

Library

2026 Capital Budget Request Summary

Request by Proposal

Project/Program Name	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement	93,000	115,000	185,000	-	-	-
Libr Major Repairs/Replacements	174,000	182,000	200,000	210,000	220,500	231,525
Library Collection	1,130,000	1,186,500	1,245,800	1,308,100	1,373,500	1,442,200
Total	1,397,000	1,483,500	1,630,800	1,518,100	1,594,000	1,673,725

Request by Funding Source - GO Borrowing vs. Other

2026 Request

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
GO Borrowing	267,000	297,000	385,000	210,000	220,500	231,525
Other	1,130,000	1,186,500	1,245,800	1,308,100	1,373,500	1,442,200
Total	1,397,000	1,483,500	1,630,800	1,518,100	1,594,000	1,673,725

Prior Year CIP

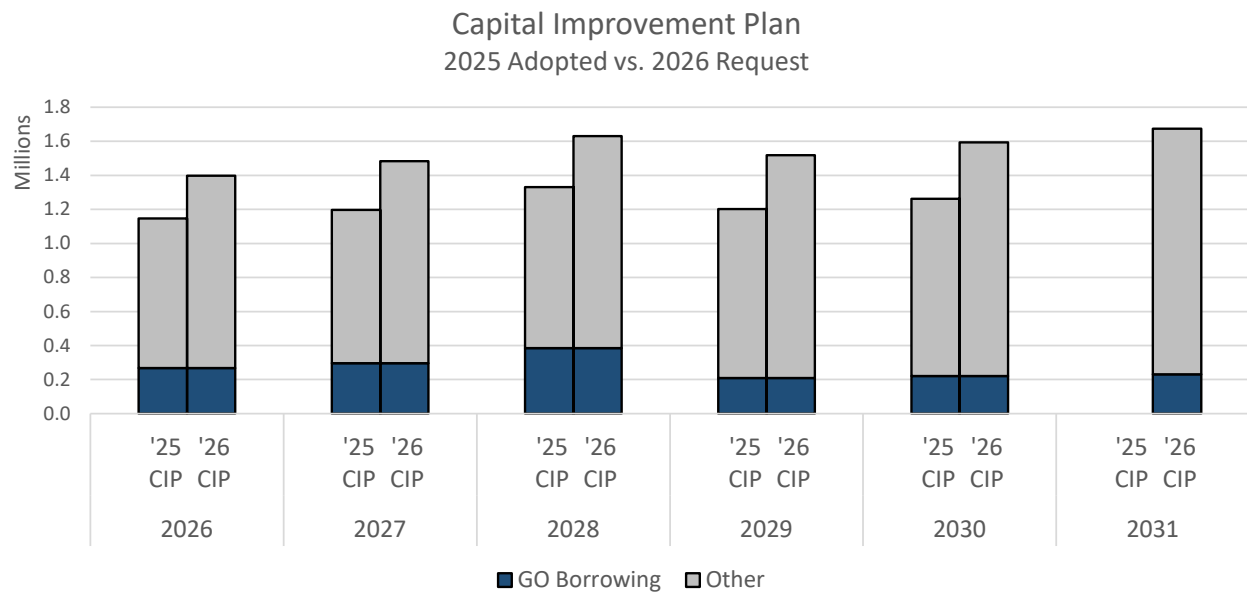
Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GO Borrowing	267,000	297,000	385,000	210,000	220,500
Other	880,000	900,000	945,000	992,250	1,041,860
Total	1,147,000	1,197,000	1,330,000	1,202,250	1,262,360

Request vs. Prior Year CIP - Difference

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
GO Borrowing	-	-	-	-	-
Other	250,000	286,500	300,800	315,850	331,640
Total	250,000	286,500	300,800	315,850	331,640

Library

2026 Capital Budget Request Summary



Major Changes

10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement

- No major changes compared to 2025 Adopted CIP.

