

# OCPA FaxLine Report

a public policy information service for members of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc.

Dear OCPA Member:

Thursday, February 5, 2009

The following list represents “just a small amount of the taxpayer money wasted during 2008” by the federal government. The report by Okla. Senator Tom Coburn (Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Relations) is entitled: “Worst Waste of the Year: A look back through some of the year’s most outrageous federal spending.”

- Search for Outer Space Aliens – California (\$9.4 million)
  - Voicemail for the Homeless – Ohio (\$15,000)
  - Training Classes for Casino Workers – Kansas (\$784,000)
  - Inflatable Alligator and Under-the-Sea Waterslide – Texas (\$367,000)
  - Bridging the Generational Gap with Nintendo Wii – Indiana (\$3,905)
  - Portraits of Cabinet Officers (\$167,290)
  - Senate Restaurants Post Huge Loss (\$2 million)
  - “The check’s in the mail” – IRS Mailings for Rebate Checks (\$42 million)
  - Remounting “World’s Largest Mounted Fish” – New York (\$135,000)
  - Redecorating Train Station – New Jersey (\$1.9 million)
  - Search for Alaskan Ice Worms – New Jersey (\$326,733)
  - Medicare Overpayment for Name-Brand Drugs with Generic Alternatives (\$6.5 million)
  - 3-D Space Theater – Indiana (\$2.4 million)
  - Bike Path Along Baton Rouge Levees – Louisiana (\$1 million)
  - EPA Administrator Junket to Australia (\$280,000)
  - Studying American and Chinese Video Game Habits – California (\$100,000)
  - Low-Income Student Program Used for Employee Bonuses – California (\$3 million)
  - Halloween Signs in Salem – Massachusetts (\$50,000)
  - Captain John Smith Water Trail – Virginia (\$446,500)
  - 2010 Decennial Census Bailout – (\$210 million)
  - The Unwanted Sidewalk – Kentucky (\$1 million)
  - Art Museum in Iraq (\$13 million)
  - Tibbits Opera House Facelift – Michigan (\$500,000)
  - Small Business Loans to Liquor Stores (\$82 million)
  - Statewide Barn Census – Vermont (\$150,000)
  - High Altitude Airship – Ohio (\$3.2 million)
  - Retractable Canopy for Haddad Riverfront Park – West Virginia (\$2.4 million)
  - Lobster Institute – Maine (\$188,000)
  - Wilson Skateboarding Park – California (\$296,601)
  - Fish and Mermaid Mural – Wisconsin (\$6,000)
  - Freewheel Midtown Bike Center Café and Bike Shower – Minnesota (\$560,000)
  - Congressional Junket to Galapagos Islands (\$???)
  - National Park Service 100-Year Birthday Party (\$24.6 million)
- Plus: 32 more such wasteful expenditures**  
**Totaling: \$1,315,476,562!**

With the current “bailout” mania, just imagine what the 2009 report will look like!

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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