

**2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1025**

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
**House Bill No. 1025**

**Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2023-25 Executive Budget	\$1,992,603	\$1,733,635	\$3,726,238
2023-25 Base Level	1,570,624	1,512,150	3,082,774
Increase (Decrease)	\$421,979	\$221,485	\$643,464

**Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Adds funding for state employee salary and benefit increases of which \$108,249 is for salary increases and \$36,008 is for health insurance increases	\$124,291	\$19,966	\$144,257
2. Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff	\$19,066	\$0	\$19,066
3. Adds funding to convert a temporary position to 1 FTE veterans benefit specialist position	\$99,966	\$0	\$99,966
4. Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program, including adding \$68,000 from the general fund for administration in the veterans' affairs line item and reducing federal funding for grants in the grants - transportation line item. Total federal funding in the grants - transportation program line item is \$1,126,085.	\$68,000	(\$93,915)	(\$25,915)
5. Adds <b>one-time funding</b> for professional service fees for a document scanning project to make paper documents available electronically	\$78,000	\$0	\$78,000
6. Adds <b>one-time funding</b> for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 for two vans from the general fund	\$18,800	\$0	\$18,800
7. Adds <b>one-time funding</b> from federal funds for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500

A summary of the executive budget changes to the agency's base level appropriations is attached as an appendix.

A copy of the draft appropriations bill containing the executive budget recommendations is attached as an appendix.

**Selected Bill Sections Recommended in the Executive Budget**

**Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program** - Section 3 would provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2021-23 biennium.

**Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund** - Section 4 would provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

**Continuing Appropriations**

**Veterans' aid fund** - North Dakota Century Code Section 37-14-03.3 - The purpose of the veterans' aid fund is to make loans or advancements to any veteran and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried.

**Deficiency Appropriations**

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

**Significant Audit Findings**

The operational audit for the Department of Veterans' Affairs conducted by the State Auditor's office for the period ending June 30, 2020, identified the following audit finding:

Federal regulations not followed in grant agreement. Administrative costs totaling \$3,051 were directly charged to the highly rural transportation grant program. As identified in the audit report, indirect costs are not allowed to be charged directly to the grant and these costs should have been charged to the grant by a journal entry. The State Auditor's staff tested 16 grant subrecipient agreements and noted all agreements were missing information required by the federal government.

The State Auditor recommended the department comply with the grant agreement from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 200, which does not allow charging administration costs directly to the grant and using the appropriate indirect cost rate and updating subrecipient agreements to include required information. The department agreed with the recommendations.

### **Major Related Legislation**

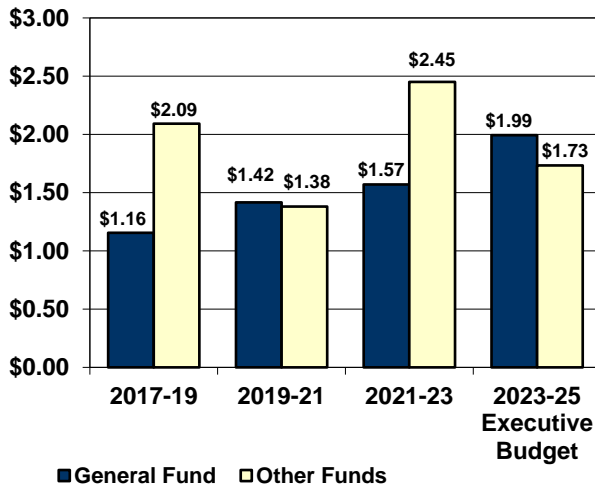
**House Bill No. 1157** - This bill appropriates one-time funding of \$500,000 from the general fund to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**House Bill No. 1182** - This bill creates a military honors funeral fund, provides a \$200,000 general fund appropriation to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be transferred to the military honors funeral fund, and provides the Department of Veterans' Affairs a continuing appropriation from the fund to reimburse veterans' service organizations for providing funeral services at a military honors funeral.

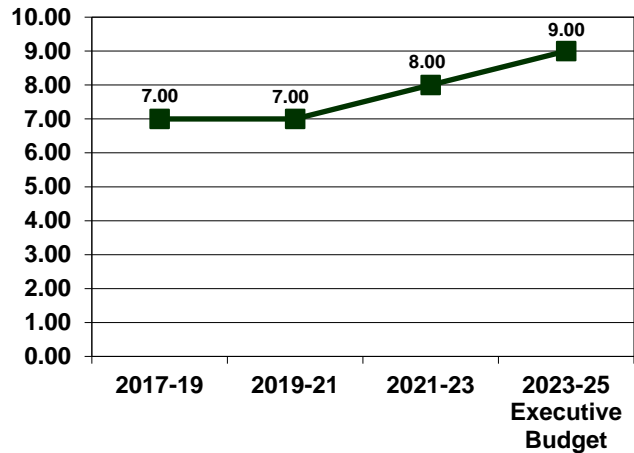
# Historical Appropriations Information

## Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



### Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing general fund appropriations	\$1,429,982	\$1,136,562	\$1,268,930	\$1,570,624	\$1,895,803
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(\$293,420)	\$132,368	\$301,694	\$325,179
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(20.5%)	11.6%	23.8%	20.7%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	(20.5%)	(11.3%)	9.8%	32.6%

### Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

#### 2017-19 Biennium

- Removed 2 undesignated FTE positions (\$260,000)
- Adjusted the funding source from the general fund to federal funds for a portion of salaries and wages of 2 FTE administrative positions in the transportation program (\$100,000)
- Removed funding for stand down events (\$20,000)
- Removed funding for the Agent Orange program (\$50,000)
- Added funding for service dogs \$50,000
- Added funding for the purchase of one nonhighly rural transport van to provide ongoing funding of \$18,600 (The department was also appropriated \$18,600 of one-time funding from the general fund for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van, resulting in total funding of \$37,200 for the purchase of two nonhighly rural transport vans during the 2017-19 biennium.) \$3,600

#### 2019-21 Biennium

- Reduced funding for temporary salaries (\$100,053)
- Added funding for stand down events to provide total funding of \$5,000 \$5,000
- Added funding for county and tribal veteran service officer outreach and training to provide total funding of \$30,000 \$30,000

#### 2021-23 Biennium

- Added funding for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds \$90,910
- Added funding for a temporary half-time training and information officer position \$70,000
- Removed funding for stand down events to provide a total of \$0 (\$5,000)

**2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Adds funding to convert a temporary position to 1 FTE veterans benefit specialist position \$99,966
- 2. Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program from federal funds to the general fund \$68,000

**One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

	<b>2015-17</b>	<b>2017-19</b>	<b>2019-21</b>	<b>2021-23</b>	<b>2023-25 Executive Budget</b>
One-time general fund appropriations	\$76,895	\$18,600	\$147,500	\$0	\$96,800

**Major One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

**2017-19 Biennium**

- Transport van \$18,600

**2019-21 Biennium**

- 1. Grant database enhancements \$7,500
- 2. Temporary loan and grant position \$140,000

**2021-23 Biennium**

- None \$0

**2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Document scanning project \$78,000
- 2. Nonhighly rural transport van \$18,800

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**House Bill No. 1025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

<b>Executive Budget Recommendation</b>				
	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2023-25 Biennium Base Level</b>	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774
<b>2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>				
Adds funding for the cost to continue salary increases		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810
Salary increase		94,285	13,964	108,249
Health insurance increase		30,006	6,002	36,008
Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff		19,066		19,066
Adds funding to convert a temporary position to an FTE veterans benefit specialist position	1.00	99,966		99,966
Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program		68,000	(93,915)	(25,915)
Reduces funding for operating expenses		(6)	(126)	(132)
Adds funding for IT rate increases		3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses			937	937
Total ongoing funding changes	1.00	\$325,179	(\$70,015)	\$255,164
<b>One-time funding items</b>				
Adds funding for a document scanning project		\$78,000		\$78,000
Adds funding for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van		18,800		18,800
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	291,500
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$96,800	\$291,500	\$388,300
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	1.00	\$421,979	\$221,485	\$643,464
<b>2023-25 Total Funding</b>	9.00	\$1,992,603	\$1,733,635	\$3,726,238
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$1,733,635	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	20.7%	(4.6%)	8.3%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	26.9%	14.6%	20.9%

**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program

**Executive Budget Recommendation**

Section 3 would provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2021-23 biennium.

Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund

Section 4 would provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1025**  
**(Governor's Recommendation)**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' Affairs	\$1,501,950	\$403,053	\$1,905,003
Transport Fans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service Dogs	50,000	0	50,000
State Approving Agency	292,024	24,026	316,050
Grants – Transportation Program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Veteran's Home Cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total All Funds	\$3,082,774	\$643,464	\$3,726,238
Less Estimated Income	<u>1,512,150</u>	<u>221,485</u>	<u>1,733,635</u>
Total General Fund	\$1,570,624	\$421,979	\$1,992,603
Full-time Equivalent Positions	8.00	1.00	9.00

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Veterans' home cemetery	\$291,500	\$291,500
Fisher house	500,000	0
Veterans' medical transportation	147,000	0
Transport vans	0	18,800
Veterans' affairs administration	<u>0</u>	<u>97,066</u>
Total All Funds	\$938,500	\$407,366
Less Estimated Income	<u>938,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total General Fund	\$0	\$115,866

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION - POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.** The \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in section 1 of chapter 53 of the 2021 Sessions Laws, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11, and any unspent funds from this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 4. EXEMPTION – FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.** The \$500,000 appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center in section 32 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Sessions Laws, and the \$147,000 appropriated from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for the purpose of improving and expanding veterans' medical transportation in section 33 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Session Laws, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11, and any unspent funds from these programs are available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.



# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
1/12/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs
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**10:40 am Chairman J. Nelson** called the meeting to order.  
Roll call was taken. Representatives Nelson, Stemen, B. Anderson, Kreidt, Mitskog, O'Brien, Schobinger, Striden were present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Economic Impact
- Accomplishments and challenges
- Goals
- Budget recommendations

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner on Veterans Affairs presented an overview (Testimony #12944, #19915).

Joe Hall Adjutant/Treasure on Department of Veterans Affairs spoke in support of HB 1025.

**11:41 am Chairman J. Nelson** adjourned the meeting

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
1/24/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' affairs.

**4:10 PM Chairman J. Nelson**, called the meeting to order.  
Roll call was taken. Chairman J. Nelson, Vice Chairman Stemen, Representative B. Anderson, Kreidt, Mitskog, O'Brien, Schobinger and Strinden were present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Budget detail

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner on Veteran's Affair, spoke in favor of HB 1025 (Continued with testimony # 12944).

**4:38 PM Chairman J. Nelson** closed the meeting.

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
1/27/2023

A BILL for an ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.
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**8:38 AM Chairman J. Nelson**, called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. Chairman J. Nelson, Vice Chairman Stemen, Representative B.Anderson, Kreidt, Mitskog, Schobinger and Strinden were present. Representative O'Brien not present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Veterans' Affair budget detail

**Larry Martin**, Fiscal Analyst, Office of Management and Budget (# 18811).

8:39 AM Chairman J. Nelson closed the meeting.

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
2/7/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' affairs.
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**8:30 AM Chairman J. Nelson** called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. Chairman J. Nelson, Vice Chairman Stemen, Representatives B. Anderson, Kreidt, Mitskog, O'Brien, Schobinger and Strinden were present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Capital needs.
- Budget funding changes
- Committee action

**Chairman Nelson** discussed potential planning of the Women's Prison and State Lab. **Levi Kinnischtzke**, Senior Financial Analyst, Legislative Council, (# 19612).

**Representative Schobinger** moved that the funding for the cost to continue salary be moved over, seconded by **Representative Stemen**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Stemen** moved to bring the salary increases over, seconded by **Representative Anderson**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Anderson** moved to pass the health insurance increases over, seconded by **Representative Strinden**.

Voice Vote: motion carried,

**Representative Anderson** moved to bring over accrued leave of retiring staff, seconded by **Representative Mitskog**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Anderson** moved to convert a temporary position to a veterans' benefit specialist over, seconded by **Representative Stemen**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Kreidt** moved to adjust funding for the highly rural transportation program from \$68,000 to \$50,000 seconded by **Representative O'Brien**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Stemen** moved to bring the reduce funding for operating expenses over, seconded by **Representative O'Brien**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Anderson** moved that IT rate increases be brought over, seconded by **Representative Stemen**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Kreidt** moved to bring the adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses over, seconded by **Representative Schobinger**.

**Representative Anderson** moved to accept the one -time funding request for a document scanning project, seconded by **Representative Strinden**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Stemen** moved to bring over the one-time funding request for a rural transport van over, seconded by **Representative Schobinger**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Anderson** moved to bring the one-time funding for the Veteran's Home cemetery grant program over, seconded by **Representative Stemen**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Anderson** moved Exemption - posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program be carried over, seconded by Representative **Kreidt**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Representative Stemen** moves Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund to assist with the Fisher House and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation be moved over, seconded by **Representative from Kreidt**.

Voice Vote: motion carried.

**Additional Testimony: #19917**

**9:53 AM Chairman J Nelson** closed the meeting.

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
2/9/2023

A BILL for an ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.
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**11:06 AM Chairman J. Nelson** opened the meeting.

Roll call taken:

Chairman Nelson, Vice Chairman Stemen, Representatives B. Anderson, Kreidt, Mitskog, O'Brien, Schobinger, Strinden were present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

**Levi Kinnischtzke**, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, proposed amendment (#20334).

**Representative Anderson** move to adopt the amendment (#20334), seconded by **Representative Strinden**.

Roll Call vote taken:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y

Motion carried, 8-0-0.

**Representative Anderson** moved a do pass as amended, seconded by **Representative Stemen**.

Roll Call vote taken:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y

Motion carried, 8-0-0.

