

SLRC Oversight Commission – Budget Approval

June 26, 2024 -- 12:30pm-1:30pm

Attendance:

Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Darcell Graham

Elizabeth Hulett

Gordon Krabbe

Irene Padilla / Morgan X

James Kelly

Kimberly Cowles

Michael Blackwell

Morgan Miller

Olivia Jacobs

Daria Perry

Seth Hershberger

Tamar Sarnoff

Tonya Aikens

Agenda:

Call to Order – 12:33 pm

Welcome and Introduction

Tonya passed to Darcell who thanked people for showing up and passed to Liz.

Liz passed to Olivia and Gordon to start the budget discussion.

FY25 Budget Presentation

FY24 total cost and breakdown.

FY25 Total cost and breakdown.

Darcell – There's been a significant transition in the exec team. We had to contract a lot of vendors. There's also some HR personnel inflation. We've seen some extra money being spent on contractual services with expansion of SLRC Conf and not only professional staff across the state. We're getting more artists and expanded conf services as well. Not only DEI but also reentry.

That is the reason for some exec direction costs.

GK – One thing to note is Sailor has a decrease and that is due to renegotiation from Comcast. There is no other significant change. Olivia jump in here if you see anything to add.

Olivia – The prior HR Chief had a robust plan in regards to recruitment, and other things. That is why the difference of 100k.

GK – MILO increased because of transportation costs. We used to have Montgomery County and Baltimore county. Montgomery bowed out and Baltimore is still here.

General funds from the city, from private funding, and the like. At some point we may catch up with what we need from state funding. But at this point we don't anticipate any reduction in service.

Darcell can talk more about public services.

Darcell – Due to RFP we renegotiated with Hub City we received better costs for MD. We're reviewing another RFP process and working with Hub City and negotiating around mileage and gas. Due to inflation there will be some increases. There is some negotiation but inflation increases costs.

We've heard from a number of vendors across the city. And We're going to have experts help create reentry programs across the state.

Liz – I think that is most of it. We keep changing what we're doing but this isn't really impacting costs.

Irene – Is that noted in the executive direction?

Liz – that is a question for Gordon.

GK – Third from bottom there is where funding for staff and collection is. Everything else on the page is kinda support or admin services. Most of the programming comes out of public services. There are some costs built in X for programming.

Irene – Conference and programs....

GK – The library is still negotiating the union contract. What is built in this is a 4% Cost of living increase. We don't know where it's heading but when they figure out they will build it in for FY26. If a job goes from 50-60k they will build the costs for the next FY.

Irene – is that X?

GK – That is under salaries for Public services. I think the Library will reach out to the commission if needed. The anticipation is that the library is expected to absorb whatever increases are made. That is why we're being very careful with the negotiations.

Irene – in the past several years the budgets have increased. Human resources, etc. The library has spent 110% of what they budgeted. According to the MOU anything above 100% goes to State Library. But in last 2 years it's been more of a surprise and goes right up to the limit. Anytime you take 10% increase from any items it is taken from somewhere else. I appreciate you saying that Pratt will take responsibility for any increases. It's not a good way to plan.

Irene - The state is taking a hard look at agencies and a couple committees working together. The state also told me they are not happy that the Pratt is on X... But my concern is that with a large increase we usually get 2 cents so 10 cents is large increase. We're all monitoring everything so SLRC funding stays with SLRC. Because they could come in and do special audits.

GK – I hear you Irene, That will be part of the orientation for the new CFO. I will help a little and then definitely head out.

DG – Thank you Irene and also with new CFO, I hear what you're saying with changes in salaries that we're sharing that information with Morgan.

Michael Blackwell – Sorry I'm not used to budgeting like this. Typically a budget would provide dipping in fund balance or other sources of income so... I'm not saying this is wrong. If this is standard policy... Do we know if the other sources are available and can give this money?

GK – Yes. That is accounted for. There are many other ways to do this. I think library started this way to share with the commission.

Michael – No worries this year. For next year it might be nice to have a line what the other sources of funding so we have a better idea where the money is coming from.

Tonya moved to approve the budget – 12:52pm

Michael Approves and Seth seconds.

Vote to Approve – 12:53pm

Adjournment/End – 12:53pm

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