FRASER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fraser, MI
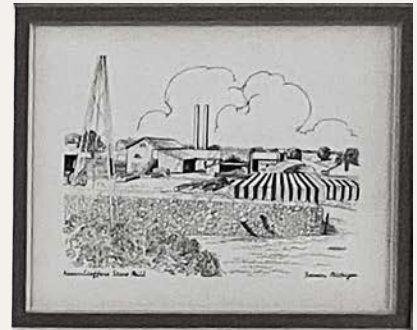
Millage 2022

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BUILDING PLAN

The E C Weber Fraser Public Library was voted into existence by a ballot of the people in 1963. Shortly thereafter, St. John's Lutheran Church leased the vacant schoolhouse building to the Library Board for $1 dollar. After further locating staff and purchasing collections and supplies, the library opened its doors to patrons in 1964. At that point Fraser had a population of approximately 8,900 people. When the City of Fraser acquired the location in 1978 from St. Johns, the building had already housed the library for over 13 years. Upon purchasing the building, the City began the process of expansion and updating, including modernizing electrical, plumbing and HVAC to the standards of the 1970's. Since that point, while items have been maintained, there have not been many substantial upgrades in the last four decades, even though the population of Fraser has increased to 14,780 as of 2020. Our beautiful facility is starting to require expensive repairs. Despite careful maintenance over the years, things like the roof, sewage infrastructure, and the HVAC system cannot last forever. Some of the building issues that are becoming dire include: replacement of leaking windows and roofing areas throughout the library, thermal & moisture protection (including repair of historic wing to new addition leak), repair of water damaged areas, replacement of aging elevator, repair of plumbing issues and sewer line, new HVAC, masonry repairs to the aging building, and many more.

CHALLENGE

The library's operating millage has not increased since it was approved more than 50 years ago, but has been reduced through the Headlee Amendment. When the millage was first passed, eBooks, computers and many other technologies were still unknown. Despite these monetary constraints, through careful budgeting we now have provided a large collection of digital media ranging from magazines to streaming video, as well as an extensive physical collection of books, audiobooks, and DVDs.

As libraries adapt to the modern environment, additional services are requested. FPL continues to provide those additional services, but more room is required to adapt to the changing requests that the library receives. While FPL has attempted to provide those additional services for years, issues have slowly built up over time due to the evolution of what the library provides, leading to decreasing storage space, insufficient parking lot size for programs and busy periods, and requests for specific types of library room/spaces has all put pressure on the library's budget.

Many changes in patron technology needs as well as increasing demands in the standards of library service have created greater requirements and burdens on the library than at the time of the last ballot measure in 1963 that current funding levels cannot adequately cover.

MOVING FORWARD (PLAN A)

If the millage passes, we enter a period of growth, repair and development.

After almost 140 years of existence, including expansion and updating during the 1970's, the building that currently houses the E C Weber Fraser Public Library is in need of costly upkeep, including a new HVAC system, a new roof, a new elevator, new windows, plumbing repairs and more. The Library is exploring either renovating and expanding the existing building, which is currently not owned by the library, or looking to purchase a new location, preferably also a historic building to Fraser.

Our goal in sharing this information is to provide transparency for the Fraser Community and share building concerns regarding Fraser Public Library as well as provide a space for exploring future growth and development possibilities. Based on a survey FPL conducted to better understand the needs of our community, we learned that majority of the Fraser residents who participated in the survey need resources that FPL is unable to provide in our current budget.

MODERNIZING THE LIBRARY ACCORDING TO CURRENT NATIONWIDE STANDARDS

If the millage passes we can begin to implement the following changes and updates (items targeted through patron surveys):

- **82%** said **more children's classes and events** were very/somewhat important
- **79%** said **more teen classes and events** very/somewhat important
- **79%** said **more public study rooms** are very/somewhat important
- **78%** said **more database access** are very/somewhat important
- **71%** said **public meeting rooms** are very/somewhat important

Increased space is needed for additional meeting rooms, study rooms, enlarged collection areas, storage, café corner including sitting areas, additional parking, additional restrooms (including nursing spaces), electronic vehicle charging station, separate makerspace area, separate teen area, and kids play areas inside and out.

