

**GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Present: Mr. James Hoard, Mrs. Elizabeth Collins, Mr. Tommy Hughes, Mrs. Marcia Moston, Dr. Gene Beckner, Mr. Samuel Chaney, Mr. Jack Logan, Mr. Greg Somers, Mr. Joe Poore, and Mr. S. Allan Hill, presiding.

Absent: Mrs. Stephanie Cunningham

Library System Managers Present: Don Allen, Finance Manager; Ray Arnett, Branch Library Services Manager; Brian Morrison, Adult Services Director; Jennifer Pinkerman, Youth Services Manager; Ann Bishop, Human Resources Manager; Rick Silvers, Facilities Maintenance Manager; Elizabeth Brinley, Technical Services Manager; Beverly James, Executive Director; and Alexis Roy, Administrative Projects Manager, acting as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 12:00p and Mr. Beckner gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hill called for the approval of the minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, November 11, 2025. Mr. Poore so moved. Mr. Hoard seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Hill recognized and welcomed the new board members, Jack Logan, Samuel Chaney, and Greg Somers, who were attending their first meeting because of the cancellation of the January meeting due to the weather.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: JAMES HOARD, COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mr. James Hoard, Committee Chair, noted that the Proposed Revisions to Compensation Plan had been reviewed the prior week by the Finance Committee, which recommended moving forward with the revisions. Mr. Hill noted for newer members of the Board that recommendations from a Library Board committee serves as a motion that does not require a second.

Mrs. Bishop provided context regarding compensation history, noting that the Library System had experienced pay compression issues in prior years. While a consultant had recommended revisiting the compensation plan every three years, the Library System had begun falling behind market value. She stated that the goal is to find a middle ground, and that reviewing the plan every two years is anticipated to address pay compression while keeping the Library System competitive in the market.

Mr. Hill called for a vote. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY27 Budget Preparation Schedule

Ms. James introduced the proposed schedule, highlighting several key dates. Mr. Poore inquired whether the draft could be shared with the Finance Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Hill indicated that such distribution would be made. Mrs. Collins noted that the turnaround timeline would be tight for the Finance Committee. Mr. Poore expressed a preference for submitting questions in advance of the meeting rather than during.

Mr. Poore raised a question regarding millage rollback. Mr. Allen addressed the Board, explaining that the current millage stands at 7.5 total, with the library presently operating at 6.7.

He further noted a reduction of 0.6 mills in operating and 0.2 mills in capital. Mr. Allen provided an overview of millage for the benefit of newly appointed Board members, noting that reassessment occurs on a five-year cycle.

Downloadable Material

Ms. Elizabeth Brinley presented a PowerPoint overview of the three platforms through which the library provides downloadable materials to patrons, a copy of which is attached to the minutes for future reference.

Mrs. Elizabeth Collins noted that many libraries are moving away from Hoopla. Ms. James acknowledged the challenge of balancing patron demand with fiscal responsibility and committed to sharing usage data with the Board once received from vendors. Mrs. Moston noted that a purchasing workshop had been planned and expressed hope that it could be held prior to any Board vote. Mr. Poore expressed his preference to move the matter forward independently of the budget process.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. James reported that 517 new library card applications were opened at the Blue Ridge Library branch during the months of December and January, noting that the location is circulating physical items at a higher rate than three other locations and nearly as high as the rate of two more locations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hoard so moved. Dr. Beckner seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

S. Allan Hill
Chair, Board of Trustees

Beverly James
Executive Director

Alexis Roy
Recording Secretary



DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS USAGE AND SPENDING REVIEW

Introduction

GCLS offers access to downloadable materials through three different platforms:

Hoopla: Patrons have access to the Hoopla catalog, which includes ebooks, eaudiobooks, movies, TV shows, and music albums. GCLS pays a cost per circulation (avg. \$2.99) each time a patron checks out an item. Patrons can currently borrow 7 items per month.

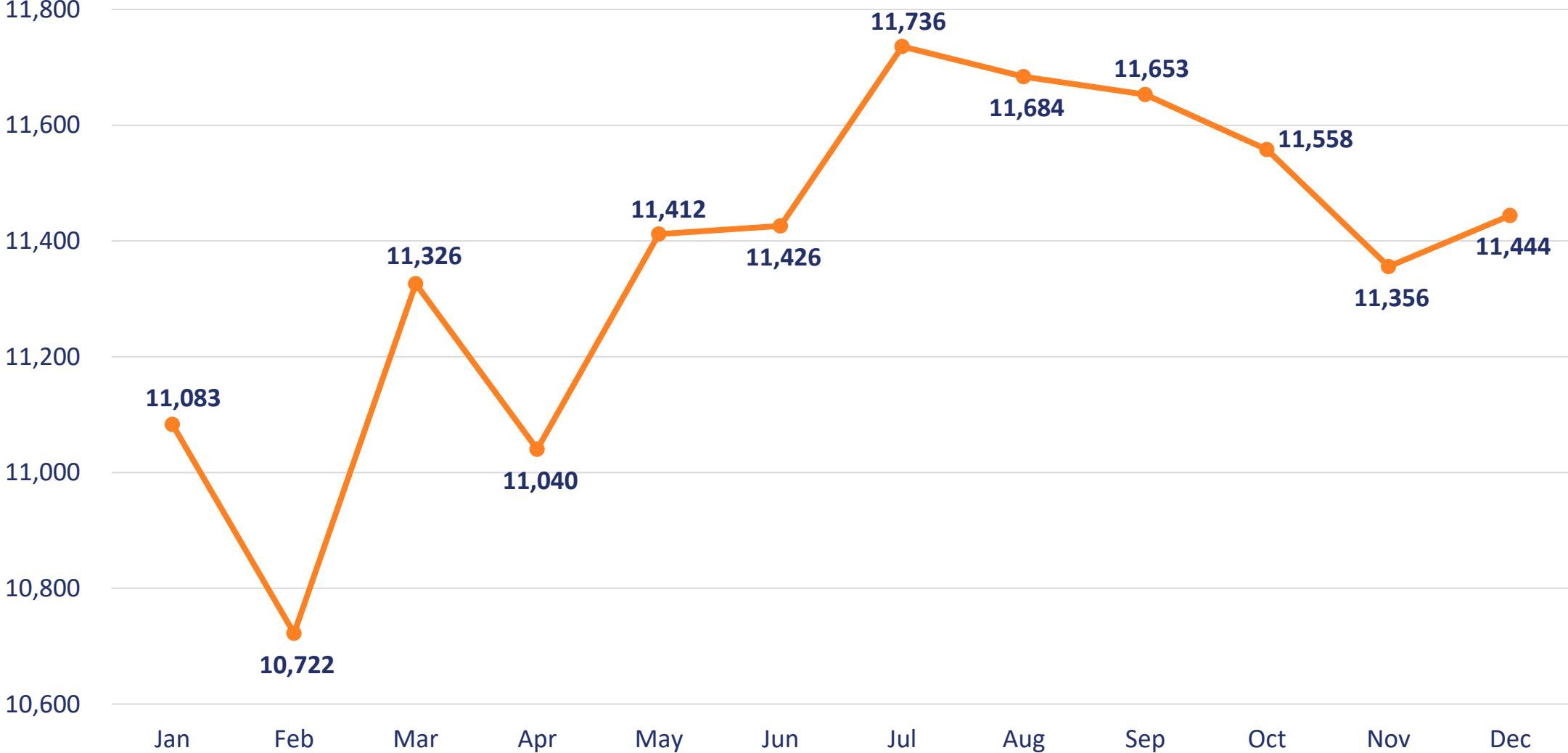
Overdrive (Libby): Ebook and eaudiobook titles are selected and purchased by GCLS staff. Access to magazines through this platform is obtained through a set annual fee.

