

MEMO

To: RPL Board

From: Nick Demske, Library Director

Date: September 19th, 2025

Subject: 2026 Draft Budget Notes

Dear RPL Finance and Personnel committee,

We've attached the draft RPL 2026 Budget in this packet for consideration of your approval.

A few things worth noting about this budget draft:

- Our projected revenue from the county is down nearly \$96,000. This was obviously a major challenge in balancing the budget. It is the result, actually, of the RPL being so fiscally cautious in 2024. Because the county funding is based on a formula, and part of that formula is total expenses for the year (two years prior), this year that loss comes as a result of spending less overall two years ago. [note: county funding for libraries is a chronic source of confusion in every municipality, so I'm happy to talk about this more at our meetings]
- The "property taxes" revenue line is increased from last year by \$382,420. This is good news, to be sure--that the city administration is proposing a long-needed increase to library support. However, just to be clear, \$200,000 of those funds is simply a shift from the previous year (and the year prior), when those funds were being transferred from the general fund, rather than coming from the tax levy that year.
- The interest income revenue figure is significantly higher than in past years. This is a figure provided by the finance department for us, but they think it is a reasonable projection for a few different reasons--one of them simply being that we have significantly more resources right now to earn interest from.

Thanks,

Nick Demske