**Representative Anderson** to carry.

**11:22 AM Chairman J Nelson** closed the meeting.

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*



# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
2/13/2023

BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.
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**7:10 PM Chairman Vigesaa-** Meeting was called to order and roll call was taken:

**Members present;** Chairman Vigesaa, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

**Members no Present** Representative Kreidt, Representative Meier, Representative Bellew, Representative Pyle, and Representative Kempenich

**Discussion Topics:**

- Amendment

**Representative B. Anderson- Give statement of purpose and amendment 23.0254.01001 (Testimony #20705)**

**Representative B. Anderson Move to adopt the amendment.**

**Representative J. Stemen** Seconds the motion.

Committee discussion Roll call vote

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	A
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	A
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y

Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

**Motion Carries 18-0-5**

**Representative B. Anderson-** Move for a Do Pass as Amended

**Representative O'Brien Seconds** the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll call vote

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	A
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	A
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

**Motion Carries 18-0-5 Representative B. Anderson will carry the bill.**

**Chairman Vigesaa** Closed the meeting for 7:23 PM

*Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*

2/13-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

Page 1, line 2, after "affairs" insert "; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$549,094	\$3,631,868
Less estimated income	<u>1,512,150</u>	<u>218,113</u>	<u>1,730,263</u>
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "**FUNDING**" insert "**- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**"

Page 1, line 23, after "biennium" insert "and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 2 through 7 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$78,000
Accrued leave	0	19,066
Transport van	0	18,800
Veterans' home cemetery	291,500	291,500
Fisher house construction assistant grant program	500,000	0
Veterans' medical transportation	<u>147,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total all funds	\$938,500	\$407,366
Less estimated income	<u>938,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$0	\$115,866

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION - POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.** The \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Session Laws and the \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 53 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from

this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

29  
2-13-23

**SECTION 4. EXEMPTION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.**

The \$647,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund in subsections 32 and 33 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Session Laws, of which \$500,000 was for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center and \$147,000 was for improving and expanding veterans' medical transportation, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from these programs are available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$3,082,774</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>	<b>\$3,631,868</b>
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$1,570,624</b>	<b>\$330,981</b>	<b>\$1,901,605</b>
FTE	8.00	1.00	9.00

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of House Changes**

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding to Convert a Temporary Position to an FTE Position <sup>3</sup>	Adjusts Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>5</sup>	Removes funding for the PTSD Service Dog Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,607	
State approving agency	1,687	16,594			2,373	
Grants - Transportation program				(93,915)		
Transport vans						
Service dogs						(\$50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$117,887</b>	<b>\$99,966</b>	<b>(\$43,915)</b>	<b>\$5,980</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
Less estimated income	1,687	16,594	0	(93,915)	2,247	0
<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$10,123</b>	<b>\$101,293</b>	<b>\$99,966</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$3,733</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

21  
2-13-23

	Adds One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Accrued Leave of Retiring Staff <sup>8</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding to Purchase a Transport Van <sup>9</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program <sup>10</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$78,000	\$19,066			\$362,055
State approving agency					20,654
Grants - Transportation program					(93,915)
Transport vans			\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs					(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery				\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>	<b>\$19,066</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>
Less estimated income	0	0	0	291,500	218,113
General fund	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$0	\$330,981
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
Health insurance increase	30,696	6,140	36,836
Total	\$101,293	\$16,594	\$117,887

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$99,966 is added from the general fund to convert a temporary position to a 1.00 FTE veterans benefit specialist position.

<sup>4</sup> Funding is adjusted for the highly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$1,126,085 from federal funds.

<sup>5</sup> Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Reduces funding for operating expenses	(\$6)	(\$126)	(\$132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses to provide a total of \$312,678 from federal funds	0	937	937
Total	\$3,733	\$2,247	\$5,980

<sup>6</sup> Funding from the general fund is removed for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program to reduce the ongoing appropriation from \$50,000 to \$0. A section is added to the bill to authorize the department an exemption to continue funding for the program appropriated during the 2019-21 and 2021-23 bienniums into the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>7</sup> One-time funding of \$78,000 is added from the general fund for a document scanning project to scan paper copies of veteran documents into digital copies.

<sup>8</sup> One-time funding of \$19,066 is added from the general fund for accrued leave of retiring staff.

<sup>9</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans during the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>10</sup> One-time funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program, of which \$265,000 is from federal funds and \$26,500 is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

JA  
2-13-23

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1025: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (18 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 5 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1025 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "affairs" insert "; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$549,094	\$3,631,868
Less estimated income	<u>1,512,150</u>	<u>218,113</u>	<u>1,730,263</u>
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "**FUNDING**" insert "**- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**"

Page 1, line 23, after "biennium" insert "and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 2 through 7 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$78,000
Accrued leave	0	19,066
Transport van	0	18,800
Veterans' home cemetery	291,500	291,500
Fisher house construction assistant grant program	500,000	0
Veterans' medical transportation	<u>147,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total all funds	\$938,500	\$407,366
Less estimated income	<u>938,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$0	\$115,866

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION - POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.** The \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Session Laws and the \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 53 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 4. EXEMPTION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.** The \$647,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund in subsections 32 and 33 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Session Laws, of which \$500,000 was for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center and \$147,000 was for improving and

expanding veterans' medical transportation, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from these programs are available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$3,082,774</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>	<b>\$3,631,868</b>
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
FTE	8.00	1.00	9.00

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of House Changes**

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding to Convert a Temporary Position to an FTE Position <sup>3</sup>	Adjusts Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>5</sup>	Removes funding for the PTSD Service Dog Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,607	
State approving agency	1,687	16,594			2,373	
Grants - Transportation program				(93,915)		
Transport vans						
Service dogs						(\$50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$117,887</b>	<b>\$99,966</b>	<b>(\$43,915)</b>	<b>\$5,980</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
Less estimated income	1,687	16,594	0	(93,915)	2,247	0
General fund	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,733	(\$50,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Accrued Leave of Retiring Staff <sup>8</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding to Purchase a Transport Van <sup>9</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program <sup>10</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$78,000	\$19,066			\$362,055
State approving agency					20,654
Grants - Transportation program					(93,915)
Transport vans			\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs					(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery				\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>	<b>\$19,066</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>
Less estimated income	0	0	0	291,500	218,113
General fund	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$0	\$330,981
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:



	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
Health insurance increase	30,696	6,140	36,836
Total	\$101,293	\$16,594	\$117,887

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$99,966 is added from the general fund to convert a temporary position to a 1.00 FTE veterans benefit specialist position.

<sup>4</sup> Funding is adjusted for the highly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$1,126,085 from federal funds.

<sup>5</sup> Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reduces funding for operating expenses	(\$6)	(\$126)	(\$132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses to provide a total of \$312,678 from federal funds	0	937	937
Total	\$3,733	\$2,247	\$5,980

<sup>6</sup> Funding from the general fund is removed for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program to reduce the ongoing appropriation from \$50,000 to \$0. A section is added to the bill to authorize the department an exemption to continue funding for the program appropriated during the 2019-21 and 2021-23 bienniums into the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>7</sup> One-time funding of \$78,000 is added from the general fund for a document scanning project to scan paper copies of veteran documents into digital copies.

<sup>8</sup> One-time funding of \$19,066 is added from the general fund for accrued leave of retiring staff.

<sup>9</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans during the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>10</sup> One-time funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program, of which \$265,000 is from federal funds and \$26,500 is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.
- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

**2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1025**

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
**House Bill No. 1025**

**First Chamber Comparison to Base Level**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2023-25 First Chamber Version	\$1,901,605	\$1,730,263	\$3,631,868
2023-25 Base Level	1,570,624	1,512,150	3,082,774
Increase (Decrease)	\$330,981	\$218,113	\$549,094

**First Chamber Changes**

A summary of the first chamber's changes to the agency's base level appropriations and the executive budget is attached as an appendix.

**Selected Bill Sections Included in the First Chamber Version**

**Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program** - Section 3 provides the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.

**Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund** - Section 4 provides the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

**Continuing Appropriations**

**Veterans' aid fund** - North Dakota Century Code Section 37-14-03.3 - The purpose of the veterans' aid fund is to make loans or advancements to any veteran and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried.

**Deficiency Appropriations**

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

**Significant Audit Findings**

The operational audit for the Department of Veterans' Affairs conducted by the State Auditor's office for the period ending June 30, 2020, identified the following audit finding:

Federal regulations not followed in grant agreement. Administrative costs totaling \$3,051 were directly charged to the highly rural transportation grant program. As identified in the audit report, indirect costs are not allowed to be charged directly to the grant and these costs should have been charged to the grant by a journal entry. The State Auditor's staff tested 16 grant subrecipient agreements and noted all agreements were missing information required by the federal government.

The State Auditor recommended the department comply with the grant agreement from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 200, which does not allow charging administration costs directly to the grant and using the appropriate indirect cost rate and updating subrecipient agreements to include required information. The department agreed with the recommendations.

**Major Related Legislation**

**House Bill No. 1157** - This bill provides a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 from the general fund to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for providing a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center during the 2023-25 biennium. The 2021 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$500,000 from federal funds derived from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for this purpose for the 2021-23 biennium, resulting in a total of \$1 million appropriated for the 2021-23 and 2023-25 bienniums.

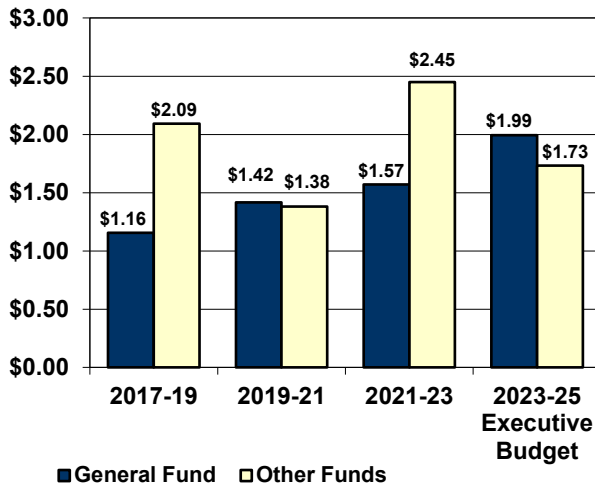
**House Bill No. 1182** - This bill provides a \$135,000 appropriation from the general fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for providing reimbursement to a veterans' service organization that provides a funeral service at a military honors funeral.

**Senate Bill No. 2204** - This bill allows National Guard members or surviving spouses to apply for a loan under the veterans aid loan program.

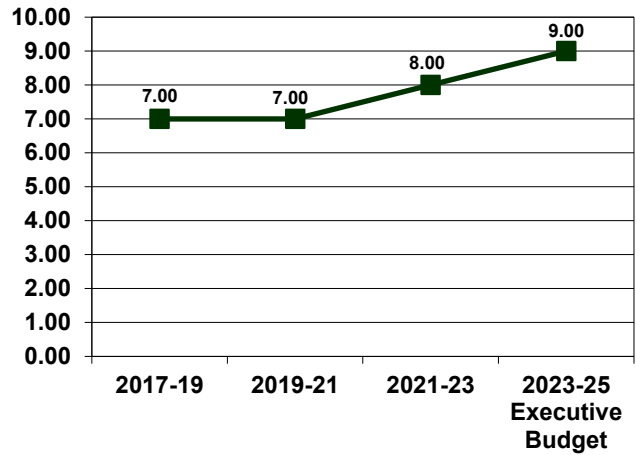
# Historical Appropriations Information

## Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



### Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing general fund appropriations	\$1,429,982	\$1,136,562	\$1,268,930	\$1,570,624	\$1,895,803
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(\$293,420)	\$132,368	\$301,694	\$325,179
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(20.5%)	11.6%	23.8%	20.7%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	(20.5%)	(11.3%)	9.8%	32.6%

### Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

#### 2017-19 Biennium

- Removed 2 undesignated FTE positions (\$260,000)
- Adjusted the funding source from the general fund to federal funds for a portion of salaries and wages of 2 FTE administrative positions in the transportation program (\$100,000)
- Removed funding for stand down events (\$20,000)
- Removed funding for the Agent Orange program (\$50,000)
- Added funding for service dogs \$50,000
- Added funding for the purchase of one nonhighly rural transport van to provide ongoing funding of \$18,600 (The department was also appropriated \$18,600 of one-time funding from the general fund for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van, resulting in total funding of \$37,200 for the purchase of two nonhighly rural transport vans during the 2017-19 biennium.) \$3,600

#### 2019-21 Biennium

- Reduced funding for temporary salaries (\$100,053)
- Added funding for stand down events to provide total funding of \$5,000 \$5,000
- Added funding for county and tribal veteran service officer outreach and training to provide total funding of \$30,000 \$30,000

#### 2021-23 Biennium

- Added funding for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds \$90,910
- Added funding for a temporary half-time training and information officer position \$70,000
- Removed funding for stand down events to provide a total of \$0 (\$5,000)

**2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Adds funding to convert a temporary position to 1 FTE veterans benefit specialist position \$99,966
- 2. Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program from federal funds to the general fund \$68,000

**One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

	<b>2015-17</b>	<b>2017-19</b>	<b>2019-21</b>	<b>2021-23</b>	<b>2023-25 Executive Budget</b>
One-time general fund appropriations	\$76,895	\$18,600	\$147,500	\$0	\$96,800

**Major One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

**2017-19 Biennium**

- Transport van \$18,600

**2019-21 Biennium**

- 1. Grant database enhancements \$7,500
- 2. Temporary loan and grant position \$140,000

**2021-23 Biennium**

- None \$0

**2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Document scanning project \$78,000
- 2. Nonhighly rural transport van \$18,800

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**House Bill No. 1025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

	Executive Budget Recommendation				House Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
<b>2023-25 Biennium Base Level</b>	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774
<b>2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>								
Adds funding for the cost to continue salary increases		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810
Salary increase		94,285	13,964	108,249		70,597	10,454	81,051
Health insurance increase		30,006	6,002	36,008		30,696	6,140	36,836
Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff		19,066		19,066				0
Adds funding to convert a temporary position to an FTE veterans benefit specialist position	1.00	99,966		99,966	1.00	99,966		99,966
Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program		68,000	(93,915)	(25,915)		50,000	(93,915)	(43,915)
Reduces funding for operating expenses		(6)	(126)	(132)		(6)	(126)	(132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases		3,739	1,436	5,175		3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses			937	937			937	937
Removes funding for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program				0		(50,000)		(50,000)
Total ongoing funding changes	1.00	\$325,179	(\$70,015)	\$255,164	1.00	\$215,115	(\$73,387)	\$141,728
<b>One-Time Funding Items</b>								
Adds funding for a document scanning project		\$78,000		\$78,000		\$78,000		\$78,000
Adds one-time funding for accrued leave of retiring staff				0		19,066		19,066
Adds funding for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van		18,800		18,800		18,800		18,800
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	291,500			\$291,500	291,500
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$96,800	\$291,500	\$388,300	0.00	\$115,866	\$291,500	\$407,366
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	1.00	\$421,979	\$221,485	\$643,464	1.00	\$330,981	\$218,113	\$549,094
<b>2023-25 Total Funding</b>	9.00	\$1,992,603	\$1,733,635	\$3,726,238	9.00	\$1,901,605	\$1,730,263	\$3,631,868
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$1,733,635				\$1,703,763	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	20.7%	(4.6%)	8.3%	12.5%	13.7%	(4.9%)	4.6%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	26.9%	14.6%	20.9%	12.5%	21.1%	14.4%	17.8%

**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

	Executive Budget Recommendation	House Version
Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program	Section 3 would provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2021-23 biennium.	Section 3 provides the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.
Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund	Section 4 would provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).	Section 4 provides the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/10/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report.
--

10:12 AM Chairman Dever called the meeting to order. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison, Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion Topics:

- Veterans & Dependents
- Veterans service officers
- Claims & Benefits assistance
- Cemeteries
- Century Code Responsibilities
- Services & programs
- State Approving Agency
- Education benefits
- Employee recruitment & retention
- Fisher House & Veterans court
- Zero Veteran homelessness
- Biennium comparisons
- Funding sources
- Vans & transportation
- Veterans Affairs Administration operations
- Special funding purpose & need
- DD214's
- Commemorative memorial coins
- PTSD dogs
- Post War Trust Fund
- Other impactful legislation
- Budget change requests
- Equity pay
- Additional deputy commissioner
- Suicide prevention
- Federal state fiscal recovery
- ND economic health contribution

10:13 AM Lonnie Wangen, Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, testified In favor. Testimony #23107

11:37 AM Senator Dever adjourned the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/16/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs
---

9:34 AM Chairman Dever opened the meeting. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison, Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion topics:

- Fisher House request
- Second van request
- Other bills with impact
- Equity pay restoration
- Carry-over funds
- Scanning bids

9:37 AM Chairman Dever reviewed the bill and provided information.

