



SUMMARY

On Monday, November 27, 2017, Senator James Lankford (R-OK) released the third volume of the federal government waste report entitled, "*Federal Fumbles: 100 ways the government dropped the ball.*" The football-themed report lists \$473.6 billion in wasteful and inefficient federal spending. It also contains a "Touchdowns" and "Forward Progress" section that details how Lankford has advanced solutions to the *Fumbles* listed in previous reports.

- Debt Facts-
 - Current Debt: \$20.49 trillion
 - FY 2017 Deficit: \$666 billion
- This report lists \$473.6 billion in wasteful and inefficient spending

Eight Examples of Waste:

1. Social Security for Chimpanzees (page 1) – Despite announcing in 2015 that NIH would cease funding all biomedical research conducted on chimpanzees, NIH provided \$2.6 million in 2015-2016 to operate NCCC.
2. This is Weird, Right? (page 1) – A \$30,000 NEA grant supports the production of *Doggie Hamlet*. The adaptation does not include any actual lines from *Hamlet*, is conducted outdoors in a 30-by-50-foot field in New Hampshire, and is mostly humans yelling or running toward confused sheep and dogs.
3. You're Fired...Just Kidding!! (page 2) – A 2014 Treasury IG investigation discovered from 2010 to 2013, the IRS hired 824 people who were previously terminated due to "prior conduct or performances issues. July 2017, the IG released a new report showed more previously terminated employees were rehired.
4. Senate Waiting Games (page 4) – Many positions within the Administration remain unconfirmed. These delays mean federal agencies and departments lack the day-to-day leadership and management necessary to ensure federal funding is used wisely.
5. Welcome to Hotel Kabul (page 25) – OPIC loaned \$85 million to construct a hotel and apartment in Kabul, Afghanistan.
6. Disaster Recovery for All But Not Really (page 5) – When it comes to receiving federal aid after a natural disaster, houses of worship are not allowed to receive federal disaster assistance.
7. I Want My Nickel Back (page 3) – NSF provided six grants totaling \$2.6 million to study how stickleback adapts to different environments.
8. Dude, Where's My Truck? (page 9) – A DOD IG report recently reported that the department is unable to track down more than \$1 billion in equipment purchased for Iraqi security forces in FY2015-FY2016.

"Touchdowns" from 2015 & 2016 Report:

1. EPA Power Grab: Final "Waters of the United States" Rule (2015, page 57) – In June 2017, the EPA announced plans to repeal the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. This will enable the EPA to work with states and Tribal governments, as it had done for decades, to decide who has regulatory authority over waterways.
2. It's Midnight in America (2016, page 26) – Throughout 2017, Congress worked to repeal many of the burdensome regulations put in place toward the end of the Obama Administration. In total, congressional action

reduced the regulatory burden by \$3.7 billion and saved American businesses and taxpayers more than 4.2 million hours completing paperwork.

3. Freeze on new regulations – A number of burdensome regulations were highlighted in the last two editions of *Federal Fumbles*. This year, the Trump Administration has reduced the regulatory burden on the economy by \$22 million and managed to eliminate 16 old regulations.

4. DOJ's Slush Fund (2016, page 42) – A 2016 *Fumble* pointed out that settlements reached between defendants and the DOJ often went to groups that were “favored activist groups that would not otherwise receive federal money as the DOJ leadership would like.” In 2017, the DOJ announced it would end this litigation slush fund.

5. To Advertise or Not To Advertise? That Is The Question. (2015, page 61) – In the past, the FCC would not allow non-commercial education public channels to raise funds necessary for continuous operations. In 2017, the FCC announced it would relax that rule and allow these stations to dedicate a percentage of their annual airtime to fundraising.

6. Federal Student Lunch Standards: The Anti-Popeye (2015, page 13) – A USDA rule set maximum calorie limits and restrictions on types of food available for students that were considered almost impossible to meet and left students hungry. In 2017, USDA Secretary Purdue announced that many of these requirements would be loosened so that local school districts have the necessary flexibility to ensure their students are given nutritious and filling meals.

Top 10 Fumbles by Cost

1. Listening Helps (page 32) – The IRS has a program to improve tax return auditing procedures but does not fully utilize it. IRS' most recent analysis estimates that \$458 billion a year is lost due to incorrect or fraudulently filed returns.
2. Oh, Snap! (page 41) – A review of 21 months of SNAP transactions and found \$2.6 billion in transactions by retailers who were ineligible to utilize the program because either the information on the retailer's application belonged to a deceased person or minor.
3. Flying Right to the Bank (page 48) – Delays and poor planning have caused the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to be years late and at a cost of \$400 billion, with the most recent delay potentially costing \$1.7 billion.
4. All About That PR (page 50) – Agencies and departments spend \$1 billion a year on PR endeavors and pay an additional \$500 million to employ those who do the PR.
5. Army Albatross (page 17) – Poor pre-planning by the Army has caused many acquisitions contracts to be canceled after funds have been spent and years of work, including \$1.4 billion and four years of work on a ground combat vehicle.
6. At Least Someone Got a Check (page 43) – USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program funds \$1.2 billion in projects a year to preserve natural resources. The IG states that there are a few processes in place to prevent waste or fraud and that the program may duplicate work done elsewhere in government.
7. All Aboard for a One-Billion-Dollar Trolley Ride (page 25) – Last year, DOT gave \$1.04 billion to expand the San Diego trolley line by 10 miles (so just under \$100 million a mile). Money could have paid for 100 to a 250-mile-long four-lane highway.
8. Dude, Where's My Truck? (page 9) – Poor tracking of equipment shipped to Iraq by the DOD has allowed over \$1 billion worth to disappear.
9. Help Me, Help You (page 21) – By not following improper payment requirements, DOD lost almost \$1 billion in FY16.
10. Duplicating Democracy (page 31) – The National Endowment for Democracy, which has received \$1 billion in taxpayer funding since 2010, funds foreign policy endeavors but is not controlled by POTUS or the State Department.