

Southeast Kansas Library System

System Plan for 2025



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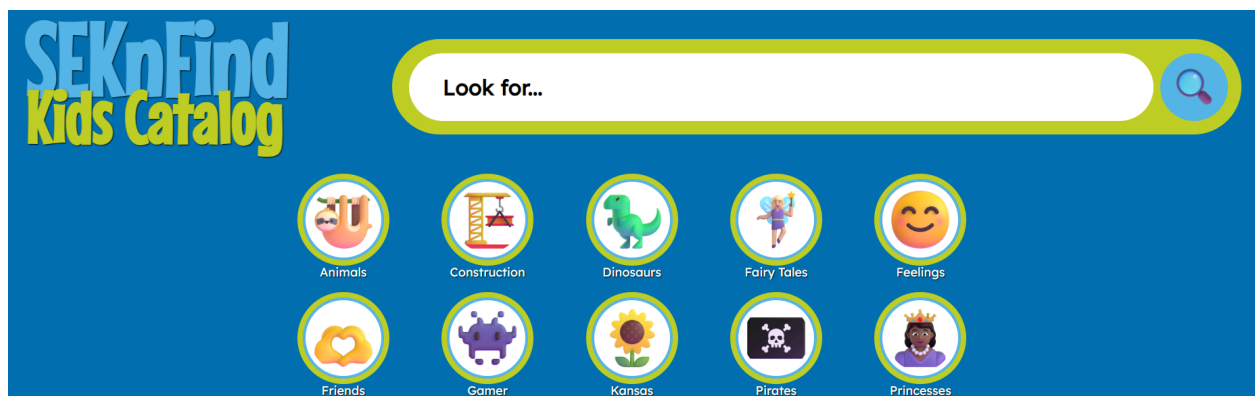
Approved by the Executive Board:
May 22, 2024

Part 1: Current Year Plan Alterations

- The SEKLS Executive Board reviewed and approved a new Strategic Plan in May 2024, altering some 2024 initiatives. That plan is attached.
- The SEKnFind Shared Catalog will add, through migration, the Eureka Public Library and Fort Scott Community College library in August. Frontenac Public Library contracted to join SEKnFind and is adding items into the collection. Allen Community College library will join in 2025. As SEKnFind grows, we are discussing the need for additional support staff.
- The Board approved a change to the 2025 Allocation criteria. The CE Implementation project will be replaced with six new Youth Services criteria, allowing a public library to earn up to 5% in additional allocation beyond base.
- The System's FTE increased from 14.6 to 14.81. We expanded the System Assistant position to 25 hours per week.
- The Legislature extended payment for the Revenue Neutral Rate mailing through 2024, allowing for the redistribution of the funds set aside for that expense.

The current year plan budget called for:

Budget Line:	2024 Budget	2024 Adjustment
Continuing Education Grant	\$4,000	\$6,000
Equipment Replacement (Maker space)	\$12,870	\$14,870
Postage: Revenue Neutral Rate	\$65,000	\$0
Programming Grant	\$3,000	\$5,000
Service Development	\$30,000	\$32,500
Travel and Professional Development	\$20,000	\$24,800
Carryover to reserves		\$51,704
Total	\$134,874	\$134,874



New Children's Online Public Access Catalog co-developed by SEKLS staff for the SEKnFind Catalog.

Part 2: Plan Year System Staffing & Consulting

Which types of libraries are generally eligible for consulting and support services?

All libraries within our taxing jurisdiction. Coffey County does not pay a System tax and is currently without a contract for services, but may pay to attend continuing education events.

What requirements need to be met by a library to be generally eligible for consulting and support services?

System membership qualifies a library for consulting services. Libraries within our taxing jurisdiction are immediately eligible for consulting and some support services. For example, any library or community may be eligible for rotation services or to participate in the SEKnFind shared catalog. Financial support, such as System grant-in-aid and competitive grants, is limited to member libraries.

Provide the full-time equivalent total for all staff positions funded in the plan year.

FTE	Position
0.667	Director
0.667	Business Manager
1	General Consultant
1	Youth Services Consultant
1	SEKnFind Coordinator
1	Technology Consultant
2	Technology Assistant
1	Resource Sharing Department Head
1	Resource Sharing Assistant
1	Technical Services Department Head
1	Cataloger
1	Technical Services Assistant
1	Rotation and Acquisitions
0.625	Special Needs Consultant
0.625	Office Assistant
0.225	Rotation Driver
14.81	



Field trip to the Rabbit Hole in Kansas City.

