

Westminster library hopes to expand

'For an already small building, it's going to be a big difference'

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
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WESTMINSTER — Even though the blueprints are completed and a vision for an improved library in Westminster is crystal clear, the county has yet to make a decision for the project.

As part of the capital projects group for Oconee County, the proposed expansion could mean numerous good things for the small town area.

Bobbie Cole, branch manager for the library, said the changes would mean the world to the current modest building and the surrounding area.

"It would be an expansion of about 3,250 square feet on the back side of the building and property," she said. "It doesn't seem big, but for an already small building, it's going to be a big difference."

Cole mentioned that the expansion would include more parking, which has been an ongoing issue for the branch.

"The parking will be important and will allow people to park close, rather than on the streets," she added. "Plus, we'll add speed bumps to the parking lot which will help with people driving fast because it's located on an incline."

The cost of the project is lingering around \$1,059,000.

The construction cost is projected to be \$855,000



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The Westminster Library is slated to undergo a major expansion and renovation if the Oconee County Council approves the request.

while the remaining money will go towards new computers, shelving, wireless Internet, new carpet, ceiling tiles, more restrooms and books.

The added space will include a smaller meeting room than the one in the current building while providing an extra three tutoring rooms equipped with computers.

There will be a large reading area that will be constructed around a large Oak tree in the back of the building, where people will be able to utilize free Wi-Fi and

children can enjoy reading groups in the fresh air.

The city also hopes to connect the library to Anderson Park and possibly another area beyond the library that could be used to build basketball and tennis courts.

"It's going to be a really great area for all ages," Cole added. "We don't know when the county will make a decision, but we're hoping that it gets approved and we can move on with the plans. It's very exciting."

