based on the combined and reduced millage of 5.6 as approved by the voters in 2020.

The estimated library budget expenditures for 2022 total \$9,061,710, with a remaining 2022 fund balance of \$211,517 to be added to the beginning fund balance.

A transfer of \$7,000,000 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 has expanded services to the public including materials, programming, and outreach, as well as maintaining staff levels to accommodate those services. The library system now has over 120 computers available for library users, as well as expanded book, audio, video, and electronic collections. Library programming continues to increase - including storytimes, summer reading program activities, business workshops, and many other special events. The library has also increased outreach services with additional staff and more visits by the outreach vehicle.

The 2022 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 incremental increases in salaries and benefits for employees. As anticipated by the library in 2021, the budget will reflect a contingency/reserve from 2022 to 2023 for future operations and maintenance of library services and facilities, as well as any major repairs and capital outlay projects.

2022 Library Construction – Budget Message

A total of \$2,000 in receipts is anticipated for the forthcoming budget period, January through December of 2022. The estimated library construction expenditures for 2022 total \$9,070,000. A transfer of \$7,000,000 from the General Fund will be added to the Construction Fund Balance of \$5,370,835 for a total of \$12,370,835. The anticipated expenditure of \$9,070,000 will result in an ending fund balance of \$3,302,835. These expenditures will be used to renovate the Donaldsonville branch and build joint use facilities in St. Amant and at the Hickley Waguespack Center in Donaldsonville.

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. The 2021 construction budget reflects the cost of construction itself.

All funds in the construction account are earmarked for use in current and future construction, and may include the acquisition of furniture, equipment, technology, and an opening day collection for the current building program.

John Stelly
Library Director
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