



Work Session Meeting Agenda
2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT
Gibson Room, Civic Center
January 02, 2024
5:30 PM

The agenda packet material is available on the City's website: <https://greatfallsmt.net/meetings>. The Public may view and listen to the meeting on government access channel City-190, cable channel 190; or online at <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend in person.
- Provide public comments in writing by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting: Mail to City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403, or via email to: commission@greatfallsmt.net. Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Written communication received by that time will be shared with the City Commission and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item, and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment on agenda items or any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the City Commission. Please keep your remarks to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Speak into the microphone, and state your name and either your address or whether you are a city resident for the record.)

WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Library Levy Implementation Update - Susie McIntyre.
2. Local Government Review - Study Commission.

DISCUSSION POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

ADJOURNMENT

City Commission Work Sessions are televised on cable channel 190 and streamed live at <https://greatfallsmt.net>. Work Session meetings are re-aired on cable channel 190 the following Thursday morning at 10 a.m. and the following Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi is available during the meetings for viewing of the online meeting documents.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

City Commission Retreat -- Monday January 8, 2024, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Work Session -- Tuesday January 16, 2024 5:30 p.m.

Commission Meeting -- Tuesday January 16, 2024 7:00 p.m.



Great Falls Public Library

What kind of community do we want?

- ❖ An **informed** community where everyone has access to the quality information they need to live, learn, govern, and work.
- ❖ An **educated** community where parents are supported to be their child's first teacher, children start school ready to read, and students have access to resources to thrive as they grow to adulthood.
- ❖ A **connected** community with a safe, strong downtown.
- ❖ A **thriving** community where people have quality of life.

2022 Master Plan: Operations and Funding

- **What We Learned**

- Community **values the library**, but it **isn't financially supported** at the level of value
- **Parking** is a key issue also impacting library usage
- Some residents don't feel **comfortable/safe** coming to the library
- The community is interested in a **variety of Library services**

- **Recommendations to Address Issues**

- Develop multiple pathways/strategies to **increasing library funding** to a minimum goal of getting up to the average MT library of similar size (\$31.00 per capita).
- Use part of this increased funding to **address parking and safety concerns**.
- Expand Library services to **meet community needs**

Master Plan Operations: From Vision to Reality

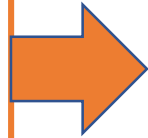
Operations and Funding:

Current

Our community funds the library at \$19/capita. Average support for MT libraries is \$31/capita. Fewest open hours and number of staff of comparable MT libraries.

Our projected FY2023 budget is **\$(59,969.00)**.

If revenue and costs continue on this trajectory, the Library budget for FY2024 will be **\$(120,000)** or we will require **severe cuts in services, layoffs, and reduced hours.**



Operations and Funding:

Mill Levy Campaign

Ballot measure requesting increased support for Library services

Increase Library operating budget from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million



Providing excellent Library services that support a thriving community

2022 Master Plan: Facilities Vision for the Future

- **Remodeled Library**

- Vibrant anchor for a **thriving downtown**
- Energy efficient, sustainable building that will **last for another 50 years**
- Enhanced **social infrastructure** that builds community connection

Total Estimated Construction Cost: \$15 million

Master Plan Facilities : From Vision to Reality

Library Building:

Current

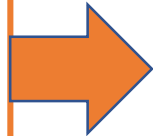
Critical Infrastructure: Electrical and mechanical systems need to be replaced

Accessibility: Bathrooms, elevators and stairs need to be upgraded

Connection and Safety: Library entrances and Library park need to be redesigned to increase safety and connection

Space Reconfiguration and Updates: Library interior needs to be redesigned to align library services with community needs

Energy Efficiency: Library lights and heating need upgrading to be more energy efficient

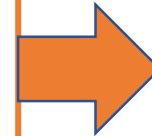


Library Building:

Capital Campaign

Fund raising currently focused on grants and private donations

Complete Library Remodel



**Safe, accessible
Library that will serve
the community for the
next 50 years**

Library Mill Levy: Special Election June 6

Shall the City of Great Falls be authorized to amend Article I, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Great Falls to levy up to 17 mills, an increase of 15 mills, raising approximately \$1,594,500 for the purpose of providing funds for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library.

[] **FOR** amending the Charter of the City of Great Falls to increase the authorized mills to levy for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library from two (2) mills to seventeen (17) mills as provided for in Ordinance No. 3254.

[] **AGAINST** amending the Charter of the City of Great Falls to increase the authorized mills to levy for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library from two (2) mills to seventeen (17) mills as provided for in Ordinance No. 3254.

Total Mills requested = 15 MILLS ≈ \$1,594,500.00

INCREASE THE ANNUAL TAX ON A \$100,000 HOME APPROXIMATELY \$20.25

INCREASE THE ANNUAL TAX ON A \$200,000 HOME APPROXIMATELY \$40.50

Milly Levy Passed:

Vote of 7,223 (52%) for to 6,604 (48%) against (difference of 619 votes)

- We understand these are **difficult economic times** and that it is a difficult for many people to have increased property taxes.
- We are working to be **clear and open** about how funds are being spent and what we are accomplishing.
- We understand that we are **funded by our community** and we are **answerable to our community**.

Levy Implementation: Adjustments to timeline

- Original goal of opening 7 days a week starting in April
- Library Board will be evaluating staffing and developing a new timeline for hiring and implementation at their January Board Meeting
 - We **didn't fully understand** the extent that the Library fund would need to be built up in the Library fund to prevent future **cash flow problems**. (We will need 60% of the FY2025 operational budget in the Library fund on June 30, 2024 in order to avoid cash flow issues in FY2025.)
 - Our **expenses are significantly higher** than when we made the original budget. Electrical costs have increased significantly. Most union staff received an 8% raise. We had to offer higher salaries to the two new non-union employees.

