



**To: Library Board**

**Fr: Peter Loeffel, Library Director**

**Meeting Date: September 17, 2025**

**Re: 2026 Library budget request**

### **Purpose/Need**

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The Library Board approved the 2026 Library operating budget request at the July Library Board meeting in advance of the City Finance Department's July 31 deadline for submission. City and Library staff calculated the totals for the remaining accounts in August and September. The Library Board in September adopts the completed 2025 budget request.

### **Background**

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The Library Board approved the 2025 Library operating budget request at the July Library Board meeting in advance of the City Finance Department's July 31 deadline for submission. City and Library staff calculated the totals for the remaining accounts in August and September.

The total 2025 Library budget expenditure request is \$3,746,972.24.

Director Peter Loeffel, Assistant Director Robert Trunley, Adult Library Supervisory Shellie Anderson, Children's Library Supervisor Abby Bussen, Circulation Supervisor Alanna Maddox, and Board President Kathy Causier reviewed the 2026 Library Budget request with the City Finance Director, Mayor, City Administrator and other City staff during the Executive Review process. We extensively discussed the WPL 2026 budget request as outlined in the attached documents.

WPL supervisors submitted staffing requests as part of the budget process. Supervisors discussed various options with City staff, including additional librarian positions in Children's and Adult, additional Circulation Attendant hours, and increasing the hourly wage for shelvers.

The 2026 budget request includes an increase in the hourly wage for shelvers; increasing from \$12.79 per hour to \$14.00 per hour. Shelvers are currently the lowest paid staff for the City of Wauwatosa. The increase in 2026 is part of a phased plan to raise the shelve hourly wage to match the City's hourly rate for seasonal employees, which is currently the next-lowest hourly wage.

City staff was supportive of additional hours for other positions, including librarians. WPL staff discussed plans for adding an additional librarian in 2027 and another in 2028 or 2029. WPL is receiving an additional \$35,000 from the MCFLS member reserve fund in 2026. These additional funds will be reserved to offset additional costs in 2027 for an additional librarian position.

## **Recommendation**

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To approve the 2024 Library budget request.