

The BDL Finance Committee met on October 7, 2024, to finalize the budget recommendation for 2025. This year's is a simpler budget compared to recent ones. Our millage was reduced by the Headlee Amendment, but with continuing growth in Branch County tax funding will still support some modest increases to materials and programming budgets, along with a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment to our pay scales.

Items of Note

- Tax revenue is expected to increase by more than \$200,000.
- Reimbursements will be increasing due to changes by the Branch County Literacy Council, for which BDL acts as fiscal agent.
- The overview pages show the annual set-aside to the Assigned Fund Balance, as well as the planned use of that same fund balance and the Special Revenues fund. This is just to be more clear about whether or not we have a "balanced" budget; that is to say, whether or not we expect to be adding to or taking from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This year, we have a planned use of under \$841 from the Unassigned Fund Balance.
- Salaries contain a cost of living adjustment of 3%. With respect to staffing levels, Full-Time Equivalents are budgeted at 28.99 FTEs, an increase of 0.33 over 2024. Board Per Diems are budgeted at the statutory maximum allowed of \$30 per meeting.
- Health insurance premiums increased by about 13%.
- Small increases to materials and programming.
- The only project with a major one-time outlay is supporting the renovation of the Alganssee Twp. Hall into a library and moving our Alganssee Branch there. The Upkeep budget line contains this support.
- Office supplies has a large increase, largely due to the jump in the price of toner cartridges. We will also be re-examining our print pricing to help with this offset.
- With major one-time projects factored out, the personnel costs of our ongoing operating expenditures comprise 71% of the budget, within our goal of 75% or less.
- The major projects planned for the Special Revenues Fund (donations to the library) are the 5th of 6 years of extra materials budgets for children's materials and support for the planned move of the Alganssee Branch Library.