

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 11, 2016

**TO:** Mayor Mike Amyx; Commissioners Stuart Boley, Matthew Herbert, Lisa Larsen, and Leslie Soden

**FROM:** David Vance, Chair, Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees

**RE:** 2017 Budget Request for Lawrence Public Library

This July marks the second anniversary of Lawrence Public Library's grand reopening. Since that time, we have welcomed close to one and a half million visitors. Last month alone, 70,000 people walked through our doors. The relaunch of our public library has been an indisputable success and a symbol of pride for Lawrence. This community has built a building that will serve it well for years to come. It is paramount that our cherished public library secure the necessary public funding to provide the quality of service and collections to match our beautiful building.

In the spirit of responsible stewardship of public dollars, the library has taken a second look at its 2017 budget. In the months since our budget was submitted, we have received updated expense data that provide some cost savings. **Lawrence Public Library respectfully requests a budget amount for 2017 from the City of Lawrence of \$3,950,000. This is an increase of \$200,000 (or \$2.10 per capita) compared to 2016.** We ask you to honor Charter Ordinance No. 16 (see attached) and fund the library at the rate determined by the Library Board of Trustees.

To reiterate from our previous memo from May, the 2017 budget addresses two serious issues: **pay equity** and **adequate spending on library digital collections**.

Public libraries are vital community anchors, now more so than ever. Lawrence Public Library is an essential city service. We respectfully ask the City Commission to work with the Library Board of Trustees to ensure that the library is funded at a level that provides the high quality service our community wants and deserves.

## CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 16

A CHARTER ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, BY REPEALING CHARTER ORDINANCE NOS. 2, 7, 8, AND CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 10, OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, AND PROVIDING SUBSTITUTE PROVISIONS ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

**Section 1.** That pursuant to the provisions of Section 5(c) of Article 12, of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, the City of Lawrence, Kansas, hereby elects the following provisions shall establish the maximum allowable mill levy limit of the Lawrence Free Public Library:

"The Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, shall annually levy a tax for the equipping, operating and maintaining of the Free Public Library of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, in such sum as the Library Board shall determine not to exceed 4.0 mills on each dollar of the assessed tangible valuation of the City and an additional sum not to exceed .5 mills on each dollar of the assessed tangible valuation of the City for the purpose of paying both the Library's social security tax and contributions to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs). Any future increase or decrease to the tax levy provisions of this Section may be made by ordinary ordinance passed by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence."

**Section 2.** That Charter Ordinance No. 2, Charter Ordinance No. 7, Charter Ordinance No. 8, and Charter Ordinance No. 10, of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, are hereby repealed and of no further force and effect. (11-3-81)