For the plan year, provide the amount of staff time (in FTE) anticipated for each of the following roles:

FTE	Staff Role
1.0005	Administrative Services
1	Automation Systems Services
3	Cataloging and Technical Services
1	Children & Youth Services
0.25	Collection Development Services
1.375	Continuing Education Services
0	Human Resources Services (external)
2	Interlibrary Loan Services
0	Marketing, Public Relations, & Outreach Services
0.975	Rotating Collections Services
0.625	Talking Books Outreach Services
3	Technology Services
0.5835	Other (please enter total staff time allocated to other services):
	Other: General Consulting
14.81	Total

Survey: Note, these are based on job descriptions, not a recent work audit.



Community Development Block Grant Recipients: Parsons and Arma Public Libraries

Part 3: Plan Year System Projects

Which types of libraries are generally eligible to participate in System projects?

All library types within the SEKLS taxing counties are eligible, including public, academic, school, and a special library. Libraries within non-taxing counties are eligible to contract for services.

What requirements need to be met by a library to be generally eligible to participate in system projects?

System membership is required to participate in a majority of projects. Our non-taxing county is eligible for State-funded projects, such as collaborative summer reading materials and Talking Books support.

Summary of Library Service Improvement and Interlibrary Cooperation Projects:

Project Category	Sub-Category	Total Budget	Percent of Projects	Percent of Budget	Note
Library Service Improvement:	System Grant-in-Aid	\$ 561,906	61.19%	25.38%	Allocation
	Accreditation	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	
	Professional Development	\$ 3,500	0.38%	0.16%	Continuing education grant
	Collections & Resources	\$ 40,000	4.36%	1.81%	Digital resources grant new
	Collections & Resources	\$ 14,400	1.57%	0.65%	School library book project
	Programming	\$ 4,000	0.44%	0.18%	Programming grant
	Other	\$ 35,000	3.81%	1.58%	Competitive grant
	Other	\$ 8,000	0.87%	0.36%	Dream grant
Interlibrary Cooperation:	Extended Library Service Area	\$ 15,500	1.69%	0.70%	Academic/School library extended service grant
	Interlibrary Loan	\$ 123,330	13.43%	5.57%	Materials delivery grant
	Shared Collections	\$ 76,450	8.33%	3.45%	Materials, including Rotation books
	Shared Catalog / ILS	\$ 36,175	3.94%	1.63%	SEKnFind
	Technology	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	
	Other	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	
	Total Projects	\$ 918,261	100%	41%	
	Total Budget	\$ 2,214,101			

Projects:

Library Service Improvement - System Grant-in-Aid Grant

Name: Allocation Grant

Eligibility: To receive a System allocation or grant, a library must: 1) Be eligible for the full amount of State Aid, and 2) Comply with all applicable state laws and regulations regarding public libraries; including composition of library board, provision of free library service to all residents of territory comprising the SEKLS, etc. Where cities have used home rule authority to exempt themselves from provisions of state law regarding libraries, the library will be held to remain in compliance with the 2nd requirement, as long as such exemption does not alter the powers and duties of the library board.

Note that District libraries with an assessed valuation of more than \$25 million receive no allocation. This includes the Independence Public Library (board of trustees of the Independence area public library K.S.A. 12-1281) and LaCygne (Linn County Library District #2). District libraries with an assessed valuation of less than \$25 million have a base of a flat amount, lower than the amount for other libraries and with no per capita amount added. They can receive up to 95% above base, however.

Total Funding: \$561,906
Budget Allocation: 25.38% of total funding | 61.19% of project funding

Description: Allocation provides a base grant, plus per capita funding. By meeting additional criteria meant to expand and improve services, a library can increase their Allocation up to 95% beyond-base.

Explanation: In the current year, the Executive Committee determines the Base and per capita rates to be used in the Plan year, as part of the budgeting process. The Allocation criteria are also reviewed, amended, and approved as needed. In January of the current year, the Allocation worksheet is distributed for libraries to complete, based on activities and achievements from the prior year. The worksheet and accompanying documentation is provided to the System, reviewed by the Director, and the final amount of Allocation for the current year is determined. These funds are distributed quarterly. Reports are required to show how the funds were used, also on a quarterly basis.

