



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR MAHAN

**FROM:** Councilmember Pam Foley

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 23, 2024

Approved:

Date: May 23, 2024

## RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2024-2025 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Grant for San José Public Library Late Fee Waivers for Older Adults

Amount of City Funding Required: \$10,000

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable):

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

Our public libraries are essential for providing resources, access to information, and educational opportunities for people of all ages. They also function as social hubs, hosting community events. However, late fees for overdue materials pose a significant barrier to library use, particularly for older adults.

COVID-19 continues to be a risk for older adults, who also may suffer from mobility issues and other health conditions which could impact their ability to return library materials on time.

There are financial considerations that make this a worthwhile investment. Older adults, often on fixed incomes, may struggle to make ends meet in our increasingly unaffordable region. Waiving these fees allows them to fully utilize library resources without the worry of late fee penalties.

In the digital age, older adults may also require additional support and guidance in using online resources and devices. By eliminating late fees, libraries can offer more time and assistance to older adults who need extra help with digital resources and platforms.

This grant will be a valuable investment for our older adults, providing the support they need to maintain good emotional and cognitive health, connect with their community, and live with dignity. In fiscal year 2023-2024, we allocated \$5,000 for this purpose. Given the high demand and rapid depletion of these funds, a grant of \$10,000 will significantly benefit our older adults by making it easier for them to access library resources without financial worry. By increasing the grant, we are ensuring that more of our older adults can take advantage of this support and aiding to foster a more inclusive and supportive community environment.

### **Funding Source**

- Essential Services Reserve: \$10,000
- Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

### **Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Jill Bourne / City Librarian

Department or Organization: San José Public Library

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