

Scenic Regional Library's Operating Budget Approved

The Board of Trustees of Scenic Regional Library approved the library system's operating budget for 2010 at their meeting on Dec. 15. The total operating budget for the library system that serves the Franklin, Gasconade and Warren County library districts is \$2,081,883. This is an overall decrease of 10.92 percent from the 2009 budget.

The budget is based upon the library system's estimated income for 2010. Included is an estimated \$1,792,599 from the operating tax levied in each county library district served by the regional library system. The anticipated receipts are \$1,231,169 from the Franklin County Library District, \$200,865 from Gasconade County and \$360,565 from Warren County.

These estimates are based on historical trends and when actual assessed valuation figures are released, 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 from 9.11 cents to 7.58 cents. This represented a 16.7 percent decrease in revenue or a projected \$242,233. Further budget adjustments will be necessary after the final disposition of lawsuits involving the Franklin County Library District's tax levy.

Other estimated receipts included in the operating budget are: \$33,900 from surtax; \$2,150 from intangible taxes; and \$34,000 in interest with \$16,500 of that interest remaining with the reserve funds. Also budgeted is \$45,400 in miscellaneous income, which includes payments for lost/damaged materials, video fines, copy machine receipts, book sales and donations.

State aid to public libraries is expected to be \$63,864 and is determined by the population of the three-county library districts based on census data from 2000. No revenue from state equalization funds or the out-of-state Athletes and Entertainers tax has been budgeted.

Funds forward is budgeted at \$85,084, which includes end of the year operating bank balances, petty cash, and gift/endowment funds.

The total amount budgeted for the three-county library system is

\$2,081,883. The 2009 budget total was \$2,337,022. The reduced budget will impact services in a number of ways. Fewer materials will be purchased, specialized databases may be discontinued, expansion and improvement of facilities will be postponed, children's and adult programming will be restricted, equipment upgrades will be delayed and new initiatives to provide service to underserved populations will be curtailed.

For 2010, the "materials" section of the budget has been dropped by 20.34 percent down to \$495,829. Of this amount, \$249,829 has been earmarked for the purchase of books; \$75,000 for videos, DVDs, compact discs, recorded books and downloadable books; and \$16,500 for magazines and newspaper subscriptions for the seven libraries in the regional system. Other expenditures in this section include \$100,500 for printed reference materials and online databases that may be accessed at the libraries as well as remotely from home or businesses. The remaining \$8,000 is for purchase of local newspapers on microfilm.

The "materials" section includes \$45,000 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 nonresident fee.

The "operations" section has been lowered to \$393,858, a 10.14 percent reduction. The largest amount budgeted in this section is \$64,000 for utilities for the seven libraries. Rent for three branch libraries will be \$57,758. Insurance costs are estimated at \$26,000 and include property, automotive, workers' compensation, liability and bonding coverage. Automotive expenses for fuel and maintenance for the library's delivery vans and the bookmobile are anticipated to be \$15,500.

The costs for automation support, Internet access through MOREnet, Web site design/maintenance and updating automated catalog holdings in OCLC are estimated to be

\$45,000. The amount set aside for contingency is \$1,500, which includes expenses for legal notices, bid requests and employment ads.

The \$25,000 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 — \$16,500; supplies — \$44,500; maintenance/repair — \$54,000; services — \$28,000; travel and dues — \$15,000, and miscellaneous expense — \$1,100.

The amount budgeted for "personnel expenses" has decreased by 0.22 percent to \$1,093,992. Of this amount, \$647,419 is for salaries for the library's full time employees and \$169,519 is for salaries for the part-time employees. Social Security expenditures are estimated at \$62,496 and \$3,350 is budgeted for unemployment insurance.

The cost of health insurance coverage through the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan will be \$135,998 and the employees' retirement plan through LAGERS will be \$60,210. An additional \$15,000 has been budgeted as contingency for overtime and other unexpected expenses.

Capital expenses have been cut by 43.2 percent. Budgeted items are \$36,418 for furniture/equipment, \$20,000 for improvements to library facilities and \$25,286 in grant expenditures.

The Scenic Regional Library system operates seven libraries located in New Haven, Pacific, St. Clair, Hermann, Owensville, Warrenton and Union, which also serves as the administrative headquarters. A bookmobile serves smaller and rural communities as well as area schools.