Funding Reduction: Loss or reduction of Allocation may be caused by State Aid ineligibility, non-compliance with laws and regulations, the lack of a governing board, or the failure by a Board to hire a new Director.

See attached: [Guidelines and Criteria](#)

Library Service Improvement - Professional Development

Name: Continuing Education Grant

Eligibility: Library staff from all types of member libraries (public, school, academic, and special) and board members from public libraries may apply.

Total Funding: \$3,500

Budget Allocation: 0.16% of total funding | 0.38% of project funding

Description: The System provides three types of Continuing Education grants to encourage participation in professional development. These 1. State library association conference grants (\$250 maximum) | 2. General Continuing Education grants (\$250 maximum, with exception as explained below for national conferences) | 3. Small Library Attendance Support grants (\$100 maximum)

The System typically offers 30-40 continuing education (CE) events annually that are oriented towards each type of library served (public, school, and academic). The System offers a mix of online, in-person, and hybrid events, with the largest events being: Academic In-Service, Annual Meeting, Director's Retreat, Innovation Day, and Trustee Training. Much of the training is recorded and made available on YouTube and Niche Academy. Informal online discussions are also facilitated by staff as needed, including monthly forums open to public and academic library directors.

Library Service Improvement - Collections & Resources

Name: *Digital resources Grant*

Eligibility: Legally established public and academic libraries are eligible to participate.

Total Funding: \$40,000

Budget Allocation: 1.81% of total funding | 4.36% of project funding

Description: For 2025, the System will provide \$40,000 in support for digital resources to public and academic libraries. Libraries may elect to have SEKLS distribute funds directly to Midwest Tape for hoopla, divert funds to the Digital Book eLending Fund managed by SEKLS, or seek reimbursement for a resource of their choice, such as Sunflower eLibrary. The amount of support will use the formula of \$100 per library, with the remainder of the \$40,000 allocated on a per capita/student enrollment basis and distributed once a year.

Explanation: This new grant project replaces the 'hoopla' subsidy started in 2020 in response to Covid that used the same formula for distribution, but with only \$30,000. Not all libraries participated in the original subsidy project, due to concerns about how to budget for the pay-per-use platform. The new grant is designed to accommodate all public and academic libraries.

Funding Reduction: Reductions in population or student enrollment would decrease the amount of funding received by a library.

Library Service Improvement - Collections & Resources

Name: School library book project Service

Eligibility: Member school districts with active libraries are eligible to participate.

Total Funding: \$14,400

Budget Allocation: 0.65% of total funding | 1.57% of project funding

Description: The Youth Services Consultant curates a list of recent books of high quality for four different age levels, from picture books to Young Adult literature. School librarians for each district then choose seven (7) titles from each category and SEKLS ships the titles to the district at no cost.

Explanation: The school library book project, started in 2019, improves school library collections and has been maintained as an impactful new service.

Funding Reduction: School districts may end their participation in this service at any time.

Library Service Improvement: Programming

Name: Programming Grant

Eligibility: All SEKLS members (school, academic, public, and special libraries) are eligible. Iola Public Library is ineligible for this grant.

Total Funding: \$4,000

Budget Allocation: 0.18% of total funding | 0.44% of project funding

Description: Grant funds may cover such items as speaker's fees and expenses, publicity materials or advertising, supplies needed for the program, refreshments, etc. They may cover room rental fees if the program is held outside the library. Programs designed primarily for staff members of the library or institution are not eligible (for instance, in-service speakers), but must be designed for the population the library serves.

Explanation: No more than one grant will be funded for any member during a calendar year. A school district is one member, regardless of the number of libraries in the district. Grant amounts are determined by Library Service Level: \$450 for libraries for Linking and Gateway libraries (fewer than 1,000) | \$300 for libraries for Service Center I and above (greater than 1,000).

See attached: [Programming Grant Guidelines](#)

Funding Reductions: Failure to comply with the guidelines could result in a reduction of funding.

