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## City Council Regular Meeting

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services  
**FROM:** Sara Miller, Deputy Director-Library  
**MEETING:** October 21, 2024

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**SUBJECT:**

Consider approval of a Sole Source agreement with OCLC, Inc. for cloudLibrary and newsstand annual subscriptions and the purchase of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and other digital media from the cloudLibrary collection in the amount of \$56,448.60. (*Staff Contact: Sara Miller, Deputy Director-Library*)

**SUMMARY:**

OCLC is a sole source provider for the proprietary cloudLibrary online platform, which is OCLC's software for providing digital content to public library users. The Burleson Public Library launched its cloudLibrary digital collection in 2016 and currently offers 4,267 individual titles for library patrons to check out. It is one of three different options that the Library currently uses to check out digital content, the other two being Overdrive and Hoopla.

The three vendors offer different advantages. Some of them have exclusive rights to certain publishers, titles or authors. What follows is a brief explanation of each.

Our Overdrive collection is a shared collection with 33 other North Texas Libraries. All of the collection development funds are pooled and all purchases are shared between the patrons of all member libraries. The advantage to our Overdrive collection is the enormous amount of content that the group has accumulated over 17 years which provides a very broad selection for our library patrons. Our Overdrive collection averaged 2,072 checkouts per month in FY2024 and is a great value at \$0.26 per use.

Hoopla is a pay per use platform, so our library customers have access to the entire catalog of content and the library only pays for the items that are checked out. The advantage of Hoopla is they are the library's only provider of eComics, downloadable music and streaming video so it is a very popular option for some of our patrons. The library utilizes a monthly spending cap to stay within our budget and averaged 1,321 checkouts per month in FY2024 with a \$1.58 cost per use.

cloudLibrary is a standalone collection, but the library is part of a consortium of Texas libraries that share content with each other through the CloudLink service. CloudLinking prioritizes our patrons by only sharing digital content that is not currently checked out or on hold for a Burleson patron. cloudLibrary is the only digital platform that can provide that option and it significantly

reduces hold queues for our users. Our cloudLibrary collection averaged 3,401 checkouts per month in FY2024, making it our most popular digital platform and averaging \$1.32 per use.

Burleson Library cardholders checked out a total of 37,411 eBooks and eAudiobooks through cloudLibrary in FY2023, which is a 9% increase from FY2022. Overall digital checkouts have increased 20%.

This Sole Source agreement will permit staff to purchase individual eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines to add to the Burleson Public Library's cloudLibrary collection in FY2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approving the Sole Source agreement with OCLC, Inc. for cloudLibrary and newsstand annual subscriptions and the purchase of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and other digital media from the cloudLibrary collection in the amount of \$56,448.60.

**PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):**

N/A

**REFERENCE:**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The associated cost of the purchases is not to exceed \$56,448.60 for the fiscal year.

Library account number 1016001 61516 for \$8,448.60.

Library account number 1016001 61005 for \$48,000.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Sara Miller  
Deputy Director-Library  
[smiller@burlesontx.com](mailto:smiller@burlesontx.com)  
817-426-9203