

# Redbook

## LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

### State Library Board

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February 2025

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Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

# LBO Redbook

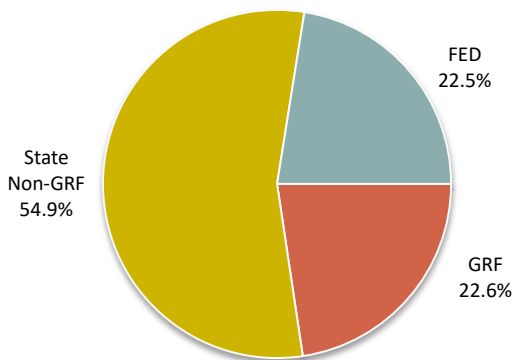
## State Library Board

### Quick look...

- The State Library Board (LIB) provides library and information services and materials to Ohio’s state government, local libraries, educational institutions, and residents; promotes coordination among library systems; and acts as a depository for state and federal government documents. LIB’s budget also houses the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN).
- The State Library Board consists of five members appointed by the Director of Education and Workforce. The State Library Board appoints the 11-member OPLIN Board of Trustees.
- The State Librarian oversees the day-to-day operation of the State Library and its 46 staff, as well as OPLIN’s seven employees. Each of the state’s 251 public library systems use State Library and OPLIN services.
- The executive budget recommends \$24.7 million in FY 2026 and \$24.9 million in FY 2027.
  - Primary sources of the budget: GRF (22.6%), state non-GRF (54.9%), and federal (22.5%).
  - Uses of the budget: supplies and maintenance (41.2%), personal services (27.0%), subsidies (18.8%), equipment (12.5%), and purchased personal services (0.5%).

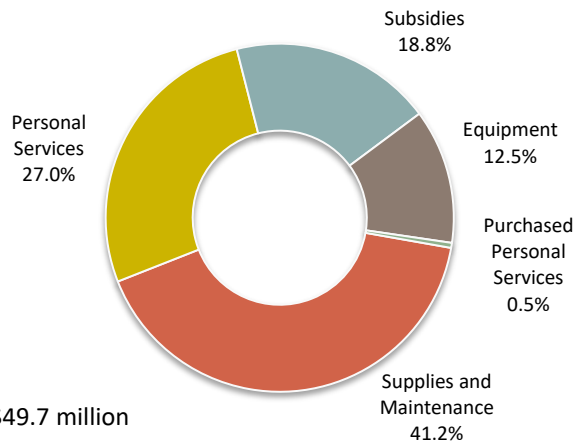
Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
General Revenue	\$5,262,889	\$5,335,000	\$5,576,552	\$5,662,990
State Non-GRF	\$13,020,606	\$14,109,775	\$13,598,364	\$13,652,870
Federal	\$5,330,184	\$5,432,653	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015
Total	\$23,613,679	\$24,877,428	\$24,729,683	\$24,924,875
% change	--	5.4%	-0.6%	0.8%
GRF % change	--	1.4%	4.5%	1.6%

**Chart 1: LIB Budget by Fund Group  
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



Biennial total: \$49.7 million

**Chart 2: LIB Budget by Expense Category  
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



# Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

## Summary of executive recommendations

The State Library Board’s (LIB) budget consists of eight appropriation line items (ALIs). Of those, three are supported by the GRF, four are supported by state non-GRF appropriations in the Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) and Internal Service Activity (ISA) fund groups, and one is supported by federal grants. The proposed budget provides overall funding of about \$25 million each fiscal year. FY 2026 appropriations represent a decrease of 0.6% from FY 2025 estimated expenditures, while FY 2027 appropriations increase by 0.8%.

LIB’s recommended GRF appropriations are \$5.6 million in FY 2026 and \$5.7 million in FY 2027, an annual increase of 4.5% and 1.6%, respectively. The majority (54.9%) of LIB’s proposed funding consists of state non-GRF funds that primarily support the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and services provided to libraries. The remainder of the LIB budget is nearly evenly split between the GRF (22.6%) and federal funding (22.5%). This analysis groups LIB’s eight line items into two major functional categories: (1) library services and support and (2) Ohio Public Library Information Network. Each LIB appropriation item is discussed in more detail below.

