

## Wyoming FY17 Public Library Budget Survey – comments

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

**NONE:** Crook, Johnson, Lincoln, Niobrara, Platte, Washakie

**Albany:** Insurance was increased 24%.

**Big Horn:** We lost two part-time staff at Basin and did not replace them. Salaries did not increase. Two staff received benefits and there is no change yet. October is when the Health benefits rollover. There is talk of possible cutbacks coming for eye and dental with our health benefits.

**Campbell:** No COLA/merit. Two percent salary range adjustment affected recruitment starting wage but had no impact on salary budget.

**Carbon:** Significant cut to open hours and staff, particularly at the main library in Rawlins. 10 positions removed, and salaries reduced for remaining positions.

**Converse:** Added a full time Bookkeeper/Business Manager and two full time Circulation Clerks to Douglas staff, possibly adding two part time Circulation Clerks to Douglas staff, no salary adjustments due to wage freeze.

**Fremont:** We eliminated all substitute workers, and reduced all of our part time workers hours by four each week. All staff have been asked to contribute a greater percentage to their retirement accounts. All cell phone reimbursement was eliminated. We created an entry level library aide position, 18 hours per week, non-benefited to fill some Library Assistant II vacancies as they occur. No merit or step increases foreseen in the near or far future. We are considering restructuring one FT position to a 32 hour per week position. We are also considering combining two PT 20 hour per week positions into one non-benefited FT position. Fremont County currently has a hiring freeze. We must gain permission to hire for any vacated positions.

**Goshen:** Our salaries and benefits are holding steady this year. We are saving money on both due to the retirement of a long time employee.

**Hot Springs:** Eliminated a full time position.

**Laramie:** We will not be providing merit increases in FY 17 due to decrease in funding.

**Natrona:** 1 FT position not filled due to budget decrease.

**Park:** Park County has a hiring freeze. We must ask for permission to fill any open positions. So far we have not had to lay anyone off.

**Sheridan:** 1 Full Time employee retired and the position wasn't replaced. 1 Part Time employee retired and the position was filled at 75% of previous hours. 5% health care costs passed on to full time staff. 2% Wyoming Retirement premiums were passed on to staff (previously, the library paid the full contribution).

**Sublette:** No answer.

**Sweetwater:** 5 positions were eliminated (4 full time & 1 part time). 1 part time position will be left unfilled for FY17.

**Teton:** No answer.

**Uinta:** -(\$71,336)

**Weston:** We were not able to fund our part-time page position nor our full-time adult services librarian position. The adult services position is now part-time at 25 hours per week.

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

**NO:** Campbell, Hot Springs, Laramie, Lincoln, Niobrara, Teton

**Albany:** Operations budget has been cut as far as it can be, undercutting some line items and hoping nothing increases.

**Big Horn:** We cut back one hour a day on weekdays at Basin.

**Carbon:** Open hours reduced county-wide, no change to collection development thanks to Foundation Endowment Funding.

**Converse:** Collections will increase, Douglas library hours may decrease for a part of the year.

**Crook:** Decrease in acquisitions & programming budgets, but hours and branch libraries remain the same.

**Fremont:** We had to reduce our collection development fund by 12%. We eliminated our programming budget, however, our Library Foundation has agreed to fund our programming for FY 16/17. Hours of operation have not changed.

**Goshen:** Our hours and programs will remain the same for next year. However, we will be purchasing fewer items for the collection and will purchase more paperbacks for our popular fiction.

**Johnson:** We will not be open on Sunday afternoons.

**Natrona:** Collection budget reduced due to budget decrease.

**Park:** Hours of operation have not changed. The Park County Library Foundation is helping with funds for programs that would have been cut.

**Platte:** No answer.

**Sheridan:** Friends of the Library provided additional funds to increase the book and programming budgets. Most other cuts were in staffing.

**Sublette:** No answer.

**Sweetwater:** The collection budget was decreased by 17%. We are decreasing the total number of hours we are open each week at our main libraries in Green River and Rock Springs from 58 hours to 53 hours.

**Uinta:** Collection development budget decreased to \$100.

**Weston:** We were able to maintain branch operations and open hours at both locations. Most line items took a budget cut with our materials budget taking the hardest hit with \$0 budgeted. We will be relying on the Foundation's Endowment monies and the generosity of our patrons to purchase new materials for FY2017.

