GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

Gemma 4 26B A4B

on RTX 3060 12 GB · 4-bit (Q4_K_M) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

Not validated

0 of 2 checks pass

Gemma 4 26B A4B at 4-bit needs 15.9 GB; the RTX 3060 12 GB can use 12.0 GB. The smallest machine we checked that runs it is the RTX 4000 SFF Ada.

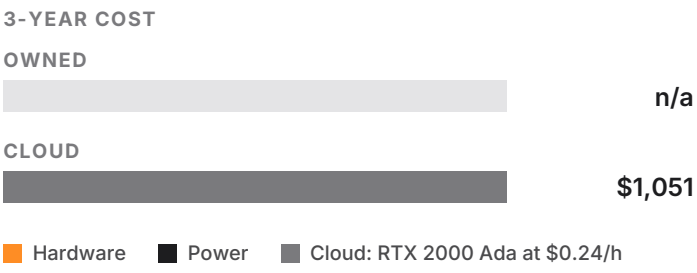
VALIDATION

CHECK	TARGET	RESULT	STATUS
Fits in GPU memory	12.0 GB usable	15.9 GB needed	FAIL
Headroom	5% free	none	FAIL
Context for chat	16K or more	–	NOT TESTED
Writing speed	15 tok/s or more	–	NOT TESTED
First reply	under 3 s, 2K prompt	–	NOT TESTED

Targets: a reply you can read along with, a first reply the use case tolerates, and 5% of memory left free. Calculated from published specs, not benchmarked.

BUDGET

HARDWARE, ONE-TIME	MSRP not entered
POWER, PER YEAR	Doesn't run on this machine
CLOUD INSTEAD, PER YEAR	$350
3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED	n/a
3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD	$1,051
BREAK-EVEN	n/a



Budget basis: 4 h a day, power at $0.18 per kWh, cloud at RunPod on-demand prices as of Nov 22, 2026. Hardware at the MSRP entered in the calculator, not a GPU Partner quote. A 3-year view; resale value, staff time and taxes aren't counted.

GPUpartner

TECHNICAL DETAIL · TEXT GENERATION

Gemma 4 26B A4B

on RTX 3060 12 GB · 4-bit (Q4_K_M) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

SETUP

PARAMETERS	25.8B, 3.8B active
PRECISION	4-bit (Q4_K_M)
CONTEXT	8K, auto
CHATS AT ONCE	1
USE	Chat
RUNS IN	Ollama / LM Studio
HARDWARE	RTX 3060 12 GB
GPU CAN USE	12.0 GB of 12.0 GB

MEMORY

WEIGHTS	14.6 GB
CONTEXT	280 MB
RUNTIME	1.0 GB
SYSTEM	0.0 GB
OVER BY	3.9 GB

SUGGESTED CHANGES

2× RTX 3060 12 GB	Fits across the cards, 256K context
SPILL TO RAM	Runs, slower, 49 tok/s
RTX 4000 SFF ADA	Runs it with 256K context
M5 MAX · 36 GB	Runs it with 256K context

SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

RTX 4090	6-bit · 161 tok/s
RTX 5090	8-bit · 199 tok/s
RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL	8-bit · 199 tok/s
M5 MAX 128 GB	8-bit · 77 tok/s
M3 ULTRA 256 GB	8-bit · 85 tok/s
DGX SPARK 128 GB	8-bit · 44 tok/s
RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB	8-bit · 34 tok/s

HOW TO RUN IT

OLLAMA	`ollama run gemma4:26b`
LLAMA.CPP	`llama-server -hf unsloth/gemma-4-26B-A4B-it-GGUF`
VLLM	`vllm serve google/gemma-4-26B-A4B-it`
MLX (MAC)	`mlx_lm.chat --model mlx-community/gemma-4-26b-a4b-it-4bit`
MODEL CARD	huggingface.co/google/gemma-4-26B-A4B-it

METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS

Memory is the weights (parameters times bits per weight, read from each model's config.json), the context cache for every chat, and the runtime, against the memory this GPU can use after the OS and display take theirs. Writing speed is memory bandwidth over the bytes read per token, plus a per-layer latency, calibrated against llama.cpp benchmarks. First reply is the prompt's FLOPs over the chip's dense 16-bit TFLOPS at the runtime's measured efficiency. Running cost is power at the wall at your rate and hours; the cloud figure is the cheapest RunPod on-demand GPU that runs the same job. Accuracy: memory lands within about a gigabyte; speeds and times are rough, about ±25%. Model data and hardware specs checked Nov 2026; cloud prices are RunPod's on-demand list as of Nov 22, 2026. Report VR-14B1SXJ, generated November 22, 2026.