IF THE MILLAGE FAILS

The current library building has significant problems that require rectification in order to continue operating the library to the full extent that has been enjoyed by the community. Fraser Public Library does not currently own the building, nor does it receive enough funds to conduct these extensive repairs. Without additional funding the library will eventually have to leave the premises and locate somewhere else to rent/occupy. Rental costs in Fraser indicate that the Library will only be able to afford a smaller location, meaning that we would most likely need to heavily cut our collections and significantly reduce programming, databases and other offerings to the public.
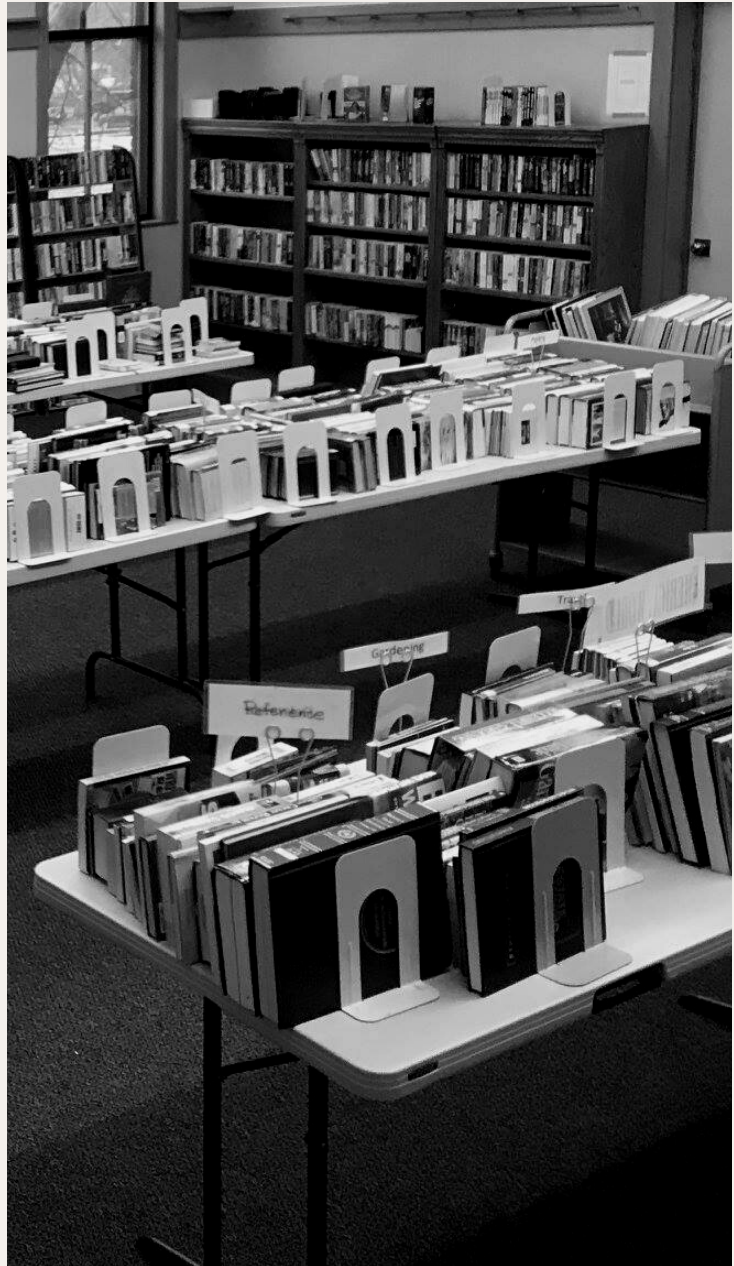
TECH PLAN

FRASER PUBLIC LIBRARY'S GOAL IN SHARING THE TECH PLAN IS TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY NEEDS AT FPL AS WELL AS PROVIDE A SPACE FOR TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS AND VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

Technology Goals

Current goals include:

- Improving existing technology to maintain functionality
- Implementing new technology in keeping with our current mission and strategic goals
- Providing our patrons and community members access to unique and/or potentially cost-prohibitive technology for personal, academic, or professional growth
- Expanding events and programming for patrons and community members of all ages

TECHNOLOGY ASSETS | CURRENT

Current Assets
Public & Staff Computers
iPads
Self-Serve Copier
Self-Serve Printing Station
Self-Pay Station for Services
On-Site WiFi Access
Laptops for On-Site Use
3D Printer

We have in two plans related to the proposed 2022 millage. **Plan A** will include those technologies and improvements that will be pursued upon completion of a successful millage campaign in 2022. **Plan B** will include only those technologies and recommendations that the library can purchase without additional funds provided by a millage.

TECHNOLOGY PROPOSAL

Our intention with technology improvements is to provide unique opportunities for patrons and community members and help grow the services offered by the library.

