

AWS Cost Optimization Audit — Findings & Recommendations

- **This is a filled-in sample / template.**
- The numbers below are illustrative of a typical unoptimized Series A SaaS environment.

Client: Shynice, Inc. (*example*)

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Scope: Read-only audit of production + non-production AWS accounts (consolidated billing), trailing 60 days of usage.

Executive summary

- **Current AWS spend: \$18,400 / month** (~\$220,800 / year)
- **Total identified savings: ~\$7,800 / month ($\approx 42\%$)** — ~\$93,600 / year
- **Safe to capture immediately (low-risk): ~\$2,460 / month** — no reliability impact, implementable this week
- **Additional savings requiring rightsizing / commitment sign-off: ~\$5,300 / month**

The environment shows the classic profile of fast growth without cost governance: no Savings Plan coverage, several oversized instances, non-production environments running around the clock, and accumulated orphaned resources. None of the immediate fixes affect reliability.

Current state — top cost drivers

Service	Monthly spend	% of bill
EC2 (compute)	\$8,200	45%
RDS (databases)	\$3,600	20%
Data transfer / NAT	\$2,100	11%

Service	Monthly spend	% of bill
S3 (storage)	\$1,900	10%
EBS (volumes)	\$1,300	7%
CloudWatch	\$700	4%
Other	\$600	3%

Findings & recommendations

Legend: ● Safe to implement now · ● Requires validation before acting · ● Requires written sign-off (commitment or production risk)

#	Finding	Est. monthly savings	Effort	Flag
1	No Savings Plan / RI coverage — 100% on-demand	~\$2,000*	Low	●
2	3 oversized EC2 instances (consistently <10% CPU, memory-checked)	\$1,900	Med	●
3	Dev + staging environments running 24/7	\$1,400	Low	●
4	NAT Gateway processing traffic that could route via VPC endpoints	\$600	Med	●

#	Finding	Est. monthly savings	Effort	Flag
5	Oversized production RDS instance	\$800	Med	
6	12 EBS volumes on gp2 (should be gp3)	\$340	Low	
7	S3 buckets with no lifecycle policies (cold data on Standard)	\$280	Low	
8	Orphaned EBS volumes + old snapshots	\$220	Low	
9	CloudWatch logs set to never expire	\$190	Low	
10	1 idle load balancer (no healthy targets)	\$18	Low	
11	4 unassociated Elastic IPs	\$15	Low	
	Total identified	~\$7,763		

Savings Plan estimate is calculated on the **rightsized baseline (after #2 and #5), not current spend, to avoid committing you to waste. Final number confirmed post-rightsizing.*

Recommended sequence

Capture in this order so nothing gets committed before the baseline is clean.

Phase 1 — This week (safe, ~\$2,460/mo, no reliability impact): Items 6, 8, 11 (mechanical cleanup) + 3, 7, 9, 10 after a quick confirmation of off-hours usage and retention needs.

Phase 2 — Next 2 weeks (rightsizing, ~\$3,300/mo): Items 2 and 4, then item 5 (production RDS) with a rollback plan and your sign-off.

Phase 3 — After rightsizing (commitment, ~\$2,000/mo): Item 1 — a 1-year, no-upfront Compute Savings Plan covering ~70–80% of the now-clean steady-state baseline. Requires written approval of the term and dollar commitment.

Prerequisites & notes

- **CloudWatch agent** is installed on the audited EC2 fleet, so memory metrics were available — rightsizing recommendations (item 2) account for both CPU and RAM.
 - **Trusted Advisor:** account is on Business support, so full idle-resource checks were available.
 - Item 5 (production database) and item 1 (Savings Plan) are flagged  and will **not** be actioned without explicit written sign-off.
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Next steps

1. Approve the Phase 1 quick wins — I can implement this week.
2. Schedule a 30-minute review of the rightsizing and Savings Plan recommendations.
3. Optional: ongoing optimization retainer to keep the environment clean as you scale (environments drift back within months without it).

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