

LAUREL-JONES COUNTY  
530 COMMERCE STREET  
LAUREL, MS 39440  
PH: 601-428-4313  
FAX: 601-428-0597



ELLISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
201 POPLAR STREET  
ELLISVILLE, MS 39437  
PH: 601-477-9271  
FAX: 601-477-3004

October 28, 2019

The Honorable Johnny Magee, Mayor  
City Council  
P. O. Box 647  
Laurel, MS 39440

Gentlemen:

The Laurel-Jones County Library System, Inc., Board of Trustees is submitting a request of \$150,000 for FY 2019-2020 this is a \$45,000 increase from the previous year. During FY 2009-2010 the City of Laurel cut library appropriations by \$40,000. This budget cut happened at the same time State LSTA Personnel grant funding was cut which resulted in the library losing over \$60,000 in funding. Due to the loss in funding the library in Laurel was closed each Wednesday of the week and reduced staff from 15 to 13 employees.

However, the library system has continued to make every effort to provide the citizens of Laurel with best service possible. This has become extremely difficult over time due to the continued increase in expenses required to maintain the equipment and cost of services demanded by our public.

This fiscal year we had over 74,000 visits to the library. Patrons checked out over 73,676 items from the Library which includes books on math, science, and phonics to build reading skills. The library's public computers and Wi-Fi was used over 21,000 times mostly by patrons trying to find jobs, file their taxes, complete online classes and/or work on their personal finances. Due to the numerous requests for assistance with building reading skills from parents and adult patrons, the library is working to provide a literacy program to help build and/or improve reading skills. However, because of the high number of people wishing to enroll in the program, the lack of funding and staff, the library has had to turn some people requesting assistance away. These statistics collected through our automation system shows the citizens of Laurel use the library and need the services it provides.

We appreciate your past support of the library system. We want the library to continue to grow and to be able to develop programs that best serve our constituents. We believe you share this desire and humbly ask you to meet our request.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Louise Breland  
Director

GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT  
THURSDAY 1PM-4:45PM  
FRIDAY 9AM-12PM & 1PM-4:45PM  
SATURDAY 10AM-1PM

ROBERT "BOB" STONE JR., PRESIDENT  
MARY LOUISE BRELAND, DIRECTOR  
[WWW.LAUREL.LIB.MS.US](http://WWW.LAUREL.LIB.MS.US)

**EXHIBIT A**