9:40 AM Committee discussion on HB 1025

9:58 AM Chairman Dever closed the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*



# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/20/23

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs
---

3:22 PM Chairman Dever called the meeting to order. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison, Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion Topics:

- Salaries
- Wages
- Vans
- Document-scanning program
- Equity package
- Veterans' specialist
- Service dogs

Levi Kinnitschke, fiscal analyst for Legislative Council, reviewed long sheet Budget no.321 for HB 1025. Testimony #25985

3:58 PM Chairman Dever adjourned the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/23/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs.
--

2:43 PM Chairman Dever called the meeting to order. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison. Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion Topics

- Inflation
- Scanning
- Bids
- Military Discharges
- American Rescue Plan Act

2:43 PM Levi Kinnitschke, fiscal analyst for Legislative Council, provided oral testimony.

2:47 PM Chairman Dever closed the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/28/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs

10:31 AM Chairman Dever opened the meeting. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison, Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion Topics:

- Budget changes
- Compensation
- Transportation van
- ARPA funds

10:34 AM Levi Kinnitschke, fiscal analyst for Legislative Council, reviewed the budget changes via amendment for HB 1025.

10:40 AM Senator Mathern moved to adopt amendments.  
Senator Davison seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0

10:43 AM Senator Davison moved DO PASS AS AMENDED.  
Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Senator Dever will carry the Bill.

10:45 AM Chairman Dever adjourned the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
3/31/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of veterans' affairs; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report.

10:46 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the meeting on HB 1025.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Mathern, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, and Rust.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

10:47 AM Senator Dever introduced the bill.

10:51 AM Senator Dever moved to adopt amendment. LC 23.0254.02001 (#27161)

10:51 AM Senator Kreun seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed. 16-0-0

10:52 AM Senator Dever moved DO PASS as amended.

10:52 AM Senator Davison seconded.

Roll call vote.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed. 16-0-0

Senator Dever will carry the bill.

10:52 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the meeting.

*Justin Boone on behalf of Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk*

*NOV  
3/30/23  
1/3*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

Page 1, line 2, after the first semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 2, remove "; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$287,506	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	21,002	313,026
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$456,093	\$3,538,867
Less estimated income	1,512,150	319,297	1,831,447
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$136,796	\$1,707,420
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 2, replace line 4 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$100,836"
----------------------------	-----	------------

Page 2, remove line 6

Page 2, replace lines 10 through 12 with:

"Total all funds	\$938,500	\$411,402
Less estimated income	938,500	392,336
Total general fund	\$0	\$19,066"

Page 2, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 3. ESTIMATED INCOME - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - DOCUMENT SCANNING PROJECT.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$100,836 from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for the purpose of a document scanning project."

Page 2, line 30, after the period insert "Of the \$147,000 for veterans' medical transportation, \$18,800 may be used for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van during the 2023-25 biennium."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$1,864,005	(\$74,549)	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	312,678	348	313,026
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	1,126,085		1,126,085

*NOV  
3/30/23*

Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000			
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500		291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$3,631,868	(\$93,001)	\$3,538,867
Less estimated income	1,512,150	1,730,263	101,184	1,831,447
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$1,901,605	(\$194,185)	\$1,707,420
FTE	8.00	9.00	0.00	9.00

MJ  
3/31/23  
2/3

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of Senate Changes**

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>1</sup>	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool <sup>2</sup>	Adjusts One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>3</sup>	Removes One-Time Funding for a Transport Van <sup>4</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	\$22,836		(\$74,549)
State approving agency	3,372	(3,024)			348
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home cemetery					
Total all funds	\$26,370	(\$123,407)	\$22,836	(\$18,800)	(\$93,001)
Less estimated income	3,372	(3,024)	100,836	0	101,184
General fund	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	(\$78,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$194,185)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$23,688	\$3,510	\$27,198
Health insurance increase	(690)	(138)	(828)
Total	\$22,998	\$3,372	\$26,370

The House provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
New FTE positions	(\$99,966)	\$0	(\$99,966)
Vacant FTE positions	(20,417)	(3,024)	(23,441)
Total	(\$120,383)	(\$3,024)	(\$123,407)

<sup>3</sup> One-time funding for a document scanning project is adjusted by removing \$78,000 from the general fund approved by the House and adding \$100,836 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

<sup>4</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 of ongoing funding from the general fund. The House provided \$37,600 from the general fund, of which \$18,800 was ongoing funding and \$18,800 was one-time funding, for the purchase of two transport vans. The Senate amendments provide the department may use funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to purchase an additional transport van.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to identify \$100,836 in the estimated income line item in Section 1 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for a document scanning project.
- Amends a section that provides an exemption to continue \$147,000 appropriated from the federal State Fiscal

Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to also be used for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van.

MJ  
3/31/23  
3/3



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1025, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1025 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 2, after the first semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 2, remove "; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$287,506	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	21,002	313,026
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This amendment also:

- Adds a section to identify \$100,836 in the estimated income line item in Section 1 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for a document scanning project.
- Amends a section that provides an exemption to continue \$147,000 appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to also be used for the

purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van.

**2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1025**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1025  
04/18/2023  
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the veterans' affairs.
--

**9:08 AM Chairman B. Anderson**, called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman B. Anderson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Strinden, Senator Dever, Senator Burckhard, Senator Mathern.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Scanning Project
- Rural transport van

**Senator Dever** discussed budget changes.

**Levi Kinnischtzke**, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, (# 22729).

**Senator Dever** moved that the House accede to Senate amendments, seconded by **Senator Burckhard**.

Roll Call vote taken: Motion carried, 6-0-0.

**Representative Anderson** to carry for the House and **Senator Burckhard** will carry for the Senate.

9:14 AM Chairman B Anderson closed the meeting.

*Jan Kamphuis, Committee Clerk*

**2023 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES**

HB 1025 as (re) engrossed

**House Appropriation Human Resource Committee**

- Action Taken**     **HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments**  
 **HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments and further amend**  
 **SENATE recede from Senate amendments**  
 **SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows**  
 **Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: Senator Dever                                  Seconded by: Senator Burckhard

<b>Representatives</b>	4/18			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Senators</b>	4/18			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Chairman B. Anderson</i>	X			X		Senator Dever	X			X	
Representative <i>Kreidt</i>	X			X		Senator Burckhard	X			X	
Representative Strinden	X			X		Senator Mathern	X			X	
Total Rep. Vote				3		Total Senate Vote				3	

Vote Count                  Yes: 6                                  No: 0                                  Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

House Carrier    Anderson                                  Senate Carrier    Burckhard

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ of amendment

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

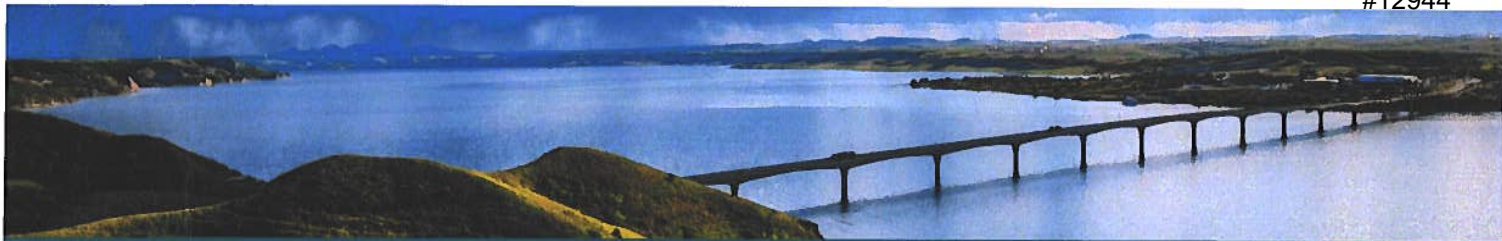
**HB 1025, as engrossed:** Your conference committee (Sens. Dever, Burckhard, Mathern and Reps. B. Anderson, Kreidt, Strinden) recommends that the **HOUSE ACCEDE** to the Senate amendments as printed on HJ pages 1614-1616 and place HB 1025 on the Seventh order.

Engrossed HB 1025 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1025**





# ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## WHO WE ARE

**08**

Full-time Team Members

**01**

Temporary Team Members

**70**

County & Tribal Svc Officers

## WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

**Mission:** To assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitle, both Federal, State and Local by direct contact or through the assistance of County & Tribal veteran service officers.

**Vision:** Consistent quality service and support to Veterans and dependents throughout ND. Attract and retain veterans to ND with competitive programs, benefits and services.

**Values:** Knowledge, skills and abilities to appropriately serve our Veterans and dependents. Coordination and collaboration with Local, County, State and Federal partners.

**Goals/Objectives:** Trained, dedicated and proficient Veteran Service Officers. Programs, benefits and services in ND which can compete with other states and territories to attract and retain veterans in ND.

## WHO WE SERVE

### Focus 1: Veterans

53,608 Veterans.  
VA Estimated 53,608 Veterans in ND (Source: VA GDX 2020)



### Focus 2: Dependents

69,690 Dependents of Veterans.  
\*Per US Census.gov household of 2.3



### Focus 3: VSO's

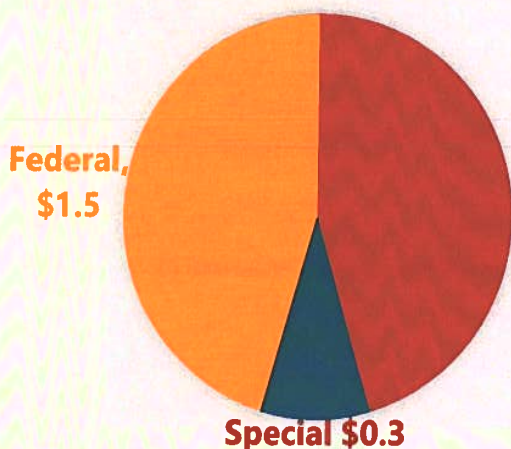
70 Veteran Service Officers (VSO).



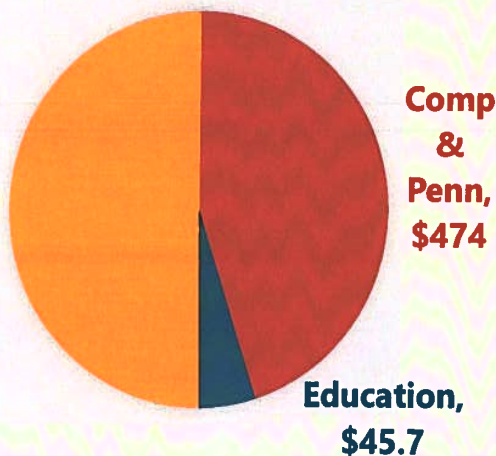
NDDVA 2021-2023 Funding: \$3.3M

2020 & 2021 Economic Impact: \$1,067,191,000

*In Millions*



General Funds, \$1.5  
Medical, \$529



# ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## 2019-2021 Biennium

### Claims to VA:

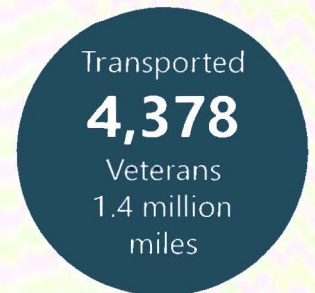
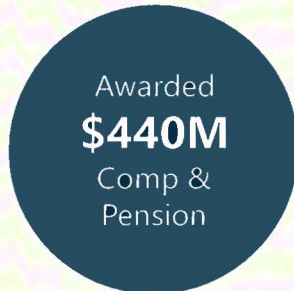
3,315 new claims filed.  
 \* \$35M in new awards  
 \* \$9.3M retroactive payments  
 \* \$440M Comp and Pension  
 628 appeals filed.  
 \*85% remand (Nt'l Ave: 39%)

### Education Benefits:

\$22.8M in GI bill and Voc. Rehab  
 \*\*First time in ND: Credit for military courses to all ND IHL  
 \*\*100% catalog reviews annually  
 \*\* 200+ OJT APP approved

### Transportation since 2018

\*4,378 veterans served  
 \*14,244 trips  
 \*37,803 hours driving  
 \*1.4 Million miles driven  
 Largest HRTG program in US



## WHAT WE DO



### Financial

Assist in application for Compensation, Pension claims. Provide Loans and Grants using Post War Trust Fund & other funds.



### Legal & Legislative

Established virtual Veterans court, now transitioning to physical court docket. Lead in veteran legislative efforts.



### Health & Wellbeing

Assist in application for health benefits at VA. Provide Grants for urgent unmet Health needs with PWF and other funds.



### Education and Employment

Approve ND IHL for GI Bill. Approve OJT and Apprenticeship programs. Application for GI Bill and Vocational Rehab.



### Housing

Leading committee to end Veteran Homelessness in ND. Provide grants and loans for housing. Apply for assistance.



### Training and Support:

NDDVA trains and supports the 70 plus County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers. Initial training and 2x per year.

## HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

### Veteran VA Claims:

Claims for disability compensation, pension and education benefits are based on win/lose. ND is among the highest success rates in USA. VA Compensation and pension paid to ND Veterans has doubled in last 9 years.

### Education:

Continuity, collaboration and communication with stakeholders provides the best services to all IHL in ND. MOA between NDDVA Commissioner and NDUS Chancellor is our guide. Military courses for College credit same at all IHL-first in ND history.

### Health & Wellbeing:

Access to healthcare is measured by success of applications to VA healthcare, NDDVA grants and transportation services. Transportation is # obstacle to healthcare for VA. ND has largest HRTG program in nation.

### New programs:

Programs developed in ND being adopted by other states and Federal VA. ND adoption of programs in other states. \*ND first on new Rural Cemetery program \*ND leading way in PTSD dogs, transportation, HBOT, appeal process.

**HB1025 ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget  
Commissioner Lonnie Wangen  
House Hearing January 12, 2023**

Per the request of House Appropriations Chair Representative Don Vigesaa please find the below 16 items with responses.

