

FREE-TO-ALL

BPL FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Evelyn Arana, Committee Chair

03.10.26

Members of the Public may sign up for Public Comment via the CHAT by 9:00 a.m.
Comments left in the chat will not be acknowledged. Written comments may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, pcarver@bpl.org

BPL OPENING STATEMENT

The Trustees of The Boston Public Library reaffirm our commitment to racial equity and to principles of diversity equity and inclusion, more broadly.

The Library is formally committed to becoming an anti-racist organization in response to systemic racism, inequity, and injustice prevalent in our society.

We acknowledge also that the Boston Public Library's Central Library stands on land that was once a water-based ecosystem providing sustenance for the indigenous Massachusett people *and is a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among nations.* We are committed to land acknowledgements for all locations at which we operate.

We reaffirm this commitment to set the context for our planning, deliberations, and public engagement so that they take place from the spirit of welcome and respect, found in our motto 'free to all.'

Taken from the Institutional Statement Ratified by the Board of Trustees for the Boston Public Library on September 29, 2020.

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Evelyn Arana, Committee Chair

- Roll Call of Committee Members
- Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 12.16.25

FY27 City Operating Budget

FY27 Budget Submission

- All City departments to outline a **2% reduction**
- BPL FY27 Maintenance Budget: \$52,247,650
- 2% Reduction Total: \$49,755,511

	FY26 appropriated	FY27 submission
City Operating	\$50,770,930	\$50,770,930

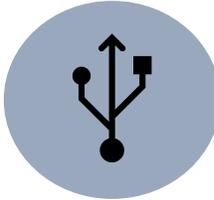
Investment Areas of Need:



FACILITIES



MATERIALS



IT

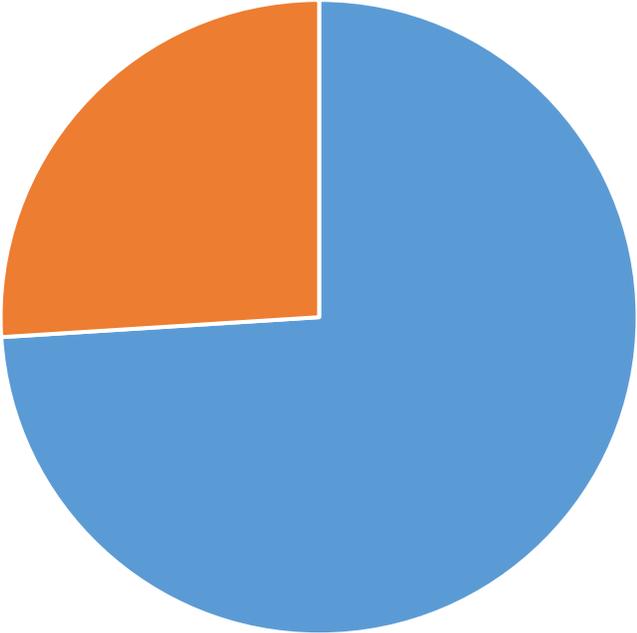


STAFF

FY27 City Operating Budget

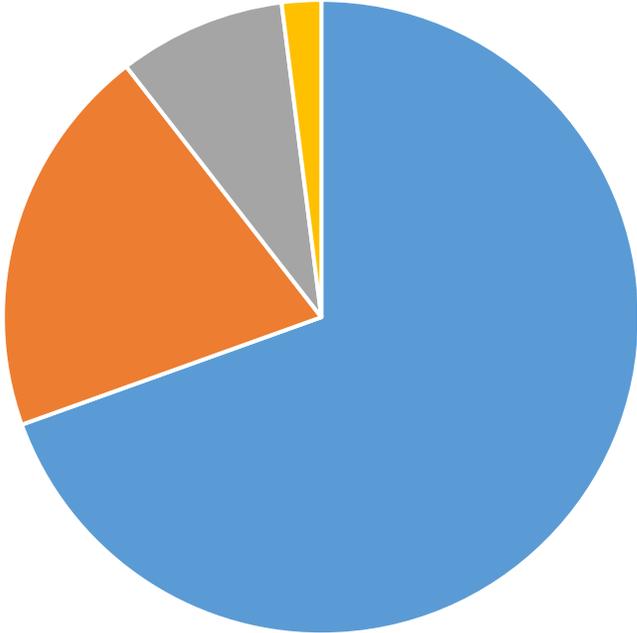
*Breakdown of BPL's Annual Operating Budget:
(based on FY25 Actuals)*

