1. Visualization Choice and Reasoning

I chose a stacked bar chart to show spending in each category (costumes, candy, decorations, cards) over time. It's a straightforward way to see both the total and how each category adds up, which makes it easy to spot trends and compare yearly spending.

2. Key D3.js Features

- Scales: I used d3.scaleBand() for the x-axis (years) and d3.scaleLinear() for the y-axis (spending totals).

- Stack Layout: d3.stack() helped to layer each spending category so that each year's bar stacks visually by category.

- Axes: Added x and y-axes with labels for clarity.

- Color Encoding: A color scale (d3.scaleOrdinal) gives each category a unique color.

3. Challenges and Solutions

A big challenge was aligning the stacked bars correctly, especially making sure each layer stacked properly without overlapping. I overcame this by double-checking the d3.stack() function setup and ensuring each bar's height and position were calculated right.