



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Operating Budget Monitoring Report – April 30, 2026

Date: May 25, 2026
To: Toronto Public Library Board
From: City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Toronto Public Library Board with a summary of the gross and net operating expenditures of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) for the four-months ended on April 30, 2026, and to provide a year-end operating budget forecast.

For the period ended April 30, 2026, TPL has experienced a net operating budget surplus of \$1.580 million, or 1.9% of the year-to-date net operating budget, mainly due to the timing of filling positions and related staff churn, timing differences between expected and actual payments for technology and other services contracts, and expected and actual receipt of grants and other revenues.

Currently, TPL is forecasting a year-end net operating budget deficit of \$0.362 million or (0.1%), mainly due to benefit costs that continue to exceed planned amounts, which is expected to continue for the remainder of the year.

Factors that could ultimately impact the year-end financial position for TPL include the continued roll-out of the Open Hours plan with all branches being opened seven days a week by the Summer of 2026, as well as the need to service and

maintain TPL's facility and technology infrastructure to ensure services and service levels are maintained as expected.

These financial results will be forwarded to the City of Toronto for inclusion in the consolidated financial results to April 30, 2026, to be presented to the Executive Committee on July 21, 2026

FINANCIAL IMPACT

For the four months ended April 30, 2026, TPL experienced a net favourable operating budget variance of \$1.580 million, or 1.9% of the net operating budget. This is comprised of a favourable gross expenditure variance of \$1.259 million and a favourable revenue variance of \$0.321 million.

For the year, TPL is forecasting a year-end net operating budget deficit of \$0.362 million, or (0.1%). The year-to-date and year-end forecast will continue to be monitored with updates to be provided to the Board through future monitoring reports.

The Director, Finance & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this financial impact section and agrees with it.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2026 operating budget continues to support TPL's strategic plan objectives across all priorities including social connection, civic engagement and democracy; shared community spaces; learning and growth; and awareness and availability.

Targeted budget enhancements approved within TPL's 2026 operating budget drive progress on key initiatives identified within TPL's 2025-2029 strategic plan, notably the Open Hours Plan, reducing seniors' social isolation, and the expansion of the Financial Empowerment and Social and Crisis Support services. These enhancements enable outcomes identified across each of the strategic objectives.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

TPL’s 2026 operating budget provided affordable, accessible and resilient supports as a public service and advances equity across the city. The budget has a positive impact on many equity-deserving groups, including newcomers, low-income families and individuals. It increases access to library resources and programs, access to learning opportunities, City information, training and employment opportunities, as well as creating opportunities for civic engagement and community participation.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 23, 2026, the Board adopted the report titled [2026 Operating Budget - Adoption](#), which included the TPL 2026 operating budget that was adopted by City Council at its meeting on February 10, 2026.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

TPL’s Council approved 2026 operating budget is \$274.378 million net (\$296.057 million gross).

Budget monitoring reports are usually reported to the Board on a quarterly basis or aligned to the City’s variance reporting cycles to Council. The initial reporting cycle for 2026 is for the period ended April 30, 2026, or the first four-months of the 2026 fiscal year. The consolidated financial results across all City Agencies, Boards and Divisions are planned to be reported to the City’s Executive Committee meeting on July 21, 2026. TPL’s financial results will be forwarded to the City for consolidation into these financial results.

COMMENTS

For the period ended on April 30, 2026, TPL is reporting a net operating budget surplus of \$1.580 million, or 1.9%. Year to date financial results by expenditure/revenue category is outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Operating Budget Monitoring Report for the period ending April 30, 2026

Category	April Year to Date				Full Year Forecast			
	Actuals	Budget	Variance to Budget		Actuals	Budget	Variance to Budget	
			Fav / (UnFav)				Fav / (UnFav)	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
Staffing Costs	63.008	63.762	0.754	1.2%	219.139	217.955	(1.184)	-0.5%
Materials and Supplies	0.935	0.732	(0.203)	-27.7%	3.084	2.716	(0.368)	-13.5%
Library Materials	7.706	7.691	(0.015)	-0.2%	23.095	23.086	(0.009)	0.0%
Equipment, Services and Rent	16.946	17.928	0.982	5.5%	51.551	52.301	0.750	1.4%
Contributions & Transfers to Reserves	0.250	-	(0.250)	0.0%	0.250	-	(0.250)	0.0%
Other Expenses	0.009	-	(0.009)	0.0%	0.042	-	(0.042)	0.0%
Total Expenditures	88.854	90.113	1.259	1.4%	297.161	296.058	(1.103)	-0.4%
Grants	2.071	1.944	0.127	6.5%	5.881	5.834	0.047	0.8%
Fines, Fees and Room Rentals	1.120	0.996	0.124	12.4%	4.025	4.298	(0.273)	-6.4%
Contributions & Transfers from Reserves	-	-	-	0.0%	4.406	4.406	-	0.0%
Other Revenues	2.109	2.039	0.070	3.4%	8.108	7.141	0.967	13.5%
Total Revenues	5.300	4.979	0.321	6.4%	22.420	21.679	0.741	3.4%
Total Net Expenditures	83.554	85.134	1.580	1.9%	274.741	274.379	(0.362)	-0.1%

The year-to-date net operating budget surplus of \$1.580 is mainly due timing differences of when expenditures and revenues were planned vs. realized. This includes expenditure variances resulting from the timing of filling positions and related staff churn, and technology and building maintenance service contract billings. On the revenue side, earlier than expected revenues from grants received, realized income from treasury management, and events and room rental and printing activities are the primary contributors to the year-to-date surplus.

2026 Year-End Forecast

TPL is currently forecasting a year-end net operating budget deficit of \$0.362 million or (0.1%), mainly due to the continuation of higher than planned employee benefit costs. This is a trend that has continued from the past year and will be closely monitored over the remainder of the year, with the forecast being adjusted accordingly. Various other factors can impact the year-end financial position for TPL, most notably the continued roll out of the Open Hours plan with all branches being open seven days a week by the summer of 2026, unexpected technology or building related issues that require action and investment to ensure services and services levels are maintained, and the impact of capital investments and building repairs on the availability of event space and room rentals. TPL will maintain service levels while continuing to actively manage expenses and variances, and the impacts of unexpected events on these, to mitigate operating deficits and manage the overall operating budget throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

The financial results presented in this report will be forwarded to the City of Toronto for inclusion in the consolidated financial results to April 30, 2026, to be presented to the Executive Committee on July 21, 2026. Expenditures and revenues will continue to be closely monitored and TPL will work with the City to ensure any operating deficits, if realized, are covered, similar to prior years.

CONTACT

Marco Cuoco; Director, Finance, and Chief Financial Officer; Tel: 416-397-5946;
Email: mcuoco@tpl.ca

Alice Yu; Senior Manager, Budget & Financial Reporting; Tel: 416-393-7003;
Email: ayu@tpl.ca

SIGNATURE

Moe Hosseini-Ara
City Librarian