Freegal: Set annual fee allows patrons access to stream from Freegal music catalog and download up to 5 songs per week.

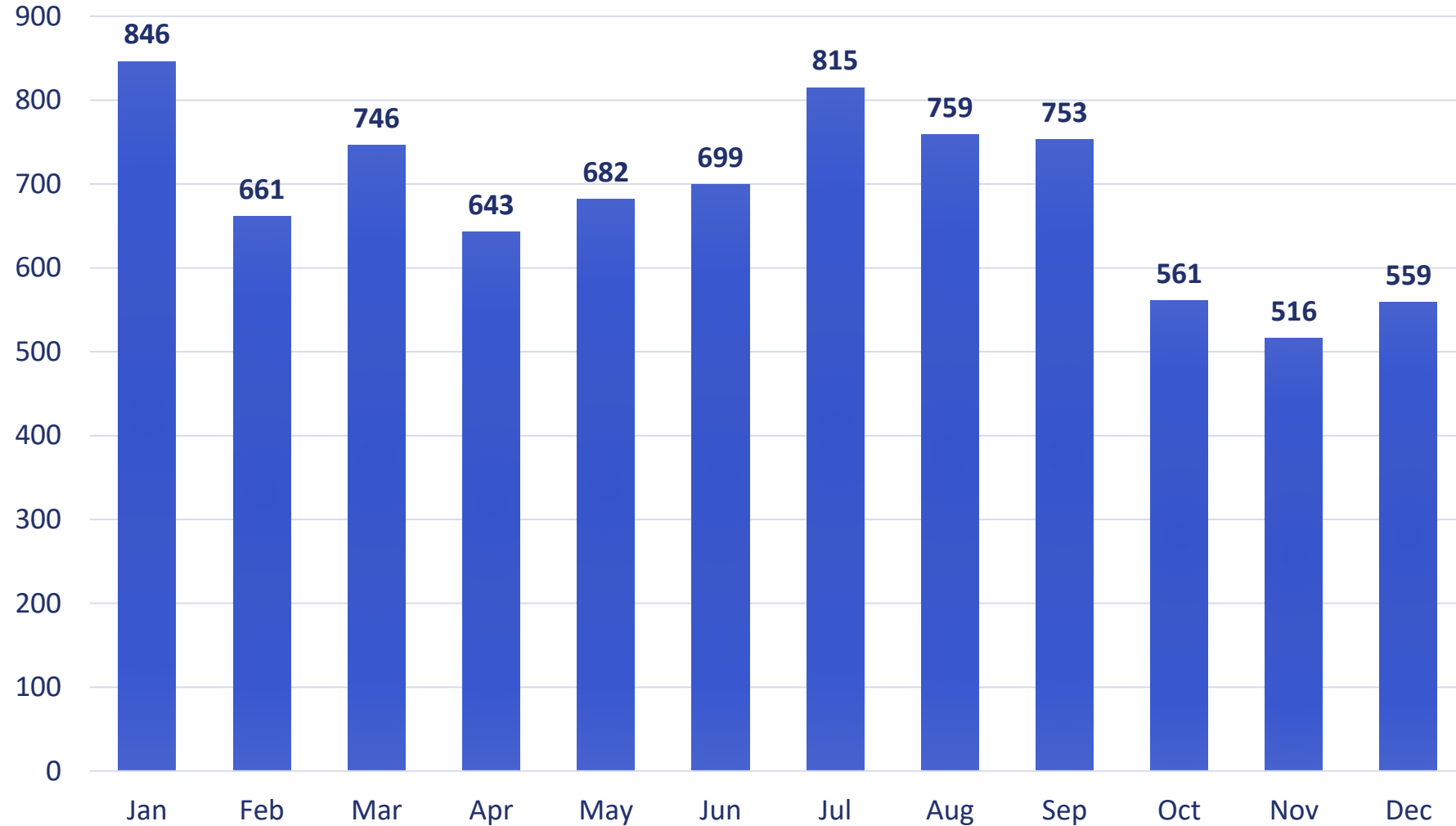
Hoopla

PATRONS SERVED, PATRON GROWTH, BORROWS USED, SPENDING BY
MONTH AND FISCAL YEAR

Hoopla patrons served, Jan – Dec 2025



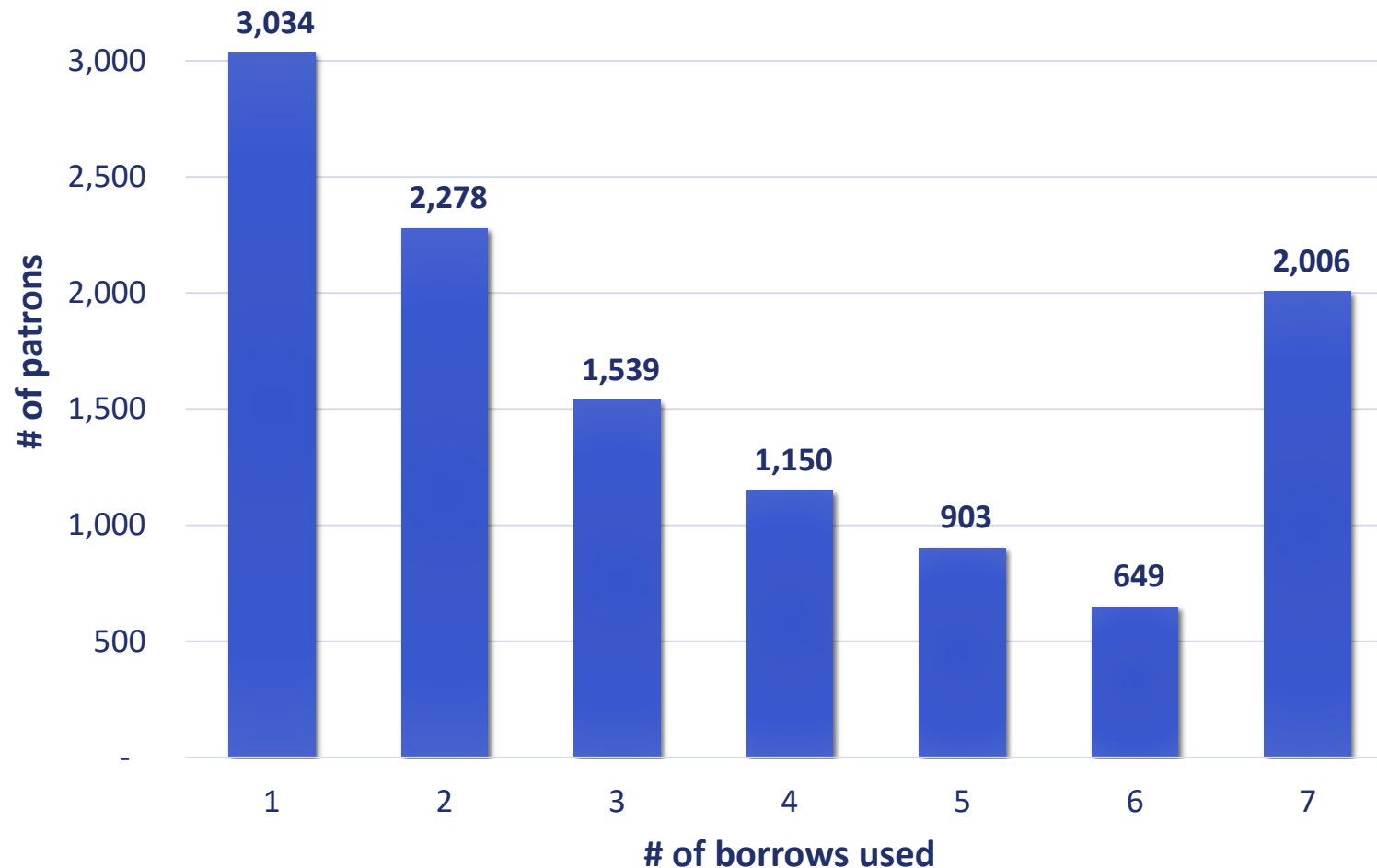
New Hoopla patrons registered, Jan – Dec 2025