**1. Cite the North Dakota Century Code chapter(s) associated with the agency and list its major statutory responsibilities.**

37-01-25.1: Reinstatement to former position – Appeals – Penalty (Employment rights)

37-01-34: Recordation of discharge papers

37-01-36: Certified copy of record furnished veteran without charge

37-01-42: Honorary High School Diplomas-WWII, Korea and Vietnam

37-14: Veterans Relief and Rehabilitation

- Veterans Loan
- Post War Trust Fund
  - Grant Program & other needs
- County Veteran Service Officer Appointment-Duties

37-18: Department of Veterans Affairs

- Establish Department of Veterans Affairs
- Commissioner appointment, duties and department divisions
  - Coordinate, supervise, implement programs and benefits
  - **Advise, Assist, Process and represent claims for Federal benefits**
  - CVSO: qualifications, standards, training, educate and assist.
  - Disseminate information and do all things necessary and proper to carryout intent of NDCC37-18
- Release of records and information
- Funding authority
- Commemorative Memorial Coin

37-18.1: Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs

37-19.1: Veterans Preference

39-03-04: Qualifications of patrolmen-Veterans have preference

39-04 subsections 10.10, 10.14, 10.5, 10.8 and 18: Motor vehicle plates and exempt from registration fees

39-06-14 (6): Veterans indicator on driver's license

40-33.1-05: Veterans preference Municipal steam heating authorities

43-07-20: Employment preference in contract

57-02-08: Property Tax Exemption and Homestead credit

**2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs - Attach organizational chart.**

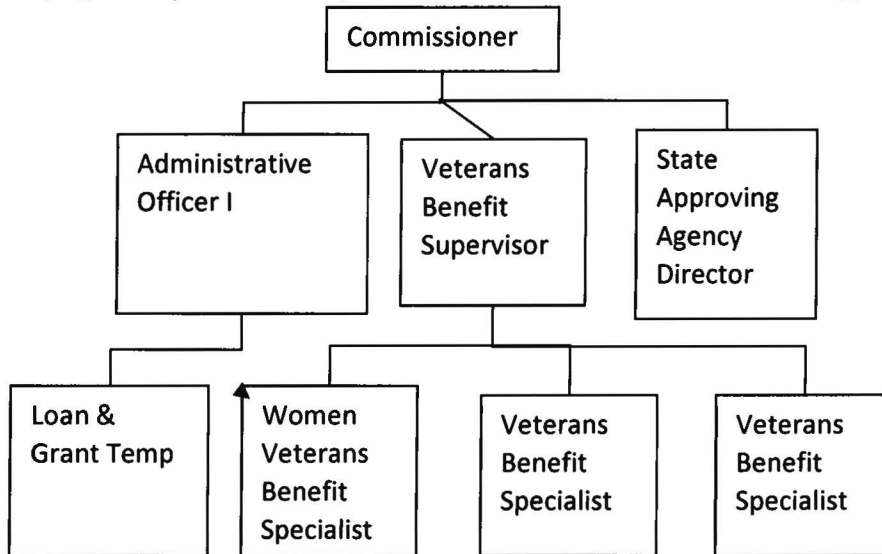
The mission of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

- Coordinate, supervise, implement programs and benefits

- NDDVA Aid Loan program
- NDDVA Grant programs
- Highly Rural and State Rural Transportation programs
- Commemorative Memorial Coin Program (funeral honor coins)
- Advise, Assist, Process and Represent claims for Federal benefits
- County Veteran Service Officer (72 VSO's 50 offices): qualifications, standards, training, educate and assist.
- Disseminate information and do all things necessary and proper to carryout intent of NDCC37-18

**The State Approving Agency (SAA)**, together with the Federal government, manages veterans' education benefits. The SAA's role is to approve and supervise the programs of education and training for eligible veterans, dependents, National Guard members, and reservists. The SAA must specifically approve each plan of education or training in which a veteran or eligible person wishes to use GI. Bill® benefits. Other responsibilities include:

- Reviewing, Evaluating and Approving programs based on state and federal criteria
- Conducting on-site inspection visits to approved facilities and facilities requesting program approval
- Providing technical assistance
- Engaging in outreach activities that foster the use of the GI Bill
- Helping military installations provide base personnel with educational opportunities



**3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.**

- Audit conducted March of 2021
  - 1 formal recommendation on Federal Transportation Grant
    - \$3,051 coding of federal grant admin expenses error found
      - Admin fees coded as direct expense to grant as directed
      - Action taken by NDDVA to address recommendation:
        - NONE: Error was caught by NDDVA and corrected the month after error was made. This was 2 years prior to audit.
    - Subrecipient agreements missing required information

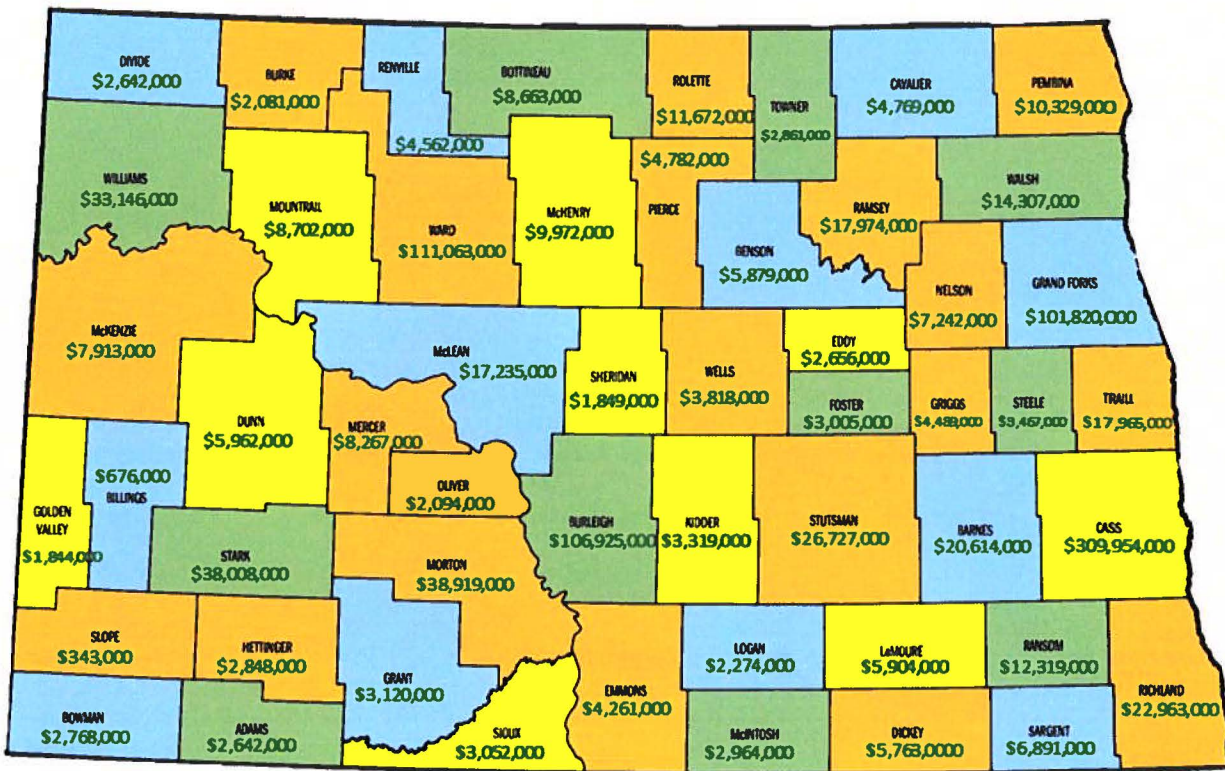
- NDDVA had required information referenced in subrecipient grant agreements and included in grant agreement as an attachment.
- Action taken by NDDVA to address recommendation:
  - NDDVA copied the required information from attachment section and pasted directly into the body of the agreement. This was done prior to audit conclusion

#### 4. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans.

##### Accomplishments

- Education
  - Approval of new Institute of Higher learning at Minot State University
    - Columbia College
  - Continuing to facilitate the MAAC council
  - 100% review of all IHL and NCD catalogs-reviewed annually
  - Approval of Extension locations at the following schools (extension locations are teaching sites that the school operates that are administratively dependent upon the main campus)
    - Bismarck State College – 3
    - Dickinson State – 2
    - Lake Region State – 7
    - NDSCS – 4
    - NDSU – 5
    - University of Jamestown – 2
    - University of Mary – 4
    - University of North Dakota – 3
    - Williston State – 3
  - Continued approval of 105 apprenticeship and OJT facilities within the state of North Dakota
    - Up 8 facilities from previous biennium
    - Over 200 independent APP/OJT programs
  - **\$45,700,000** in Federal Education benefits in ND (2020 & 2021)
- Grants and Loans processed
  - Grants 103 biennium to date
  - Loans 28 biennium to date
- Health and Wellbeing
  - Governors Challenge
  - NDHOPES \$5 Million Grant
- Housing
  - Homeless Veterans Committee. Coordinate services, on database, by name list. Functional Zero!
  - Fisher House **\$9 Million** project approved
- Legal Services
  - Veterans Court Established 2022. Opening ceremony planned for spring of 2023
- CVSO/TVSO support and training
  - New VSO trained 2021-2022: 25 (compared to 2019-2020: 18)
- Benefits -VA
  - Total Claims estimate for **2021-2022 2639** (compared to 2019-2020 **3710**)
  - Total appeals in **2021-2022 755** (compared to 2019-2020 545)
  - Retroactive payments **2021-2022: \$ 17,700,778.53**
    - Compared to 2019-2020 of \$ 9,596,649.16
  - **\$1,067,191,000** in VA funds to ND (2020-2021)

- \$529,000,000 medical
- \$474,000,000 Compensation and Pension
- \$45,700,000 Education



**Total Federal Benefits & Expenditures in ND 2020 and 2021**  
**\$1,067,191,000.00**

**NDDVA Base Budget 2021-2023: \$1,501,824. Return on State Investment: 710%**

**Just the Comp & Pension of \$474,000,000 in ND @ 5% sales tax = \$23,700,000**  
**(\$15.80 return for every NDDVA dollar)**

**Challenges**

- Staffing
  - 30% cut in staffing levels in 2017 300% Increase in workload
  - 2019-21 NDDVA had more volunteer staff than Paid employees
    - COVID-19 proved volunteer staffing unsustainable for critical needs
  - Staff compensation:
    - Average of 34% lower pay than CVSO and VA equivalent

**Next Biennium goals and plans**

- Fisher House construction started
- ND Veteran Homelessness at functional zero
- Veterans Court opened
- Veterans benefits staffing with sustainable workload and goal of growing the **\$1 Billion in VA expenditures!**
- Federal grants considered

**5. Compare the agency's request/recommendation totals, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, for the next biennium compared to the current biennium.**

Optional Requests	2021-2023	2023-2025		
	Current Budget	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:	\$ -	\$ 780,842.00	\$ 308,376.00	\$ 472,466.00
1. Equity Funding	\$ -	\$ 289,710.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 204,710.00
2. FTE Public Information Officer	\$ -	\$ 199,756.00	\$ -	\$ 199,756.00
3. FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ 175,510.00	\$ 107,510.00	\$ 68,000.00
4. Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ -	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -
5. Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave		\$ 19,066.00	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -
6. Scanning Project		\$ 78,000.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ -
Total FTE	8	10	9	1

**6. Explain the funding included in each program/line item either in total or by division depending on the size of the agency:**

- a. Amounts included in the base budget and their purpose and use; and
- b. Amounts included in the request/recommendation and justification for the change from the base budget. Discuss changes relating to:
  - (1) Salaries and wages;
  - (2) Operating expenses;
  - (3) Capital assets;
  - (4) Grants;
  - (5) Any special line items;
  - (6) Estimated income - Special funds;
  - (7) Estimated income - Federal funds;
  - (8) General fund; and
  - (9) FTE.

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs Agency No: 32100

		2	3	4	5	6
		2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Base	2023-25	2023-25 Total
		Biennium	Biennium	Budget	Optional	Budget
		Expenditures	Appropriations	Request	Budget	Request
					Changes	
<b>Veterans Affairs Administration - 321-100</b>						
<b>32152 - Transport Vans</b>						
691000	Equipment Over \$5000	-	-	18,800	18,800	37,600
692000	Motor Vehicles	13,845	18,800	-	-	-
<b>Total: Transport Vans</b>		<b>13,845</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>37,600</b>
<b>32162 - Grants-Transportation Program</b>						
511000	Salaries - Permanent	30,132	-	-	-	-
513000	Temporary Salaries	-	68,000	68,000	-	68,000
536000	Office Supplies	339	-	-	-	-
601000	IT - Data Processing	6,998	-	-	-	-
602000	IT - Communications	672	-	-	-	-
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	882,423	1,152,000	1,058,085	-	1,058,085
<b>Total: Grants-Transportation Program</b>		<b>920,564</b>	<b>1,220,000</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>
<b>32170 - Vets Affairs Administration</b>						
511000	Salaries - Permanent	668,964	780,207	860,386	236,040	1,096,426
512000	Salaries - Other	-	-	-	376,776	376,776
513000	Temporary Salaries	37,680	70,000	2,000	-	2,000
516000	Fringe Benefits	341,515	385,671	373,852	117,040	490,892
521000	Travel	26,482	80,145	80,145	-	80,145
531000	Supplies - IT Software	20,851	13,344	13,744	-	13,744
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	783	781	781	-	781
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	3,689	3,442	3,942	-	3,942
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	6,445	574	574	-	574
536000	Office Supplies	5,796	2,046	3,377	-	3,377
541000	Postage	4,437	750	750	-	750
542000	Printing	1,063	500	500	-	500
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	2,298	-	1,000	-	1,000
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	4,122	-	400	-	400
561000	Utilities	5,757	6,264	6,264	-	6,264
571000	Insurance	3,712	4,800	5,800	-	5,800
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	12,065	14,528	14,528	-	14,528
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	63,425	64,710	68,210	-	68,210
591000	Repairs	2,025	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
601000	IT - Data Processing	32,560	41,621	46,860	9,888	56,748
602000	IT - Communications	6,518	4,545	4,545	1,200	5,745
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	18,338	-	-	-	-



State of North Dakota

220 - Budget Request Summary - Agency

Run Date: 1/6/23

2023-25

Detail by Org Level, Financial Class and Account

Run Time: 4:09:09 PM

**Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Agency No: 32100**

		2 2019-21 Biennium Expenditures	3 2021-23 Biennium Appropriations	4 2023-25 Base Budget Request	5 2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	6 2023-25 Total Budget Request
611000	Professional Development	6,633	20,200	20,200	-	20,200
621000	Operating Fees and Services	886	500	500	-	500
623000	Professional Fees and Services	384	4,822	4,822	60,000	64,822
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	214	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Vets Affairs Administration</b>		<b>1,276,643</b>	<b>1,501,950</b>	<b>1,515,680</b>	<b>800,944</b>	<b>2,316,624</b>

**32172 - Service Dogs**

712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	37,500	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total: Service Dogs</b>		<b>37,500</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>

