

Falls City Library presents annual report

(KLZA)--The Falls City Library and Arts Center remains very busy with more than 47,500 people passing through the doors in 2017.

245 new patrons joined the Library in 2017 bringing the total to nearly 5,200.

Librarian Hope Schawang told the Council Monday night that a tight budget and a small staff make it difficult to serve the needs of those patrons.

Last year money was provided in the budget to hire an additional part-time person to allow the Library to be open on Fridays. This year those funds were not included in the budget.

Schawang explained it takes two people to keep the library open due to the size of the building and for staff safety. She said she will be asking for the additional funds to be added back in next years budget.

She also noted that by not having the extra person, it means overtime hours when someone is sick and when staff member take vacation.

Councilman Jim Wisdom asked City Administrator Gary Jorn about the reduction in funding in the current budget. Jorn noted that several departments suffered budget cuts and that a number of capital improvements have been delayed due to budget restraints.

Jorn pointed out that the library budget has increased in recent years and noted the Library Board decided to pay for custodial services amounting to about \$1,000 per month, instead of using the funds for help pay for staff. He also noted the Library has also gone over its budget.

Many Signals Communications