

ASCENSION PARISH LIBRARY

2023 Library Operations and Maintenance – Budget Message

A total of \$10,096,696 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 2023 total \$9,895,610, with a remaining 2023 fund balance of \$201,086 to be added to the beginning fund balance.

The library has expanded services to the public, including materials, programming, and outreach, as well as maintained 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 2023 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 2022, the budget will reflect a contingency/reserve from 2023 to 2024 for future operations and maintenance of library services and facilities, as well as any major repairs and capital outlay projects.

2023 Library Construction – Budget Message

A total of \$2,000 in receipts is anticipated for the forthcoming budget period, January through December of 2023. The estimated library construction expenditures for 2023 total \$11,660,000. The anticipated expenditure of \$11,660,000 will result in an ending fund balance of \$712,835.34. 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.

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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