**32174 - State Approving Agency**

511000	Salaries - Permanent	136,370	140,006	143,410	-	143,410
516000	Fringe Benefits	67,581	69,844	69,064	-	69,064
521000	Travel	5,434	18,258	18,258	-	18,258
531000	Supplies - IT Software	96	2,136	2,136	-	2,136
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	-	1,489	1,489	-	1,489
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	6	1,274	1,274	-	1,274
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	-	523	523	-	523
536000	Office Supplies	-	2,825	2,825	-	2,825
541000	Postage	-	1,187	1,187	-	1,187
542000	Printing	60	1,973	1,973	-	1,973
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	-	6,279	6,279	-	6,279
552000	Other Equipment under \$5,000	-	264	264	-	264
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	-	1,279	1,279	-	1,279
561000	Utilities	1,592	1,735	1,735	-	1,735
571000	Insurance	42	1,636	1,636	-	1,636
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	-	4,810	4,810	-	4,810
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	14,534	14,748	14,748	-	14,748
591000	Repairs	-	1,030	1,030	-	1,030
601000	IT - Data Processing	7,041	8,214	9,650	-	9,650
602000	IT - Communications	974	2,873	2,873	-	2,873
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	-	685	685	-	685
611000	Professional Development	2,535	5,021	5,021	-	5,021
621000	Operating Fees and Services	-	315	315	-	315
623000	Professional Fees and Services	-	3,620	3,620	-	3,620
<b>Total: State Approving Agency</b>		<b>236,266</b>	<b>292,024</b>	<b>296,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>296,084</b>

**32175 - Veterans Home Cemetery**

712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	-	291,500	-	291,500	291,500
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	2 2019-21 Biennium Expenditures	3 2021-23 Biennium Appropriations	4 2023-25 Base Budget Request	5 2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	6 2023-25 Total Budget Request
<b>General - GEN</b>					
001 GENERAL FUND	1,282,487	1,570,624	1,584,480	819,744	2,404,224
<b>Total: General</b>	<b>1,282,487</b>	<b>1,570,624</b>	<b>1,584,480</b>	<b>819,744</b>	<b>2,404,224</b>
<b>Federal - FED</b>					
H1345 Rural Transportation Grant	963,205	1,220,126	1,126,085	-	1,126,085
H1355 State Approving Agency	236,266	292,024	296,084	-	296,084
H1361 VETERANS CEMETERY GRANTS	-	291,500	-	291,500	291,500
H1370 CRF Federal CARES Money	2,860	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Federal</b>	<b>1,202,331</b>	<b>1,803,650</b>	<b>1,422,169</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>1,713,669</b>
<b>Total: Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>2,484,819</b>	<b>3,374,274</b>	<b>3,006,649</b>	<b>1,111,244</b>	<b>4,117,893</b>

**7. Discuss the purpose and use of any one-time funding items for the current biennium.**

General Fund	Current Biennium 2021-2023		
	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No One-Time funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Temporary loan and grant position	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgard)	Current Biennium 2021-2023		
	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ 291,500.00	\$ -	\$ 291,500.00
Veterans' Home Cemetery repairs	\$ 291,500.00	\$ -	\$ 291,500.00

\*This is an authorization to accept and expend funds if Federal grant is awarded (VA priority group 4)

**8. Identify and justify the need for any one-time funding being requested/recommended.**

Optional One-Time Requests	2023-2025		
	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:	\$ 115,866.00	\$ 115,866.00	\$ -
Additional DAV Van funding	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -
Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$ 19,066.00	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -
Scanning Project	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ -
			\$ -

Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgard)	2023-2025		
	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:	\$ 291,500.00	\$ 291,500.00	\$ -
Veterans' Home Cemetery repairs	\$ 291,500.00	\$ 291,500.00	\$ -

\*This is an authorization to accept and expend funds if Federal grant is awarded

\*VA Priority Group 4

**DAV Vans**

**\$18,800**

NDDVA is requesting additional DAV van funding of \$18,800 be added to \$18,800 (amount in the 2021-2023 budget) for a total of \$37,600 in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Current DAV Van inventory in ND is 9 vans serving the urban areas of:

- Bismarck (2 vans): Bismarck/Mandan, Jamestown, Valley City (communities between Bismarck and Fargo)
- Beach (1 van), Beach, Medora, Dickinson (communities between Beach and Fargo and Beach and SD Ft. Meade)
- Lidgerwood (1 van): Communities from Lidgerwood, Wahpeton and to Fargo
- Minot (1 van): Minot and communities along highway 2 and I29 to Fargo
- McHenry County (1 van): Communities along highway 75 to Jamestown and to Fargo
- Pembina Count (1 van): Communities along I29 to Fargo; Grand Forks, Hillsboro

NDDVA's budget for vans:

- 2017-2019 included \$37,200 for the purchase of up to 2 transportation vans, no vans were purchased.
- 2019-2021 budget included: \$18,800, one (1) van was purchased at a cost to NDDVA of \$13,845.
- 2021-2023 budget includes \$18,800 for vans. 1 expected to be purchased 2023.
- It is estimated that two (2) vans will need replacement during the 2023-2025 biennium.

This funding along with funding from the DAV's Columbia Trust is used to purchase vans to transport veterans from across ND to the VAMC in Fargo. In working with the Columbia Trust NDDVA's has been able to purchase vans for \$14,000-\$21,000. When we submit applications to the Columbia-Trust we also

request that the trust consider North Dakota for a free van, the trust provides a few free vans nationwide each year. North Dakota received a free van in 2014 and again in 2018.

Once purchased the DAV Vans are donated to the Federal VA in Fargo. The Federal VA maintains all expenses for van to include fuel, maintenance, and licensing. Once van reaches its useful life it is returned to NDDVA for disposal. Useful life has been at 150,000 miles.

**Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave: **\$19,066****

1 staff member expected to retire after over 43 years of service.

**Scanning Project **\$78,000+****

Preliminary estimate to scan 985,000 documents and index 50,000 files from 1 location was received in June 2022 at the estimated cost of \$78,000.

Current estimate is 1.2 million documents in 40 counties. Pick up and scan documents and return or destroy as per county instructions

- Discharges
  - name and upload 97,000 Discharges into Data base
  - and save as PDF on 2 hard drives for County and State Historical
- Claim Files
  - Scan 1.1 million documents
    - Name and upload estimated 50,000 files to data base
    - Save as PDF for 40 counties

**9. Discuss agency collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2021 legislative session estimates during the 2021-23 biennium and estimated changes for the 2023-25 biennium.**

NDDVA does not collect fees for any services.

NDDVA provides **Commemorative Memorial Coins** (NDCC37-18-12) to families of at Veteran’s funerals. These coins are also offered for sale with the proceeds used to purchase more coins. Donations are also requested and accepted for this program. These funds are deposited in the NDDVA fund 410 along with spendable income from the PWTF.

Commemorative Memorial Coins	2021 & 22	2023 & 24
Coin Sales (\$7.23 NET of coins sold @ \$10)	\$ 11,336.64	\$ 12,000.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Estimated 3,200 Coins conferred @\$2.49 each	\$ 7,248.00	\$ 7,968.00
Net +/-	\$ 5,088.64	\$ 5,032.00

\*\*2021 & 2022 coins sales: 1,568

**10. Discuss the need for any other sections that are included or are requested/recommended to be included in the agency appropriation bill.**

- Carry over funding.
  - PTSD Dogs

**11. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on the agency.**

- **Discharge Scanning Project**
- **HB 1157 Fisher House \$500,000**
  - Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran's families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.
    - These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world.
    - Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.
    - Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$451 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.
  - Total estimate of project: \$9 million
- One time construction cost. Then Federal VA takes ownership.

**12. Provide a one-page itemized listing of the changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the executive recommendation.**

Optional Requests	2023-2025			House Request	
	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference	Request House to add:	Diff. of Request
Total:	\$ 780,842.00	\$308,376.00	\$472,466.00	\$472,466.00	\$ -
1. Equity Funding	\$289,710.00	\$85,000.00	\$204,710.00	\$204,710.00	\$ -
2. FTE Public Information Officer	\$199,756.00	\$ -	\$199,756.00	\$199,756.00	\$ -
3. FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$175,510.00	\$107,510.00	\$68,000.00	\$68,000.00	\$ -
4. Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$18,800.00	\$18,800.00	\$ -		\$ -
5. Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$19,066.00	\$19,066.00	\$ -		\$ -
6. Scanning Project	\$78,000.00	\$78,000.00	\$ -		\$ -
					\$ -
Total FTE	10	9	1	1	0

**Equity Funding****\$204,710**

During the previous biennium ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) experienced 30% staff turnover. All staff turn-over was attributed to their salary/compensation amounts.

- Civilian, County and Federal employers are paying higher compensation packages.
- Four of our top candidates refused employment due to the compensation package NDDVA could offer.
- It is unacceptable that NDDVA cannot afford to recruit the qualified staff needed to serve North Dakota's Veterans. We need to provide funding to move these employees closer to a compensation package which is more reflective of the work that they are doing and competitive with the civilian, County and Federal employment markets
- In comparison to the top 3 competitors for NDDVA Veterans Benefit Specialist (VBS) positions NDDVA salary is on average 34% below. See below;
  - **MNDVA (23%)**: Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs poached one of NDDVA VBS at a starting annual salary of \$12,000 more than current salary of NDDVA VBS. That is a 23% higher wage. *Source: MN DVA*
  - **VARO (36%)**: Federal VA Regional Office Veterans Claims examiners grade 11 and 12 step 4 is 36% higher than NDDVA. *Source: VA online pay schedule*
  - **CVSO ND (44%)**: County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) of the top 8 largest counties in ND are paid on average 44% more than the NDDVA VBS who train and support them. *Source 2022 Mill report.*
- NDDVA VBS are also below ND Salary Market Mid-Point (MMP)
  - **ND Salary MMP (17%)**: NDDVA VBS Grade 105 are on average 17% below MMP of the ND Salary Ranges for 2022-2023
- Total General Fund Salary Base for NDDVA 2021-2023 Biennium: \$852,087
  - **34% of Base** = \$289,709.58
- \*\* Federal VA expenditures brought into North Dakota exceeds **\$1 Billion** each biennium. NDDVA is at the center of making that happen and increasing those dollar amounts.
  - 2021-2023 North Dakota General Fund dollars appropriated to NDDVA= \$1.5 million.
    - Return on Investment: **710%**

**Program Coordinator/Training/Information Officer  
Public Info Spec I****Total Cost: \$199,756**

NDDVA is requesting full time Program Coordinator/Information Officer position

Program and information sharing is important to providing the best service to our veterans and their eligible dependents. Coordinating state, federal and other benefits, services and programs available in ND as well as communicating this information in the most effective and efficient medium.

This position is important to coordinating with all stakeholders to maximize our collaborative efforts and ensure communications on social media, press releases, website, newsletters and emails are shared efficiently.

This now falls to our current Veteran Benefit Specialists and other staff, which has been unsuccessful in reaching the needs of NDDVA and its stakeholders.

Not a new position. Return to FTE.

**13. Provide a comparison of your agency’s major requests to those recommended in the executive budget.**

Optional Requests	2023-2025		
	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:	\$ 780,842.00	\$308,376.00	\$472,466.00
1. Equity Funding	\$289,710.00	\$85,000.00	\$204,710.00
2. FTE Public Information Officer	\$199,756.00	\$ -	\$199,756.00
3. FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$175,510.00	\$107,510.00	\$68,000.00
4. Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$18,800.00	\$18,800.00	\$ -
5. Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$19,066.00	\$19,066.00	\$ -
6. Scanning Project	\$78,000.00	\$78,000.00	\$ -
Total FTE	10	9	1

**14. Identify the purpose and amount of federal state fiscal recovery funding appropriated to your agency during the November 2021 special legislative session, amount of fund spent to date, the timeline for obligating and spending the remaining funds, and any amounts that will not be obligated by December 2024.**

Optional Requests	2021 ARPA		
	NDDVA approved	Spent to date	Difference
Total:	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00
Transportation	\$ 147,000.00	\$ 8,925.86	\$ 138,074.14
Fisher House	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00

\*Transportation program starting second year. Will be expanding eligibility.

\*Fisher House funding will be distributed once construction begins 2023-2024.

**15. Identify the amount of federal funding available to your agency for the 2023-25 biennium, the purpose of the funding, federal deadlines for spending the funds, and your agency’s plan for spending the funds.**

Optional Requests	2023-25 Federal Funds			Deadline
	NDDVA	Spent to		
	approved	date	Difference	
Total:	\$ 2,069,169.00	\$ 2,069,169.00	\$ -	
HRTG Transportation	\$ 1,126,085.00	\$ 1,126,085.00	\$ -	9/14/2025
SAA	\$ 296,084.00	\$ 296,084.00	\$ -	9/30/2025
ARPA	647,000	647,000	\$ -	12/30/2024

**16. Provide additional information as necessary.**

**NDDVA is an investment in North Dakota’s,**

- **Veterans**
- **Their Dependents**
- **State economic health**

**NDDVA staff bring Federal Dollars to ND. The additional Staff we request will bring more of those Federal Dollars to ND while decreasing use of state funded programs.**

**Over \$1 Billion per biennium!!**



**Department of Veterans Affairs**

Agency No: 32100

		2023-25 Base Budget Request	2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	2023-25 Total Budget Request	2023-25 Total Budget Recommended	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Recommended vs Base Level	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Request vs Recommended
<b>Transport Vans - 32152</b>							
691000	Equipment Over \$5000	18,800	18,800	37,600	37,600	18,800	-
692000	Motor Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Transport Vans</b>		<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>-</b>
General	GEN	18,800	18,800	37,600	37,600	18,800	-
<b>Total by Funds: Transport Vans</b>		<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grants-Transportation Program - 32162</b>							
511000	Salaries - Permanent	-	-	-	-	-	-
513000	Temporary Salaries	68,000	-	68,000	68,000	-	-
536000	Office Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-
601000	IT - Data Processing	-	-	-	-	-	-
602000	IT - Communications	-	-	-	-	-	-
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	1,058,085	-	1,058,085	1,058,085	-	-
<b>Total: Grants-Transportation Program</b>		<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Federal	FED	1,126,085	-	1,126,085	1,126,085	-	-
<b>Total by Funds: Grants-Transportation Program</b>		<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

		2023-25 Base Budget Request	2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	2023-25 Total Budget Request	2023-25 Total Budget Recommended	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Recommended vs Base Level	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Request vs Recommended
<b>Vets Affairs Administration - 32170</b>							
511000	Salaries - Permanent	860,386	236,040	1,096,426	1,046,969	186,583	(49,457)
512000	Salaries - Other	-	376,776	376,776	87,066	87,066	(289,710)
513000	Temporary Salaries	2,000	-	2,000	(68,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)
516000	Fringe Benefits	373,852	117,040	490,892	475,982	102,130	(14,910)
521000	Travel	80,145	-	80,145	80,145	-	-
531000	Supplies - IT Software	13,744	-	13,744	13,744	-	-
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	781	-	781	781	-	-
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	3,942	-	3,942	3,942	-	-
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	574	-	574	574	-	-
536000	Office Supplies	3,377	-	3,377	3,377	-	-
541000	Postage	750	-	750	750	-	-
542000	Printing	500	-	500	500	-	-
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	400	-	400	400	-	-
561000	Utilities	6,264	-	6,264	6,264	-	-
571000	Insurance	5,800	-	5,800	5,800	-	-
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	14,528	-	14,528	14,528	-	-
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	68,210	-	68,210	68,210	-	-
591000	Repairs	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
601000	IT - Data Processing	46,860	9,888	56,748	51,804	4,944	(4,944)
602000	IT - Communications	4,545	1,200	5,745	5,145	600	(600)
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	-	-	-	-	-	-
611000	Professional Development	20,200	-	20,200	20,200	-	-
621000	Operating Fees and Services	500	-	500	500	-	-
623000	Professional Fees and Services	4,822	60,000	64,822	82,822	78,000	18,000
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Vets Affairs Administration</b>		<b>1,515,680</b>	<b>800,944</b>	<b>2,316,624</b>	<b>1,905,003</b>	<b>389,323</b>	<b>(411,621)</b>
General	GEN	1,515,680	800,944	2,316,624	1,905,003	389,323	(411,621)
Federal	FED	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total by Funds: Vets Affairs Administration</b>		<b>1,515,680</b>	<b>800,944</b>	<b>2,316,624</b>	<b>1,905,003</b>	<b>389,323</b>	<b>(411,621)</b>