Library Service Improvement: Other

Name: Competitive Grant

Eligibility: Public, Academic, and School libraries are all eligible to apply. Iola Public Library is ineligible for this grant. Public libraries must qualify for the full system allocation in order to be eligible for competitive grants.

Total Funding: \$35,000

Budget Allocation: 1.58% of total funding | 3.81% of project funding

Description: Annually, a competitive grant for technology, furniture, or collection development is offered. A review committee of System staff and Executive Board members review, rank, and award full or partial grants. For the Plan Year, the grant will be for Collection Development. The purpose is to help member libraries start new collections or upgrade defined areas of their collection.

Explanation: Depending on the year, the grant focus rotates. The current year grant is for technology and equipment, the prior year funded facility improvements and furnishings, and after the plan year, the focus would return to technology and equipment. The System Board will review a recommendation in the current year to replace the every-other-year technology and equipment focus with an "Innovation" focus to support maker spaces, folk school programs, digitization projects, and libraries of things.

See attached: [Collection Development Competitive Grant Application](#)

Funding Reduction: The Reviewers have the latitude to award partial grants.

Library Service Improvement: Other

Name: Dream Grant

Eligibility: All types of SEKLS member libraries are eligible to apply.

Total Funding: \$8,000

Budget Allocation: 0.36% of total funding | 0.87% of project funding

Description: The Dream Grant is available to help SEKLS members implement their dreams for their libraries. Special consideration will be given to projects that support innovative new services in that library. Dream Grants may be applied for at any time of year.

Explanation: This grant supports innovative projects that may fall outside the scope of the existing Competitive Grant program. Staff should actively work with SEKLS consulting staff to develop the idea for the project. Dream grants require a 25% funding match and are reviewed and approved by the Director.

See attached: [Dream Grant Guidelines](#)

Interlibrary Cooperation: Extended Library Service Area

Name: Academic/school extended service *Grant*

Eligibility: Academic and school member libraries. To be eligible for this grant, a library must: be open to the public during most hours it is open to students, have a collection of materials, and have a full-time librarian.

Total Funding: \$15,500

Budget Allocation: 0.70% of total funding | 1.69% of project funding

Description: The amount of the Academic/school extended service grant is determined by two factors: the FTE enrollment of the institution and the percent of circulation to persons who are not students or employees of the parent institution, called *extended service circulation*. Interlibrary loans made to other libraries may be included in calculating extended service circulation.

Explanation: The grant encourages and supports our six community college libraries and one university library to provide free and open access to the public. All but one of our academic libraries currently takes advantage of this grant. For the Plan Year, we will convene a review committee to review the grant and determine how best to measure “extended service” and use by the public.

See attached: [Academic/School Guidelines](#) and sample [Application](#).

Funding Reduction: A portion of the grant is determined by circulation, so if the public does not use the collection for circulation, that will negatively impact the grant amount received. If enrollment declines, that could also reduce funding.

Interlibrary Cooperation: Interlibrary Loan

Name: Materials Delivery *Subsidy/Grant*

Eligibility: All member libraries.

Total Funding: \$123,330

Budget Allocation: 5.57% of total funding | 13.43% of project funding

Description: This includes two parts: Part A is a reimbursement for money already spent on postage or other (non-courier) shipping costs for interlibrary loan materials during the prior year and Part B is reimbursement or “pre-imbursement” of a portion of courier fees for the current year.

Explanation: Part A reimbursement amounts are based on a schedule included in the application. The annual ILL volume is calculated from the Interlibrary Loan Annual Activity Report, as submitted to the Kansas State Library. It includes

original items sent, original items received, and copies sent, except that original items received will be excluded if the library charges its patrons for ILL.

For libraries other than public libraries, in order to receive a grant, the library must be paying for postage or other delivery costs from its own budget, and the funds received must be made available for library use, and not included in the general budget of the institution.

This portion of the grant will be given based on the prior year's ILL volume. The grants are assumed to reimburse costs already incurred, and the funds received need not be set apart and used only for postage.

In order to be eligible for Part B, Courier reimbursement, a library must be up-to-date in submitting its statistics to Kansas Library Express. The Board determines the amount of the reimbursement for both 3-day and 5-day per week costs, plus 50% of any high volume surcharges, as part of the budget process.

Funding Reduction: A library has the choice of reducing from 5 to 3-day per week service, if the net expense to the library becomes a burden.

