The $10,000 Cloud Waste Checklist

Operator-style checks to spot waste + governance gaps (FinternetOps / MBCC)

1) Hidden compute waste
- Idle VMs / nodes (especially nights/weekends)
- Oversized instances (CPU/RAM far above utilization)
- Test/staging environments left running
- Autoscaling misconfig (scale up works, scale down doesn't)
- Orphaned load balancers / IPs / snapshots

2) Storage & data leakage
- Old snapshots and backups never pruned
- Multi-region replication without a business reason
- Hot storage used for cold data
- Egress costs surprising the finance team

3) AI spend blind spots
- GPU overprovisioning (training + inference)
- Model training retries / checkpoint waste
- API consumption drift (no rate controls / budgets)
- No unit economics: cost per request / per customer unknown

4) Governance gaps
- No tagging/labeling strategy (or low compliance)
- No cost ownership / chargeback/showback
- No budget alerts tied to accountable owners
- Approvals happen in chat, not as records

Next step
- Circle 5–10 items you suspect are real.
- Bring them into a 14–21 day pilot scope.
- Output: a forwardable evidence pack + executive brief.