58,974
patrons registered
since launch
(2016)

8,240
patrons registered
in 2025

Hoopla borrows used per patron, Jul 2025

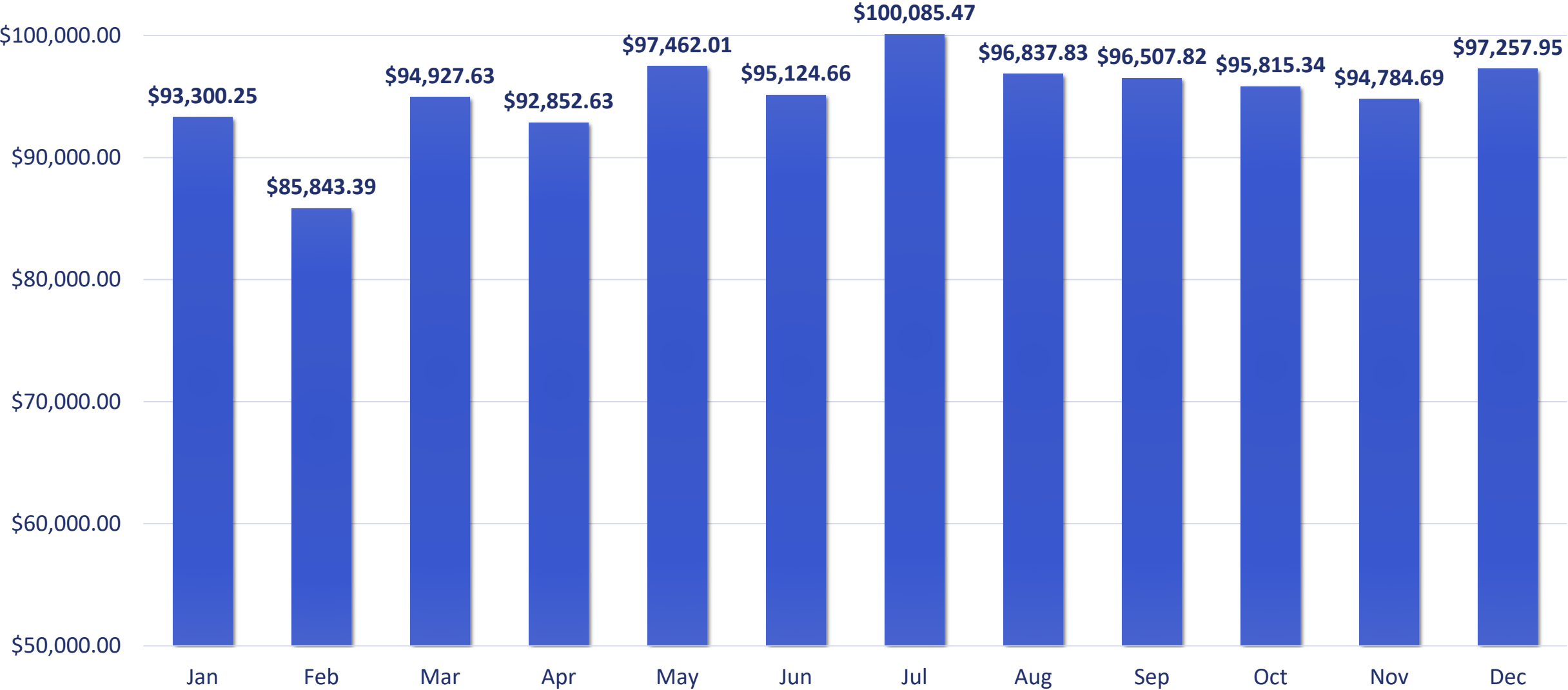


Exact numbers vary month-to-month, but this represents the typical distribution of borrows used each month.

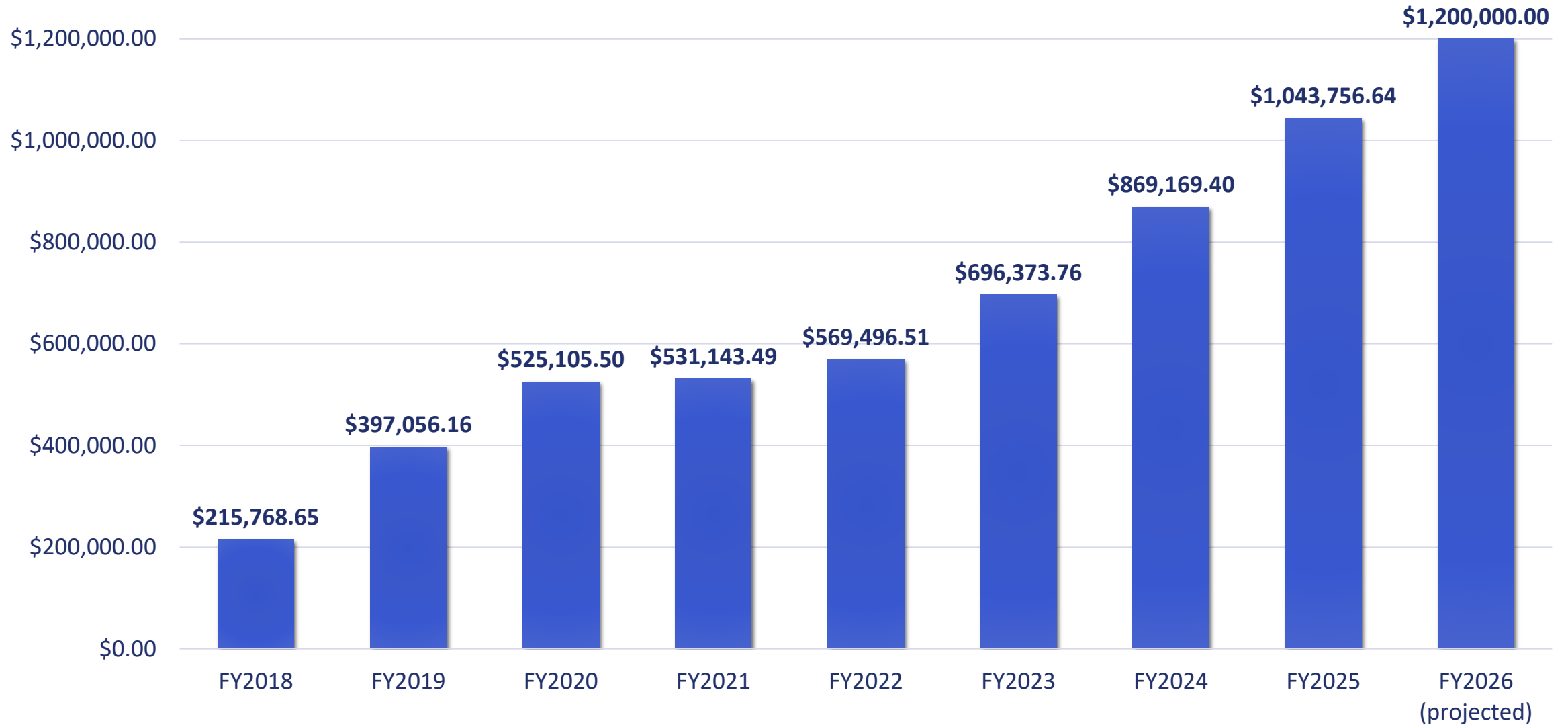
Reducing the number of borrows allowed from 7 to 4 would eliminate approximately 8,220 borrows and save approximately \$24,575.00 per month / \$295,000.00 per year at the current level of patrons and borrows used.

