

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2024
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Kay Kasiske, Chair.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present: Kay Kasiske, John Gulick, Rodney Mulvania, Bob Priddy and Bob Swift

Also present: Claudia Young, Library Director; Angie Bayne, Assistant Director of Public Services; Debra Winter, Business Manager/Accountant; and Robin Coffman, Administrative Assistant

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodney Mulvania made a motion, seconded by Bob Priddy, to approve the July 23, 2024 committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

3. 2025 Budget

Claudia Young and Debra Winter presented an overview of the 2025 draft budget. Debra indicated that there isn't significant change from the 2024 budget. However, noticeable is the increased interest earned through the checking account, Treasury Bills and CD. She also indicated property tax revenue increased slightly in both counties.

Debra reported that in the 2025 draft budget, State Aid and the Athletes & Entertainers (A&E) tax revenue has, again, been separated out to show the amount received by JC/Cole County as well as Osage County. Expense accounts have been created to better track expenses associated with this revenue stream. A&E revenue can only be used to add to the collection – physical, digital and databases. State Aid, however, is not as restrictive.

Claudia reported on expenditures. The greatest expense is personnel or salaries and benefits. Claudia indicated that the library's salaries are comparable to those within the community. There were three things that the Board approved over the last year to make the library competitive:

- Instituted longevity raises
- De-compressed salary grade levels
- Provided a 8.7% raise to all library employees

Claudia indicated that she believes the library is in good shape and the draft budget contains a 3% raise across all positions for 2025. There is also a goal to raise the lowest hourly salary up to \$15.00 per hour by 2026.

Discussion ensued as to benefits – medical and retirement - provided to staff. The overall salary budget has decreased even with raises. This is in part due to reducing part-time employee hours by 78 per week through consolidation of desks and moving the computer center to the main floor.

Angie Bayne indicated that physical media and periodicals are on their way out as more patrons prefer digital and downloadable materials. Claudia indicated that department budgeted expenses are relatively unchanged from the previous year, but increases have been included for travel and training for staff.

It was also discussed that the draft budget does not contain any campaign funding for 2025, but if this would change, a budget adjustment can be made to cover such expenses. The draft budget also includes funding for elevator repairs and restroom upgrades at the main facility, and for improvements needed at the Osage Branch.

Bob Swift made a motion, seconded by John Gulick, to accept the draft 2025 budget and to present it to the entire MRRL Board. (Copies of the 2025 draft budget will be distributed to all Board members.) Motion carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved June 17, 2025.