Library Collection

- Program budget increased by \$250,000 in Transfer in from General Fund in 2026 to meet collection demands from Library patrons. This represents a 28% increase in the same year compared to 2025 Adopted CIP.
- Request also includes an annual increase of 5% 2027 - 2031 to account for inflation.

Library Major Repairs Replacements

- No major changes compared to 2025 Adopted CIP.

TO: David Schmiedicke, Finance Director & Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

FROM: Tana Elias, Library Director

DATE: 4/18/2024

SUBJECT: Library Capital Budget Transmittal Memo

This budget submission reflects our mission and strategic priorities as well as city priorities by requesting a modest increase to our Library Collection request (Munis project 12384) at the request of our Library Board, and maintaining past requests for Major Repairs and Replacement (Munis project 17074) and 10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement (Munis project 12406). All three requests focus on continuing to provide the best and most equitable service to library customers and city residents and on keeping our library spaces safe and welcoming for all.

Summary of Changes from 2025 Capital Improvement Plan

We have two programs and one project included in this Capital Improvement Plan. There are no changes to the Major Repairs and Replacement program (Munis project 17074) or 10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement project (Munis project 12406). There is an increase to the Library Collection program (Munis project 12384).

Justification for Increase

At the April 3, 2025, meeting of the Library Board, the board directed the library to ask for a "judicious and justifiable" increase to the capital budget for collection costs.

After analyzing past budget data, spending and publishing trends, inflation, Dane County formula increases, and checkout data, we are asking for a \$250,000 increase to the collection program in 2026, with 5% increases to cover inflation on book, DVD and other physical item prices for years 2027-2031. This is a change from 2025 and past years. This amount was calculated by considering multiple factors, including:

- 1) *Restoring funds removed in 2012.* In 2012, the library reduced its "capital assets" line item by \$200,000, reducing those expenditures to the minimum required by Dane County standards to avoid triggering additional tax by Dane County. At the time, this decision was made to avoid staff layoffs. For nearly half a decade after, the collection budget remained flat despite costs increasing. We have seen the effects of this reduction in investment in our collection over time in the number of items added to our collection, total collection numbers, and slow decrease in checkout numbers; a restoration of those funds would allow us to better meet demand going forward.
- 2) *Meeting digital demand.* Digital collections are in high demand by library patrons, but do not get included in the Dane County formula which sets reimbursement rates for Madison patrons who use other libraries in

Dane County and vice versa. To meet patron demand and Dane County standards, we must buy more materials in each format, and the cost of materials continues to rise for both formats. Digital title circulation has grown from 37,096 in 2011 to 777,000 in 2024, now representing 25% of total checkouts.

- 3) *Rising collection costs.* Physical item costs have increased 16% in the last decade, and publishers have moved to a licensing model in which digital titles are often 3 times the cost of a physical item and are licensed for a limited period of time [[Real Costs of Digital Content](#)]. The library profession has made concerted efforts to lobby publishers to reduce costs to libraries with little success.
- 4) *Reducing formula payments.* Madison spends the least amount on collection per capita and owns the least number of materials per capita of any library in Dane County (Madison 2.62/county median 7.04), the 3rd least in South Central Library System (Madison 2.62/system median 8.32), and ranks #368 of #381 libraries in the state (Madison 2.62/state median 9.83) [[Per Capita Service Measures](#), select "madison public library" for library and "materials in-library" for service measure]. Each year Madison pays other communities such as Verona, Middleton, Sun Prairie, and Fitchburg for our residents' use of their libraries. We have seen a slow increase in the number of Madison residents using neighboring libraries in this decade as well, with steeper increases after 2021. These increases are due to a variety of factors including geography of population growth in the City, reduced operating hours at Madison libraries beginning in 2021, Town of Madison annexation, in addition to waning collection expenditures. We anticipate that an increase in collection spending and targeted collection increases in certain libraries paired with additional marketing efforts may be able to help us reduce our payments to other Dane County libraries over time, which is why we have proposed an ongoing rather than a one-time increase. Another factor in reducing those payments is the opening of a tenth library on the City's northeast side, which will increase Madison library use overall and recapture some of the northeast side usage that has gone to neighboring libraries in that area. Since the formula is based on a rolling three year average, we are not likely to see the full impact of this additional investment for several years.

