

Municipality of West Grey

Budget Request

Request: LIB-01-22 – Library digital and virtual services, programs and resources

Department: Library

Year: 2022

Included in draft budget ☒

Proposed addition to budget ☐

Description
Budget Request Form
Nature of request:
2022 budget
Justification:
<p>This funding request addresses the growth required to provide inclusive services to the community and to reach all our target populations.</p> <p>West Grey Library's largest active library patron population is 65+. Its three branches serve the current population of 12,500+ (2016 census), and there are several subdivisions underway or in the planning stages that will grow this population within the next 10 years. The municipality's long-term care home is also under renewal which will see an additional 28 beds in long-term care.</p> <p>This budget continues the process of increasing capacity and meeting new demands, in order to meet this potential population increase and offer the large senior/elder population and newcomers to the area enhanced digital services, along with improved and expanded tech capabilities and training.</p> <p>In the past few years we have added mobile WiFi units, digital resources like Kanopy (movies & documentaries), E-Books, E-Magazines, Audio, and devices such as Playaways (preloaded, easy-to-operate audio devices). This increased focus on our digital collections has allowed us to expand our collection while delaying the expansion of our building.</p> <p>COVID brought increased focus to the need and want by the public for more digital program availability and resources, including access to more streaming subscriptions, and technical training on both Android and Mac devices.</p> <p>As the need for digital and virtual programs and resources increase, we would like to eventually add a portable green screen for video creation, a coding station, and a streaming station. The movement towards digital and virtual services is a need the library will have to move with in order to be relevant with today's needs.</p> <p>We are looking to support a new full time staff position with the focus on these technical aspects.</p>

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Consequences of not funding:

The services provided today are just barely sustainable as the current staff are stretched thin working on the pilot programs, begun under COVID lockdown, and as well as the increased and more consistent communications with the community. They will be difficult to maintain once we open the buildings to the public and return to pre-COVID hours.

Without the increase in funding, we won't be able to increase our digital services or hire the staff to meet the demands and expectations being put on libraries in today's digital world.

Alignment with council priority of strategic plan

Pillar:

Goal:

Strategy:

	2022 Mandatory	2022 One- time	2022 Growth	2022 Service level	2023 One- time	2023 Service level
Capital Expenditure						
Operating Expenditure	32,962			53,400		
Funding Source						
Tax Levy	32,962			53,400		
Reserve						
Grant						
Fees						
Other						