

Brownwood Community Library

FY 2024-2025 Budget Request – Brown County

Greetings from the Brownwood Community Library Association! Thank you so much for all that you do to help make our community amazing! We appreciate the opportunity to work with you to offer our community and visitors an excellent library.

As you know, the Brownwood Community Library is a non-profit. For our entire 120-year history, the library has been funded by a combination of donations, grants, and support from our local cities and county.

In the world of libraries, Brownwood Library is definitely unusual! About 10% of the libraries in Texas are non-profits, but most of them are tiny. (The average population served by all non-profit libraries is 6,853.) Brownwood is the second largest non-profit library in Texas (with an official service population of 38,192).

Exterior & Interior Updates

If you haven't been by Brownwood Library lately, you may be surprised! The exterior is getting a facelift with fresh landscaping. And big plans are in store for the interior. While many of these are maintenance/structural (hooray for wheelchair accessible bathrooms!), there are also design updates being planned.

We were actually told recently that stepping into Brownwood Library was like stepping into the 60s! While we love our historic library, it's certainly time to update the teal 60-year-old laminate floors.

Much of this work will be funded by a loan/grant from the USDA's Community Facilities program. This is an amazing opportunity to do much-needed repairs and updates on our building, but as you know, maintaining old building adds up quickly. We will have a hefty loan to repay just to keep the building operational.

Additional Funding is Needed

In order to maintain the building and continue to serve the community, we need more help from you.

The latest available Texas State Library statistics available are from 2022 (fiscal year 21/22). At that time, Texas counties with county libraries supported their libraries at an average of **\$28.95 per capita**. At the same time, the Brownwood Library received **\$.92 cents per capita** from Brown County (2022 county population 38,192 used by Texas state library and 2022 funding of \$35,000).

Accounting for all sources of local governmental funding (Brown County plus Brownwood and Early), the Brownwood Library receives \$7.25 per capita (2022 county population 38,192 used by Texas state library and 2022 funding of \$277,002).

Of course, in the 2022 year discussed above, you gave us \$5,000 additional ARP funds. Thank you! In the previous fiscal year (2023), Brown County was supporting the library at approximately **.78 cents per capita** (2023 county population 38,709—latest available—and 2023 funding of \$30,000).

COUNTY JUDGE
BROWN COUNTY TEXAS

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Public Budget Workshop
July 8, 2024
(Exhibit #2)

If you look at the enclosed chart, you will see how the Brownwood Library compares to county libraries, as well as libraries serving communities of a similar size. In all factors related to funding and wages, we fall far behind.

We ask that you continue to be a strong partner with us to make our community stronger and better than ever. We are asking Brown County to support the library at \$1.03 per capita this year, for a funding amount of \$40,000.

Previous year's budget:	78 cents per capita	\$30,000
Total Requested Budget for FY 2024/2025:	\$1.03 per capita	\$40,000

Respectfully submitted,



Raul Garcia, President

Brownwood Community Library Association Board of Trustees