## Library services and support

Line items in this category support State Library operations, provide library services to state government and local communities, and provide financial support for local library programs and special activities.

### Operating Expenses (ALI 350321)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 350321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$4,341,234	\$4,424,461	\$4,458,372	\$4,527,000	\$4,772,036	\$4,858,474
% change	1.9%	0.8%	1.5%	5.4%	1.8%

This line item is the primary source of state operating support for the State Library’s services to state government and Ohio library communities. It provides funds for payroll and fringe benefits, maintenance and equipment, the acquisition of library materials, and other administrative costs. The executive proposal increases funding by roughly \$245,000 (5.4%) from FY 2025 estimated spending to FY 2026, and another \$86,000 (1.8%) from FY 2026 to FY 2027. According to LIB, the recommended funding of about \$4.8 million in each fiscal year will allow the Board to maintain its current level of operations and staffing, including anticipated rent increases for the State Library’s leased building and regular step increases in payroll and benefits. These funds will also be used to maintain collections of both print and digital resources. According to the Library Board, the costs of digital resources such as e-books, journals, and research databases have been increasing in recent years. Digital resource costs are often driven by required ongoing subscription fees and resources that are valid for only a certain number of checkouts before needing to be purchased for use again.

### Services to state government and Ohio library communities

This appropriation supports materials circulation, reference services, access to research databases, and services to assist users in finding materials held by libraries around the state through the OhioLINK system. Additional funded activities include digital cataloging for state agency documents; maintaining library catalogs for the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, the Ohioana Library, and the Ohio School for the Deaf; and providing meeting facilities for state agencies.

This line item also funds services to Ohio library communities, including staff to administer the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) consortium’s shared online catalog service for 104 local library systems and to coordinate the Statewide Delivery System and its associated online catalog application. Funds also support the costs for State Library staff to provide consulting services to local libraries, the lending of Talking Book machines to participating libraries, and coordination of the Ohio Digital Library to provide digital content to local libraries. Additional appropriations for services to Ohio library communities are supported by state non-GRF funds in Fund 4590 line item 350603, Services for Libraries, which is supported by service charges, and federal funding in Fund 3130 line item 350601, LSTA Federal.

#### Ohioana Library Association (ALI 350401)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 350401, Ohioana Library Association</b>					
\$303,102	\$302,026	\$310,516	\$314,000	\$310,516	\$310,516
% change	-0.4%	2.8%	1.1%	-1.1%	0.0%

This line item provides state support for the Ohioana Library Association (OLA), an independent, nonprofit entity governed by a board of trustees that is dedicated to collecting and promoting literary works by Ohio authors or about Ohio or Ohioans. The appropriation supports a portion of OLA’s operating expenses, including some payroll and benefit costs associated with the management of the library’s collection and programs. OLA also uses this subsidy to leverage private, independent funds to support OLA and its services. The executive recommendation sets aside \$191,000 in each fiscal year for OLA’s operating expenses and allocates the remaining \$119,516 for rental payments for the space OLA leases in the State Library.

#### Regional Library Systems (ALI 350502)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>GRF ALI 350502, Regional Library Systems</b>					
\$480,000	\$480,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000
% change	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports Ohio’s four regional library systems that coordinate the sharing of resources and materials among their member libraries. The systems are the Northeast Ohio

Regional Library System (NEO-RLS), Northwest Regional Library System (NORWELD), Southeast Regional Library System (SERLS), and the Southwest Ohio and Neighboring Libraries (SWON). The four systems provide educational and technology training programs and workshops, coordinate regional library programs, and deliver technology support and consulting services to member libraries and their staffs.

The executive proposal recommends flat funding (in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium). Each system receives exactly one-quarter of this appropriation annually, amounting to \$123,500 per system per fiscal year at the recommended funding levels. According to LIB, the regional library systems use these funds to cover between approximately 25% and 90% of each system’s total funding, with member libraries contributing the remainder through a variety of fees or local funds.

