

BR #12150 – South Common Library Technology

Description of Budget Request

The City is redeveloping South Common Library to meet the needs of the community as well as improving infrastructure to address population growth and changing demographics in the area. This request is for the operating budget to cover maintenance and licensing costs for new capital-funded equipment including an automated sorting machine, charging station, smart table, gaming equipment, wayfinding and specialized library software, starting in 2027 when the library is scheduled to reopen.

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

This initiative allows for the same benefits that the Central Library introduced through new technology. The automated material handling system will enable efficiencies in the handling of materials and meet the library's strategy for improved processes. This initiative offers better service options such as gaming equipment, children's smart tables, and accessibility equipment. The wayfinding solution allows customers to find what they are looking for and increases awareness of library features.

Details of Service Change

This initiative is requesting operating budget to pay for licensing fees and maintenance costs associated with the addition of new technology equipment and software to support the redeveloped South Common Library starting in 2027 when the library is set to reopen. These include the addition of a seven-bin automated material handling system, gaming equipment, children's smart tables, charging stations, specialized accessibility equipment as well as a wayfinding solution to better assist customers in locating items and features in the library. The service change will also include specialized library software including accessibility applications, children's educational software and professional design software to support the makerspace.

Service Impact

This initiative will create an overall better experience for library customers. It will ensure that the redeveloped South Common Library employs the latest technology and offers a number of popular services such as educational games for children and gaming equipment. Accessible hardware and software will help to remove barriers for use so that all customers are able to use the library. The addition of an automated material handling system will result in faster turnaround times for customers waiting for items.