Library Cash Flow

Cash Flow	Revenue	Expense	Fund Balance
FY2023			\$ (489,464.97)
July	\$ (33,651.20)	\$ 145,884.03	\$ (377,232.14)
Aug.	\$ (32,327.46)	\$ 179,731.28	\$ (229,828.32)
Sept.	\$ (41,000.58)	\$ 117,202.08	\$ (153,626.82)
Oct.	\$ (61,530.08)	\$ 110,079.25	\$ (105,077.65)
Nov.	\$ (72,907.88)	\$ 109,190.94	\$ (68,794.59)
Dec.	\$ (520,291.26)	\$ 159,606.36	\$ (429,479.49)
Jan.	\$ (135,365.16)	\$ 57,494.94	\$ (507,349.71)
Feb.	\$ (43,678.27)	\$ 107,868.62	\$ (443,159.36)
March	\$ (32,381.82)	\$ 158,506.78	\$ (317,034.40)
April	\$ (45,089.89)	\$ 107,582.66	\$ (254,541.63)
May	\$ (40,960.67)	\$ 161,763.81	\$ (133,738.49)
June	\$ (510,954.35)	\$ 189,240.12	\$ (455,452.72)

Cash Flow	Revenue	Expense	Fund Balance
FY2024			\$ (455,452.70)
July	This will be updated with actual numbers based on modified implementation plan.		235,932.48)
Aug.			129,262.47)
Sept.			25,326.79
Oct. (donation)	\$ (344,737.19)	\$ 121,466.53	\$ (197,943.87)
November	\$ (27,357.23)	\$ 125,850.38	\$ (99,450.72)
December (donation return)	\$ (1,556,036.74)	\$ 423,192.95	\$ (1,232,294.51)
January	\$ (90,359.01)	\$ 150,924.50	\$ (1,171,729.02)
February	\$ (1,859.01)	\$ 150,924.50	\$ (1,022,663.52)
March	\$ (1,859.01)	\$ 211,781.55	\$ (812,740.99)
April	\$ (1,859.01)	\$ 150,924.50	\$ (663,675.49)
May	\$ (1,859.01)	\$ 150,924.50	\$ (514,610.00)
June	\$ (1,102,533.79)	\$ 150,924.50	\$ (1,466,219.28)

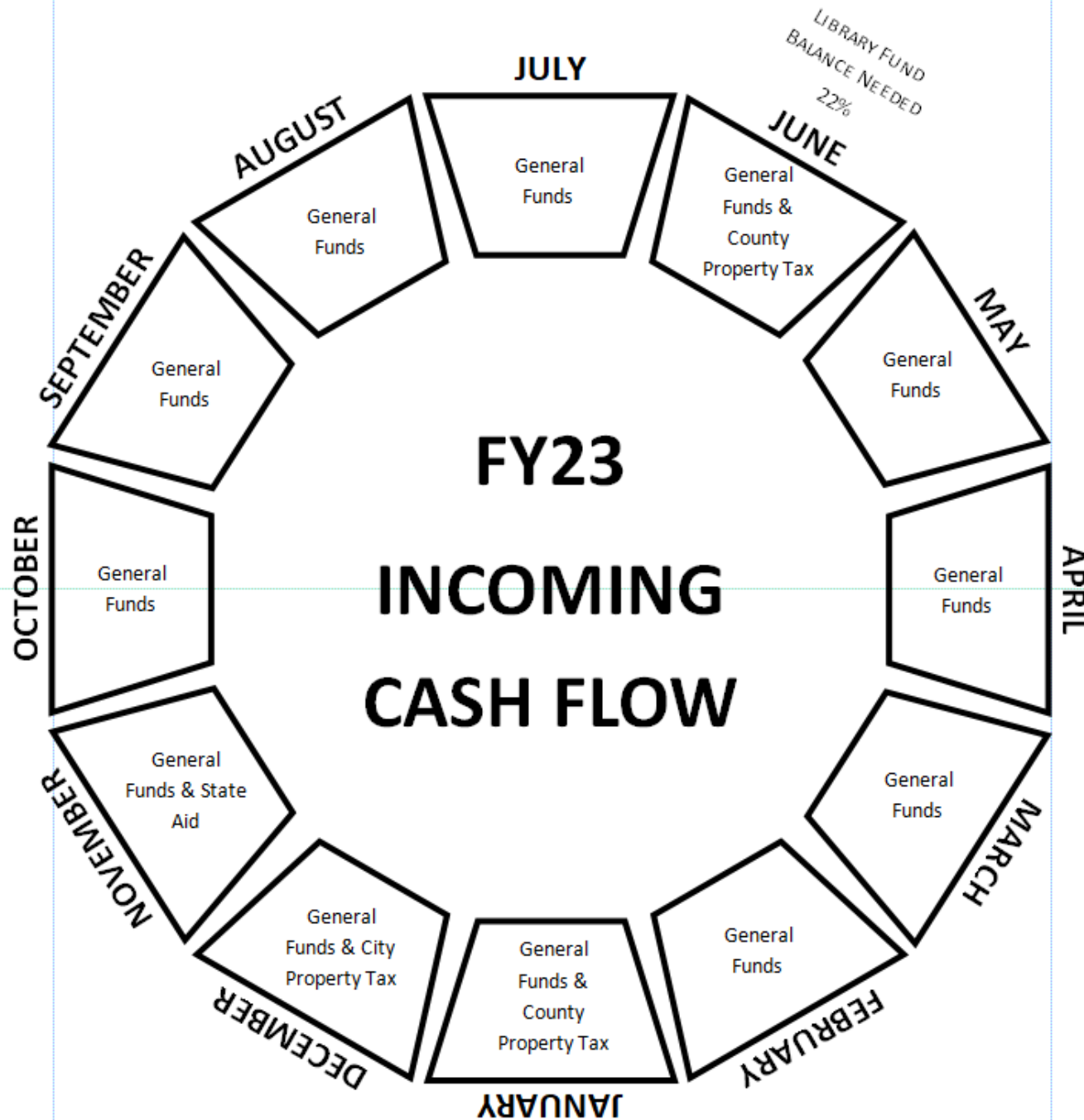
FY2023: Library received monthly General Fund Subsidy \$29,166.67.

FY2024: No general fund subsidy. 97% of funding from property taxes received in December & June.