**Services for Libraries (ALI 350603)**

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 4590 ALI 350603, Services for Libraries</b>					
\$3,751,889	\$5,894,676	\$6,121,087	\$6,818,338	\$6,748,455	\$6,783,244
% change	57.1%	3.8%	11.4%	-1.0%	0.5%

This line item supports two main programs that serve local libraries and other entities using revenues from service charges. First, this appropriation supports the SEO consortium’s shared online catalog service for 104 local library systems. Second, the Statewide Delivery Services Program facilitates the sharing of library books and materials between local library systems, comprising 291 public, school, institutional, and other library locations, as well as 115 college and university libraries that are members of the OhioLINK consortium. The remainder of this line item supports various other services the State Library provides to local communities.

Spending in this line item increased beginning in FY 2023 due in part to higher delivery costs, and funding to cover these costs has continued to increase since then. LIB estimates that higher diesel fuel prices resulted in an additional cost of 18% to 25% per stop across the delivery system, which encompasses over 94,000 stops annually. Additionally, spending has been higher since FY 2023 due to the structure of the current Statewide Delivery Service contract, under which the State Library handles all invoices and receives reimbursement from OhioLINK for its portion of the costs. Previously, the Statewide Delivery Service vendor billed OhioLINK directly.

In early 2025, the State Library, through the SEO Service Center, began an IT management service pilot program with Guernsey County District Public Library. Under this arrangement, the SEO Service Center provides certain information technology services to the library through the service center’s regular billing structure. Depending on the outcomes of this pilot project, LIB may consider expanding it to other libraries in the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

### Library for the Blind (ALI 350605)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 5GB0 ALI 350605, Library for the Blind</b>					
\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item provides funding for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) at the Cleveland Public Library to operate the statewide Talking Book Program. The program annually assists approximately 10,000 persons who are blind, visually impaired, reading disabled, and print disabled with access to books through specialized audio devices. Through agreements with the State Library, local public libraries, social services organizations, or other agencies lend specialized “Talking Book” machines to eligible individuals in their area. The Cleveland Public Library circulates braille and audio reading materials statewide.

According to LIB, this line item provides approximately 52% of the costs of salary and benefits for the staff of OLBPD. The Library of Congress’ National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled supplies nearly all of the physical inventory of audio books, recorded magazines, and braille materials, as well as playback equipment. The executive recommendation maintains flat funding for this line item of \$1.3 million annually, funded by a yearly transfer from the Public Library Fund (Fund 7065) to the Library for the Blind Fund (Fund 5GB0). Federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences provides an additional \$234,000 to OLBPD in each fiscal year, appropriated in Fund 3130 line item 350601, LSTA Federal.

### Services for State Agencies (ALI 350602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 1390 ALI 350602, Services for State Agencies</b>					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
% change	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the State Library’s services to state government through fees collected from state agencies that use the Library’s services. Most fee revenue comes from charges for cataloging services provided to state agencies, while other revenue comes from salvaged property or assets.

### LSTA Federal (ALI 350601)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 3130 ALI 350601, LSTA Federal</b>					
\$9,277,436	\$6,071,368	\$5,330,184	\$5,432,653	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015
% change	-34.6%	-12.2%	1.9%	2.2%	1.0%

The State Library uses moneys received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for a variety of eligible activities. About half of the funds in this line item typically support the operating costs of providing services to Ohio library communities, while the other half provides competitive grants to local libraries.

After one-time funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) increased spending in this line item to \$9.3 million in FY 2022 and \$6.1 million in FY 2023, the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly’s budget resulted in a return to more regular federal funding levels of about \$5.4 million annually in the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium.

IMLS requires states receiving LSTA grants to match their federal awards at 34%, which Ohio meets using portions of appropriations from line items 350502, 350604, and 350605 that qualify under the LSTA guidelines. LSTA matching funds are also obtained from subgrantee projects. As noted above, a small portion of LSTA grant funding is used to supplement state funding for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Program from line item 350605, Library for the Blind.