		2023-25 Base Budget Request	2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	2023-25 Total Budget Request	2023-25 Total Budget Recommended	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Recommended vs Base Level	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Request vs Recommended
<b>Service Dogs - 32172</b>							
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	-
<b>Total: Service Dogs</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
General	GEN	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	-
<b>Total by Funds: Service Dogs</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>State Approving Agency - 32174</b>							
511000	Salaries - Permanent	143,410	-	143,410	155,055	11,645	11,645
516000	Fringe Benefits	69,064	-	69,064	77,385	8,321	8,321
521000	Travel	18,258	-	18,258	18,258	-	-
531000	Supplies - IT Software	2,136	-	2,136	2,136	-	-
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	1,489	-	1,489	1,489	-	-
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	1,274	-	1,274	1,274	-	-
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	523	-	523	523	-	-
536000	Office Supplies	2,825	-	2,825	2,825	-	-
541000	Postage	1,187	-	1,187	1,187	-	-
542000	Printing	1,973	-	1,973	1,973	-	-
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	6,279	-	6,279	6,279	-	-
552000	Other Equipment under \$5,000	264	-	264	264	-	-
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	1,279	-	1,279	1,279	-	-
561000	Utilities	1,735	-	1,735	1,735	-	-
571000	Insurance	1,636	-	1,636	1,636	-	-
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	4,810	-	4,810	4,810	-	-
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	14,748	-	14,748	14,748	-	-
591000	Repairs	1,030	-	1,030	1,030	-	-
601000	IT - Data Processing	9,650	-	9,650	9,650	-	-
602000	IT - Communications	2,873	-	2,873	2,873	-	-
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	685	-	685	685	-	-
611000	Professional Development	5,021	-	5,021	5,021	-	-
621000	Operating Fees and Services	315	-	315	315	-	-
623000	Professional Fees and Services	3,620	-	3,620	3,620	-	-
<b>Total: State Approving Agency</b>		<b>296,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>296,084</b>	<b>316,050</b>	<b>19,966</b>	<b>19,966</b>

		2023-25 Base Budget Request	2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	2023-25 Total Budget Request	2023-25 Total Budget Recommended	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Recommended vs Base Level	Difference: 2023-25 Total Budget Request vs Recommended
Federal	FED	296,084	-	296,084	316,050	19,966	19,966
<b>Total by Funds: State Approving Agency</b>		<b>296,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>296,084</b>	<b>316,050</b>	<b>19,966</b>	<b>19,966</b>
<b>Veterans Home Cemetery - 32175</b>							
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	-	291,500	291,500	291,500	291,500	-
<b>Total: Veterans Home Cemetery</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>-</b>
Federal	FED	-	291,500	291,500	291,500	291,500	-
<b>Total by Funds: Veterans Home Cemetery</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total: Department of Veterans Affairs</b>		<b>3,006,649</b>	<b>1,111,244</b>	<b>4,117,893</b>	<b>3,726,238</b>	<b>719,589</b>	<b>(391,655)</b>

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**House Bill No. 1025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

Prepared for: 2/7/2023

	Executive Budget Recommendation				House Version				House Changes to Executive Budget Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
	FTE	General	Other	Total	FTE	General	Other	Total	FTE	General	Other	Total
	Positions	Fund	Funds		Positions	Fund	Funds		Positions	Fund	Funds	
<b>2023-25 Biennium Base Level</b>	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>												
Adds funding for the cost to continue salary increases		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810				\$0		(\$10,123)	(\$1,687)	(\$11,810)
Salary increase		94,285	13,964	108,249				0		(94,285)	(13,964)	(108,249)
Health insurance increase		30,006	6,002	36,008				0		(30,006)	(6,002)	(36,008)
Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff		19,066		19,066				0		(19,066)		(19,066)
Adds funding to convert a temporary position to an FTE veterans benefit specialist position	1.00	99,966		99,966				0	(1.00)	(99,966)		(99,966)
Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program		68,000	(93,915)	(25,915)				0		(68,000)	93,915	25,915
Reduces funding for operating expenses		(6)	(126)	(132)				0		6	126	132
Adds funding for IT rate increases		3,739	1,436	5,175				0		(3,739)	(1,436)	(5,175)
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses			937	937				0			(937)	(937)
Total ongoing funding changes	1.00	\$325,179	(\$70,015)	\$255,164	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	(1.00)	(\$325,179)	\$70,015	(\$255,164)
<b>One-Time Funding Items</b>												
Adds funding for a document scanning project		\$78,000		\$78,000				\$0		(\$78,000)		(\$78,000)
Adds funding for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van		18,800		18,800				0		(18,800)		(18,800)
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	291,500				0			(\$291,500)	(291,500)
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$96,800	\$291,500	\$388,300	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	(\$96,800)	(\$291,500)	(\$388,300)
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	1.00	\$421,979	\$221,485	\$643,464	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	(1.00)	(\$421,979)	(\$221,485)	(\$643,464)
<b>2023-25 Total Funding</b>	9.00	\$1,992,603	\$1,733,635	\$3,726,238	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	(1.00)	(\$421,979)	(\$221,485)	(\$643,464)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$1,733,635				\$1,512,150				(\$221,485)	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	20.7%	(4.6%)	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	26.9%	14.6%	20.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%				

**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program

**Executive Budget Recommendation**  
 Section 3 would provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2021-23 biennium.

Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund

**House Version**  
 Section 4 would provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

1-800-604-3994 x160  
www.MorganRecordsManagement.com



## Document Scanning Proposal - Veteran Report of Separation Records & Veteran Paper Files

January 12, 2023

Customer Name: **John Biby**  
Address: **4201 38th St S Suite 104**  
City, State, Zip: **Fargo, ND 58104**  
Est. #**NDDVA-02**



Lonnie,

Thank you for your inquiry into our business records scanning services. We recently setup Dahl Consultants Inc. located in Fargo, ND with a similar project that helped them to more efficiently access their most important documents and clear up valuable space.

**Our Mission:**

Provide our customers with services and solutions that drive down costs while simultaneously increasing security and accessibility of their documents and supporting regulatory compliance.

**MRM Background:**

We have been in the records and information management business since 1997. Our full suite of records management services assists businesses nationwide, of all sizes and in every industry; from one-person tax offices to international corporations, and from manufacturing to healthcare. From start to finish, we work to ensure the strictest attention to detail is paid to your records management needs.



# Scope of Work

**Project Goal:** Digitize government forms (discharge papers) Veteran Report of Separation records, upload into VetraSpec and provide digital copies for records stakeholders. for more efficient access and use in VetraSpec to provide digital copies for records stakeholders.

## Transportation & Intake:

- **Transportation Type:** MRM Team
- **Trips Required: 6** (based on 5 pick-ups & 1 final trip to return remaining documents) – please note this will need to be adjusted when we determine the exact amount of stops that are required while we are in ND (currently estimating 40 counties).
- **Estimated Boxes: 480** Size 1 boxes, based on Client’s count of **315** vertical file drawers and an average of **1.5** standard file boxes per drawer.
- **New Boxes Supplied:** MRM will prepare to box up an estimated **480** boxes at the time of pick-up and will supply new boxes.

## Scanning & Indexing:

- **Images to be Scanned:** Estimated average of **2,500** images per box (including both single and double-sided pages), for an estimated total of **1,250,000** images to be scanned at **400** dpi, B&W, color (if required). Majority of files will be in searchable .PDF format unless specific county requires .TIFF format.
- **File Indexing:** Estimated **150,000** files in total (average of 312 per box) to be indexed according to Client’s specifications –e.g., box or file number, SSN Last Name – First Name (example **123-45-6789\_Smith\_John**), document name taken from the front of document, spine of the binder, etc.
- **OCR & Compression:** All PDFs will be run through MRM’s enterprise level OCR software to enable text searchability. A back-up drive will also be created for client.

**Digital File Delivery:** Digital files will be uploaded to VetraSpec system & two external encrypted drives.

## Physical & Electronic Storage, Shredding, File Return:

All physical files to be held for up to 30 days after scanning is complete, at no additional cost, for quality control purposes. Only once Client has provided authorization, MRM will securely return all physical files.

**Other Special Requirements:** Digital files will be delivered to Client monthly as work progresses and once the corresponding payment for completed work has been received.





# Estimate of Cost

This schedule provides your estimated project costs based on the scope provided to MRM. Since your final invoice will reflect the **ACTUAL** quantities multiplied by the unit prices listed here, your actual project costs may be higher or lower than the estimated total shown here.



Unless otherwise stated, this quotation is firm for 60 calendar days from the date shown on the front page of the proposal and becomes binding if an agreement is signed by both parties during that period. Please let us know how we can improve our offer, or if you need a requote.

QTY	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
<b>PICK-UP &amp; INTAKE</b>			
5	MRM Transportation - Per Trip (Based on Pick-Ups at Multiple Counties)	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 22,500.00
0	FedEx Shipment - Per Size 1 Box - Up to 40 lbs	\$ 35.00	\$ -
0	FedEx Shipment - Per Size 2 Box - Up to 55 lbs	\$ 45.00	\$ -
0	FedEx Shipment - Per Size 3 Box - Over 55 lbs	\$ 55.00	\$ -
480	Box Packaging - Includes New Box - Per Box	\$ 6.50	\$ 3,120.00
480	Intake - Handling Box, Label, & Barcode - Per Box	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,680.00
<b>PICK-UP &amp; INTAKE SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 27,300.00</b>
<b>SCANNING PRODUCTION</b>			
<b>Includes Project Management, Document Prep, QC, &amp; Standard Digital File Delivery (SFTP or First External Drive)</b>			
1,200,000	Standard Document Imaging (300 DPI, B&W or Color) - Per Image	\$ 0.045	\$ 54,000.00
0	Flatbed Scans - Per Image	\$ 0.60	\$ -
0	Oversized Document Scans - Per Image	\$ 0.80	\$ -
1,200,000	Standard OCR (Optical Character Recognition) - Per Image	\$ 0.005	\$ 6,000.00
0	Handwriting OCR - Additional OCR Charge - Per Image	\$ 0.01	\$ -
150,000	File Indexing (Naming of Digital Files, 2 Fields) - Per PDF / TIFF	\$ 0.40	\$ 60,000.00
0	Box-Level Indexing (Includes Compression) - Per Box	\$ 5.00	\$ -
2	Encrypted External Drive - Per Drive	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00
150,000	Data Import to Client's VetraSpec System - Per File	\$ 1.30	\$ 195,000.00
0	Scanning Production Overage Hours - Per Hour	\$ 35.00	\$ -
<b>SCANNING PRODUCTION SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 315,300.00</b>
<b>POST SCANNING PRODUCTION - PHYSICAL FILES</b>			
480	Return Box Handling - Per Box	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,680.00
1	Box Return Trip - MRM Transportation - Per Trip	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
0	Document Shredding - Per Size 1 Box (With Certificate of Destruction)	\$ 6.00	\$ -
0	Document Storage - Per Size 1 Box (Monthly)	\$ 0.35	\$ -
<b>POST SCANNING PRODUCTION SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 6,180.00</b>
<b>ONGOING DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT</b>			
0	WebConnect - Cloud Storage & Management - Up to 5 Users - Per Month	\$ 50.00	\$ -
<b>ESTIMATED PROJECT TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 348,780.00</b>
Sales Tax			None
Project Total Average Cost Per Box			\$ 726.63
Scanning Production Average Cost Per Box			\$ 656.88
<b>SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PAYMENT OPTIONS</b>			

# Payment Options

1. **Project:** A deposit of 50% of the estimated cost will be due prior to the start of the project. Once the deposit invoice has been exhausted MRM will invoice monthly as work progresses, until completion. *Digital files will be delivered to Client monthly as work progresses* and once the corresponding payment for completed work has been received.

<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>348,780.00</b>
<b>Deposit Invoice</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>174,390.00</b>

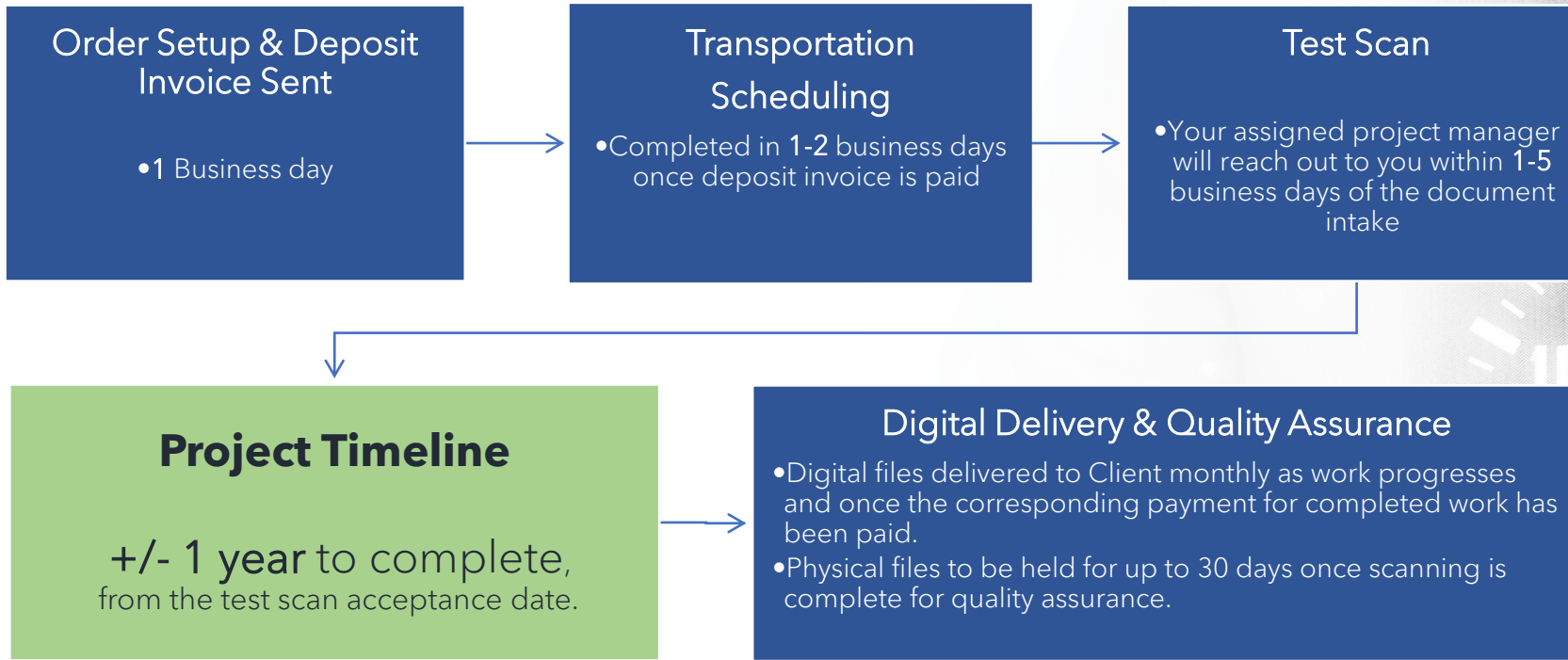
2. **Scan Plan:** Have the project spread out over a predetermined timeline to suit your budgetary needs. Pay a fixed price per month until your project is complete. 2-month deposit required. Additional \$50.00 monthly storage charge applied.