FUTURE CASH FLOW:

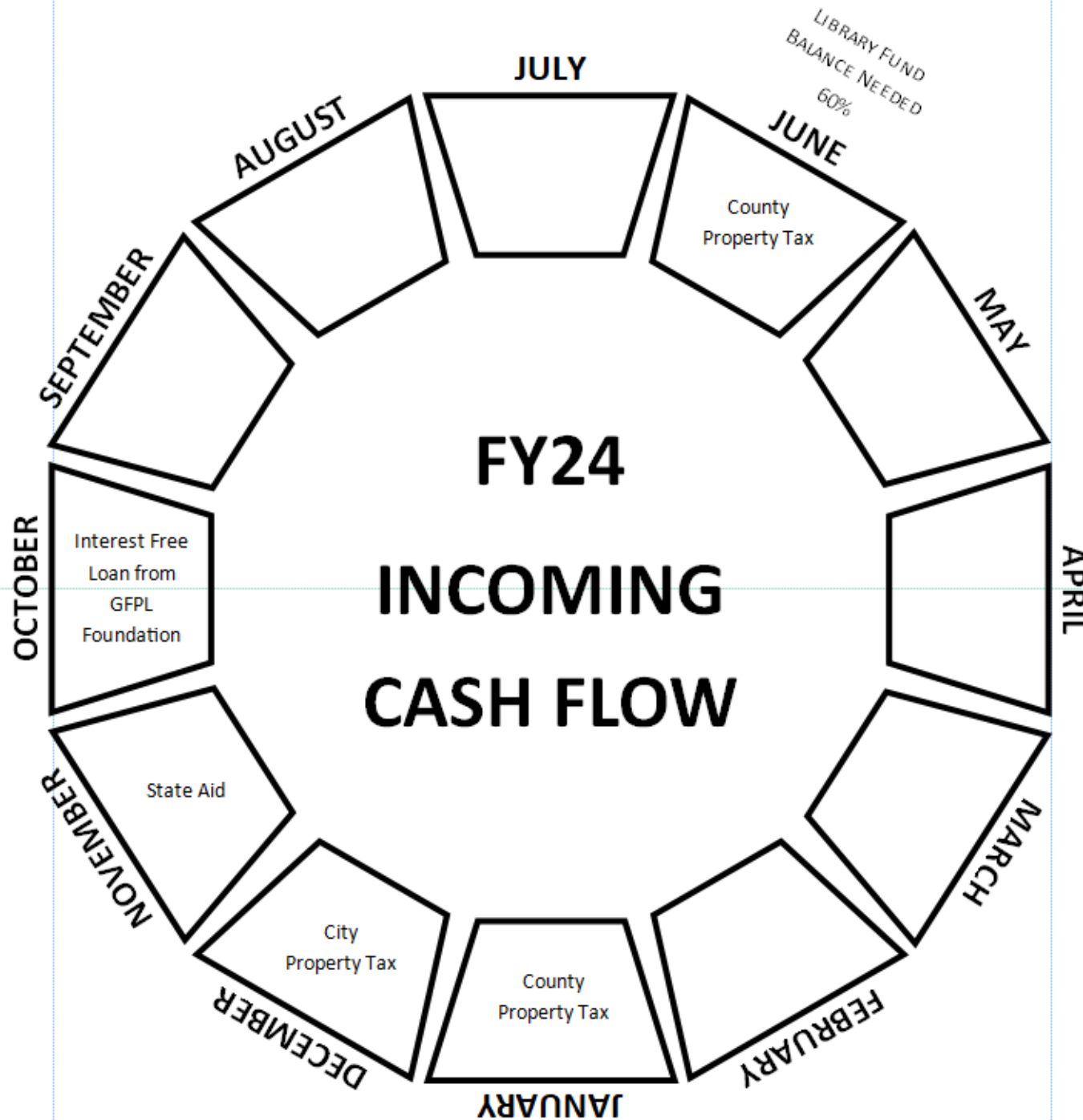
At the end of each fiscal year, Library Fund will need to have 60% of operating budget for next fiscal year.

Great Falls Public Library Cash Flow

**FY2023:**

- Library received monthly General Fund Subsidy \$29,166.67.
- 58% of revenue from property taxes received in December & June.

Great Falls Public Library Cash Flow



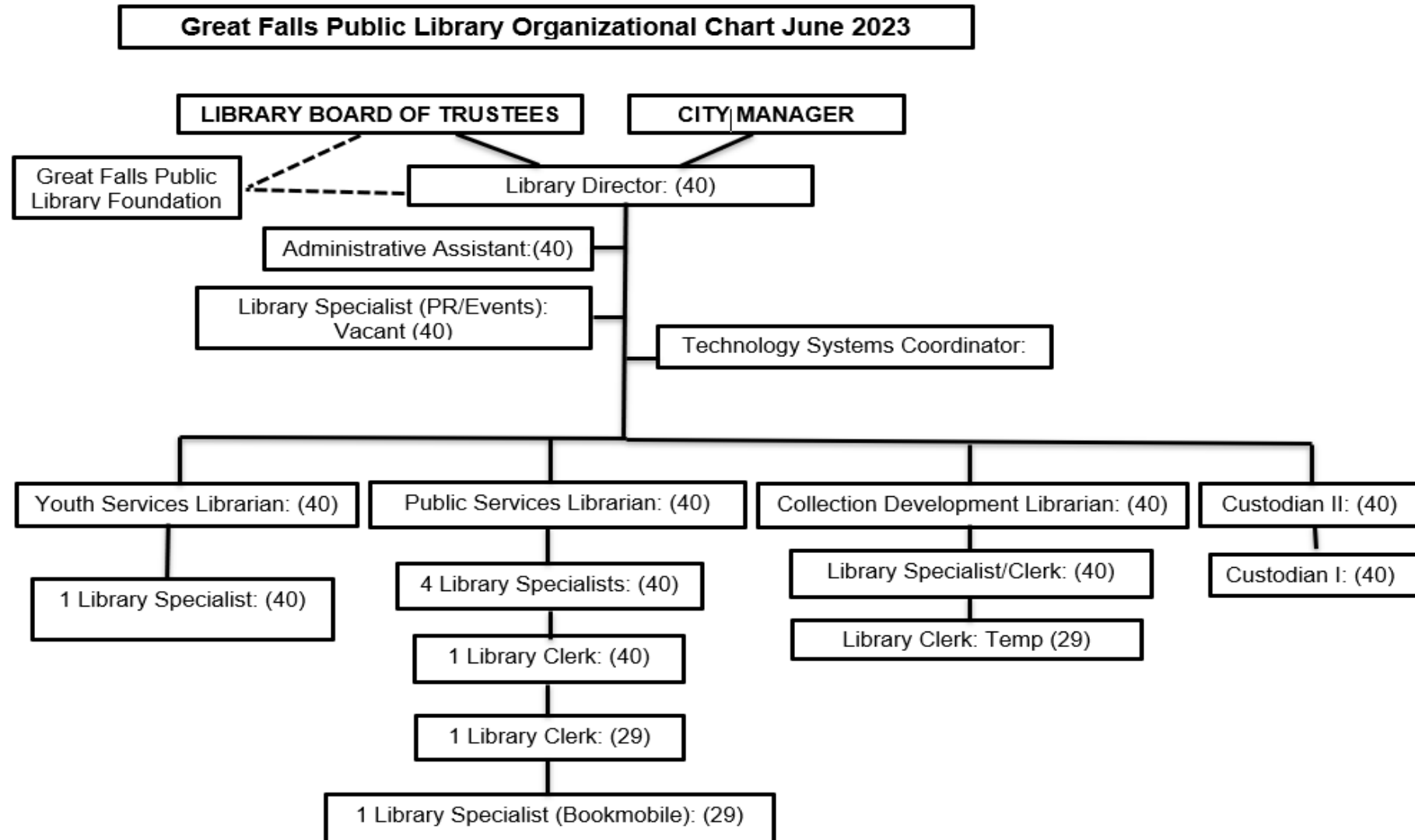
FY2024:

- No general fund subsidy.
- 89% of revenue from property taxes received in December & June.

