

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Jefferson-Madison Regional Library (JMRL) Report
Staff Contact(s):	Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager
Presenter:	David Plunkett
Date of Proposed Action:	August 18, 2025

Issue

JMRL, the library services provider for our City, will provide an update on their organization to the City Council and the public at-large.

Background / Rule

JMRL's mission is to "foster personal growth and life-long learning for all by connecting people with ideas, information, and each other." The library's roots date back to the public subscription library established in 1823. The organization continues to be a valuable educational resource built on the sustained efforts of local residents over the past two centuries. Members of the community can find more information about the library, learn how to sign up for a library card, and look for books and digital resources on their website at: <https://jmrl.org/>.

Analysis

JMRL's service area includes not only the City of Charlottesville but also the Counties of Albemarle, Louisa, Nelson, and Greene. The library currently serves over 200,000 residents, and it has eight locations, including the Bookmobile. With combined holdings of 500,000 items, the library circulates over 1,600,000 items annually. Library users can access online databases and downloadable books 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The two library branches within the City are the Central Library Branch (<https://jmrl.org/central>) and the Gordon Avenue Library Branch (<https://jmrl.org/gordon>). The Library Board also has three (3) representatives for the City who are appointed by City Council (you can learn more about the board on the City's website at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/980/Jefferson-Madison-Regional-Library-Board>).

Community members can find information on JMRL's five-year plan on its website at <https://jmrl.org/future> and its Fiscal Year 2026 budget on its website at <https://jmrl.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/JMRLBudget-FY26.pdf>.

Financial Impact

The City of Charlottesville, as a participating locality, supports JMRL through its annual budget process. For Fiscal Year 2026, the City Council approved an investment of roughly \$2.4M in the general fund, and has earmarked future fiscal year capital improvement plan (CIP) investments starting in Fiscal Year 2026 for renovations of the Central Library Branch located in Downtown Charlottesville in partnership with Albemarle County that co-owns that facility.

Recommendation

N/A - Report Only

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

None