APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Nov. 23rd, 2026

Senate Releases All 12 FY27 Spending Bills as December 11 Deadline Nears

Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) released the final five FY27 spending bills on November 16, putting all 12 Senate proposals on the table for lame-duck negotiations. The House Appropriations Committee advanced all 12 of its bills before the August recess, and the full House passed three. House Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) says he is pushing to enact as many full-year bills as possible before year-end, though the four top House and Senate appropriators have yet to schedule a joint meeting.

Senate Republicans have floated bringing the Military Construction-VA bill to the floor in December and potentially attaching the Defense appropriations bill. That could allow Congress to advance some full-year funding while negotiations continue on the remaining bills. With current funding set to expire December 11, lawmakers may still need another stopgap for agencies whose spending bills remain unresolved.

$350 Billion Pentagon Package Stalls as Iran War Funding Enters Shutdown Talks

The Trump administration is blaming Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) for the impasse over its $350 billion Pentagon funding request after Senate Republicans set aside plans to advance the package through budget reconciliation. Thune has left open the possibility of reviving the effort during the lame duck, but Republicans in both chambers have struggled to line up the votes. The Pentagon is still pressing for the full amount by year's end, while House Armed Services Committee Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL) has urged the department to narrow its request to its highest priorities.

With reconciliation stalled, Senate Republicans are exploring whether they can reach a bipartisan deal on additional defense funding. Ahead of the December 11 shutdown deadline, a group of Senate Democrats is drafting language for a government funding bill that would bar spending on offensive military operations against Iran unless Congress authorizes them, while preserving funding for defensive responses to an attack. Some of the drafters are open to pairing those limits with money to replenish defensive munitions. Thune has expressed interest in discussing that approach, and the drafters still need to build support within the broader Senate Democratic caucus.