

Board approves \$1.1M budget

Library district plans new card catalog computer system

By Gina Parsons
Staff writer

The Scenic Regional Library District is turning the pages on big plans for the coming year.

The district's board of trustees recently approved the library's operating budget for 2000. The budget totals \$1,107,840, about \$25,000 less than last year's budget of \$1,132,727, said Sallie Hancox, library director.

SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY

The library is estimated to receive \$1,008,673 from the library operating tax levied in the areas served by the library, according to information from the library.

The district anticipates revenues of \$689,013 from Franklin County, \$135,451 from Gasconade County and \$184,209 from Warren County.

The bulk of the income is from Franklin County, and that tax rate went down, Hancox said.

However, the lower income will not affect the library district, Hancox said. "We had funds budgeted in library development and other areas last year that we didn't spend," Hancox said.

The library district has been saving \$40,000 a year in the automation and the automotive funds for several years, Hancox said. This year, the district will use the funds saved in those accounts to purchase items, and therefore will not have to put as much funds in the accounts. This will leave those funds available for other uses. This year, the district plans to put \$20,000 in the automation fund and no

funds in the automotive fund.

The district has \$140,000 reserved in the automation fund to spend this year on a new card catalog computer system, Hancox said. The current system, which was developed by the St. Charles City-County Library District, will be replaced by a newer system already in operation in the St. Charles County libraries. The St. Charles City-County Library District has not yet given an amount of what the new system will cost, Hancox said.

The Scenic Regional Library District also plans to purchase a new bookmobile this year using the \$120,000 in reserved automotive funds, Hancox said.

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In addition to the operating tax levy, the library district also is estimated to receive \$23,275 from surtax, \$4,600 from intangible taxes, \$20,000 in interest payments and \$51,292 in state aid.

Sallie Hancox
Library director

In Warren County an additional \$110,861 will be collected from the 4-cent tax levy

for building tax that voters approved in April 1999, according to information from the library district. The funds are not part of the operating budget and are kept in a separate section of the district's budget.

The district will use these funds to build the new library planned on Highway 47 in Warrenton. Construction of the building is expected to begin in March, Hancox said.