FUTURE CASH FLOW:

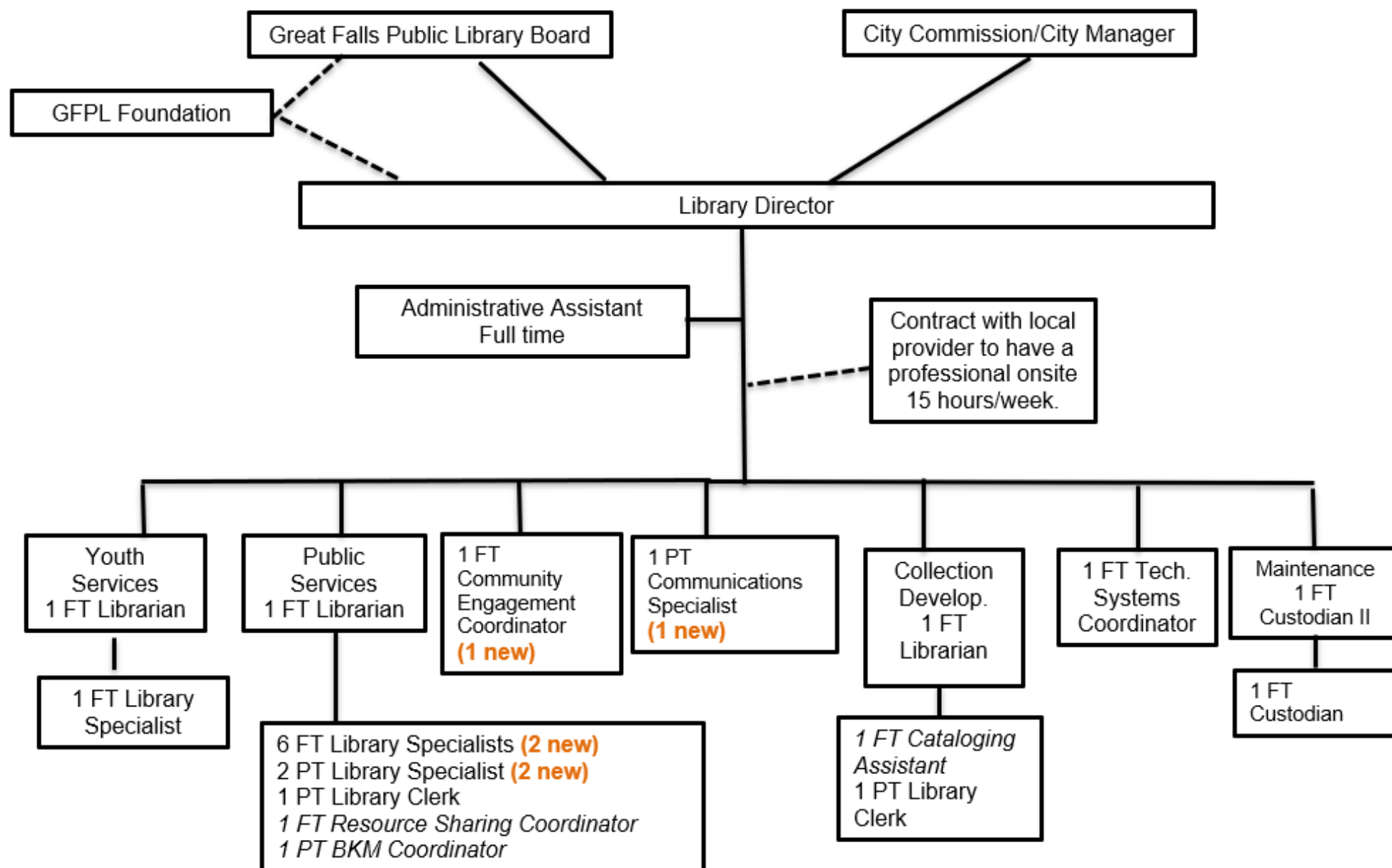
At the end of each fiscal year, Library Fund will need to have 60% of operating budget for next fiscal year.