In addition, while we are asking for a modest increase in capital funds for physical items in our collection, we have also increased our use of gift funds for collections significantly, leveraging our relationships with the Foundation and Friends' groups. Despite those additional funds, demand and inflation still prevent us from remaining competitive with surrounding suburban libraries and best serving Madison residents.

Risk Assessment of Federal Funding

Federal funding for libraries through Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) affects our capital budget indirectly. Through participating in cooperative buying relationships at the system and state level, we are able to offer many more digital collections than we could offer locally. IMLS funding cuts directly affect the state's ability to provide those services; if funding is not continued for IMLS in the 2025 budget, all libraries in Wisconsin will need to find another way to support these digital collections or discontinue offering them to library patrons.

Federal funds are not used for any other portion of our 2026 capital budget request. However, federal funds through the State of Wisconsin's Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) grant are expected for the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park construction project, as are \$500,000 in IRA tax credits. While we have authority to borrow the entire amount of the project and bids have come in under estimate, the intent is to reduce borrowing for the project by the \$4.25 million FFP award. The IRA tax credits, if lost, could be offset by a combination of 1) using FFP funds to replace the IRA tax credits and not reducing borrowing by the entire \$4.25 million, and 2) through reducing contingency. Other projects in the state are successfully drawing FFP grant funds from this program as of April 18, 2025.

Prioritized List of Capital Requests

1. Library Collection (Munis project 12384)
2. Major Repairs and Replacement (Munis project 17074)
3. 10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement (Munis project 12406)

Priorities were established using the following questions: What most directly impacts core Library services? What meets our contractual obligations to Dane County and South Central Library System? What program/project has the greatest equity implications? Is this project needed to impact the safety of any of our operations?

2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Project Budget Proposal

Identifying Information

Agency	Library	New or Existing Project	Existing
Proposal Name	10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement	Project Type	Project
Project Number	12406		

Project Description

This project funds the replacement of the flooring at the Meadowridge, Alicia Ashman, and Sequoya libraries. The goal of this project is to create a safer and healthier environment. The project will begin in 2026 at Meadowridge Library, followed in 2027 by Alicia Ashman Library, and will conclude in 2028 with Sequoya Library.

Budget Comparison

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2025 CIP Total	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -		
2026 CIP Total	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Difference '26 vs. '25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Requested 2026 Budget by Funding Source

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Borrowing - GF GO	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -		
Total	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Requested 2026 Budget by Expense Type

Expense Type	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -		
Total	\$ 93,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 185,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Explain any changes from the 2025 CIP in the proposed funding for this project/program

There are no changes, including for inflation, because MPL estimated costs projected into the future.

TIF funding is included in this request:	No
Impact Fees are included in this request:	No

Request does not include TIF or Impact Fees. Skip Supplemental Budget Info.

Project Information

Agency: Library

Project/Program: 10 Plus Year Flooring Replacement

Project Schedule and Location

Complete the table below for each year of requested funding. If detailed project plans are not available, explain why and when this information will be available.

- For **programs**, detail the minor projects that will occur and provide location detail when necessary.
- For **projects**, detail costs across the major project phases (planning, design, or construction/implementation).

[illegible]

Additional Information

Facility Expenses

Does the proposal include facility expenses?	No
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No

Technology

Does the proposal include a technology component (e.g. electronic hardware, upgrades or migrations of existing systems, website changes, technology-related operating costs such as software licenses)?	No
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No

Over the next six years, will the project/program require any of the following operating expenses:

Facilities or land maintenance?	No
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No

Software or software licenses?	No
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No

Vehicle setup or maintenance costs?	No
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No

External management or consulting contracts?	No
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No

Additional FTE positions for ongoing operations of this project/program?	No
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No

Is this project/program required to meet the Percent for Arts ordinance? No

No

Percent for Art requirements detailed in MGO Section 4.30

End of Proposal Form.

