

# Ten Twelfths

## A Look at February-November 2011 Ancillary Expenses Associated with the USM Airplane

A number of recent reports here at USMNEWS.net have analyzed some of the ancillary expenses associated with the USM plane that president Martha Saunders decided to lease at the beginning of the economic recession in 2008. The monthly lease payment, which is more than \$16,000, will continue to hit USM's budget into 2019, or seven years from now. Some of the aforementioned reports are linked just below for readers' convenience.

- [February's Friendly Skies](#)
- [The Idles of March](#)
- [Springing Forward?](#)
- [Hey June](#)
- [Dog Days in the Sky](#)

This report summarizes the expenses found for the 10-month period from Feb-2011 through Nov-2011. Those are listed by category in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Airplane Expenses by Category

Month	Food	Lodging	Transportation & Miscellaneous	Total
Feb-2011	\$137.96	\$124.30	\$1,511.01	\$1,773.27
Mar-2011	\$24.53	---	---	\$24.53
Apr-2011	---	---	\$14.20	\$14.20
May-2011	\$140.58	\$543.28	\$161.50	\$845.36
June-2011	\$204.65	\$719.96	\$570.13	\$1,494.74
July-2011 <i>through</i>				
Sept-2011	\$331.92	\$1,458.46	\$1,332.55	\$3,122.93
Oct-2011 <i>through</i>				
Nov-2011	\$209.78	\$1,129.39	\$1,416.76	\$2,755.93
	<b>\$1,049.42</b>	<b>\$3,975.39</b>	<b>\$5,006.15</b>	<b>\$10,030.96</b>

The total found for Feb-2011 through Nov-2011 is an astounding **\$10,030.96**. What is particularly disconcerting to USMNEWS.net sources is that *more than \$5,000* of USM's 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgets were spent (1) feeding Saunders' pilots while on trips with the USM president, and (2) providing those same pilots with a bed to sleep on during those same trips. That sum could provide travel to professional meetings for five or more USM faculty throughout a single academic year.

As has been said many times before, expenses like those shown above would not exist if not for Saunders' decision to lease an airplane instead of relying on commercial air for her business travel needs.