LIBRARY MILL LEVY IMPLEMENTATION: Hiring Plan



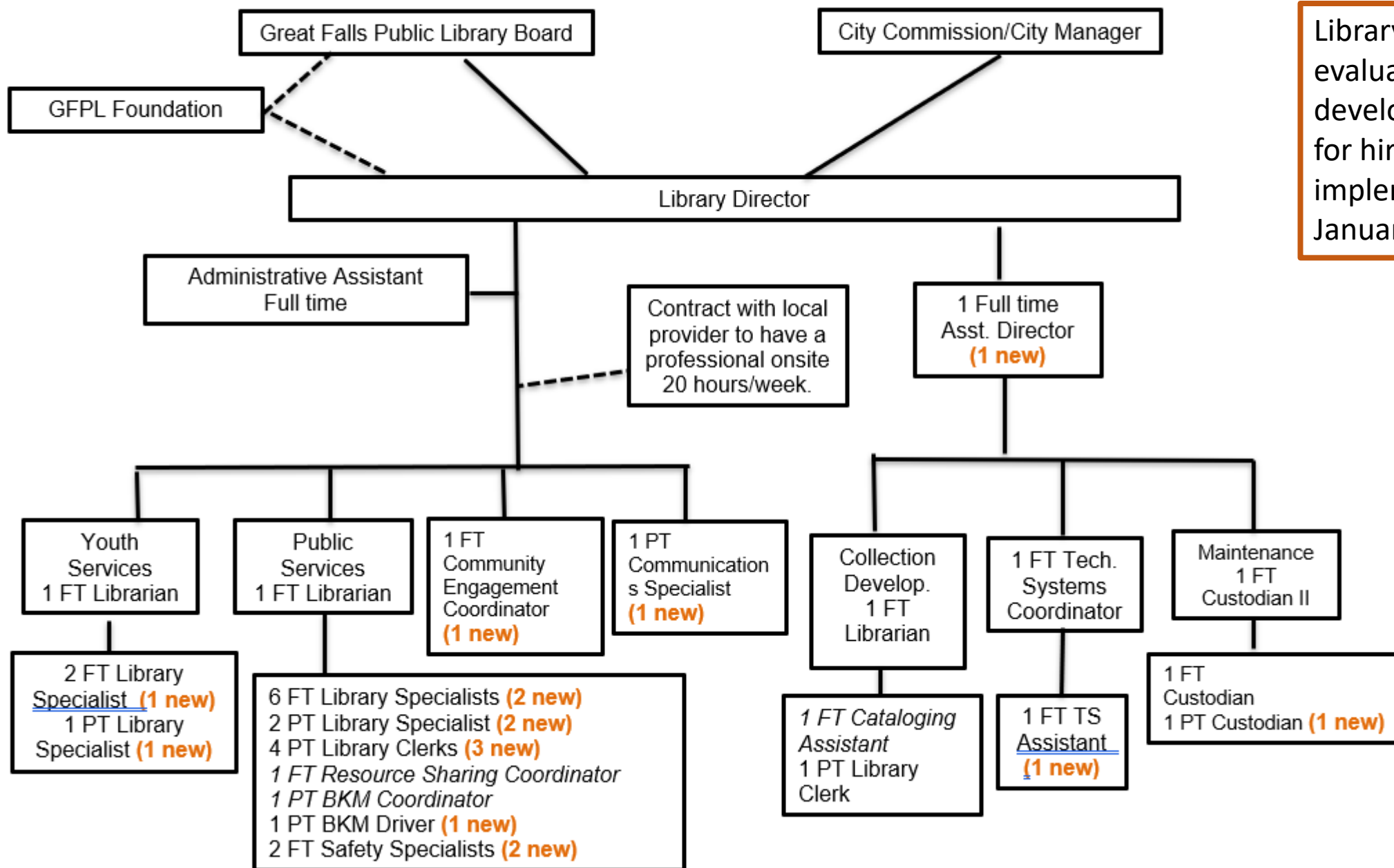
Great Falls Public Library Organizational Chart: January 2024

Agenda #1.



Great Falls Public Library Organizational Chart: ORIGINAL STAFFING GOAL

Agenda #1.



Library Board will be evaluating staffing and developing a new timeline for hiring and implementation at their January Board Meeting

Library Crossroads

Mill Levy Passes:

Funding for increased staff and services

- Continuing and expanding early literacy and afterschool programs for children and parents
- Expanding homebound services and programming for people who are disabled and seniors
- Providing computer and technology classes and expanded support for job seekers
- Providing a College Readiness Program for teens that includes literacy programs, test prep, and application assistance
- Expanding our hours to be open seven days a week providing more service to all community members
- Expanding Bookmobile services to six days a week providing more services to daycares, schools and seniors
- Improving Library safety so that parents, seniors and families feel welcome at the Library
- Providing free parking to reduce barriers to using the Library

Mill Levy Doesn't Pass:

Limited funding resulting in decreased staff and services

- Reduced early literacy and afterschool programs for children and parents
- No homebound services and programming for people who are disabled and seniors
- No computer and technology classes and reduced support for job seekers
- No College Readiness Program for teens (literacy programs, test prep, and application assistance)
- Reducing our hours to be open only five days a week providing less service to all community members
- Failing to meet Montana Public Library Standards disqualifying the Library from receiving State Library Aid of around \$30,000
- Bookmobile service maintained at only 3 days a week providing inadequate service to daycares, schools and seniors
- Failing to adequately address Library safety so that parents, seniors and families feel welcome at the Library

Continuing and expanding early literacy and afterschool programs for children and parents

- **Organizing Library spaces to accommodate new staff**
- **Promoting Dolly Parton Imagination Library**
- **Hiring 1 FT Library Specialist & 1 PT Library Specialist as part of Levy Hiring Plan**
- **Planning expanded programs**
- **Planning Summer Reading 2024**
- **Seeking feedback regarding additional services**

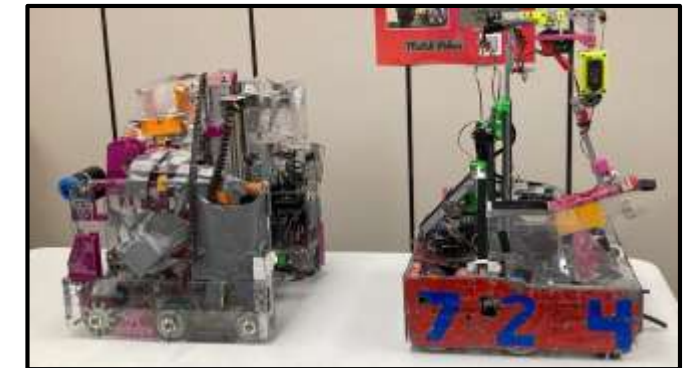
Green = completed
 Orange = in process
 Purple = coming soon



Providing a College Readiness Program for teens that includes literacy programs, test prep, and application assistance

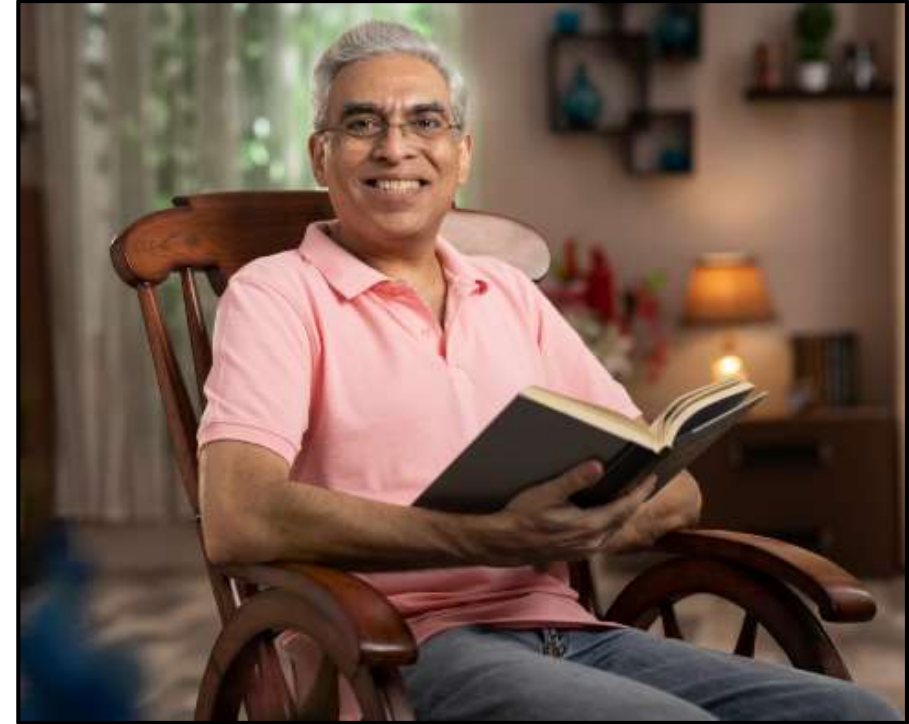
- Organizing Library spaces to accommodate new staff
- Seeking feedback regarding additional services
- Planning “We Learn” programming series
- Hiring 1 FT Library Specialist & 1 PT Library Specialist as part of Levy Hiring Plan

