



White House Requests \$67.1+ Billion to Cover Iran War Costs

Washington has a familiar ritual for wars it does not want to debate honestly. First, the president acts. Then Congress receives the bill. That is where the Iran war now stands.

The Trump administration is asking Congress for \$87.6 billion in supplemental funding. In administration's [own words](#),

Most of this request will address urgent needs related to Operation Epic Fury (OEF)



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Indeed, the largest piece, \$67.146 billion, is headed to the Department of Defense (DOD), which the Trump administration has renamed the Department of War. That money would cover munitions, readiness, fuel, drones, cybersecurity, autonomy, and classified programs.

Some of the “domestic” expenses are tied to the Iran war, too. Others cover farm aid, Ebola response in Central Africa, D.C. construction projects, Penn Station funding, pension assistance, and other agency requests.

The War Account

On Wednesday, Russell Vought, the director of the Office of Management and Budget and a figure “[of Project 2025 fame](#),” sent the funding request to House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.).

The heart of the request is war spending.

Vought first cast Operation Epic Fury as a “successful operation to deter the threat of a nuclear armed Iranian regime and massively degrade the regime’s ability to project power in the region.”

That, of course, was not executed free of charge:

Accordingly, the Administration’s request addresses operational costs incurred by the Department of War (DOW) during OEF, including funding for military personnel and readiness expenses, operational costs to rebuild stocks expended by DOW, classified programs, and other key expenses.

In all, the administration wants \$67.146 billion for military programs.

The largest named line is \$21 billion for munitions. That is the plainest part of the request. Bombs were used, so stocks must be replenished. The industrial base must be fed.



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Another \$17.3 billion would cover operational costs. That is the cost of making the war happen: Moving forces and running missions.

Then comes \$12.1 billion for “other classified programs.” That is where the public must simply trust the same government that already took the country into war without proper congressional authorization.

The request also includes \$1.7 billion for readiness, \$1.5 billion for fuel, \$2.4 billion for drones, and \$5.1 billion for cybersecurity and autonomy.

Quite a hefty “peace” budget for a president who built much of his political brand on vowing to stop forever wars!

The Nuclear Justification

The war account does not end at the Pentagon.

The administration also wants \$768 million for the Department of Energy (DOE).

Most of it, \$672 million, would go to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA):

This funding is for activities for complete and verifiable termination of Iran’s ability to develop or acquire a nuclear weapon, including the disposition of proliferation sensitive material, technology, equipment, and infrastructure.

Another portion, \$95.5 million, is for classified “Other Defense Activities” in support of OEF and other classified purposes.

That is where the request becomes more than an invoice. It becomes a continuing mission.

What does “complete and verifiable termination” mean in practice? (And how is it different from “[complete and total obliteration](#)” of Iranian nuclear facilities announced just a year ago?) How long does it last? Who verifies it? What happens if Tehran disputes the terms? What happens if Washington says Iran failed?

Those questions matter because wars often expand through language like this.

By the time the public shoulders the ever-rising cost of war, the constitutional question has already been buried under the receipts.

Blowback at Home

The request also pulls the FBI into the war ledger.

OMB asks for \$40 million for the bureau to carry out activities related to Operation Epic Fury and “other classified needs.” It offers no public detail.

That omission is the point.

A war sold as a way to make Americans safer now requires domestic law-enforcement money, classified explanations, and homeland-security warnings.

The [California drone alert](#), issued on March 11, showed the problem. According to news reports, the FBI warned law enforcement that Iran might seek to retaliate with drones launched from a vessel off the West Coast. Local officials later [stressed](#) that the information was unverified and that there was no specific or imminent threat.



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Fair enough.

But even an unverified warning tells a larger story.

The president strikes abroad. The adversary looks for ways to retaliate. Some of that retaliation can be very real.

But it is also worth remembering who is now asking for money.

The FBI is not exactly a neutral bystander in the modern terror business. [Trevor Aaronson](#) and others have documented how the bureau spent years “hatching and financing” terrorist plots, often through informants, money, pressure, and logistical help.

So the question cuts both ways.

Is Iran looking for revenge? Very possibly.

Will Washington also inflate, shape, “discover,” or manufacture threats that justify more power and more money? History says that is not exactly a wild suspicion.

Either way, the public gets the invoice.

The State Department also requires extra protection. OMB is asking for \$300 million for embassy security needs following OEF, including in Bahrain, Dubai, Karachi, Lahore, Riyadh, and other posts, on top of up to \$1 billion already allocated in its 2026 operating plan for the same operation.

The Coast Guard Line

And yet, the war keeps finding new accounts to charge.

The administration says the Coast Guard needs \$2.031 billion because it supported DOD and Operation Epic Fury efforts, and had to “fill in the gaps” when military assets were not available for Western Hemisphere operations. Per the letter,

This includes funding for operations at the Southern Border, replacing legacy communications equipment, and securing strategic military outload ports and other key maritime nodes.

So much for a contained operation abroad.

The Non-war Items

The package is not only about Iran.

It also includes \$11.1 billion for American farmers, \$1.4 billion for the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa, \$500 million for Washington, D.C., construction projects, \$1 billion for Penn Station in New York, and \$1 billion for certain Delphi pension benefits.

There is also money for the Treasury, the General Services Administration (GSA), and other agencies.

Some of these items may deserve support. Some may deserve rejection. All deserve their own debate.

But placing them beside the Iran-war spending serves a purpose. It makes the war money harder to isolate. It lets supporters describe opposition to the package as opposition to farmers, pensions, or infrastructure. That is an old Washington tactic: Put the most controversial thing inside a basket of popular things, then dare Congress to vote no.



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Still, the center of gravity is clear: War.

And the consequences of the Iran war — unprovoked, unauthorized, and deeply unpopular — have already moved far beyond the battlefield.

They reverberate through energy markets, grocery bills, shipping risks, and supply disruptions. Now they inevitably expand into agency budgets, embassy security, homeland alerts, and a debt load that never stops growing.

And this is only the supplemental.

Congress had already poured nearly \$1 trillion into a Pentagon that still cannot pass a clean audit and has been tied to more than [\\$21 trillion](#) in unsupported accounting adjustments. Now the same unaccountable machine is asking for tens of billions more to cover the costs of a war Congress never authorized.



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