See attached: [Current Year Materials Delivery Grant Application](#)

Interlibrary Cooperation: Shared Collections

Name: Shared Collection and Rotation Services

Eligibility: All communities and libraries within the System's taxing counties have access to Rotation services.

Total Funding: \$76,450

Budget Allocation: 3.45% of total funding | 8.33% of project funding

Description: Materials in all formats are purchased by the System to augment Resource Sharing and Rotation Services. Boxes of an assortment of books are rotated to 57 sites approximately eight (8) times per year.

Explanation: The Rotation Services department curates, purchases, and manages the book rotation service. Participating sites include: 48 public libraries, two (2) community college libraries, four (4) locations in communities with no established library, and three (3) other service outlets. This department also oversees acquisitions. Multiple copies of bestselling books purchased with SEKLS funds to support Resource Sharing are transferred to Rotation Services when demand drops.

Each rotation delivery brings a mixture of fiction, nonfiction, large print, young adult, and children's books. With about 370 books in each rotation, each site receiving a full rotation sees approximately 2,900 different books per year through this service.

Interlibrary Cooperation – Shared Catalog/ILS

Name: SEKnFind Shared Catalog *Subsidy*

Eligibility: Public, Academic, and School libraries are eligible to participate in SEKnFind; to date no school districts have joined. Members are required to sign an annual agreement with several requirements, such as participation in the courier system, addition of new materials, maintaining patron confidentiality, etc.

Total Funding: \$36,175 (reduced by \$17,550 in fees paid by participants)

Budget Allocation: 1.63% of total funding | 3.94% of project funding

Description: SEKnFind is a service offering a shared regional integrated library system (ILS) using Koha open source software. SEKnFind started in November 2008 with eight members, but there will be 53 active members in the Plan Year (50 public libraries and three (3) community colleges). The System provides database administration, support, customization, and ongoing training opportunities for libraries participating in the shared catalog.

SEKLS supports the inclusion of two adjunct services to the SEKnFind catalog: NoveList Select for readers' advisory support and LibraryAware to promote books and library services on various platforms. The subscription fees of \$10,700 are included in the Total Funding for this project.

Explanation: The annual membership fee schedule is below. There are three SEKnFind Users' Group meetings annually. Libraries that send a representative to attend at least half (two per year) of the Users' Group meetings earn a 20% discount on their annual fee. For colleges or schools, the fee is based on the total institutional budget. For a school district, a 50% discount will be given for each library beyond the first one from the same district.

<u>Institutional budget</u>	<u>Annual fee</u>	<u>Discounted fee</u>
Less than \$25,000	\$125	\$100
\$25,001 to \$50,000	\$250	\$200
\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$500	\$400
\$100,001 to \$200,000	\$750	\$600
\$200,001 and up	\$1,000	\$800

Funding Reduction: Failure to uphold the participation agreement could lead to a reduction in funding. Failure to attend a majority of the Users' Group meetings nullifies eligibility for the discounted fee. As adjunct services, both NoveList Select and LibraryAware could be discontinued if use declines or costs increase to unsustainable levels.

See attached: [Sample SEKnFind Participation Agreement](#)

Part 4: Services

Service Name: General Consulting

SEKLS provides individualized, professional consulting on policies, resources, programs, and services to staff and trustees of member libraries. General consulting is provided by the full-time System Consultant and the Director, with each public and academic library visited once a year. The System Consultant also serves as editor to the bimonthly newsletter, "Stacks of News," and oversees the System's continuing education program and learning management system.

Excellence Award Grant

The Excellence Awards program recognizes exemplary library service or support of libraries in southeast Kansas. Categories for awards are:

- Library
- Library Director
- Library Staff
- Trustee
- Supporter
- Rookie of the Year
- Special Projects
- Distinguished Service

No more than five awards are given in any year; fewer may be given. Any staff member, trustee, or supporter affiliated with an SEKLS library may make a nomination, including for their own library. Awards carry a \$1,000 cash award to the library, a trophy for the winner, and the winner's name attached to a traveling plaque. Funding for these awards are held within the Service Development budget line.

Service Name: Resource Sharing

The Resource Sharing Department handles interlibrary loans, manages the courier System resources, and purchases for **Digital Book eLending**. As an SEKLS Service, digital content is selected and purchased with both SEKLS funds and with the pooled contributions of member libraries. Resource Sharing staff train new librarians in the statewide interlibrary loan system and serve on the SEKnFind shared catalog training team. Staff also request materials from out-of-state that are not available through the Kansas Library Catalog for patrons, scholars, and students.

Service Name: Special Needs

SEKLS serves as a regional outreach center for the Kansas Regional Talking Books Library, a division of the Kansas State Library. Grant funds (\$14,043) from the State Library help support this position.

Special Needs provides materials for residents unable to use standard print materials because of visual or physical impairment. The Consultant maintains patron contacts, distributes informational materials, visits with patrons and institutions, and assists patrons as needed.

Service Name: Technical Services/Cataloging

Primary services in this area include management and maintenance of the bibliographic database for SEKnFind; completing original cataloging for SEKnFind members; assisting with large or complicated cataloging projects; and consulting, assisting, and training libraries with cataloging.

The System maintains an online SEKnFind Cataloging Manual and an online training course to certify new staff at participating libraries. This department also repairs and polishes discs, maintains kits circulated throughout the System, and does laminating for member libraries.

Service Name: Technology Services

The Technology Consultant and two Technology Assistants provide computer and technology support to member libraries. Staff help libraries acquire and use computers and other technology, troubleshoot and fix computer problems, install new technology, and provide training and consulting. The System's public libraries are visited at least quarterly by technology staff, with other libraries visited by request.

SEKLS maintains technology standards for libraries to use as a guide when evaluating existing equipment or researching new equipment. The Technology Consultant continues to curate sample equipment and new technologies to share with member libraries. For the Plan Year, an Innovation Day workshop will be held in June that focuses on technology in libraries and is open to all library types.

Service Name: Youth Services

The Youth Services (YS) Consultant assists libraries in improving children's programs, collections, and services, and visits public and school libraries on a regular basis. The System provides information on school library impact research to superintendents and identifies and reaches out to districts with new superintendents.

For the Plan Year, the System will submit a continuation proposal to the Kansas Children's Cabinet for a Community Based Child Abuse Prevention grant to expand the Family Engagement in Public Libraries (FEPL) model program. The YS Consultant provides administration, consultation, and program support to participating libraries, children, and families participating in the FEPL project.

