Warren-Newport Public Library District
Lake County, Illinois

WARREN-NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Introduction

Warren-Newport Public Library's budget is a dynamic reflection of our organization's priorities, values, and commitment to community impact. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 budget is the **first budget developed under our new 2026-2029 Strategic Plan**, adopted by the Board of Trustees in January 2026. The new plan focuses our work around five goals:

- **Welcome Everyone** — create a library where all belong
- **Connect People** — foster relationships, engagement, and community life
- **Enrich Learning** — inspire curiosity, learning, and creative growth
- **Improve Access** — make the library easy, clear, and convenient to use
- **Strengthen Our Organization** — build a nimble, responsive, and future-ready library

This budget makes targeted investments tied directly to those goals while maintaining the fiscal discipline that keeps Warren-Newport Public Library (WNPL) in strong financial health.

Income

WNPL's budgeted income for FY 2026-2027 totals **$8,505,595**. Approximately **90%** of our income (**$7,645,823**) comes from local property taxes. The remaining 10% comes from a combination of grants, gifts, developer donations, and investment income.

Our tax extension has been finalized with Lake County, and we are confident in the accuracy of all other income projections.
We anticipate receiving our full Per Capita Grant of $113,011 and have projected $23,761 in developer donations and $319,500 in investment income.

Expenditures

WNPL's budgeted expenditures for FY 2026-2027 total **$8,682,170**, a decrease of **10.71% ($1,041,725)** from the current year's budget of $9,723,895.
This decrease requires context. Nearly all of it is driven by the completion of the facilities improvement project funded out of the Special Reserve Fund during FY 2025-2026. Setting aside capital projects and debt service, our **operating budget is $7,428,317, an increase of 5.05% ($357,379)** over the current year, which is in line with healthy year-over-year growth and in the black on an operating basis. The overall budgeted deficit reflects the planned, intentional spend-down of the Special Reserve Fund for capital projects.
Capital expenditures total **$604,728**, down from $2,002,207 the prior year. Personnel is the largest area of growth, up **6.65%**, detailed below.
Per WNPL policy, this budget meets the minimum threshold of nine percent of its total budget (less major capital expenditures and debt service) spent on materials for patrons. Approximately **9.6%** of qualifying expenditures (**$709,615**) is budgeted for materials.

Major Projected Expenditure Changes Overview

Comparison of FY 2026-2027 budgeted vs. FY 2025-2026 budgeted.

Budget Line	Change	% Change	Notes
Payroll	+$203,808	+5.43%	New positions informed by strategic plan plus 3% cost-of-living adjustment
Employee Benefits	+$119,917	+30.50%	Our prior broker's 2026 renewal came in at roughly 59%; joining the

Budget Line	Change	% Change	Notes
			Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) cut that increase nearly in half, with better plan options and more predictable future increases
Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)	−$3,984	−0.63%	Slight decrease due to personnel changes
Treasurer's Bond	−$800	−44.44%	Slight decrease
Professional Fees	−$44,985	−13.53%	Architect, space consultant, and strategic plan consultant all conclude this fiscal year
General Supplies	+$17,530	+4.50%	Increased vendor costs: addition of Niche Academy
Utilities	+$12,155	+6.41%	Increased utilities costs
Training and Development	+$17,817	+28.28%	Education assistance for three staff; legislative delegation trip to Springfield
Public Services and Works	+$8,858	+3.17%	Increased costs
Standing Order Books	+$10,000	+37.74%	More popular books for collection
Circulating Books	+$8,857	+3.95%	More funding for books to meet patron demand and expectations
Audiovisual Materials	+$4,440	+7.31%	More funding for A/V to meet patron demand and expectations

Budget Line	Change	% Change	Notes
Online Electronic Databases	+$2,321	+0.67%	More funding for eBooks/eAudiobooks to meet patron demand and expectations; offset by the elimination of databases with limited usage
Special Reserve Fund (capital)	−$1,153,507	−67.08%	Completion of the major Facilities Improvement Plan; FY 2026-2027 reserve spending of $566,000 covers planned capital projects plus the delayed furniture delivery carried over from the current-year plan
Corporate Fund (capital)	−$248,172	−90.34%	Completion of the major Facilities Improvement Plan
Expendable Trust Fund (capital)	+$4,200	+52.50%	Budgeting for donations designated for specific use

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Special Funds

The vast majority of expenditures come out of the Library's General Corporate Fund. The Library also maintains Special Funds for specific purposes:

- **Buildings, Sites, & Maintenance Fund:** covers building maintenance, equipment, and supplies.
- **Public Liability Fund:** pays insurance premiums and risk management costs; security staff salaries and training are also included in this fund.
- **Expendable Trust Fund:** donations used for fundraising and capital purchases tied to our annual appeal.
- **Special Reserve Fund:** unexpended funds from the Corporate Fund saved for capital improvements. The Library maintains a ten-year capital project plan that it

revisits and revises annually; the Special Reserve Fund is the primary source for library capital projects.

Inactive Funds

- **Audit Fund:** inactive; audit fees are now paid from the Corporate Fund.
- **Working Cash Fund:** maintained as a reserve for emergencies and interest income generation.

Capital Projects

Total capital expenditures for FY 2026-2027 are budgeted at **$604,728**, the majority funded through the Special Reserve Fund ($566,000), with smaller amounts in the Corporate Fund ($26,528) and Expendable Trust Fund ($12,200).

Capital Equipment and Furnishings: $99,500

- Signage: $22,000
- Meeting room tables and chairs: $75,000
- Washer and dryer: $2,500

Building Capital Projects: $355,000

- Parking lot sealcoat and crack fill: $16,000
- Facilities Improvement Plan Furniture Carryover: $55,000
- Lobby and cafe carpeting: $75,000
- Wall art installation: $2,000
- Access control system: $80,000
- Fire panel and smoke detection: $127,000

Technology: $111,500

- Meeting room AV upgrade Phase 2: $18,000
- Additional cameras for new layout: $10,000
- Replacement laptops for laptop vending kiosk: $16,500
- New catalog computers: $12,000

- Outdoor lockers: $25,000
- Access point replacement: $30,000

Current Year and Financial Health

We are tracking to come in under budget for FY 2025-2026. Our estimated ending fund balance for FY 2026-2027 is approximately **$7.47 million**, representing **86%** of yearly expenses kept in reserve, a strong financial position.

This budget continues to prioritize fiscal responsibility while making targeted investments that directly support our new 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.