FY25 Annual Operating Budget



■ City Budget 74% ■ External Funding 26%

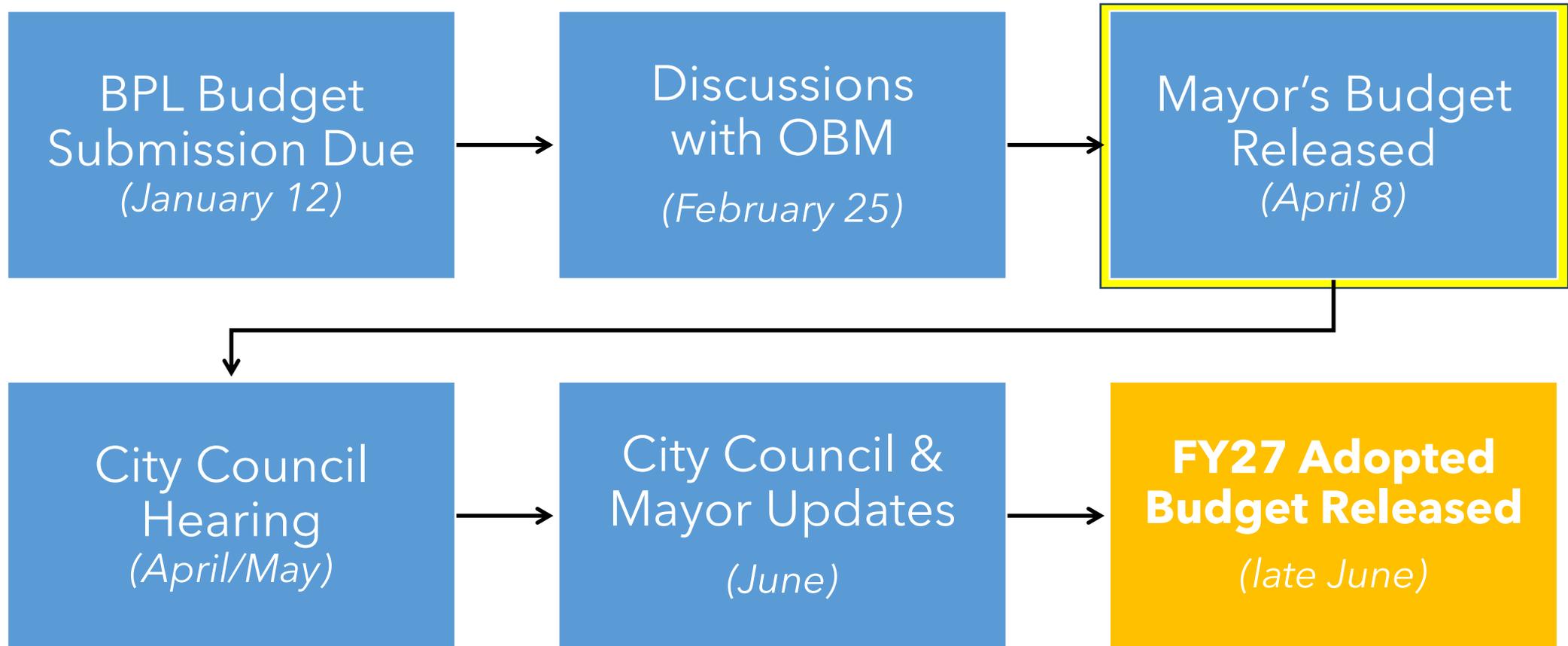
FY25 City Funding



■ Personnel 69.5% ■ Contracts/Utilities 20% ■ Materials 8.5% ■ Other 2%

FY27 City Operating Budget

Anticipated Timeline



REVIEW & APPROVAL OF VOTES

A. E-Rate Contract

Keith Gillette, Chief Technology Officer

1. Network Backbone Bandwidth Expansion (10Gb/s)

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston recommend approval of a one-time contract not to exceed Sixty-Four Thousand Forty-Three Dollars and Forty Cents (\$64,043.40) with ePlus Technology, Inc. of 13593 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171 to provide 60 of Cisco C9300-NM-8X Network modules as specified with the BPL.”

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF VOTES

B. Bibliocommons Contracts

Michael Colford, Director of Library Services

1. Bibliocommons In-App Reader Development

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston recommend the Board of Trustees approve the contract with Bibliocommons Corp of 119 Spadina Ave, Suite 1000, Toronto, ON M5V2L1 Canada in the amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000) for development work on an in-app eBook, e-Audio reader.”

2. AI Pilot

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston recommend the Board of Trustees approve the contract with Bibliocommons Corp of 119 Spadina Ave, Suite 1000, Toronto, ON M5V2L1 Canada not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents) \$50,000 for development work on an AI pilot around reader's advisory. This will introduce patron assistance in the catalog for finding books to read by working.”

New Business

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- A. Recommendation to accept Open AI Gift
Jessica Chapel, Chief of Digital & Online Services

- B. New Auditor Contract in May
Emily Tokarczyk, Chief Financial Officer

Public Comment

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- People will be chosen in the order they were received and allowed 2 minutes to speak.
- The Moderator will unmute your mic when you are called on.
- Comments made in chat during meeting will not be acknowledged.
- If follow up is required, please send your contact email or phone number to the Clerk of the Board at pcarver@bpl.org

Adjournment

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- *Please check the BPL website for details/changes of the calendar of meetings*
- *Next meeting scheduled for May 12, 2026, 8:30am*