



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian , Malissa Briggs, Central Services Administrator
Subject: State Library base budget approved by previous legislatures
Date: January 29, 2025

Commissioners requested a review of the base budget of the Montana State Library (MSL) approved by previous legislatures. Prior to the start of the legislative session, the Governor’s office and the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) agree on a budgetary ‘starting point’ or base budget. For the current legislative session, the starting point uses the amounts appropriated by the legislature for FY 2025 plus any budgetary changes approved by the Governor’s office after the last legislative session through August 2024. The Joint Appropriations Section E subcommittee voted to approve the base budget on January 8th, 2025. [Base budget starting point motion](#)

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SUMMARY

Agency Base Budget Comparison

The following table compares the base budget with the requested expenditures for the upcoming biennium by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Agency Base Budget Comparison Budget Item	Base Budget	Requested Budget		Biennium Change from Base	
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Amount	Percent
PB	30.46	30.46	30.46	0.00	0.0%
General Fund	3,347,459	3,603,213	3,614,036	522,331	7.8%
State/Other Special Rev. Funds	3,047,959	3,127,717	3,138,219	170,018	2.8%
Federal Spec. Rev. Funds	1,512,387	1,554,978	1,554,978	85,182	2.8%
Total Funds	7,907,805	8,285,908	8,307,233	777,531	4.9%
Personal Services	3,112,404	3,309,051	3,329,548	413,791	6.6%
Operating Expenses	4,155,161	4,336,617	4,337,445	363,740	4.4%
Grants	475,000	475,000	475,000		0.0%
Debt Service	165,240	165,240	165,240		0.0%
Total Expenditures	7,907,805	8,285,908	8,307,233	777,531	4.9%
Total Ongoing	7,907,805	8,285,908	8,307,233	777,531	4.9%
Total One-Time-Only	900,000			(1,800,000)	(100.0%)

The base budget includes General Fund, Montana Geospatial Information Account, Coal Severance Tax, State Aid, Next Generation 911, Digital Library Services Fixed Costs, and Library Services and Technology Act in the same amounts that were appropriated in FY 2025. One time only costs for hot spots and the Montana State Reference Network have been excluded since they were not approved for future years.



LFD provides a full analysis of the Governor's budget for MSL available here: [MSL-BA-27Bi.pdf](#)

LFD also provides an historical overview of MSL's budget online here: [51150-MSL-Historical-Overview-27Bi.pdf](#).

Legislative staff provided a helpful guide to understanding state finances: [Understanding-state-finances-2019-Session.pdf](#)