It would also curb the growth of spending on Hoopla going forward.

Hoopla monthly spending, Jan – Dec 2025



Hoopla spending by fiscal year



Overdrive/Freegal

OVERDRIVE LENDING MODELS, ITEM COSTS, SPENDING BY FISCAL YEAR AND CATEGORY

Overdrive (Libby) Overview

Lending models

- **One Copy/One User (OC/OU):** Library retains access in perpetuity
- **Metered Access (time):** Library has access for specified time period (either 12 or 24 months)
- **Metered Access (checkouts):** Library has access until the specified number of checkouts are exhausted (typically 26)

To retain access, MA titles must be repurchased upon expiration of the specified time period/checkouts.

Lending model availability

2020

Ebooks: 70% Metered Access, 30% OC/OU

Eaudiobooks: 30% Metered Access, 70% OC/OU

2025

Ebooks: 95% Metered Access, 5% OC/OU

Eaudiobooks: 70% Metered Access, 30% OC/OU

Average Library Price per Copy

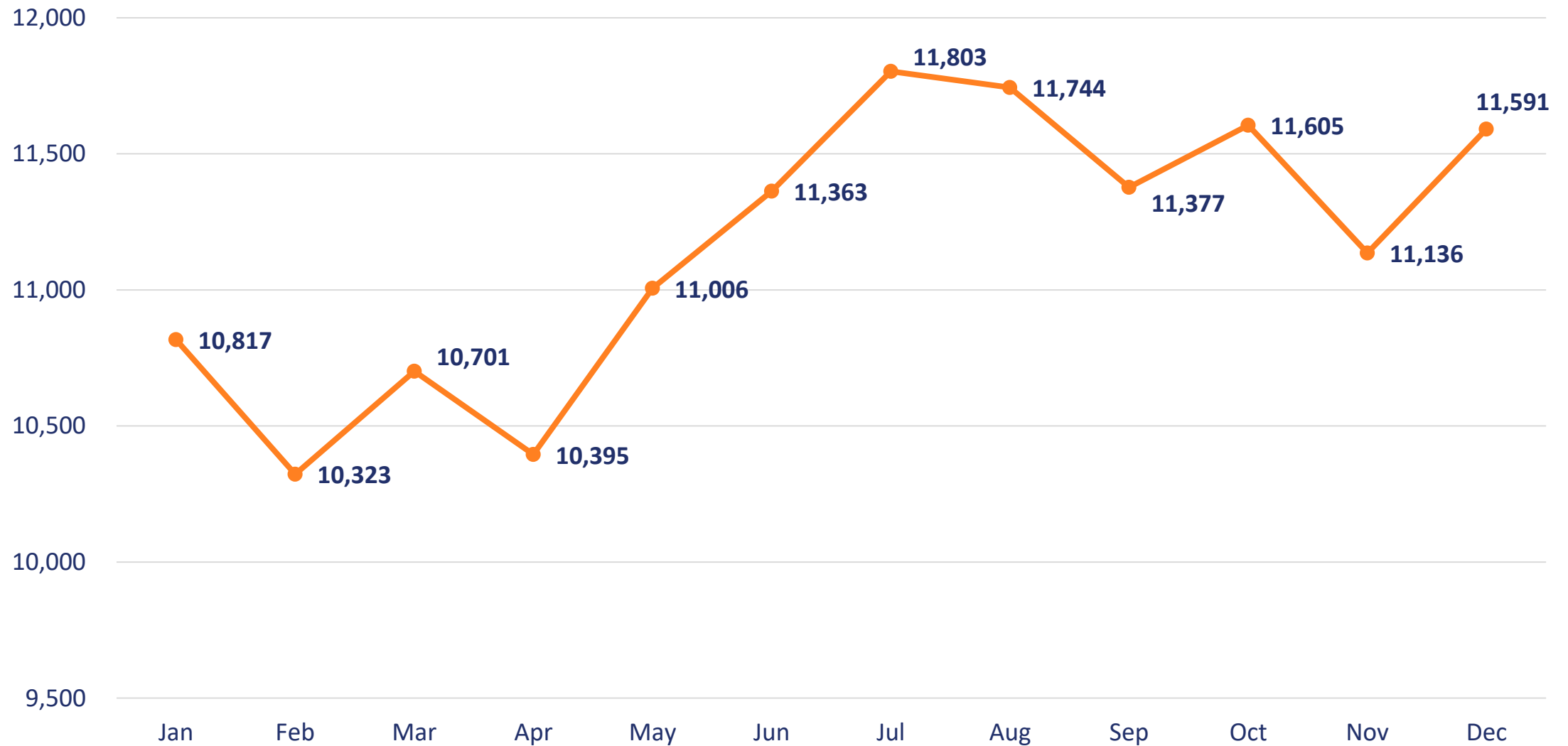
Print: \$18.00

Ebook: \$65.00

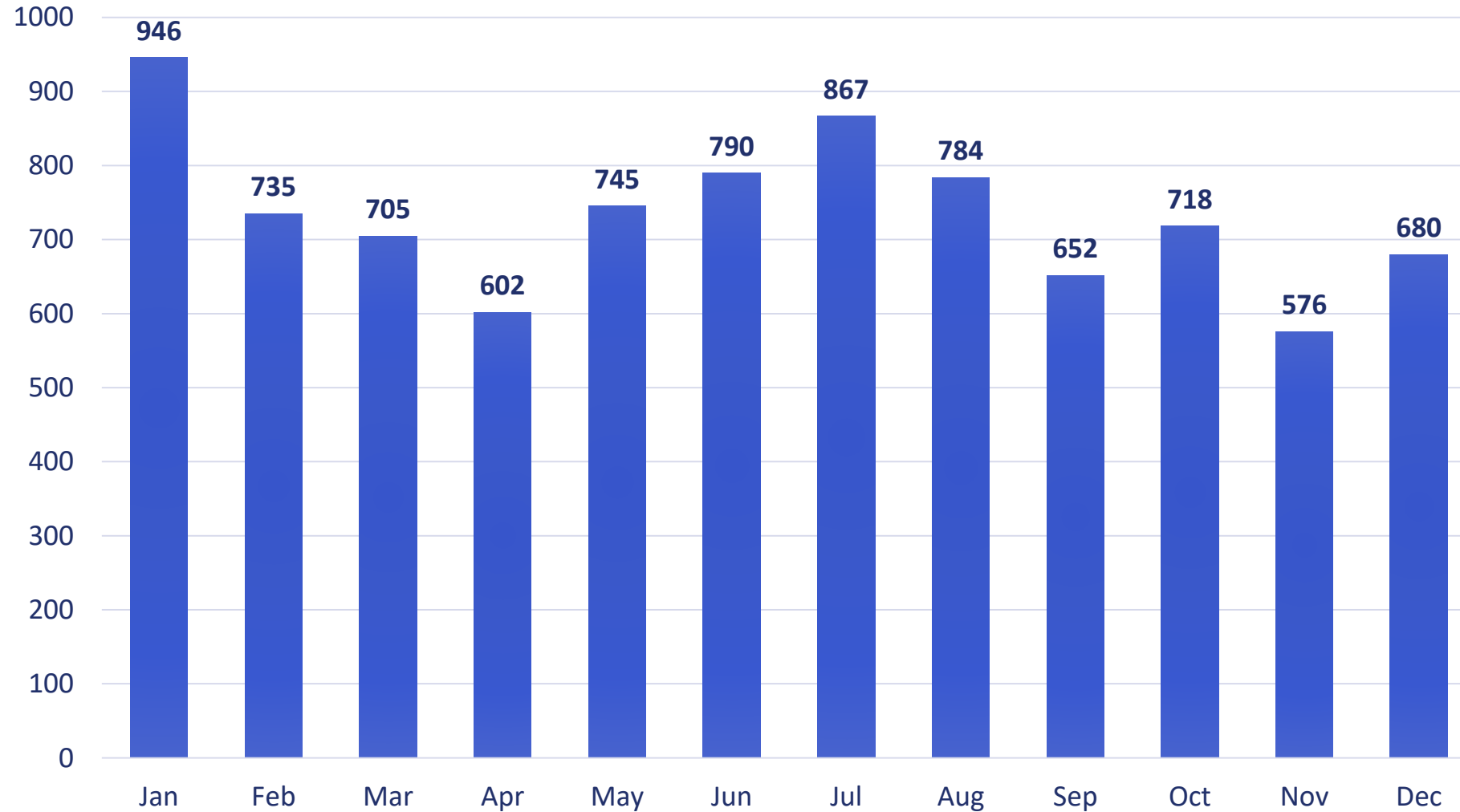
Eaudiobook: \$95.00

Due to both the high cost of and high demand for downloadables, additional copies to fill holds are usually purchased at a 10:1 ratio. Print copies are purchased at a 4:1 ratio.

Overdrive patrons served, Jan – Dec 2025



New Overdrive patrons registered, Jan – Dec 2025



8,800
patrons registered
in 2025

Freegal Overview

Lending models

Freegal allows streaming and downloading of music. GCLS pays an annual fee granting patrons access to:

- Unlimited streaming
- Five song downloads per week
 - Users keep downloaded songs; they do not have to be returned to Freegal

Usage and cost

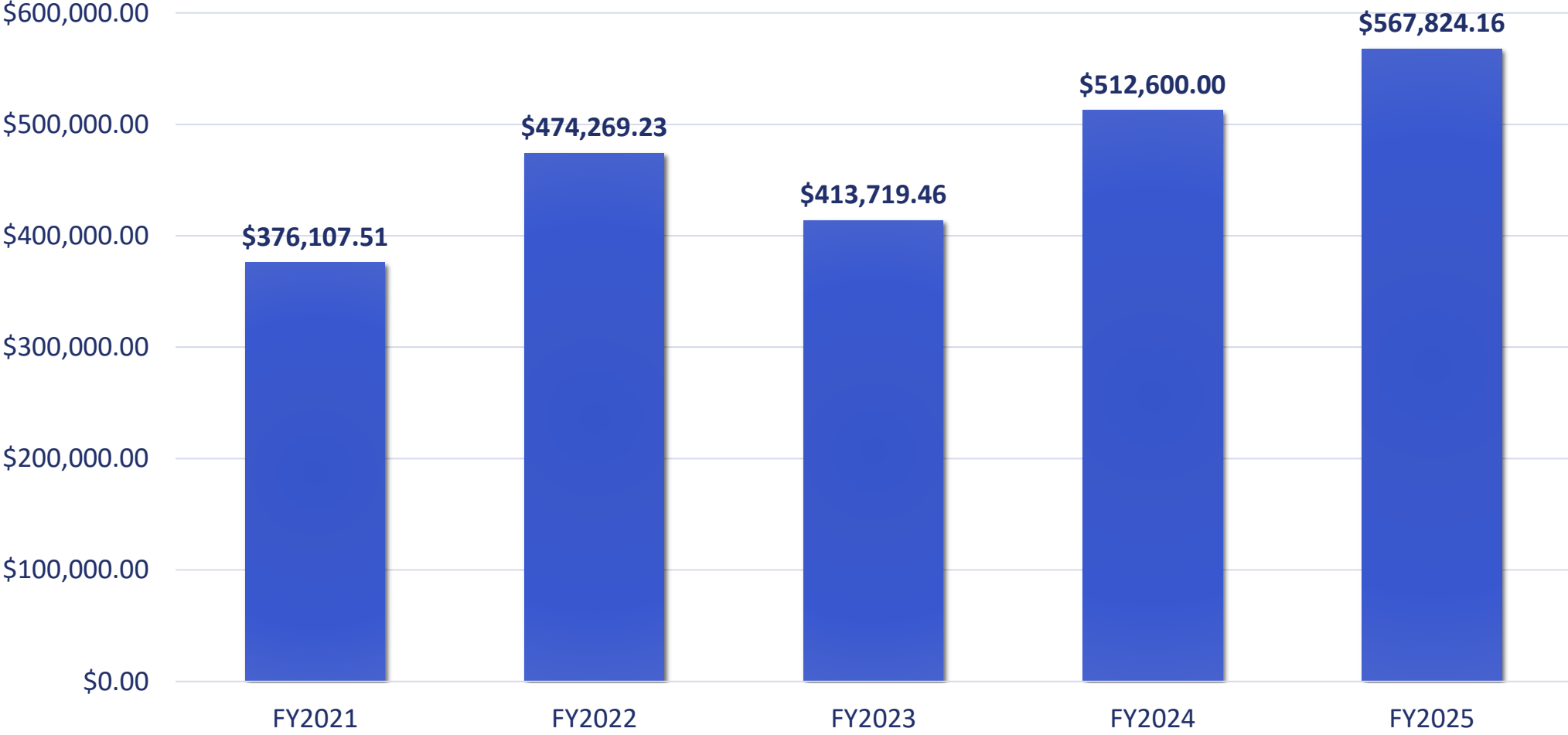
During 2025, patrons:

