

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MEETING DATE: December 18, 2025

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: J.2.

RESOLUTION: 2025-44  
Adoption of 2026 Budget

BACKGROUND:

On December 5, the Erie County Legislature adopted a 2026 County Budget with amendments. The Legislature-approved amendments did not change the County Executive's 2026 Proposed Budget allocation for the Library Fund.

The 2026 Operating and Grants Budget sustains library operations and services. It prioritizes public access to resources, programs and services to help us serve our communities. A county funding increase of \$928,420 (3%) will help offset inflation related impacts on library operating costs, including contractually obligated labor costs, increase in the minimum wage, costs of supplies and utilities in this challenging fiscal environment.

The Library's overall operating budget, including State Aid and library revenue, increases 4% from 2025's \$34,669,428 to \$36,080,060 in 2026. Including recurring grants, the combined total increase is 4.1% from 2025's \$35,270,846 to \$36,719,941 in 2026.

While not part of the Library's operating budget, the County's Capital Budget provides: \$160,000 in bonded funds for Vehicle Replacements and \$2,000,000 in "bonded funds for a Various Improvements & Upgrades.

The minimum wage increase directly impacts Part-time Page wages, \$16.00 per hour. Further, it impacts the competitiveness and the Library's ability to hire in positions with wages scales near the new rate. Part-time Page, and Senior Page positions are not represented by a bargaining unit. That means they are not eligible to receive wage scale adjustments without approval by the System Board of Trustees, which occurred as part of the budget process in preparing the 2026 Proposed Budget. Senior Pages will be increased to \$17.00 per hour.

*2026 Budget in Brief Charts* are included for your review and action.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-44

RESOLUTION 2025-44

WHEREAS, on December 5, the Erie County Legislature finalized the County's 2026 Budget allocation for the Library, and

WHEREAS, the County's enacted budget provides a 3% increase in County Library Property Tax allocation from 2025's \$30,947,322 to \$31,875,741 in 2026, and

WHEREAS, this funding will allow the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) to sustain operations, prioritizing public access to resources, programs and services to help us serve our communities, and

WHEREAS, it helps to offset inflation-related impacts on library operating costs, including contractually obligated labor costs, a \$0.50 per hour increase in the minimum wage, and costs of supplies and utilities in this challenging fiscal environment, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to the County Executive for recommending the funding and to the County Legislature in approving the recommended funding, and

WHEREAS, strong public support for the B&ECPL reinforces both the continuing need for innovative and responsive library services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library adopts the 2026 Budget, utilizing the following sources to provide library services in 2026:

\$31,875,741 – County Property Tax for Library Purposes

\$ 2,570,458 – New York State Aid – Operating Budget

\$ 1,200,000 – Use of Fund Balance

\$ 433,861 – Library Fines, Fees and Other Revenue

**\$36,080,060 – Total Operating Budget**

\$ 639,881 – Library Recurring Grants Budget

**\$36,719,941 – Combined Operating and Grants Budget**, further detailed in the *2026 Budget in Brief Charts*, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the budget documents and schedules be promptly posted on the Library's website and the Library Director or designee(s) are authorized to execute all needed forms and accounting entries to implement this budget promptly.

Approved  
unanimously at a meeting of the  
Board of Trustees of the Buffalo &  
Erie County Public Library  
on December 18, 2025