Green = completed
Orange = in process
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Expanding homebound services and programming for people who are disabled and seniors

- Meeting with Meals on Wheels about possible collaboration
- Developing expanded Bookmobile schedule (additional stops and homebound service times)
- Updating Homebound services procedures
- Recruiting volunteers to assist with Homebound service



Green = completed

Orange = in process

Purple = coming soon

Providing computer and technology classes and expanded support for job seekers

- Library spaces organized to accommodate new staff (phones, desks, computers...)
- Hired 1 FT Community Engagement Coordinator
- Hiring 1 FT Technology Assistant as part of Levy Hiring Plan
- Collaborating with GFC-MSU & Job Service
- Book-A-Librarian program
- Seeking feedback regarding possible classes

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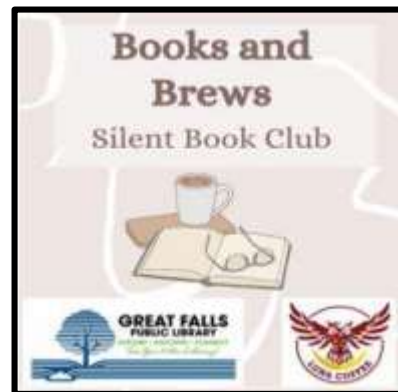
Job Service
— GREAT FALLS
A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network



Expanding programming for adults and families

- **Hired 1 FT Community Engagement Coordinator**
- **Providing expanded programming (author talks, LFL program, community partnerships, more book clubs, humanities series...)**
- **Seeking feedback regarding additional services**
- **Book-A-Librarian program**

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Expanding digital services resources

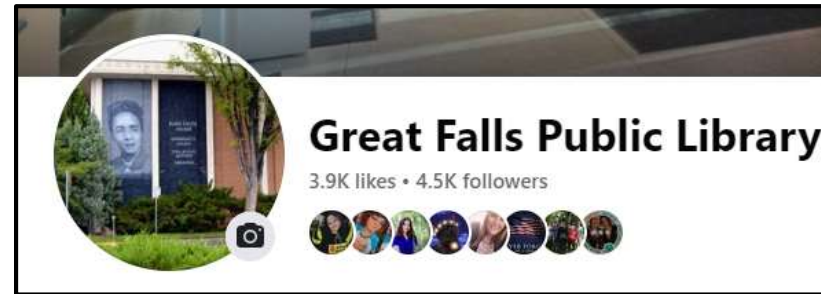
- New Advantage program for MONTANALIBRARY2GO (Libby App), investing \$1,600 per month to buy extra copies of popular eBooks and eAudiobooks for GFPL Library patrons started July 1, 2023
- MANGO LANGUAGES launched in September 2023
- LINKEDIN LEARNING launched November 1, 2023
- Continuing CHILTON AUTO REPAIR
- Seeking feedback regarding additional services

Green = completed
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Improving community awareness of Library services

- Hired 1 PT Communications Specialist
- Increased community communication (press releases, website updates, social media, radio, etc.)



Agenda #1.



Facebook & Instagram statistics breakdown

Engagement: The number of interactions your content received from users

1.4K engagement from May 20 to Aug 17 = 466 per month

14.1K engagement from Aug 18 to Nov 15 = 4,700 per month

Reach: The number of people who see your content.

10.4K reach from May 20 to Aug 17 = 3,466 per month

195.4K from Aug. 18 to Nov. 15 = 65,133 per month

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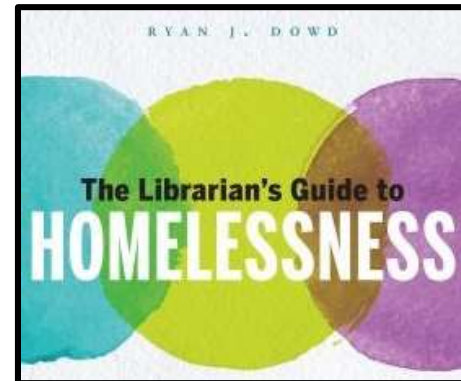
Improving Library safety so that parents, seniors and families feel welcome at the Library

- Continuing collaboration with Many Rivers Whole Health to provide a mental health professional in the Library every weekday afternoon (ARPA funding)
- Enforcing updated Library Patron Behavior policy Park Task Force engaged community members and developed report.
- Engage with community organizations addressing safety issues.
- Providing continuing safety & behavioral training to staff**
- Hiring 2 FT Safety Specialists as part of Levy Hiring Plan**

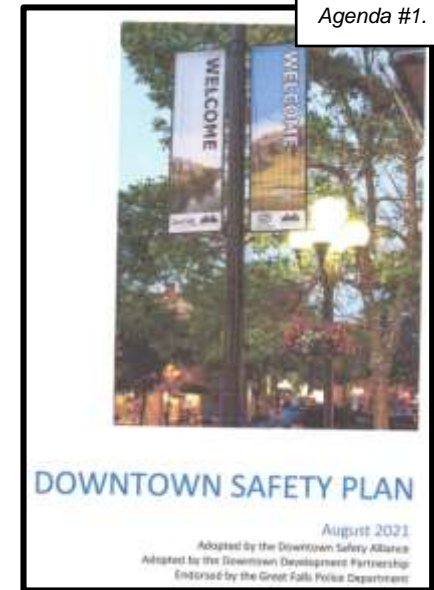
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Agenda #1.