- Streamed 160,891 songs
- Downloaded 27,718 songs

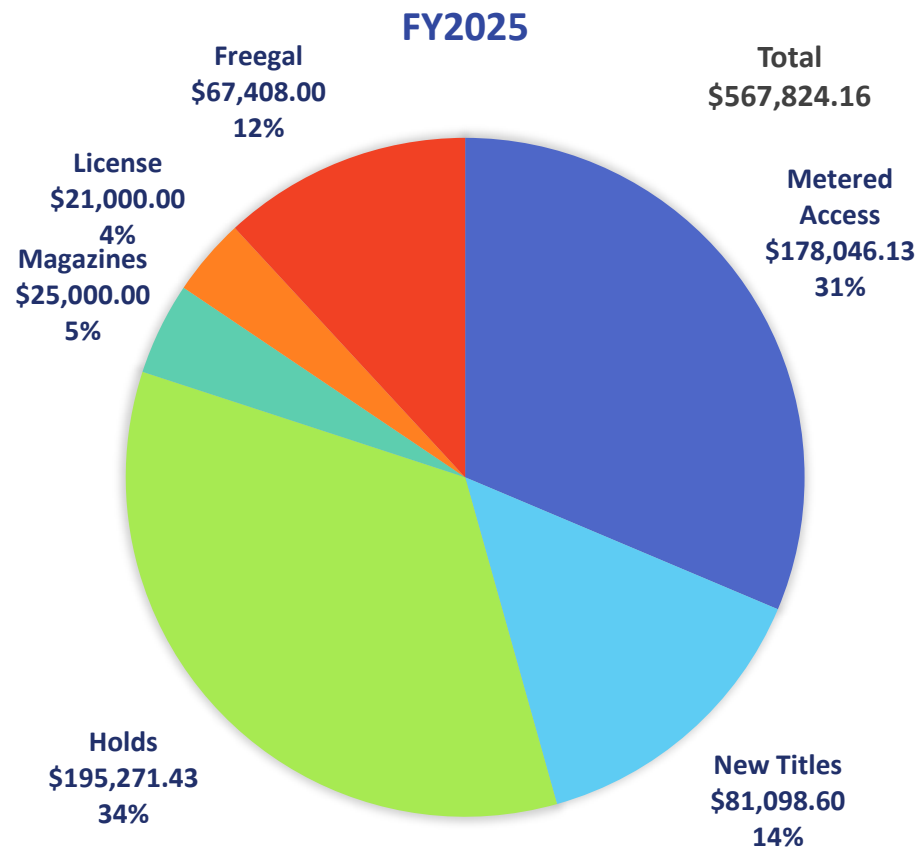
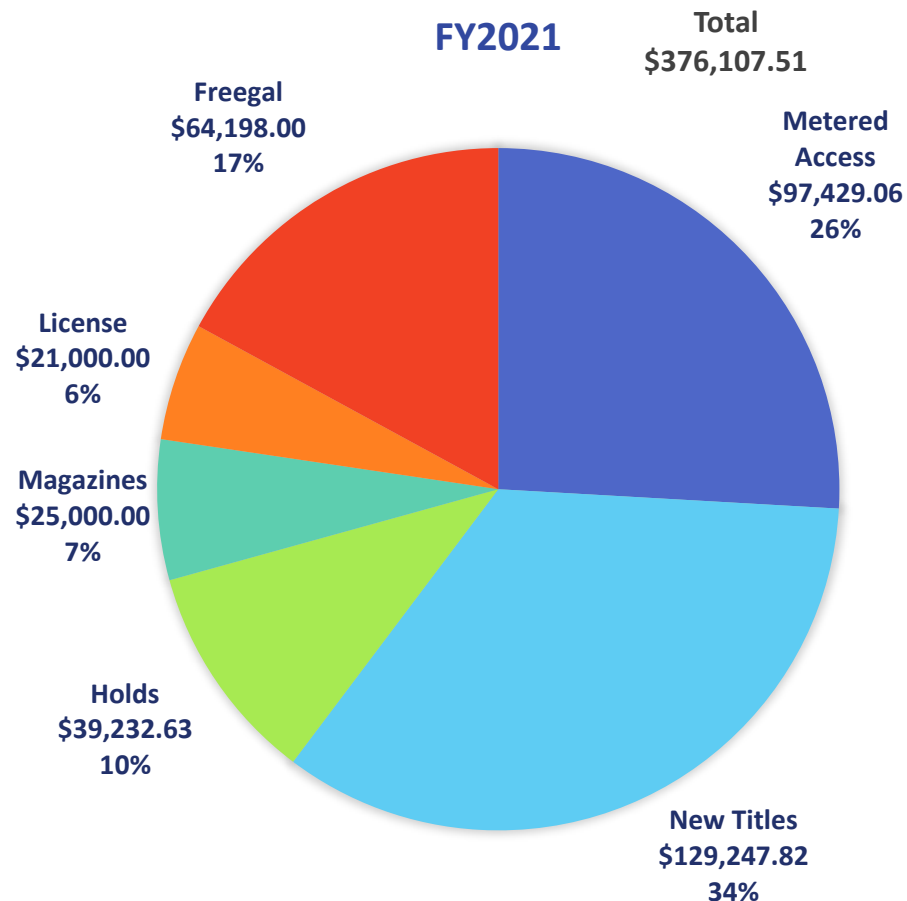
The current annual fee for Freegal is \$67,408.00.

This gives a cost per use of about \$0.36.

Overdrive/Freegal spending by fiscal year



Overdrive/Freegal spending by category



Spending on new titles has decreased significantly, both as a percentage and a dollar amount.

The increase in total spending has been due to repurchasing MA titles and purchasing additional copies to fill holds.

This demand will likely continue to increase.

