The Library Refurbishment level of effort (LOE) project provides a structured process to modernize all 21 library branches over 20 years with new technologies and service delivery improvements which reflect the latest in 21st century library trends at much less costs than renovations. The improvements include renovated restrooms, creating group collaborations rooms, providing new sit / stand ergonomic service desks, prekindergarten early literacy display elements, new water fountains with bottle filling features, and a general refurbishment of new paint, carpet, and other flooring. With the addition of funding from the 21st Century Library Level of Effort project, electric connectivity at many tables and seating groups and loanable laptops are provided. Often other Level of Effort projects provide funding to address roof, mechanical / HVAC, window, and lighting repairs or replacements.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Library Refurbishment LOE started in FY15 with two refurbishments. In FY16, FY17, and FY18, a total of six libraries were refurbishments during each of these years. In FY19, FY20, FY21, and FY22, a total of 15 libraries were embarked upon with $5.4 million allocated for Planning, Design, and Supervision, $14.3 million for Construction, and $3.7 million for Other costs. The estimated schedule includes the planned expenditures for the next six years, with a beyond 6 years projection also provided.
In FY19 and FY20, two libraries will be refurbished along with the facility assessment of a third and the design of a fourth. The schedule of refurbishments per fiscal year will then transition to completing the facility assessment of one library, design of one library, and the construction of one library per fiscal year. This will enable all 21 libraries to be refurbished by FY27 where the cycle would start over again. The Library Department identifies the libraries to be refurbished 18 month in advance before the planning and design begins, so that applications for state grant funding can be submitted. Notice identifying the specific library projects for the given fiscal year must be provided to Council at least 60 days before any funding is obligated or spent. The notice to Council includes the scope of work, cost estimate, and expenditure schedule for planning design and supervision, construction, and other costs by fiscal year.

**COST CHANGE**

The scope of the project was increased to include work previously charged to Department of General Services' Level of Effort projects for building systems, roof, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. This change provides a clearer understanding of the true costs to refurbish the County's libraries. The County will also be pursuing a Public Private Partnership to redevelop the Chevy Chase Library. This strategy is likely to yield a better, more cost effective library facility given the location of the library.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

Until the implementation of these projects, many of the County Libraries have not been updated in 20 years. The Library Refurbishment LOE will ensure that all libraries are refurbished and updated on a scheduled basis. This will ensure that the libraries continue to meet the community's needs for programs, services, and facilities. The Library Refurbishment projects enable the County to update more libraries over a shorter period of time with less money than under the old approach of renovating only 1 or 2 libraries.

**FISCAL NOTE**

FY15 Supplemental in State Aid for $387,000 was approved for this project for the refurbishment of Twinbrook ($128,000) and Kensington Park ($259,000) branches. FY16 Supplemental in State Aid for $800,000 was approved for this project for the refurbishment of Davis ($400,000) and Little Falls ($400,000) branches. FY17 Supplemental in State Aid for $1,500,000 was approved for this project for the refurbishment of Bethesda ($500,000), Quince Orchard ($500,000) and White Oak ($500,000) branches. Amended FY18 for State Aid of $200,000 for the refurbishment of Long Branch ($100,000) and Marilyn Praisner ($100,000) branches. Cost estimates will be refined after facility assessments are completed.

**DISCLOSURES**

Expenditures will continue indefinitely. The County Executive asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

**COORDINATION**

Department of General Services, Department of Public Libraries, Maryland State Department of Education, and Department of Technology Services.