# YOUR BOOK'S PUBLISHING BUDGET

A fill-in worksheet for estimating costs before you commit

**Author / project:** _____ **Date prepared:** _____

**Book title (working title is fine):** _____

**Format(s):** ☐ Ebook ☐ Paperback ☐ Hardcover ☐ Audiobook ☐ Other: _____

**Target release date:** _____ **Publishing route:** _____

## How to use this worksheet

Enter your best estimate, then replace it with a quote or confirmed price when you have one. The Type column sorts each line as **One-time**, **Per-copy**, **Recurring**, or **Event**, so the summary can show what the book costs once, what each copy costs, and what you will keep paying for. The contingency line on page 2 is where unexpected costs go, so no expense line needs its own cushion.

| Category | Expense | Type | Estimated cost | Confirmed cost | Paid? | Notes / provider |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Editorial | Manuscript assessment / critique | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Editorial | Developmental editing | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Editorial | Copyediting / line editing | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Editorial | Proofreading | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Editorial | Beta readers / sensitivity or specialist review | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Design & production | Cover design / illustration | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Design & production | Interior formatting / typesetting | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Design & production | Maps, charts, images, permissions | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Rights & identifiers | Copyright registration (if chosen) | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Rights & identifiers | ISBN(s) / barcode (if applicable) | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Rights & identifiers | Legal review / permissions | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Production | Proof copies and shipping | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Production | Initial author-copy inventory (from the helper below) | Per-copy | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Platform & distribution | Software / formatting tools | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Platform & distribution | Print, distribution, or setup charges | Per-copy | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |

| Category | Expense | Type | Estimated cost | Confirmed cost | Paid? | Notes / provider |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Launch & marketing | Website / landing page / newsletter tools (first year) | Recurring | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Advertising / publicity / review copies | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Launch venue / room hire | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Event table / application / booth fee | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Travel, parking, accommodation | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Signage, table display, bookmarks, flyers | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Refreshments / event supplies | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Launch & marketing | Payment processing / sales supplies | Event | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |
| Other | Taxes, shipping, other | One-time | $_____ | $_____ | ☐ | |

## Initial inventory helper

Print cost per copy, including shipping: $_____ × copies to order: _____ = $_____ Enter this total on the *Initial author-copy inventory* line.

## Totals and planning decisions

| Budget summary | Estimated | Confirmed |
|---|---|---|
| One-time costs (lines marked One-time) | $_____ | $_____ |
| Per-copy costs, including initial inventory | $_____ | $_____ |
| Recurring costs (first year) | $_____ | $_____ |
| Launch and event costs | $_____ | $_____ |
| **Total before contingency** | $_____ | $_____ |
| Contingency (suggested 10% of the total) | $_____ | $_____ |
| **TOTAL estimated cash needed** | $_____ | $_____ |
| Cash already available / set aside | $_____ | $_____ |
| **Funding gap (total minus cash set aside)** | $_____ | $_____ |

## Questions to answer before spending

- [ ] Which costs are essential for the book I am making, and which are optional?
- [ ] Have I received written quotes and confirmed what each service includes?
- [ ] Have I checked current official platform and registration fees?
- [ ] Have I calculated likely earnings per copy after print and distribution costs?
- [ ] If I am paying for an event, how many books must I sell to break even?
- [ ] What is my contingency plan if the book needs another proof or revision?

## Notes / next actions

This worksheet is a planning aid, not a quote or guarantee. Platform fees, taxes, shipping, production charges, and service rates can change. Confirm current prices and terms before purchasing. This worksheet does not provide legal, tax, or financial advice.