Metered Access: amount spent repurchasing access to already-owned titles

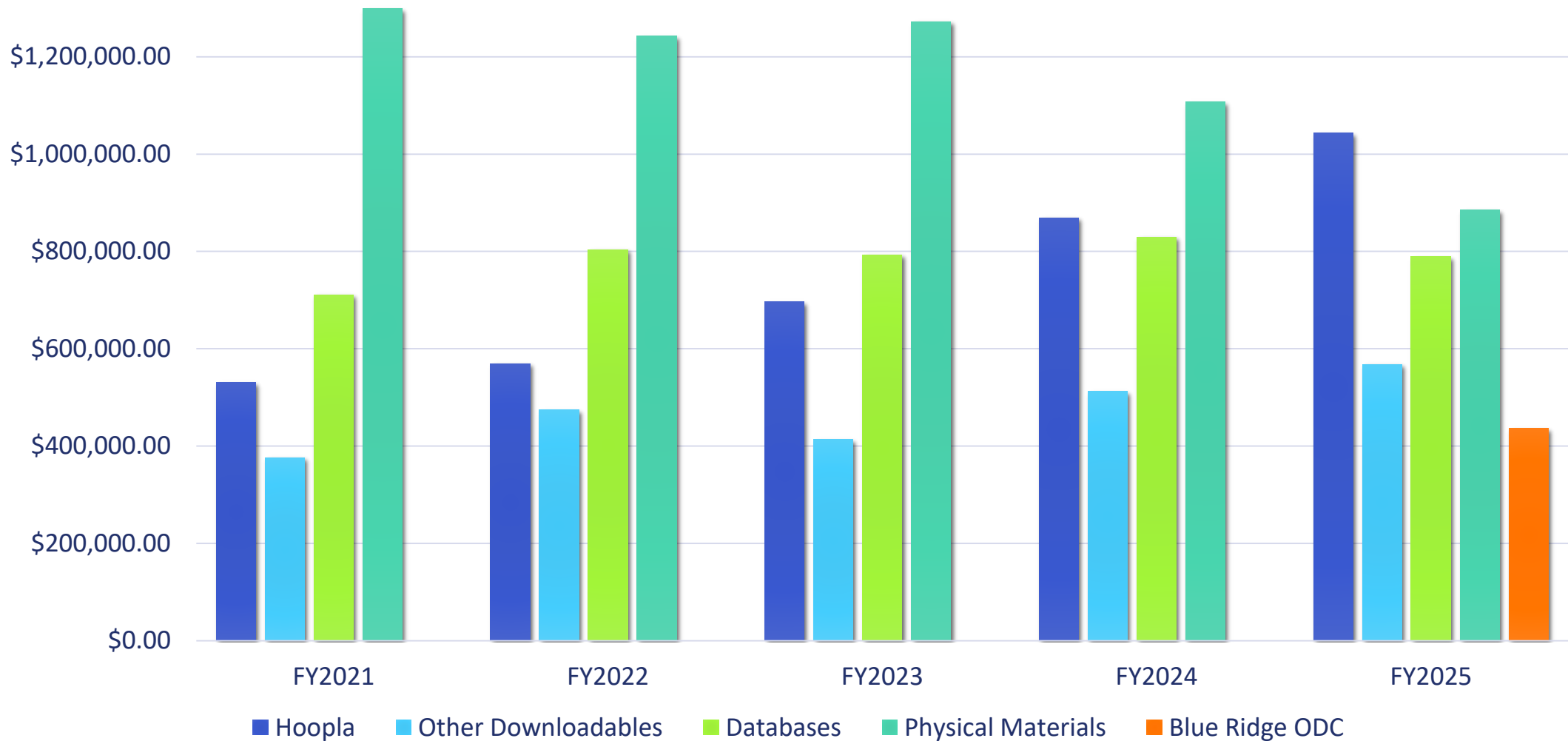
Holds: amount spent purchasing additional copies of existing titles at a 10:1 or higher hold ratio