Reducing barriers to Library Use

- Providing free parking



Green = completed
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Expanding our hours to be open seven days a week providing more service to all community members

Expanding Bookmobile services to six days a week providing more services to daycares, schools and seniors

- Library spaces to organized to accommodate new staff (phones, desks, computers...)
- Hired 2 FT & 2 PT Library Specialist
- Hiring 1 PT Bookmobile Driver as part of Levy Hiring Plan

Green = completed
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Agenda #1.





Measuring Success: **DRAFT** Smart Objectives

Timelines and baseline numbers will be finalized when the Library Board approves a new Levy Implementation Plan.

Patrons Cards:

- By XXX, increase the average monthly new card sign-ups by 5%.
- By XXX, increase the number of Library Card Holders by 5%.
- By XXX, increase the number of Library Card Holders by 15%.

Library & Bookmobile visitors:

- By XXX, increase the average number of monthly Library visitors by 15%.
- By XXX, increase the number of monthly Bookmobile visitors by 40%.

Circulation:

- By XXX, increase electronic circulation by 10%.
- By XXX, increase overall circulation by 15%.
- By XXX, expand use of Library's electronic databases (Chilton, Mango Languages, LinkedIn Learning) by 25%.

Patron Interactions:

- By XXX, increase the average monthly direct assistance interactions provided to patrons by 10%.

Measuring Success: **DRAFT** Smart Objectives

Timelines and baseline numbers will be finalized when the Library Board approves a new Levy Implementation Plan.

Adult Programming & Community Engagement:

- By XXX, increase average monthly attendance at general adult programming by 40%.

Online Engagement:

- By XXX, increase number of social media followers by 10%.
- By XXX, increase monthly engagement on social media by 10%.
- By XXX, increase monthly web sessions and web visits by 10%.

Youth Services Programming and Community Engagement:

- By XXX, average monthly attendance at Kids Place programming (family programs and programs for children 0 – 12-years old) will increase by 15%.
- By XXX, the average number of monthly Kids Place programs will increase by 10%.
- By XXX, average monthly attendance at Young Adult programming attendance (programs for youth 0-18 years old) will increase by 10%.
- During Summer Reading 2024, participation of children 0 – 12-years old will increase by 10%.
- During Summer Reading 2024, participation of youth 0-18 years old will increase by 15%.

Measuring Success: **DRAFT** Smart Objectives

Timelines and baseline numbers will be finalized when the Library Board approves a new Levy Implementation Plan.

Long-term goal: XX% of students in Great Falls will start kindergarten ready to learn to read.

NOTE: This goal will require effort across the community. The Library will assist in this effort by meeting the following objectives.

- By XXX, the Library will host at least one event per quarter that expands marginalized parents' awareness of their role as their children's first teachers. (Examples: Conversations Count and/or Mind in the Making training at Cascade County Detention Center, Paris Gibson's Young Parents, YWCA, Cascade County Juvenile Detention Center, Cameron Center)
- By December, of 2024, increase Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sign-ups by 25%. Currently, we have 1,900 sign-ups. $1.25 \times 1,900 = 2,375$ kids (Kids also age out of the program when the turn 5)

Measuring Success: **DRAFT** Smart Objectives

Timelines and baseline numbers will be finalized when the Library Board approves a new Levy Implementation Plan.

Technology:

- By XXX, increase average monthly unique users of Library Wi-Fi (bookmobile & main library) network and public computers by 10%.
- By XXX, increase average monthly Library Wi-Fi (bookmobile & main library) network and public computers usage sessions by 18%.

Collective Development Objectives:

- By December 2024, increase efficiency of Technical Services Department ordering/receiving/cataloging as measured by staff time spent on each step of the process.
- By December 2024, improve patron access to materials as measured by staff satisfaction surveys.

Questions

Further Information

- Great Falls Public Library Strategic Plan

https://www.greatfallslibrary.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif7196/f/uploads/great_falls_public_library_strategic_plan_2023-2026.pdf

- Great Falls Public Library Master Plan

https://www.greatfallslibrary.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif7196/f/pages/22_1003_great_falls_public_library_master_plan.pdf

memo



CITY OF GREAT FALLS

To: City Commission
 From: Lisa Kunz, City Clerk
 CC: Greg Doyon & Chuck Anderson, City Manager's Office
 Date: 12/15/2023
 Re: Local Government Review - - Study Commission

Establishment of Local Government Review	The Local Government Review was initiated by Article XI, Section 9(2) of the Montana Constitution. The first review was conducted in 1974. Required every 10 years, all county and municipal governments shall call for elections on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission. 2024 is a Local Government Review year.
Step 1 – Resolution March 5, 2024 (latest meeting to adopt resolution)	There are four possible steps in the Local Government Review Process: (1) A resolution must be adopted by the City Commission calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so and be submitted to the County Elections Administrator by March 11th . The ballot language is mandated by § 7-3-175, MCA.
Step 2 – Primary Election June 4, 2024	(2) At the June 4 rd primary election, voters in the City of Great Falls will be asked whether or not they wish to have their form of local government reviewed. If a majority of the electors are satisfied with the Commission-Manager form of government established by Charter with self-governing powers, the process ends here. The opportunity to review the City's form of government will be offered again in 2034.
Step 3 – General Election November 5, 2024	(3) If a majority of the electors vote in favor of a local government review, the study commission members can begin filing declarations for nomination as a study commission candidate for the November 5 th general election. Study commission candidates must meet the same requirements as candidates for City Commission - - residing within the City limits and being qualified

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electors (age and residency). Candidates may not be elected officials of the local government, this includes neighborhood council representatives.

Step 4 –
Committee
Recommendations
2026 – 2027

(4) The Study Commission shall adopt a final report. If the Study Commission is not recommending any changes, its final report must indicate that changes are not recommended. If an alternative form or plan of government is recommended, the final report must include a certificate establishing the date of the special election, which must be held in conjunction with a regular or primary election, at which the alternative form of government or change in a plan of government is presented to the electors and a certificate establishing the form of the ballot question or questions by a study commission. In addition to recommending amendments to the existing plan of government, a study commission examining the government of a municipality may also recommend any plan of government authorized by Title 7, Chapter 3, Parts 1 through 6; draft a charter; recommend municipal-county consolidation; recommend disincorporation; or submit no recommendation. A municipal study commission may also recommend service consolidation or transfer in cooperation with a county study commission.