<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>348,780.00</b>
<b>Scan Plan Length</b>	<b>Per Month Total</b>	
20 Months	\$	17,489.00
24 Months	\$	14,582.50
30 Months	\$	11,676.00
36 Months	\$	9,738.33

3. **Custom Payment Plan:**
  - Available for special circumstances..



# Scanning Process Timeline



We guarantee minimal disruption to your business while your documents are in our possession.

During the scanning process, upon request, documents can be processed and transferred to you as needed.



**MORGAN**  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT



## Thank You For Your Consideration!

Learn more about MRM by visiting our website:  
[www.MorganRecordsManagement.com](http://www.MorganRecordsManagement.com)

If you have questions, or if you need additional information, including specific references don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

**Jason DeLuca**  
**Sales Executive**  
**Direct: 603-792-2263**  
[JDeLuca@MorganRecords.com](mailto:JDeLuca@MorganRecords.com)

**Wangen, Lonnie L.**

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**From:** Wangen, Lonnie L.  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** Wangen, Lonnie L.  
**Subject:** NDDVA Budget changes

**Importance:** High

All,

The 2017 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative session resulted in significant budget cuts for the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) for the 2017-2019 biennium. The budget ended with:

- Budget at 77% of base funding. Staffing at 60%.
- Loss of two Full time Equivalent (FTE) staff members.
  - FTE1: CL0033 Office Assist. III      Position #: 00003131      Vacant (Peggy Swisher)
  - FTE2: CL0041 Admin Assist. I      Position #: 00003129      Joanne Rivera
- Loss of Temporary staff funding
  - Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) coordinator (Laurie Vagts)
  - Could result in additional Funding loss and/or 3rd FTE loss

The 2017-2019 budget begins July 1, 2017

We want you to be aware of the cuts and the changes.

## **Some Programs and Services Affected:**

### **VSO training events**

NDDVA training events will need to be cut back to within our new budget restraints. Basically we do not have the funding for the four training events over the next 2 years. Since the NDDVA staff and Commissioner agree that this is one of the most important parts of our mission, we are meeting with the North Dakota Veterans Service Officers Association leadership prior to and during the Fall CVSO conference to discuss the training plans for the next two years. Discussions have already started and it is our hope to have answers by the end of the fall 2017 VSO training in Fargo.

***\*Expect significant changes. Allow us time to address this issue properly.***

### **Stand Downs**

- No funding support for these events
- Limited or no NDDVA staff support for these events

### **Resource books**

- Veteran data base and resource book-will be discontinued
- Veteran Service Officer Directory-will be discontinued
- Refer to NDDVA website, internet and other resources to compile this data

### **Informational/benefits brochures**

- Will no longer be produced

- Utilize website, internet and other resources

### Mail

- NDDVA will reduce to bare minimum any use of postage by utilizing;
  - ND State secure file transfer
  - Scanning directly into Vetra Spec (for VSO's who have the state program)
  - Fax machine
    - NDDVA main office 701-239-7165
    - NDDVA VA Regional Office: 701-451-4674
- NDDVA will no longer have a Post Office Box All mail should be sent directly to Main office or VA Regional office
  - NDDVA Main Office: 4201 38<sup>th</sup> Street SW #104, Fargo ND 58104
    - Lonnie Wangen
    - Bryan Watters
    - Cathy Halgunseth
  - NDDVA State Approving Agency: 4201 38<sup>th</sup> Street SW #206, Fargo ND 58104
    - Chris Kratochvil will return spring of 2018
    - John Johnson until spring 2018
  - NDDVA VSO's at regional office:
    - Mike Conklin VAMC/RO Suite 209, 2101 North Elm Street, Fargo ND 58102
    - Calie Lindseth VAMC/RO Suite 211, 2101 North Elm Street, Fargo ND 58102
    - Tom Webb VAMC/RO Suite 208, 2101 North Elm Street, Fargo ND 58102

### Calls to main office and VARO office

- Please use direct lines to the VSO or staff members you wish to contact. Emails are best.
- Leave messages as our phones are ringing all day and we cannot answer them all
- We will return message as soon as possible

### ***Expect delays***

### Discharges DD214

- NDDVA will no longer be receiving paper DD214 and DD215 discharge documents from DOD
- NDDVA will no longer be obtaining list of returning veterans
- NDDVA will no longer be providing welcome home letters with benefits, VSO contacts etc.
- Requests for copies of DD214 or other discharges from NOK, VSO's, funeral directors etc. will need to be sent to CVSO/TVSO's first.
  - Requests made to NDDVA for these documents must be submitted to the NDDVA Veterans Benefits Specialists via email, fax or phone call
  - CVSO/TVSO's who do not have signed MOA's for these documents will need to submit
    - Complete and signed SFN 54412
    - Proof of identity of requester
    - If requesting for NOK
      - Death certificate
      - Proof of NOK relationship
- ***Expect significant delays in responses.***

### Burial benefits: headstones and markers

- On behalf of CVSO/TVSO's NDDVA staff will no longer;
  - Process and submit Applications for Headstones and Markers
  - Maintain a Data base of headstones and markers applied for
  - Follow up on missing, incorrect or not received headstones or markers

- All of the above will be the full responsibility of the County and Tribal Veteran Service officers. If you need training on how to conduct these applications please contact our office.

**Website development.** Will be stagnant for a while. If you see broken links or items that need to be added please forward to NDDVA staff and we will address as time allows.

- State heroes page is not complete.
  - If you find a missing veteran that belong there send request to commissioner to add.
  - All but WWI and WWII are completed. About ½ of the WWI and WWII are entered.
  - County information is not complete
- News and newsletters will be significantly reduced.
- NDDVA will attempt to keep social media going as this is very beneficial to veterans, time efficient and inexpensive

### **Research and statistics**

- No resources will be expended in this area

### **NDDVA Grant applications:**

With NDDVA no longer having the staff (CL0041 Admin Assist. I) to concentrate on processing grant applications the following changes will need to be implemented:

- CVSO/TVSO's will need to ensure that only COMPLETE applications are submitted to NDDVA for consideration
  - NDDVA will no longer reach out to veteran or eligible dependent for additional information or clarification on applications.
  - Any missing or further information that is needed will be sent to the CVSO/TVSO submitting the application on behalf of the veteran/eligible dependent for follow up.
- NDDVA will no longer research additional or alternative resources to ensure the veterans or eligible dependent get all the help they need.
  - This will be the responsibility of the CVSO/TVSO assisting the veteran/eligible dependent
  - CVSO/TVSO will need to contact or refer the applicants to alternate and complimentary resources such as Medicare, dental grants, community action, SSVF, Salvation Army, VA, USDA, etc.
    - These resources have been provided to you in the past and are located on the NDDVA website as well as the individual organizations websites.
- Grant deadlines:
  - Grant recipients have a deadline to gain the services and have the vendors bill NDDVA.
  - Grant recipients will need to ensure that the deadlines are met or file a request for an extension to the NDDVA, through the CVSO/TVSO assisting them.
  - Extensions must be filed prior to the grant deadline.
  - Grants not completed by deadline will be cancelled.
    - It is the County/Tribal VSO's responsibility to work with the grant applicants and their vendors to ensure the services are acquired and billing submitted timely and prior to grant deadline.
- ***Expect delays in Grant application approvals and responses***

### **Veteran Aid Loan Applications:**

With NDDVA no longer having the staff (CL0041 Admin Assist. I) to concentrate on processing loan applications the following changes will need to be implemented:

- CVSO/TVSO's will need to ensure that only COMPLETE applications are submitted to NDDVA's for consideration
  - NDDVA will no longer reach out to veteran or eligible dependent for additional information or clarification on applications.

- Any missing or further information that is needed will be sent to the CVSO/TVSO submitting the application on behalf of the veteran/eligible dependent for follow up.
- An updated cash asset form has been uploaded on the NDDVA website. This new form must be the one used.
- NDDVA will no longer research additional or alternative resources to ensure the applicants get all the help they need.
  - This will be the responsibility of the CVSO/TVSO assisting the veteran/eligible dependent
  - CVSO/TVSO will need to contact or refer the applicants to alternate and complimentary resources such as Medicare, dental grants, community action, SSVF, Salvation Army, VA, USDA, etc.
    - These resources have been provided to you in the past and are located on the NDDVA website as well as the individual organizations websites.
- Loan past due payments:
  - Loan recipients have must maintain good timely payments.
    - NDDVA will still mail past due notices.
    - NDDVA will not have the resources to make personal contacts per telephone or email.
    - Delinquent loans will be sent to collections as per policy.
- ***Expect delays in processing loan applications.***

#### License plate applications

- Applications for Gold Star Family License plates, POW, and Purple heart plates need to be sent to NDDVA Main office for processing
- ***Expect delays***

#### Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) Program

- NDDVA's budget calls for \$100,000 of Federal HRTG funds to replace \$100,000 of NDDVA staff salary expenses.
  - NDDVA has requested ND Attorney General's Office and VA Office of General Council (OGC) to review the legality of this mandate.
    - Response from VA OGC has not been received at this time.
    - ND Attorney General's Office awaits the response of VA OGC
  - The HRTG funding is based on Federal Fiscal Year (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017)
  - NDDVA state budget is based on state fiscal year (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2017)
  - NDDVA will need to replace that funding as of July 1, 2017 unless a determination which would alter that mandate is made by June 30, 2017.
- Result of the above:
  - NDDVA's HRTG coordinator position will no longer be funded.
    - Laurie Vagts (HRTG Coordinator) will work until June 30, 2017
  - Program day to day operations will fall to NDDVA Staff.
  - ***Expect delays.***
- Program could lose funding and be cancelled

#### Services to Veterans on Campus

- This project will be delayed significantly. However this is a very important project which too many man hours already committed and too much of a negative effect if it is not completed, so we will continue the course but at a much slower pace. It is our hopes that our stakeholders will continue with us toward our common goal.

#### Veterans Court

- Will continue to assist in this area. Will not be expanding as planned.

#### Outreach and Support

- NDDVA staff and Commissioner will not have resources to attend and support the majority of these events.
- Women Veterans Outreach events will be discontinued



- Women Veterans newsletter will be discontinued

The above are just some of the programs we have identified as being affected by the budget and staff cuts. This is in no way an all-inclusive list as we expect to identify unforeseen changes as we move into the next budget cycle.

We ask for your patience and support as we prioritize and re-adjust programs due to this loss of resources. The NDDVA staff is committed to ensuring we do the best with the resources we have.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Wangen  
Commissioner  
ND DVA  
701-239-7165  
701-239-7166 (fax)  
[lwangen@nd.gov](mailto:lwangen@nd.gov)  
[www.nd.gov/veterans](http://www.nd.gov/veterans)

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North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer/program provider

23.0254.01001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
the House Appropriations - Human Resources  
Division Committee

Fiscal No. 1

February 7, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

Page 1, line 2, after "affairs" insert "; to provide an exemption; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

"	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$549,094	\$3,631,868
Less estimated income	<u>1,512,150</u>	<u>218,113</u>	<u>1,730,263</u>
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "**FUNDING**" insert "**- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**"

Page 1, line 23, after "biennium" insert "and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 2 through 7 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$78,000
Accrued leave	0	19,066
Transport van	0	18,800
Veterans' home cemetery	291,500	291,500
Fisher house construction assistant grant program	500,000	0
Veterans' medical transportation	<u>147,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total all funds	\$938,500	\$407,366
Less estimated income	<u>938,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$0	\$115,866

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION - POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.** The \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Session Laws and the \$50,000 appropriated from the general fund for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program in section 1 of chapter 53 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from

this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

**SECTION 4. EXEMPTION - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.**

The \$647,000 appropriated from the federal state fiscal recovery fund in subsections 32 and 33 of section 1 of chapter 550 of the 2021 Session Laws, of which \$500,000 was for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher house at the Fargo veterans' affairs medical center and \$147,000 was for improving and expanding veterans' medical transportation, is not subject to section 54-44.1-11 and any unspent funds from these programs are available for the programs during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$362,055	\$1,864,005
State approving agency	292,024	20,654	312,678
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$3,082,774</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>	<b>\$3,631,868</b>
Less estimated income	1,512,150	218,113	1,730,263
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$330,981	\$1,901,605
FTE	8.00	1.00	9.00

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of House Changes**

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding to Convert a Temporary Position to an FTE Position <sup>3</sup>	Adjusts Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>5</sup>	Removes funding for the PTSD Service Dog Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,607	
State approving agency	1,687	16,594			2,373	
Grants - Transportation program				(93,915)		
Transport vans						
Service dogs						(\$50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$117,887</b>	<b>\$99,966</b>	<b>(\$43,915)</b>	<b>\$5,980</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
Less estimated income	1,687	16,594	0	(93,915)	2,247	0
General fund	\$10,123	\$101,293	\$99,966	\$50,000	\$3,733	(\$50,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for Accrued Leave of Retiring Staff <sup>8</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding to Purchase a Transport Van <sup>9</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program <sup>10</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$78,000	\$19,066			\$362,055
State approving agency					20,654
Grants - Transportation program					(93,915)
Transport vans			\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs					(50,000)
Veterans' Home cemetery				\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>	<b>\$19,066</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$549,094</b>
Less estimated income	0	0	0	291,500	218,113
General fund	\$78,000	\$19,066	\$18,800	\$0	\$330,981
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
Health insurance increase	<u>30,696</u>	<u>6,140</u>	<u>36,836</u>
Total	\$101,293	\$16,594	\$117,887

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$99,966 is added from the general fund to convert a temporary position to a 1.00 FTE veterans benefit specialist position.

<sup>4</sup> Funding is adjusted for the highly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$1,126,085 from federal funds.