New titles: amount spent purchasing new ebook/audiobook titles

Materials Budget Overview

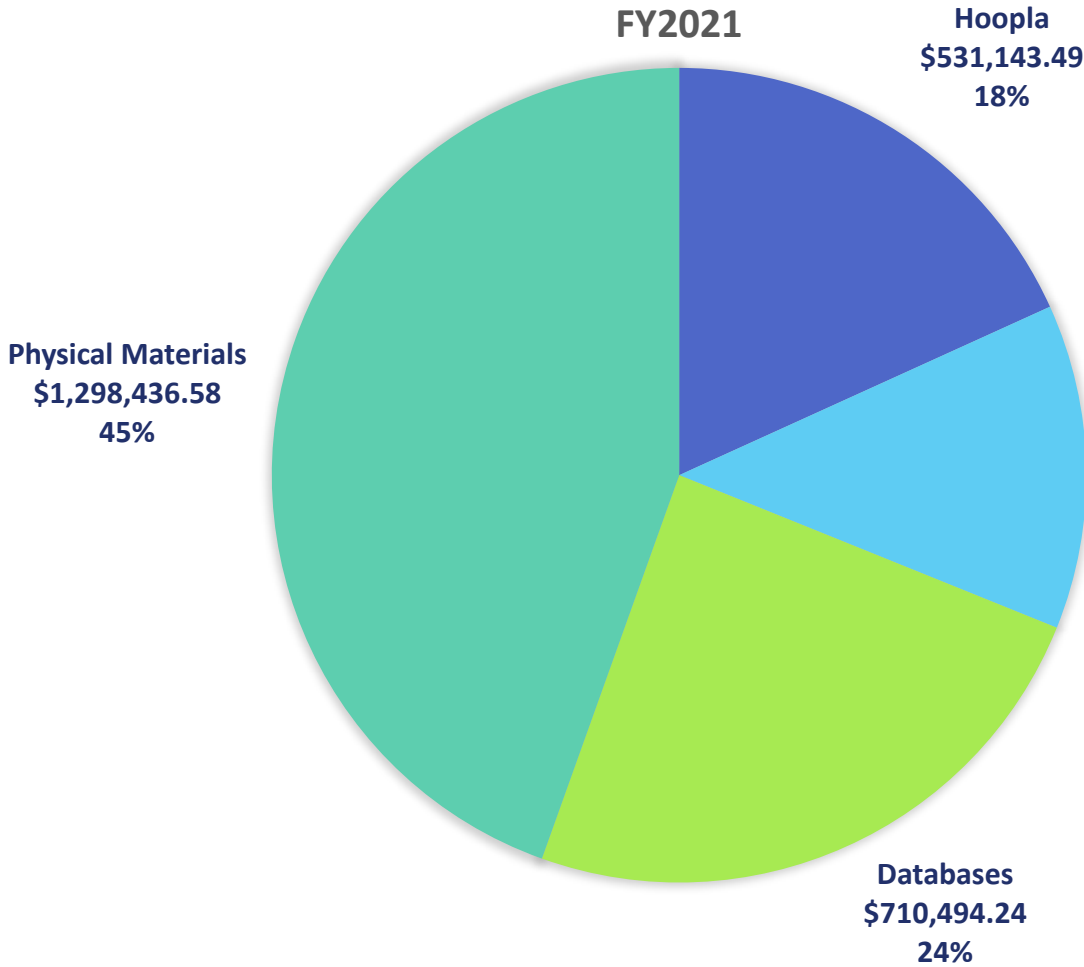
SPENDING BY FORMAT, FY2021/FY2025 PERCENTAGE COMPARISON,
FY2026 PROJECTION

Spending by Format FY2021 - FY2025

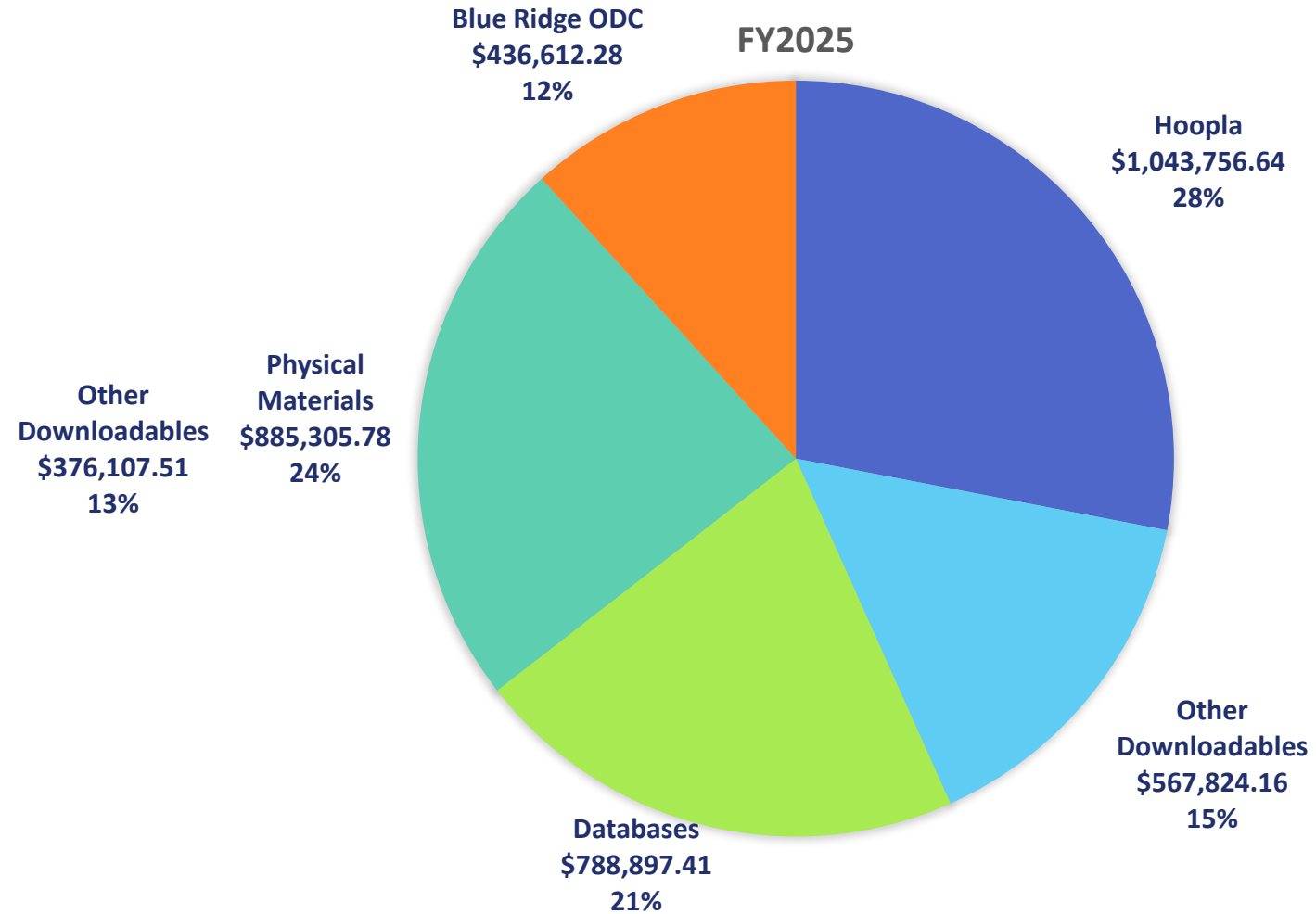


Spending by Format FY2021/FY2025

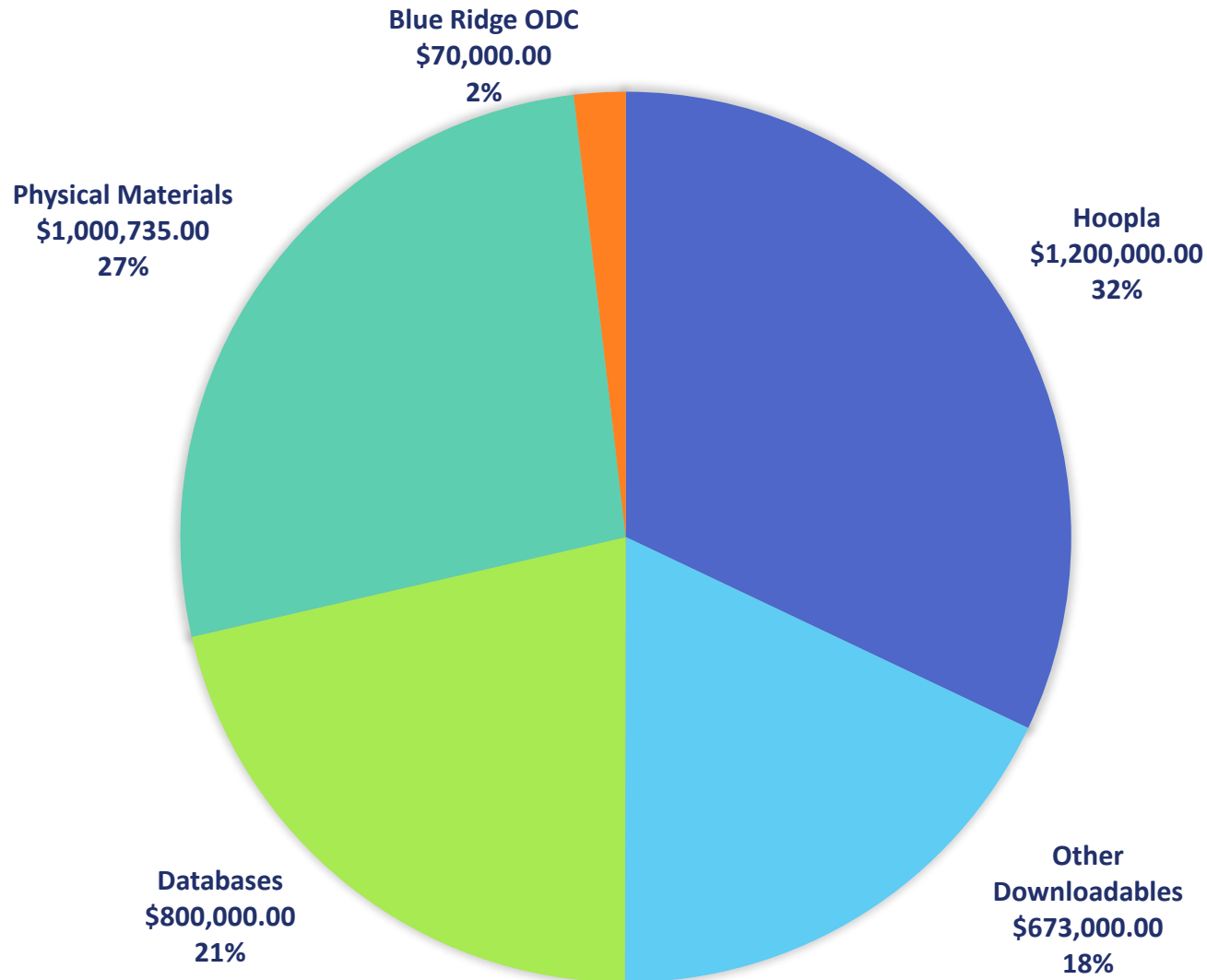
FY2021



FY2025



Spending by Format FY2026 (Projected)



FY2021 Materials Budget

- $\frac{1}{2}$ spent on downloadables and other digital resources
- $\frac{1}{2}$ spent on physical materials

FY2026 Materials Budget

- more than $\frac{2}{3}$ spent on downloadables and other digital resources
- less than $\frac{1}{3}$ spent on physical materials