

MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project
JA Finance Fee Discussion Meeting
December 10, 2025, 9:30 am
Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library

Present: Kim Bolan, Guin Forshey, Jim Foster, Alex Gutelius, Michele Largeteau, Tom Shaginaw, Eric Trahan, Rebecca Verhayden, and Gwen Weldy.

Attending via Zoom: Bill Bonner, Christine Connell, Diane Empie, Leah Fitzgerald, Nicole Hemsley, Caitlyn Johnson, Carol Kuhr, Kathy Naftaly, Sharon O'Brien, Jill Ryder, Jack Scott, Erica Wing, and Kim Zimmer.

Committee Chair Eric Trahan welcomed all and opened the meeting at 9:35. We briefly discussed the 2026 JA budget, and the 2026 fees spreadsheet.

Concerning 2027 fees, the Finance Committee's recommendation is to raise the fee budget by 5%, to \$621,450. The MVLS and SALS direct payments to the JA budget will go back to the formula-based figure in 2027, taking out the extra allocation of about \$50,000 put in by each system in 2026. This may result in a deficit JA budget in 2027. We expect JA to end 2025 with a \$1 million fund balance, and the 2026 JA budget is balanced.

Libraries expressed some concern about rising JA fees. Others are reluctant to use too much fund balance, and spoke of the need to keep JA strong for the member libraries. The JA Council will discuss further, and may choose to do a fee study in 2026-2027.

The participants agreed that the recommendation to the JA Council and the SALS and MVLS boards of trustees would be to increase the fee budget by 5% in 2027, raising the fee budget to \$621,450. In addition, the fee formula will be updated, changing the basis to 2025 library data.

The group next discussed potential JA priorities and initiatives for the coming years. The first topic is the ongoing implementation of Vega Discover and Innovative Mobile. Other issues include updating Polaris settings and permissions, and a review of patron registration and card renewal policies.

The meeting was closed at 9:55