Successful Millage - Plan A

Suggested Asset(s)	Benefits To The Community	Millage Required?
Portable Hotspots	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	Yes
Laptops | Chromebooks	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	Yes
Updated Print System and Interface	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	No
Updated Coinbox | Payment System	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	No
Library Card Scanner for Patron Printing	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	Yes
Additional Tablets YA | Children's	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	Yes
Roku | Amazon Fire Stick	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources	No
Coding | Software Development Resources	Increased Public Access to Makerspace Tools	Yes
Cricut Maker 3	Increased Public Access to Makerspace Tools	Yes
Sewing Machine	Increased Public Access to Makerspace Tools	No

Unsuccessful Millage - Plan A

Suggested Asset(s)	Purpose | Use
Updated Print System and Interface	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources
Updated Coinbox | Payment System	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources
Roku | Amazon Fire Stick	Increased Public Access to Information and Digital Resources
Sewing Machine	Increased Public Access to Makerspace Tools

MILLAGE FUNDING

If the millage is approved, the library will receive an estimated additional $500,000 in its first year (Summer 2023). Using the most recent estimates, FPL ideally expects to use 75-80% of the additional funding for building needs and construction. The other 20-25% will be used to fund the additional programming, services, and overhead associated with a larger building and additional programming.

The cost to keep up with the aging building currently exceeds Fraser Library's budget. While the library can currently make short term repairs, long term issues require additional funding. Looking into the further future, FPL will have to relocate to another location within Fraser. This relocation would put the library into a smaller location and create a rent expense within the current budget. Less space and higher expenses would certainly decrease the quality and quantity of service that FPL strives to provide.

GLOSSARY - TECH PLAN

Access Improvement

Items that will improve on-site and limited off-site access to essential 21st Century skills and services (e.g., internet, electronic communication(s), digital literacy, etc.). Access improvement helps to cultivate a modern environment.

Chromebooks

An affordable alternative to laptops, but with a narrower scope of use and limited functionality. They lack the overall versatility of laptops. However, to help mitigate concerns about risk and damage, the library may opt to purchase both laptops and Chromebooks, with laptops for on-site use and Chromebooks available for check-out.

Coding | Software Development Resources

A variety of software and hardware designed to teach patrons and community members the processes of coding and development. Cost can vary greatly depending on initial buy-in and current assets, as well as subscription fees for some related sites and services. Examples include Makey Makey kits that allow patrons to explore circuits and coding using everyday objects, Ozobots that let patrons watch their coding efforts come to life via a miniature robot, and Raspberry Pi – a pocket-sized, affordable "computer" that patrons can utilize to learn more about coding and how computers function.

Community Technology

Items that provide increased recreational, educational, or professional opportunities for patrons. These materials may be eligible to be checked out for at-home use and can better expand library reach into the community.

Cricut Maker 3

A smart cutting machine with exceptional versatility. The Cricut can be used in a variety of DIY crafts and endeavors and could be used by both patrons and staff. This item can work with well over 300 types of materials, including fabric, paper, heavy chipboard, tooled leather, balsa wood, and more. It also comes with a free application to make the process simple and convenient. Like FPL's 3D printer, this item could be used to create custom patron requests with an associated fee.

Laptops

Expansion of laptops that can be requested for check-out. Generally, this would reference on-site "check-out" only.

Portable Hotspots

Devices that provide mobile Wi-Fi for patrons and community members. Hotspots generally require an ongoing contract with an internet provider.

Roku | Amazon Fire Stick

A simple and affordable device that provides access to free, in-home video streaming directly to their tv. Patrons will not have access to paid subscription services, but would be provided access to thousands of free movies, documentaries, series, etc. via free applications. Roku also has applications that connect to free library video streaming.

Sewing Machine

Standard sewing machine for crafting and programming. Cost varies depending on model; models that permits self-repair are preferable.

Tablets

Tablets are mobile and versatile and can be used both recreationally as well as in conjunction with library programming. Children and teens may play games, use educational applications, access the internet (in keeping with the FPL internet usage policy), and more.

Updated Print System | Coinbox Payment System | Scanner

While FPL's current print system and interface is functional, staff experience suggests patrons and community members would benefit greatly from a more user-friendly option. As staff serves a variety of populations, the library must be mindful of varying levels of patron comfort with self-service options. FPL is currently exploring the option of switching to Envisionware, a service that SLC can help implement.