



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-1212, **Agenda Item #:** 11.

3/12/2026

Posting Language

Authorize a contract for VOX books for youth collection for Austin Public Library with Library Ideas, LLC dba Library Ideas, for an initial term of one year with up to four 1-year extension options in an amount not to exceed \$450,000. Funding: \$46,667 is available in the Operating Budget of Austin Public Library. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Lead Department

Austin Financial Services.

Client Department(s)

Austin Public Library.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$46,667 is available in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget of Austin Public Library.

Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Procurement Language:

Sole Source.

MBE/WBE:

Sole source contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9B(Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program); therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to Austin Financial Services - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500.

Additional Backup Information:

This contract will provide Austin Public Library read along books that have a built-in audio player that reads the story out loud to children as they follow along with the text. These types of audio books circulate at a higher rate per item than a print book. The introduction of these books will support the Library's mission as well as the City of Austin's Strategic Goal to expand access and to provide community centric services and programs. This special format of audio book also provides a form of screen-free access to narrated stories which is in demand by parents who follow the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation to limit or avoid screen time for children.

This contract is a new contract. Requested authorization is based on historical spending and departmental estimates of future needs. VOX Books is a copyrighted product, wholly owned, and exclusively marketed by Library Ideas, LLC. All of the content is exclusive to Library Ideas, LLC, in the all-in-one-format.

This format benefits all children, but is also accessible to those who are blind, visually impaired, or Neurodiverse. The narration of the story reinforces the text, which may be difficult for some children to comprehend on its own.

Contract Details:		
Contract Term	Length of Term	Contract Authorization
Initial Term	1 year	\$80,000
Optional Extension 1	1 year	\$85,000
Optional Extension 2	1 year	\$90,000
Optional Extension 3	1 year	\$95,000
Optional Extension 4	1 year	\$100,000
Total	5 years	\$450,000

Note: Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage