

June 5, 2025

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Bruce Gay

Re: 2026 Capital projects

The City of Waukesha has not at this time given department directors guidelines for the 2026 capital budget. Budget requests have typically been due at the end of June or early in July. The following is the library's plan for budget requests in 2026 with some information for the following years.

2026 CIP Descriptions and Justifications

New flooring in Children's Department

Description

The carpeting in the Children's area is well-used and hasn't been updated since its original installation in 2010. To address the wear and tear issues like stains, and damage, we are exploring flooring options beyond carpeting, that is more durable, easier to clean, and aesthetically pleasing.

Estimated Cost

Waiting for vendor estimate—under \$50,000

Installing a Hearing Loop in the Children's Program Area

Description

When we renovated the first floor, we added a hearing loop in the Program Rooms and the Carnegie room to help people with hearing loss to hear more clearly in public spaces. For those same reasons, we would like to add a hearing loop to the Children's program room.

Estimated Cost

Waiting for vendor estimate—under \$20,000.

Repairs and Updates to Children’s Area Restrooms

Description

The second-floor public restrooms require repairs to toilets and countertops, new accessories, wall repair, and new tile installation and replacement. To better serve our patrons, we would also like to replace the old drinking fountain system with a water bottle filler and drinking fountain combination.

Estimated Cost

\$36,500

First Floor Restroom Remodel

Description

To enhance accessibility and usability, we would like to reconfigure our first-floor public bathrooms, eliminating the doors to enter the bathrooms and making the layout more user-friendly and functional.

Estimated Cost

\$25,000

New Outdoor Library Sign

Description

We are requesting a new exterior free standing sign directing people to the library and parking. The current sign, which is on Carroll Street, is well worn and decades old. It was chosen to best direct patrons to the front of the library when the entrance was in a different place. A new illuminated sign on Maple Avenue would better direct patrons to

the more frequently used Maple Street parking lot entrance and better advertise the library as people drive past.

Estimated Cost of Illuminated Sign

\$25,000

Future Capital Projects

Updated Children's Area—2027

Description

As the popularity and usage of our 321 Alphabet Square play area has increased, we believe that an expansion of this area would best serve our patrons. As we contemplate expansion, we are also considering the best use of the entire space, including computer usage, collection locations, and possible additional uses of the spaces.

We are fortunate that the consulting firm that we worked with for the Children's renovation in 2010, Engberg Anderson, is available to assist us with a design refresh. They estimate that the cost to create plans for an update is \$25,375. We have secured \$12,700 of those funds by applying for and receiving a Bridges design grant.

As we contemplate a Children's Area refresh, we recognize how impactful a compelling focal point would have on the play area. We hope to offer children an interactive experience that attracts patrons of all ages and encourages exploration and discovery. We want our youngest patrons to be able to create, play, explore, and discover.

Estimated Cost

\$12,675 for design in 2025. Unknown the total cost for the update.

Administrative Area Update—2027

Description

This has been delayed several years while we await a space needs study, scheduled to be completed later this year. We are seeking a more efficient use of space in the administrative area to better meet the current organizational structure. Part of this update would include renovations to the staff bathrooms.

Estimated Cost

Unknown at this time—the space study should provide budget numbers.

Media Area Lighting Upgrade—2028 or later

Description

Refreshing the lights and ceiling above the media area (CDs, DVDs) to better match the lights throughout the rest of the first floor.

Laptop/workspace Bar—2028 or later

Description

Adding a counter height bar along the wall of windows facing out to Cutler Park, with power built in, for people to work and study.