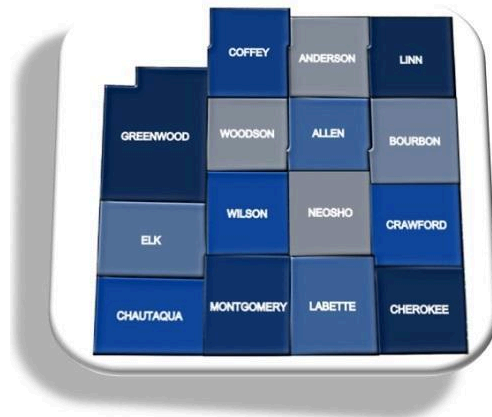
Part 5: Tentative Budget

SEKLS 2025 Approved Budget

Approved May 22, 2024	2023 <u>actual</u>	2024 <u>working</u>	2024 <u>estimated</u>	2025 <u>proposed</u>
Balance carried forward	387,338	359,540	359,540	308,603
<u>Revenues</u>				
Contract--Coffey County	-	0	-	0
Materials replacement grant	453	1,000	1,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	95	200	450	500
State Aid	50,225	50,225	50,853	84,880
Talking Books grant	14,043	14,043	14,043	14,043
Tax receipts (General and Employee Benefits Fund)	1,907,096	1,986,945	1,986,945	2,023,828
Total revenue	1,971,911	2,052,413	2,053,291	2,126,252
Funds available (balance carried forward + revenues)	2,359,249	2,411,953	2,412,831	2,434,854
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Academic/school extended service grants	13,500	15,500	14,000	15,500
Accounting/Audit/Budget	16,419	15,000	15,577	15,000
Allocations	561,319	543,000	543,000	561,906
Automation/catalog	29,394	31,400	31,400	31,400
Building & grounds payments	4,274	9,000	6,500	8,600
Competitive grants	40,306	35,000	35,000	35,000
Computer software and services	4,302	5,500	5,500	10,800
Continuing education grants	4,057	4,000	6,000	3,500
Courier	6,150	6,620	6,820	7,150
Dream grants	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
Employee benefits: Insurance	137,160	173,068	167,398	182,418
Employee benefit fund: KPERS	60,567	73,112	74,413	80,603
Employee benefit fund: Payroll taxes	50,881	56,401	56,566	58,467
Employee benefits: Unemployment	6,394	5,900	734	764
Employee benefits: Workers' comp.	1,472	1,820	1,820	1,836
Equipment lease & maintenance	3,531	3,700	1,500	1,500
Equipment replacement	25,133	12,870	14,870	12,800
Insurance	6,692	7,500	7,500	7,725
Legal services	60	300	300	300
Materials delivery grants	108,984	122,040	117,347	123,330
Materials replacement distributions	1,109	3,000	3,000	3,000
Materials: Audio	521	2,800	2,800	2,800
Materials: Books	53,429	54,000	54,000	57,250
Materials: Large Print (DVD)	390	2,400	2,400	2,600
Materials: Downloadable audio	7,001	6,000	6,000	6,000
Materials: Ebooks	3,069	6,000	6,000	6,000
Materials: Miscellaneous (Magazines)	1,562	1,800	1,800	1,800
Materials: Streaming/other electronic	30,000	30,000	30,000	40,000
Miscellaneous / Strategic initiatives	11,812	7,000	7,000	5,000
OCLC	7,801	8,000	8,000	8,000
Postage	4,130	5,000	5,000	5,000
Postage: Revenue Neutral Rate mailing	-	65,000	-	15,000
Programming grants	2,100	3,000	5,000	4,000
Rent	22,230	22,230	22,230	22,230
Salaries and bonuses	658,709	737,269	734,853	764,270
School library book project	8,733	13,800	13,800	14,400
Service development	35,709	30,000	32,500	35,000
Supplies	20,341	14,000	14,000	14,500
Telephone	2,196	2,800	2,800	2,800
Travel and professional development	17,326	20,000	24,800	26,200
Vehicle expense	12,924	11,500	11,500	11,500
	1,981,684	2,175,330	2,101,728	2,213,948
Transfer to capital improvement fund	20,000	1,000	2,500	1,000
	2,001,684	2,176,330	2,104,228	2,214,948
Year-end balance/Carryover	357,565	235,623	308,603	219,906

Part 6: System Description

General Description: The Southeast Kansas Library System (SEKLS) is one of the seven Regional Systems of Cooperative Libraries covering the 15 counties shown on the map. The region covers a total of 9,503 square miles and serves over 200,000 people. Coffey County is the sole non-taxing county. All libraries in Linn County are District libraries. The Independence Public Library is an independent taxing district.



As defined in K.S.A. 75-2548, SEKLS exists “to provide adequate library services to all citizens of the state through regional systems of cooperating libraries herein provided, by the joint planning and financing of library services to improve existing service, to utilize such federal aid funds as may be available and to extend library service to persons not having the same at this time.”

Allen County - 12,579	Greenwood County - 5,939
Anderson County - 7,776	Labette County - 19,757
Bourbon County - 14,493	Linn County - 9,796
Chautauqua County - 3,415	Montgomery County - 30,996
Cherokee County - 19,088	Neosho County - 15,606
Crawford County - 39,078	Wilson County - 8,622
Elk County - 2,441	Woodson County - 3,109

Member libraries:

- 54 Public libraries
- 41 School districts
- 7 Academic libraries
- 1 Special library

We anticipate adding the new Frontenac Public Library as a member during the Current Year. Coffey County has contracted for services in the past, but not currently.

Building and Infrastructure: The System is headquartered in the Iola Public Library and office space is rented from the library. There are two shared positions; the Director and Business Manager work 2/3 time for SEKLS and 1/3 time for the public library.

Governance: As provided by law, the SEKLS board contains representatives of all member libraries and appointees by the county commission of each taxing county, representing the area which levies the system tax. This makes a 117-member full board. A majority of responsibilities, other than approving the annual budget, are delegated to an Executive Board. The SEKLS Executive Board consists of nine members: three public library representatives from communities of varying sizes, two school library representatives, one academic or special library representative, one county appointee, plus one additional member and the president, both elected at large from any category of membership.