2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Program Budget Proposal

Identifying Information

Agency	Library	New or Existing Project	Existing
Proposal Name	Library Collection	Project Type	Program
Project Number	12384	2026 Project Number	15740

Project Description

This program funds additions and replacements to Madison Public Library's (MPL) materials collection in all formats, other than electronic resources and periodicals. The goal of the program is to maintain an equitable collection of materials in a variety of formats that meet the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of the Library's patrons. MPL must comply with the Dane County Library Standards for minimum total annual expenditures (2024 standard: \$975,069; MPL expended \$1,130,339. Minimum standards are for total expenditures, both operating and capital.)

Budget Comparison

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2025 CIP Total	\$ 880,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 945,000	\$ 992,250	\$ 1,041,860	
2026 CIP Total	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,186,500	\$ 1,245,800	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,373,500	\$ 1,442,200
Difference '26 vs. '25	\$ 250,000	\$ 286,500	\$ 300,800	\$ 315,850	\$ 331,640	\$ 1,442,200

Requested 2026 Budget by Funding Source

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Transfer In From General Fund	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,186,500	\$ 1,245,800	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,373,500	\$ 1,442,200
Total	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,186,500	\$ 1,245,800	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,373,500	\$ 1,442,200

Requested 2026 Budget by Expense Type

Expense Type	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Library Collection	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,186,500	\$ 1,245,800	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,373,500	\$ 1,442,200
Total	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 1,186,500	\$ 1,245,800	\$ 1,308,100	\$ 1,373,500	\$ 1,442,200

Explain any changes from the 2025 CIP in the proposed funding for this project/program

At the April 3, 2025 meeting of the Library Board, the board directed the library to ask for a "judicious and justifiable" increase to the capital budget for collection costs. After analyzing past budget data, spending and publishing trends, inflation, Dane County formula increases, and checkout data, we are asking for a \$250,000 increase to the collection program in 2026, with 5% increases to cover inflation on book, DVD and other physical item prices for years 2027-2031. This is a change from 2025 and past years. This amount reflects multiple factors, including:

- 1) Restoring funds for collection. Funds were reduced in 2012; restoring funds with increases for rising costs and multiple formats will allow the library to better meet demand for materials going forward.
- 2) Meeting digital demand. Digital collections are in high demand by library patrons, but do not get included in the Dane County formula which sets reimbursement rates for Madison patrons who use other libraries in Dane County.
- 3) Rising collection costs. Physical item costs have increased 16% in the last decade, and publishers have moved to a licensing model in which digital titles are often 3 times the cost of a physical item and are licensed for a limited period of time.
- 4) Reducing formula payments. Madison spends the least amount on collection per capita and owns the least number of materials per capita of any library in Dane County, the 3rd least in South Central Library System, and ranks #368 of #381 libraries in the state. Each year Madison pays other communities such as Verona, Middleton, Sun Prairie, and Fitchburg for our residents' use of their libraries; this payment has risen steeply since 2021 due to a variety of factors, including not being able to meet patron demand for new materials. We anticipate that an increase in collection spending will help us reduce our payments to other Dane County libraries over time. We have provided additional detail in the transmittal memo submitted with this budget.

TIF funding is included in this request:	No
Impact Fees are included in this request:	No

Request does not include TIF or Impact Fees. Skip Supplemental Budget Info.

Project Information

Agency: Library

Project/Program: Library Collection

Project Schedule and Location

Complete the table below for each year of requested funding. If detailed project plans are not available, explain why and when this information will be available.

- For **programs**, detail the minor projects that will occur and provide location detail when necessary.
- For **projects**, detail costs across the major project phases (planning, design, or construction/implementation).

