

FILM PROJECT BUDGET EXAMPLE

LEAN DOCUMENTARY | Planned total: \$213,000

Based on the uploaded documentary_budget_lean_213k.pdf. All amounts are planning estimates. A budget target does not establish that money has been received.

PLANNED PROJECT COSTS

\$198,000

CONTINGENCY RESERVE

\$15,000

FUNDING TARGET

\$213,000

WHERE THE FILM BUDGET GOES

CATEGORY	PLANNED COST	% OF TOTAL
01 Development	\$15,000	7.04%
02 Producer and Director	\$40,000	18.78%
03 Crew	\$55,000	25.82%
04 Production and Gear	\$17,000	7.98%
05 Travel	\$5,000	2.35%
06 Post-Production	\$38,000	17.84%
07 Rights, Music and Archival	\$12,000	5.63%
08 Insurance, Admin and Publicity	\$16,000	7.51%
Contingency reserve	\$15,000	7.04%
TOTAL PLANNED BUDGET	\$213,000	100%

PROJECT FUNDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Starting funds received	Not yet reported
Actual expenses and outstanding commitments	Not yet reported
Verified savings and closing balance	Not yet reported
Eligible balance carried to projects in development	Not yet reported

At project close, reconcile received funds with actual spending and outstanding commitments. Identify the unused contingency and documented savings, then show any eligible carryforward and its approved destination. Donated work and deferred fees must be identified separately.

Percentages are rounded. The \$15,000 contingency is a reserve, not a confirmed saving or community allocation.

FILM BUDGET | LINE-ITEM DETAIL

DEVELOPMENT, PEOPLE AND PRODUCTION

01 DEVELOPMENT	\$15,000
Research and treatment: archival searches, early interviews, outline	\$6,000
Legal and entity setup; release form review	\$5,000
Part-time researcher: about 8 weeks at \$500	\$4,000
02 PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR	\$40,000
Director	\$22,000
Producer	\$18,000
03 CREW	\$55,000
DP with own camera kit: 20 days at \$1,300	\$26,000
Sound mixer: 20 days at \$600	\$12,000
Second shooter: 6 key days at \$750	\$4,500
Gaffer or AC: 5 interview days at \$500	\$2,500
Intern and volunteer stipends	\$2,000
Payroll taxes and workers' comp: source estimate	\$8,000
04 PRODUCTION AND GEAR	\$17,000
Lens, lighting and audio rental add-ons: about \$350/day	\$7,000
Drives and backups	\$3,000
Locations and permits	\$2,000
Crew meals: about \$200/day	\$4,000
Miscellaneous supplies and batteries	\$1,000

Production assumption: about 20 shoot days, a small crew with an owner-operator director of photography, and mostly local shooting. Camera ownership is reflected in the DP rate; rental add-ons remain a separate cost.

FILM BUDGET | LINE-ITEM DETAIL

TRAVEL, POST-PRODUCTION, RIGHTS AND DELIVERY

05 TRAVEL	\$5,000
Flights and ground transportation	\$3,000
Lodging and per diem	\$2,000
06 POST-PRODUCTION	\$38,000
Editor: 16 weeks at \$1,500	\$24,000
Sound design and mix	\$5,000
Color grade: about 3 days	\$3,000
Transcription	\$2,000
Titles, graphics and subtitles	\$2,000
Captioning, quality control and delivery files	\$2,000
07 RIGHTS, MUSIC AND ARCHIVAL	\$12,000
Archival licensing	\$7,000
Music: library tracks or local composer	\$5,000
08 INSURANCE, ADMIN AND PUBLICITY	\$16,000
Insurance: E&O and general liability	\$8,000
Accounting and bookkeeping	\$3,000
Festival submissions	\$2,500
Software and office	\$1,500
Poster, trailer and press kit	\$1,000

Source assumptions: one editor for about 16 weeks and low-cost archival and music sources. Actual costs can vary. The source notes that producer and director fees may be partly deferred; deferred fees remain commitments and are not automatically savings.

Release scope: this example includes delivery files, festival submissions and limited publicity. A separate theatrical or streaming release campaign would need its own scope and budget.