



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to provide approval to increase the spending cap of \$320,000 to purchase individual eBooks, and eAudiobooks from Overdrive by \$39,000 for the remainder of FY20.

Background/Justification

On June 26, 2017, The Board approved a sole source exemption for the purchase of digital content management services from Overdrive in the amount of \$10,000 annually for three years. The Board also approved expenditures for goods not to exceed \$223,000 in fiscal year 2018 for the purchase of individual eBooks, eAudiobooks, and streaming video from Overdrive. On June 25, 2018, The Board also authorized the County Manager to execute any other related contracts such as amendments, if necessary, for purchases not to exceed \$320,000 annually in the remaining two years of the contract. The closing of libraries due to the COVID-19 virus has increased the demand for digital content. \$39,000 will raise the FY20 spending cap to \$359,000. The \$39,000 will be reallocated from within the Library's existing budget.

- The Library's digital collections are the only collections currently available to patrons, and Overdrive is the digital collection most used by our patrons.
- The Library closed on March 15 without advance notice for patrons to stock up on materials.
- The number of active users on Overdrive has increased 23% over this time last year and registrations for a newly available online card allowing access to Overdrive and other online resources has been extremely popular. Circulation of all Overdrive collections rose 32% the first week the Library was closed over the prior week, with juvenile eBook checkouts rose by 97%.
- With school suspended until at least mid-May, more children and parents will turn to digital content for learning at home. With Durham's Stay At Home order, demand for eBooks and e-audio will likely continue to increase.

Policy Impact

There is no policy impact.

Procurement Background

Durham County and Overdrive entered into the current service agreement on June 26th, 2017. The agreement specifies the payment for the service platform, but not the content. The amount of money the Library may spend on content is at the discretion of the BOCC.

Fiscal Impact

No additional funding is requested. The Library will reallocate within its existing budget. This is the final year of the current agreement.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board increase the spending cap of \$320,000 to purchase individual eBooks, and eAudiobooks from Overdrive by \$39,000 for the remainder of FY20.