



# COST OF IRAQ WAR RISES FOR NORTH CAROLINA

February 2006

The Bush Administration has requested an additional \$72.4 billion in supplemental funding primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. An estimated \$60.8 billion of the total is for the Iraq War. This will be the fifth request for war-related funding submitted by the administration and the sixth time Congress will appropriate funding for the Iraq War since it began. Upon approval, **total spending for the Iraq War will reach more than \$315 billion**, including military, reconstruction funding and other Iraq War-related expenditures.<sup>1</sup> Total spending on Iraq in fiscal year 2006 alone will be \$101 billion.

## Taxpayer Cost to North Carolina<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal years 2003 - 2005:	\$5.8 billion
Fiscal year 2006:	\$2.7 billion

**Total: \$8.5 billion**

Numbers may not add to total due to rounding.

The budgetary cost of the Iraq War was underestimated by the administration, human costs have been high, and the war continues unabated after nearly three years of fighting.

- Prior to the war, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget stated that the costs would be between \$50-\$60 billion, and the White House discounted its own economic advisor when he suggested that the war could cost between \$100-\$200 billion.<sup>2</sup>
- Total insurgent attacks in 2005 were 30% higher than in 2004. Car and roadside bombs nearly doubled in number.<sup>3</sup>
- More than 2,275 U.S. soldiers have been killed and nearly 17,000 wounded.

**North Carolina** has lost 51 soldiers and another 419 have been wounded.<sup>4</sup>

- \$340 million is included in this latest supplemental to provide for bonuses and incentive pay to ensure that the Army and Marine Corps can achieve their recruiting and retention goals.

### Cost to Cities<sup>5</sup>

Raleigh	\$348.2 million
Union County	\$169.4 million

To find the cost to your town or county, go to:  
[www.nationalpriorities.org/warcitycost](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/warcitycost)

**Notes:** <sup>1</sup>NPP's estimate of the cost of the Iraq War includes only incremental *budgetary* costs, not interest costs or budgetary costs that may need to be appropriated in the future. The number is based on the analysis of the four bills appropriating funding for the Iraq War and the funding that Congress appropriated in the Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006, plus the administration request released Feb. 17, 2006. It is also based on the research and methodologies in Congressional Research Service report RL33110. State breakdowns are based on the share of taxes paid by each state into the federal funds budget according to IRS data. <sup>2</sup>CRS Report RL31701, 'Iraq: U.S. military operations and costs,' Nov. 20, 2004. <sup>3</sup>Iraq Index, Brookings Institution, Feb. 13, 2006. <sup>4</sup>Iraq Coalition Casualties and Dept. of Defense Directorate of Information Operations and Reports, killed are as of Feb. 20 and wounded as of Feb. 11, 2006. <sup>5</sup>Local costs based on relative population and income levels and state IRS data.

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