

No spending increases planned in Scenic Regional

Scenic Regional Library system's Board of Trustees on Dec. 21 adopted a operating budget for 2011 which reflects the continuing trend of flat revenue projections.

The total operating budget for the library system that serves the Franklin, Gasconade and Warren County library districts is \$2,110,093, notes Kenneth Rohrbach, director of the system. This is the same budget total the library system projected for 2010. The 2009 budget was \$2,395,073, his report states.

The budget is based upon the library system's estimated income for 2011. Included is an estimated \$1,516,506 from the operating tax levied in each county library district served by the regional library system. The anticipated receipts are \$955,992 from the Franklin County Library District, \$203,789 from Gasconade County, and \$356,752 from Warren County.

These estimates are based on historical trends and when actual assessed valuation figures are re-

leased, reductions in the anticipated receipts as well as projected expenditures may be required.

The major drop in income came from a court-ordered reduction of the Franklin County levy due to credit adjustment to the tax levy. This levy could effectively be at 5.79 cents, down from 7.59 cents. This represented a 23.7 percent decrease in revenue which is \$297,288.

Other estimated receipts included in the operating budget are: \$33,160 from surtax, \$1,250 from intangible taxes, and \$21,651 in interest with \$9,522 of that interest remaining with the reserve funds. Also budgeted is \$49,000 in Miscellaneous Income, which includes payments for lost/damaged materials, copy machine receipts, book sales and donations.

State Aid to Public Libraries is expected to be \$58,059 and is determined by the population of the three county library districts based on census data. No revenue

from state equalization funds or the out-of-state Athletes and Entertainers Tax has been budgeted. Grant funds of \$13,136 are also budgeted.

The total amount budgeted for the three county library system remains \$2,110,093 the same as the 2010 budget total. To maintain that level, \$417,331 that would normally be designated for reserves and improvements is being budgeted for operations.

For 2011, the "Materials" section of the budget is \$511,823. Of this amount, \$250,904 has been earmarked for the purchase of books; \$45,000 for videos, DVDs, compact discs, and recorded books; and \$17,500 for magazines and newspaper subscriptions for the seven libraries in the regional system.

Other expenditures in this section include \$130,000 for electronic materials including downloadable audiobooks, e-books and on-line databases that may be accessed at the libraries as well as remotely from home or businesses. Tradi-

tional print reference materials account for \$18,419. The remaining \$8,000 is for purchase of local newspapers on microfilm.

This section includes \$42,000 to cover the cost of inter-library loan activities and costs associated with Scenic Regional's two reciprocal lenders agreements. These agreements are with the Washington Municipal Library, and the Sullivan Municipal Library. Under the terms of the agreements residents of the three library districts may borrow materials from the other districts without paying a non-resident fee.

The "Operations" section has been lowered to \$389,858. The largest amount budgeted in this section is \$66,000 for utilities for the seven libraries. Rent for three branch libraries will be \$57,758.

Insurance costs are estimated at \$27,500 and include property, automotive, workers compensation, liability and bonding coverage. Automotive expenses for fuel and maintenance for the library's

Library system budget

delivery vans and the bookmobile are anticipated to be \$15,500. The costs for automation support, Internet access through MOREnet, website design/maintenance and updating automated catalog holdings in OCLC are estimated to be \$44,000.

The amount set aside for contingencies is \$1,500, which includes expenses for legal notices, bid requests and employment ads. The \$22,000 listed for "Programs" will be used for the library's summer reading program, storytellers/performers, special events and advertising/promotion during the year.

Other expenses in the "Operations" section are: postage (\$20,000), supplies (\$46,500), maintenance/repair (\$54,000), services (\$19,000), travel and dues (\$15,000), and miscellaneous expense (\$1,100).

The amount budgeted for "Personnel Expenses" is \$1,125,992.

Of this amount, \$656,918 is for salaries for the library's full time

employees and \$170,425 is for salaries for the part time employees.

Social Security expenditures are estimated at \$64,439 and \$2,137 is budgeted for unemployment insurance. The cost of health insurance coverage through the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan will be \$147,865 and the employees' retirement plan through LAGERS will be \$69,208. An additional \$15,000 has been budgeted as contingencies such as overtime and other unexpected expenses. This category was increased by \$28,340.

"Capital Expenses" have been cut by 20 percent. Budgeted items are \$45,177 for furniture/equipment, \$15,000 for improvements to library facilities and \$12,721 in grant expenditures.

Scenic Regional Library operates libraries in New Haven, Pacific, St. Clair, Hermann, Owensville, Warrenton and Union, home to administrative headquarters. A Bookmobile serves rural communities as well as area schools.