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

**NO:** Albany, Campbell, Fremont, Hot Springs, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Sheridan, Uinta, Washakie, Weston,

**Big Horn:** County covers the building maintenance. Maintenance budget was cut.

**Carbon:** Saratoga Branch Library to be improved upon.

**Converse:** Douglas library Certificate of Occupancy issued August 8, 2016. The new library will open to the public late September 2016.

**Crook:** Minor repairs are funded.

**Goshen:** The budget only covers necessary maintenance.

**Johnson:** Our \$4.5M Expansion project is complete. Funding came from Specific Purpose Sales Tax.

**Platte:** No answer.

**Sublette:** No answer.

**Sweetwater:** We plan to repair a parking lot at one facility and a front sidewalk at another.

**Teton:** Normal maintenance.

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

**NO:** Lincoln, Niobrara, Sweetwater, Teton, Washakie

**All Libraries:** All county and state entities have received reductions due to state and county economy.

**Campbell:** Budget impact of Campbell County's 20% drop in tax base delayed all of the county's major capital construction projects and led to 3.2% decrease in library operating budget; significant layoffs (500 in

coal industry) and reductions in all energy-related work forces impacting economy and population (and increasing library visits 5% in FY 15-16)

**Converse:** Downturn in energy industry has led to a decrease in available tax revenue..

**Fremont:** Decreases in valuation are predicted to continue.

**Goshen:** A local employer was able to continue operating one of the larger businesses in the area this year, so many people we thought would be out of work are still going to be employed.

**Hot Springs:** Reduced tax revenue due to price of oil.

**Johnson:** Johnson County Commissioners are bracing for continued drops in valuation and revenue. We are OK this year; next year could be different.

**Laramie:** The sales tax revenue has decreased significantly, which is reflected in the decreased budget.

**Park:** Revenue for FY 2017 is expected to be 26% less than in FY 2016. All county departments and entities made deep cuts to their budgets.

**Platte:** No answer.

**Sheridan:** Continued reduction in property tax and sales tax collections. This is more due to the economy at the State level rather than specific factors in Sheridan County.

**Sublette:** No answer.

**Uinta:** Significant decreases in oil and gas revenues, bankruptcy of a major taxpayer, and successful tax appeal by another major taxpayer.

### **Other comments you wish to share:**

**NONE:** Converse, Crook, Hot Springs, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Teton, Washakie

**Albany:** Our funding is based on millage, however they do an average each month based on a negotiated amount from the last year during our budget session. We also get money from the Hardship fund of \$81,529 because we are a low income county. so, our total county funding comes to 857,355.

**Big Horn:** Big Horn County Library System submitted a 7 3/4% budget cut.

**Campbell:** In preparation for next year's budget, staffing reductions via attrition are in progress.

**Carbon:** Despite the serious reduction in funding and staff, creative solutions and extensive pursuit of grants will allow the Carbon County Library System to maintain a high level of service as the year goes on.

**Fremont:** Because of some attrition and reorganization of personnel Fremont County has been able to restore several PT workers hours and continue operations as per usual. Our generous Library Foundation

and Friends of the Library Groups continue to help in many areas including renovations to our Carnegie Library. Our total budget cut for FY 16/17 was 6.78%, we have been advised that it will be no different for FY 17/18 and may be worse.

**Goshen:** Our local college has taken some severe hits to their budget and have let a number of staff go. We will be working with the library staff there to assist students as needed. The GC Library budget has been cut back every year for several years. While it is not an ideal situation, we have not been hit as hard this year as other locations.

**Johnson:** This budget shows a 2% increase over last year--in spite of doubling the size of our building.

**Park:** The Park County Library System has funds set aside for materials purchases in its Wyoming State Library accounts. These will help cover cuts we had to make in our FY 2017 materials budgets.

**Sheridan:** Most of the reductions in the operating budget were minimized due to fundraising efforts by the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation.

**Sweetwater:** Our county funding was decreased by 10% this year. We have been told to plan for the same level of decrease next year.

**Uinta:** Amended FY2016. Including cash reserve, the FY2016 budget totaled \$903,247. FY2017 figures include cash reserve.