[illegible]

Additional Information

Facility Expenses

Does the proposal include facility expenses?	No
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No

Technology

Does the proposal include a technology component (e.g. electronic hardware, upgrades or migrations of existing systems, website changes, technology-related operating costs such as software licenses)?	No
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No

Over the next six years, will the project/program require any of the following operating expenses:

Facilities or land maintenance?	No
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No

Software or software licenses?	No
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No

Vehicle setup or maintenance costs?	No
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No

External management or consulting contracts?	No
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No

Additional FTE positions for ongoing operations of this project/program?	No
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No

Is this project/program required to meet the Percent for Arts ordinance? No

No

Percent for Art requirements detailed in MGO Section 4.30

End of Proposal Form.

2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Program Budget Proposal

Identifying Information

Agency	Library	New or Existing Project	Existing
Proposal Name	Libr Major Repairs/Replacements	Project Type	Program
Project Number	17074	2026 Project Number	15741

Project Description

This program funds repair and maintenance needs at the nine library locations and the Library Service and Support Center. The goal of the program is to maintain safe, efficient, and sustainable building systems, and is vital in addressing unforeseen mechanical issues. Projects in 2026 include autonomous floor cleaners for Central Library, a replacement tractor for the 2006 John Deere snow removal tractor at Central Library, and painting at Lakeview Library.

Budget Comparison

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2025 CIP Total	\$ 174,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 220,500	
2026 CIP Total	\$ 174,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 220,500	\$ 231,525
Difference '26 vs. '25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231,525

Requested 2026 Budget by Funding Source

Funding Source	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Borrowing - GF GO	\$ 174,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 220,500	\$ 231,525
Total	\$ 174,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 220,500	\$ 231,525

Requested 2026 Budget by Expense Type

Expense Type	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Machinery and Equipment	\$ 45,308	\$ 47,392	\$ 52,079	\$ 54,683	\$ 57,417	\$ 60,288
Building	\$ 128,692	\$ 134,608	\$ 147,921	\$ 155,317	\$ 163,083	\$ 171,237
Total	\$ 174,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 220,500	\$ 231,525

Explain any changes from the 2025 CIP in the proposed funding for this project/program

Requesting a 5% increase in 2031. Updated split between Machinery and Equipment and Building based on historical spending 2016-2024.

TIF funding is included in this request:	No
Impact Fees are included in this request:	No

Request does not include TIF or Impact Fees. Skip Supplemental Budget Info.

Project Information

Agency: Library

Project/Program: Libr Major Repairs/Replacements

Project Schedule and Location

Complete the table below for each year of requested funding. If detailed project plans are not available, explain why and when this information will be available.

- For **programs**, detail the minor projects that will occur and provide location detail when necessary.
- For **projects**, detail costs across the major project phases (planning, design, or construction/implementation).

Year	Phase/Project Name	Cost	Location	Alder District
2026	Autonomous cleaner	\$ 60,000	201 W. Mifflin St. (Central)	4
2026	Snow removal tractor	\$ 60,000	201 W. Mifflin St. (Central)	4
2026	Paint Lakeview Library	\$ 20,000	2845 N. Sherman Ave. (Lakeview)	12
2027	2 VRF replacements	\$ 90,000	1301 W. Badger Rd. (Service & Support Center)	14
2027	Replace carpeting Lakeview Library	\$ 50,000	2845 N. Sherman Ave. (Lakeview)	12
2028	Chiller compressor replacement	\$ 60,000	201 W. Mifflin St. (Central)	4
2028	Exhaust fan replacement	\$ 60,000	201 W. Mifflin St. (Central)	4

Additional Information

Facility Expenses

Does the proposal include facility expenses?

No

Technology

Does the proposal include a technology component (e.g. electronic hardware, upgrades or migrations of existing systems, website changes, technology-related operating costs such as software licenses)?

No

Over the next six years, will the project/program require any of the following operating expenses:

Facilities or land maintenance?

No

Software or software licenses?

No

Vehicle setup or maintenance costs?

No

External management or consulting contracts?

No

Additional FTE positions for ongoing operations of this project/program?

No

Is this project/program required to meet the Percent for Arts ordinance?

No

[Percent for Art requirements detailed in MGO Section 4.30](#)

End of Proposal Form.