### Ohio Public Library Information Network

This category includes one line item that supports the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN). OPLIN is governed by an 11-member board appointed by the State Library Board and exists as an independent entity administratively attached to the State Library of Ohio.

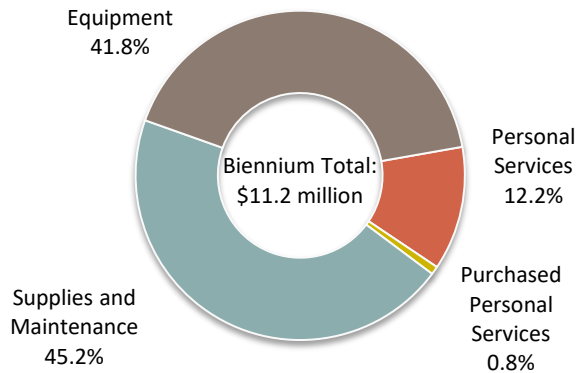
### Ohio Public Library Information Network (ALI 350604)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
<b>Fund 4S40 ALI 350604, Ohio Public Library Information Network</b>					
\$5,596,822	\$5,517,426	\$5,625,325	\$6,009,243	\$5,567,715	\$5,587,432
% change	-1.4%	2.0%	6.8%	-7.3%	0.4%

With funding from this line item, OPLIN operates a statewide network that provides public libraries with free broadband internet access, information and research database subscriptions, and access to Ohio-specific content. About 87% of the funds in this line item support the equipment and maintenance needed to operate the network, while the remaining 13% supports OPLIN administration, including payroll for a staff of seven, and purchased personal services (Chart 3).

The budget funds OPLIN through transfers of approximately \$3.7 million in each fiscal year from the Public Library Fund (Fund 7065) to the OPLIN Technology Fund (Fund 4S40). Fund 4S40 also receives revenue through E-Rate reimbursements and fees libraries pay for specific OPLIN services.

**Chart 3: ALI 350604 by Expense Category  
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**





**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	Estimate FY 2025	Introduced FY 2026	Introduced FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>LIB</b>	<b>State Library Board</b>							
GRF	350321	Operating Expenses	\$4,458,372	\$4,527,000	\$4,772,036	\$4,858,474	5.41%	1.81%
GRF	350401	Ohioana Library Association	\$310,516	\$314,000	\$310,516	\$310,516	-1.11%	0.00%
GRF	350502	Regional Library Systems	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	\$494,000	0.00%	0.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$5,262,889</b>	<b>\$5,335,000</b>	<b>\$5,576,552</b>	<b>\$5,662,990</b>	<b>4.53%</b>	<b>1.55%</b>
4590	350603	Services for Libraries	\$6,121,087	\$6,818,338	\$6,748,455	\$6,783,244	-1.02%	0.52%
4S40	350604	Ohio Public Library Information Network	\$5,625,325	\$6,009,243	\$5,567,715	\$5,587,432	-7.35%	0.35%
5GB0	350605	Library for the Blind	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	\$1,274,194	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$13,020,606</b>	<b>\$14,101,775</b>	<b>\$13,590,364</b>	<b>\$13,644,870</b>	<b>-3.63%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>
1390	350602	Services for State Agencies	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Internal Service Activity Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
3130	350601	LSTA Federal	\$5,330,184	\$5,432,653	\$5,554,767	\$5,609,015	2.25%	0.98%
<b>Federal Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$5,330,184</b>	<b>\$5,432,653</b>	<b>\$5,554,767</b>	<b>\$5,609,015</b>	<b>2.25%</b>	<b>0.98%</b>
<b>State Library Board Total</b>			<b>\$23,613,679</b>	<b>\$24,877,428</b>	<b>\$24,729,683</b>	<b>\$24,924,875</b>	<b>-0.59%</b>	<b>0.79%</b>
<b>Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total</b>			<b>\$23,613,679</b>	<b>\$24,877,428</b>	<b>\$24,729,683</b>	<b>\$24,924,875</b>	<b>-0.59%</b>	<b>0.79%</b>