Focus: Step 1
Resolution
Adoption

The resolution must (a) specify an odd number (not less than 3) of members to be elected and (b) must include the dollar amount or number of mills that will be permissively levied to fund the activities of the study commission.

Study Commission expenses for consideration:

- Election costs
- Office space (offsite office or location)
- Phone (long distance charges)
- Office equipment/supplies (computer, printer, etc.)
- Printing/Publishing – (statutorily required to publish timetable/reports)
- Legal Ads/Advertising
- Clerical Assistance (employ and fix the compensation and duties of necessary staff)

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- Professional Services (retain consultants; conduct surveys/research)
- Registration/Travel/Conferences (Local Government Center training in Bozeman in Dec. 2024 and MLCT)

Statutes pertinent
to Step 1

7-3-183. Commission powers. (1) A study commission may employ and fix the compensation and duties of necessary staff. State, municipal, and county officers and employees, at the request of the study commission and with the consent of the employing agency, may be granted leave with or without pay from their agency to serve as consultants to the study commission. If leave with pay is granted, they may receive no other compensation from the study commission except mileage and per diem.

(2) A study commission may contract and cooperate with other agencies, public or private, that it considers necessary for assistance in carrying out the purposes for which the commission was established. Upon request of the presiding officer of the study commission, state agencies, counties, and other local governments and the officers and employees of those entities shall furnish or make available to the commission information that may be necessary for carrying out the commission's function.

(3) A study commission may:

- (a) establish advisory boards and committees, including on them persons who are not members of the study commission;
- (b) retain consultants; and
- (c) do any other act consistent with and reasonably required to perform its function.

7-3-184. Financial administration. (1) A study commission shall prepare a budget for each fiscal year that it is in existence and shall submit it to the local governing body for approval.

(2) (a) For the support of the study commission, for each fiscal year that the study commission is in existence, each local government under study shall appropriate an amount necessary to fund the study, and the local government may levy mills in excess of all other mill levies authorized by law to fund the

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appropriation for the support of the study commission.

(b) The local government shall provide office and meeting space and clerical assistance to the study commission. The cost of clerical assistance and other in-kind services provided by the local government may be used to partially fulfill the appropriation provision of subsection (2)(a).

(c) The local government may provide additional funds and other assistance.

(3) The study commission may apply for and accept available private, state, and federal money and may accept donations from any source.

(4) All money received by the study commission must be deposited with the local government finance administrator. The finance administrator is authorized to disburse appropriated money of the study commission on the study commission's order after approval of the budget by the governing body. Unexpended money of the study commission does not revert to the general fund of the local government at the end of the fiscal year but carries over to the study commission's appropriation for the following fiscal year. Upon termination of the study commission, unexpended money reverts to the general fund of the local government.

Proposed Mills for
Commission
consideration

1.14 mills is about \$150,000; this equates to approximately \$1.54 for a \$100,000 house, \$3.08 for a \$200,000 house, \$4.62 for a \$300,000 house, and \$9.23 for a \$600,000.

Study Commission
purpose

7-3-172. Purpose of study commission. The purpose of a study commission is to study the existing form and powers of a local government and procedures for delivery of local government services and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state.

Title 7, Chapter 3, sets forth Alternative Forms of Local Government:

[Part 1. General Provisions](#)

[Part 2. Commission-Executive Government](#)

[Part 3. Commission-Manager Government](#)

[Part 4. Commission Government](#)

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[Part 5. Commission-Presiding Officer Government](#)

[Part 6. Town Meeting Government](#)

[Part 7. Charter Government](#)

Part 8 through 10 reserved .

[Part 11. City-County Consolidation -- Option 1](#)

[Part 12. City-County Consolidation -- Option 2](#)

[Part 13. City-County Consolidation Option 2 -- Continued](#)

Part 14 through 20 reserved .

[Part 21. Optional Forms of County Government \(Repealed\)](#)

Part 22 through 40 reserved .

[Part 41. Strong Mayor Municipal Government](#)

[Part 42. Municipal Commission Government](#)

[Part 43. Municipal Commission-Manager Government](#)

[Part 44. Municipal Commission-Manager Government Continued](#)

Historical
Information from
the 1994-1996 &
2004-2006 Local
Government
Study Commission
Final Reports

Seven members comprised the 1994-1996 Local Government Study Commission. They made three recommendations (ballot questions): (1) Mayor elected for four years; (2) Larger City Commission – six commissioners and one mayor; and, (3) Establishing Neighborhood Councils. Establishing Neighborhood Councils was the only recommendation adopted by the voters.

The 2004-2006 Local Government Study Commission was comprised of five members. They made one recommendation (on a 3-2 vote): Larger City Commission – six commissioners and one mayor. (It was noted in the minority report that the proposal was identical to the initiative by the 1996 study commission which failed 16,000 votes “against” vs 7,000 votes “for.” They further felt that the additional \$19,950 annual taxpayer expense could be better spent on police officers, fire fighters and parks.

The Final Reports of the 1994-1996 and 2004-2006 Great Falls Local Government Study Commissions similarly stated that “We . . . strongly believe that the current form government with an elected city commission and an appointed city manager is the best option for Great Falls.”

In 2014, the question of a review of the City of Great Falls’ form of government failed at the primary election by a vote of 6983 against versus 3954 in favor.

Attachment

Draft Resolution XXXXX

RESOLUTION XXXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREAT FALLS CITY COMMISSION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF CONDUCTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION TO DO SO.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 9(2), of the Montana Constitution requires that each unit of local government shall conduct an election once every ten years to determine whether the local government will undertake a review procedure; and

WHEREAS, § 7-3-173, MCA, requires that the local government governing body shall call for an election, to be held on the primary election date, on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls City Commission is the governing body of the City of Great Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:

1. The Great Falls City Commission hereby calls for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and electing a study commission to be held at the primary election on June 4, 2024.
2. If the voters decide in favor of conducting a local government review, a study commission comprised of *five (5) members shall be elected at the general election on November 5, 2024.
3. Section 7-3-175, MCA, requires the question of conducting a local government review shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

Vote for one:

/ / FOR the review of the government of the City of Great Falls and the establishment and funding, *not to exceed \$150,000 which is equivalent to approximately 1.14 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of *five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

/ / AGAINST the review of the government of the City of Falls and the establishment and funding, *not to exceed \$150,000 which is equivalent to approximately 1.14 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of *five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Great Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana,
on this 5th day March, 2024.

Cory Reeves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David Dennis, City Attorney

* For Commission Consideration/Discussion Purposes Only