

Wyoming FY16 Public Library Budget Survey – comments

***Note: All counties except Uinta reporting**

Please list staffing changes, salary adjustments, benefit changes due to the budget increase or decrease:

NONE: Goshen, Teton, Washakie, Natrona

Albany: All staff received 9% pay increase.

Big Horn: County gave all employees a 2% increase salary adjustment. County removed the Benefits line from library budget. County moved the Benefits line to their budget.

Campbell: Staffing: added 0.775 FTE; merit budgeted at 4%; health insurance premiums increased 5%

Carbon: 1% cost of living adjustment for all staff. Employee health insurance premiums raised.

Converse: Adding an additional full time YA/Circulation staff member for our Glenrock Branch Library; Adding additional full time Bookkeeper/Circulation staff member for Main Library; all staff received a 3% salary increase; the library continues to cover all pension costs associated with Wyoming Retirement System; all full time staff will be working 40 hours/week.

Crook: No staffing changes; director salary increased from \$34,795 to \$39,770; all other employees with over 1 year service received \$150/month increase; library continues to pay 100% of state retirement, absorbing the 1 July increase; health insurance premiums increased 80% -- library continues to pay 100% of single plan, 80% of family/spouse/child plans.

Fremont: A part-time (24hr/wk) maintenance/custodial position was added to the staff.

Hot Springs: Hired a 40hr full time employee with full family insurance benefits and I am now on the county's insurance plan.

Johnson: A 2% raise for library employees was approved. Wyoming Retirement and health insurance increased. Otherwise the budget was flat.

Laramie: We will be adding a full-time IT position and a part-time youth services position. We are also reinstating merit increases.

Lincoln: 3% salary increase for all system employees.

Niobrara: 3% Salary increases

Park: Health insurance premiums increased by 18% and Wyoming State Retirement contributions went from 15.87% to 16.62%. Salaries remained the same.

Platte: \$100/month for full time, .50/hr for part time. No change in benefits.

Sheridan: 4 part time employees had their hours reduced and 1 part time employee position was eliminated. Planned pay raises were rescinded. 5% increase in health care costs were passed along to staff.

Sublette: Employees received 3% raise retroactive to July 1, 2014.

Sweetwater: Increases in health insurance and retirement costs have increased our budget. We have also added a part-time courier position.

Weston: Retirement/payroll expense increase.

Will there be changes to the collection, open hours, programs, branch operations, etc., due to your budget increase or decrease?

NO: Big Horn, Campbell, Crook, Goshen, Fremont, Hot Springs, Laramie, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, Washakie, Weston

Albany: We are closing on Sundays due to a \$46,000 decrease in requested funds.

Carbon: Reductions in Playaways, CD music, and non-fiction books. Increase in printing and faxing costs to patrons.

Converse: Glenrock Branch Library will be increasing its hours of operation; collections and programing received slight funding increases.

Johnson: No changes in operations are anticipated. Monies for materials come primarily from 1% funds.

Lincoln: implementation of a system-wide early literacy initiative website redesign. increase in purchase of audiovisual materials and eResources.

Park: Our operations budget was cut by 4.8% overall. We cut funds for materials purchases, programming, supplies, and equipment purchases.

Sheridan: Collection budget was reduced 19% (\$30,000) down to \$127,750. Sunday hours at the Fulmer Library were eliminated. Additional reductions to programming, supplies, capital projects and maintenance budgets.

Natrona: Yes

Are facility additions, remodeling, renovation, or repairs funded in the budget?

NO: Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Fremont, Goshen, Hot Springs, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Sublette, Teton, Washakie, Weston, Platte,

Big Horn: No, County pays all facility expenses out of their budget. The roof at the Big Horn County Library in Basin is to be replaced along with insulation added starting next week. Basin will also have phone

systems and internet systems updated to be on the server that the rest of the county buildings are on here in Basin.

Converse: Yes; Converse County Library System will also be receiving a voter approved operations and maintenance budget due to the one cent tax levied as part of the building project.

Crook: New carpeting in Sundance library, storage shed at Moorcroft library.

Laramie: Yes - repairs to the exterior concrete and landscaping at the Cheyenne library.

Lincoln: Kemmerer branch library will be updated/remodeled.

Niobrara: Capital Projects funds continue to be budgeted and used to repay a WAM-WCCA lease for the 2014 energy efficiency renovation.

Sheridan: No capital projects are budgeted this year.

Sweetwater: We have budgeted \$30,000 for repairs. We plan to make the foundation of one library facility more stable and build a fence around another library facility.

Have there been any changes to the local economy or demographics that have resulted in changes to the budget or to library services?

NO: Big Horn, Campbell, Fremont, Goshen, Hot Springs, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sweetwater, Teton, Washakie, Weston

Albany: Lower gasoline taxes, county came in 2.6 million short on budget, resulting in \$46,000 decrease from out requested amounts. We were not hit nearly as hard as other county entities.

Carbon: Because of depressed natural gas prices, Carbon County is in a bust cycle. There is an influx of seasonal workers creating economic and housing stress in our communities.

Converse: Energy revenues in Converse County are on the decline.

Crook: The commissioners were very supportive with salary increases and other requests this year, but warned that next year may be a difficult year due to a projected increase in revenues.

Johnson: Library budget cut by \$12,000. All Johnson County entities were asked to reduce their budgets in anticipation of a projected drop in county valuation in 2016-17.

Laramie: Sales tax revenues were significantly higher over the last year due to the sale of equipment for the oil industry in eastern Laramie County.

Lincoln: library system will respond to commuter need for additional eResources. library system will respond to community need for early literacy programs

Park: Lower assessed valuations, P.I.L.T. payments, less income from the energy sector.

Sheridan: Sizeable reduction in property taxes in Sheridan County due to oil/gas companies leaving the area. County budget as a whole showed a \$2 million deficit with major cuts to County staffing and services.

Sublette: Steady decline in population and employers due to downturn in the economy related to decline in natural gas operations

Other comments you wish to share:

NONE: Campbell, Converse, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Teton, Washakie, Weston,

Albany: We did receive requested funding for new staff computers. We have worked hard to impress upon on county the funds that are necessary to run a library. We no longer officially use mills, rather our revenue is based a set amount divided into 12 months.

Big Horn: FY 2015 was our first year with the County taking care of all the bills. Library had a budget to operate with and I turn warrants into the county for the Commissioners to approve and pay. This has worked out very well for our library system. The county has been very good to us and all library employees are paid more now than they were being paid a year and a half ago.

Carbon: Thanks to the Endowment funds there will be no ILL charges passed onto the patrons.

Crook: Compared to last year, our budget looks like a substantial decrease, but it was NOT! Last years' budget looks so large because of the library endowment pass-through -- our endowment is completed, so we won't have any more pass-through of funds.

Goshen: The Library no longer receives any Mill Funds because we are now a budgeted entity. Therefore, we list our budget amount under Governmental Income.

Lincoln: the LCLS will focus on ensuring that its programs and services conform to public library best practices and that services and programs continue to meet changing needs of county residents (early literacy; access to eResources and audiovisual materials)

Park: Overall, we are fortunate to have retained employees and hours in all three libraries. We have been cautioned that there may be more reductions in the future.

Sheridan: Some of the budget reductions were offset by pulling a little more from cash reserves. 2016-17 budget is anticipated to drop another 15-20% so more cuts are on the way.

Sweetwater: Our funding from the county continues to remain flat other than slight increases to help offset increasing health and retirement costs. Savings from last year's budget has allowed us to budget slightly higher this year. We expect this to be a temporary increase unless additional funds are received from the county next year.