<sup>5</sup> Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reduces funding for operating expenses	(\$6)	(\$126)	(\$132)
Adds funding for information technology rate increases	3,739	1,436	5,175
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses to provide a total of \$312,678 from federal funds	0	<u>937</u>	<u>937</u>
Total	\$3,733	\$2,247	\$5,980

<sup>6</sup> Funding from the general fund is removed for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program to reduce the ongoing appropriation from \$50,000 to \$0. A section is added to the bill to authorize the department an exemption to continue funding for the program appropriated during the 2019-21 and 2021-23 bienniums into the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>7</sup> One-time funding of \$78,000 is added from the general fund for a document scanning project to scan paper copies of veteran documents into digital copies.

<sup>8</sup> One-time funding of \$19,066 is added from the general fund for accrued leave of retiring staff.

<sup>9</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans during the 2023-25 biennium.

<sup>10</sup> One-time funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program, of which \$265,000 is from federal funds and \$26,500 is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

23.0254.01001  
Title.

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Veterans' home cemetery	0	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
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	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$70,597	\$10,454	\$81,051
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,293</b>	<b>\$16,594</b>	<b>\$117,887</b>

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,733</b>	<b>\$2,247</b>	<b>\$5,980</b>

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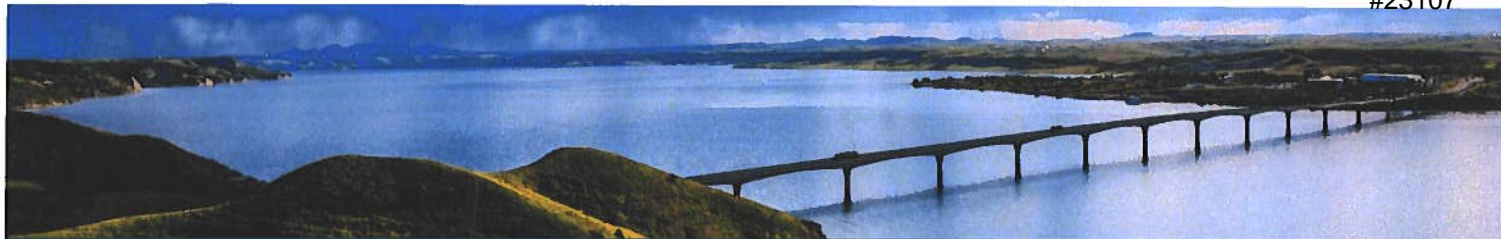
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This amendment also:

- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.



- Adds a section to provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).



## ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### WHO WE ARE

**08**

Full-time Team Members

**01**

Temporary Team Members

**70**

County & Tribal Svc Officers

### WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

**Mission:** To assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both Federal, State and Local by direct contact or through the assistance of County & Tribal veteran service officers.

**Vision:** Consistent quality service and support to Veterans and dependents throughout ND. Attract and retain veterans to ND with competitive programs, benefits and services.

**Values:** Knowledge, skills and abilities to appropriately serve our Veterans and dependents. Coordination and collaboration with Local, County, State and Federal partners.

**Goals/Objectives:** Trained, dedicated and proficient Veteran Service Officers. Programs, benefits and services in ND which can compete with other states and territories to attract and retain veterans in ND.

### WHO WE SERVE

#### Focus 1: Veterans

53,608 Veterans.  
VA Estimated 53,608 Veterans in ND (Source: VA GDX 2020)



#### Focus 2: Dependents

69,690 Dependents of Veterans.  
\*Per US Census.gov household of 2.3



#### Focus 3: VSO's

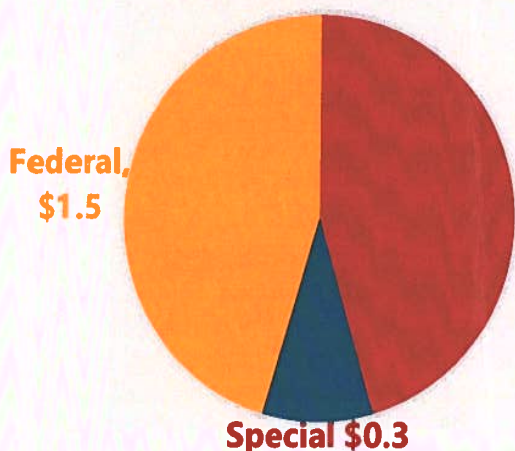
70 Veteran Service Officers (VSO).



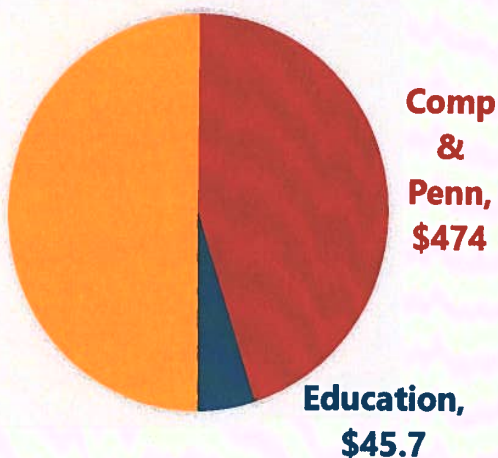
NDDVA 2021-2023 Funding:  
\$3.3M

2020 & 2021 Economic Impact:  
\$1,067,191,000

*In Millions*



General Funds, \$1.5  
Medical, \$529



# ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## 2019-2021 Biennium

### Claims to VA:

3,315 new claims filed.  
\* \$35M in new awards  
\* \$9.3M retroactive payments  
\* \$440M Comp and Pension  
628 appeals filed.  
\*85% remand (Nt'l Ave: 39%)

### Education Benefits:

\$22.8M in GI bill and Voc. Rehab  
\*\*First time in ND: Credit for military courses to all ND IHL  
\*\*100% catalog reviews annually  
\*\* 200+ OJT APP approved

### Transportation since 2018

\*4,378 veterans served  
\*14,244 trips  
\*37,803 hours driving  
\*1.4 Million miles driven  
Largest HRTG program in US

Filed

**3,315**

VA Claims  
for Benefits  
2019-2021

Awarded

**\$440M**

Comp &  
Pension

Approved

**135**

Courses at  
IHL for  
military  
credit

Transported

**4,378**

Veterans  
1.4 million  
miles

## WHAT WE DO



### Financial

Assist in application for Compensation, Pension claims. Provide Loans and Grants using Post War Trust Fund & other funds.



### Legal & Legislative

Established virtual Veterans court, now transitioning to physical court docket. Lead in veteran legislative efforts.



### Health & Wellbeing

Assist in application for health benefits at VA. Provide Grants for urgent unmet Health needs with PWTF and other funds.



### Education and Employment

Approve ND IHL for GI Bill. Approve OJT and Apprenticeship programs. Application for GI Bill and Vocational Rehab.



### Housing

Leading committee to end Veteran Homelessness in ND. Provide grants and loans for housing. Apply for assistance.



### Training and Support:

NDDVA trains and supports the 70 plus County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers. Initial training and 2x per year.

## HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

### Veteran VA Claims:

Claims for disability compensation, pension and education benefits are based on win/lose. ND is among the highest success rates in USA. VA Compensation and pension paid to ND Veterans has doubled in last 9 years.

### Education:

Continuity, collaboration and communication with stakeholders provides the best services to all IHL in ND. MOA between NDDVA Commissioner and NDUS Chancellor is our guide. Military courses for College credit same at all IHL-first in ND history.

### Health & Wellbeing:

Access to healthcare is measured by success of applications to VA healthcare, NDDVA grants and transportation services. Transportation is # obstacle to healthcare for VA. ND has largest HRTG program in nation.

### New programs:

Programs developed in ND being adopted by other states and Federal VA. ND adoption of programs in other states. \*ND first on new Rural Cemetery program \*ND leading way in PTSD dogs, transportation, HBOT, appeal process.

**HB1025 ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget  
Commissioner Lonnie Wangen  
Senate Hearing March 10, 2023**

Per the request of Senate HR Appropriations Chair Senator Dever please find the below 16 items with responses.

**1. Cite the North Dakota Century Code chapter(s) associated with the agency and list its major statutory responsibilities.**

37-01-25.1: Reinstatement to former position – Appeals – Penalty (Employment rights)

37-01-34: Recordation of discharge papers

37-01-36: Certified copy of record furnished veteran without charge

37-01-42: Honorary High School Diplomas-WWII, Korea and Vietnam

37-14: Veterans Relief and Rehabilitation

- Veterans Loan
- Post War Trust Fund
  - Grant Program & other needs
- County Veteran Service Officer Appointment-Duties

37-18: Department of Veterans Affairs

- Establish Department of Veterans Affairs
- Commissioner appointment, duties and department divisions
  - Coordinate, supervise, implement programs and benefits
  - **Advise, Assist, Process and represent claims for Federal benefits**
  - CVSO: qualifications, standards, training, educate and assist.
  - Disseminate information and do all things necessary and proper to carryout intent of NDCC37-18
- Release of records and information
- Funding authority
- Commemorative Memorial Coin

37-18.1: Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs

37-19.1: Veterans Preference

39-03-04: Qualifications of patrolmen-Veterans have preference

39-04 subsections 10.10, 10.14, 10.5, 10.8 and 18: Motor vehicle plates and exempt from registration fees

39-06-14 (6): Veterans indicator on driver's license

40-33.1-05: Veterans preference Municipal steam heating authorities

43-07-20: Employment preference in contract

57-02-08: Property Tax Exemption and Homestead credit

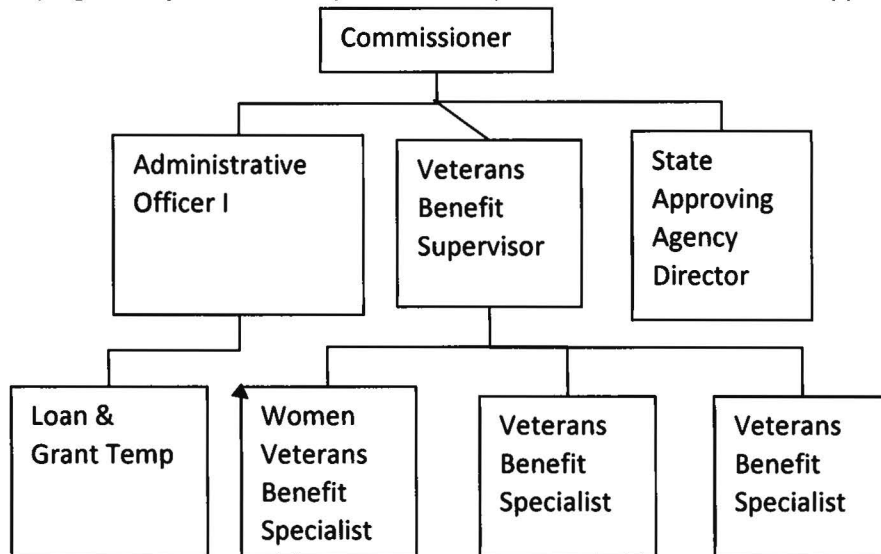
**2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs - Attach organizational chart.**

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

- Coordinate, supervise, implement programs and benefits
  - NDDVA Aid Loan program
  - NDDVA Grant programs
  - Highly Rural and State Rural Transportation programs
  - Commemorative Memorial Coin Program (funeral honor coins)
- Advise, Assist, Process and Represent claims for Federal benefits
- County Veteran Service Officer (72 VSO's 50 offices): qualifications, standards, training, educate and assist.
- Disseminate information and do all things necessary and proper to carryout intent of NDCC37-18

**The State Approving Agency (SAA)**, together with the Federal government, manages veterans' education benefits. The SAA's role is to approve and supervise the programs of education and training for eligible veterans, dependents, National Guard members, and reservists. The SAA must specifically approve each plan of education or training in which a veteran or eligible person wishes to use GI. Bill® benefits. Other responsibilities include:

- Reviewing, Evaluating and Approving programs based on state and federal criteria
- Conducting on-site inspection visits to approved facilities and facilities requesting program approval
- Providing technical assistance
- Engaging in outreach activities that foster the use of the GI Bill
- Helping military installations provide base personnel with educational opportunities



**3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.**

- Audit conducted March of 2021
  - 1 formal recommendation on Federal Transportation Grant
    - \$3,051 coding of federal grant admin expenses error found
      - Admin fees coded as direct expense to grant as directed
      - Action taken by NDDVA to address recommendation:
        - NONE: Error was caught by NDDVA and corrected the month after error was made. This was 2 years prior to audit.
    - Subrecipient agreements missing required information

- NDDVA had required information referenced in subrecipient grant agreements and included in grant agreement as an attachment.
- Action taken by NDDVA to address recommendation:
  - NDDVA copied the required information from attachment section and pasted directly into the body of the agreement. This was done prior to audit conclusion

#### **4. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans.**

##### **Accomplishments**

- Education
  - Approval of new Institute of Higher learning at Minot State University
    - Columbia College
  - Continuing to facilitate the MAAC council
  - 100% review of all IHL and NCD catalogs-reviewed annually
  - Approval of Extension locations at the following schools (extension locations are teaching sites that the school operates that are administratively dependent upon the main campus)
    - Bismarck State College – 3
    - Dickinson State – 2
    - Lake Region State – 7
    - NDSCS – 4
    - NDSU – 5
    - University of Jamestown – 2
    - University of Mary – 4
    - University of North Dakota – 3
    - Williston State – 3
  - Continued approval of 105 apprenticeship and OJT facilities within the state of North Dakota
    - Up 8 facilities from previous biennium
    - Over 200 independent APP/OJT programs
  - **\$45,700,000** in Federal Education benefits in ND (2020 & 2021)
- Grants and Loans processed
  - Grants 103 biennium to date
  - Loans 28 biennium to date
- Health and Wellbeing
  - Governors Challenge
  - NDHOPES \$5 Million Grant
- Housing
  - Homeless Veterans Committee. Coordinate services, on database, by name list. Functional Zero!
  - Fisher House **\$9 Million** project approved
- Legal Services
  - Veterans Court Established 2022. Opening ceremony planned for spring of 2023
- CVSO/TVSO support and training
  - New VSO trained 2021-2022: 25 (compared to 2019-2020: 18)
- Benefits -VA
  - Total Claims estimate for **2021-2022 2639** (compared to 2019-2020 **3710**)
  - Total appeals in **2021-2022 755** (compared to 2019-2020 545)
  - Retroactive payments **2021-2022: \$ 17,700,778.53**
    - Compared to 2019-2020 of \$ 9,596,649.16
  - **\$1,067,191,000** in VA funds to ND (2020-2021)



**5. Compare the agency's request/recommendation totals, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, for the next biennium compared to the current biennium.**

Optional Requests	2021-2023	2023-2025			House Actions	
	Current Budget	NDDVA Request	Governor Recommends	Difference Request	House Action	Difference Request
Total:	\$	\$1,061,622.00	\$ 325,376.00	\$736,246.00	\$326,376.00	\$735,246.00
1. Equity Funding	0.00	\$ 289,710.00	\$ 102,000.00	\$187,710.00	\$85,000.00	\$204,710.00
2. FTE Deputy Commissioner	0.00	\$199,756.00	\$ -	\$199,756.00	\$ -	\$199,756.00
3. FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	0.00	\$175,510.00	\$ 107,510.00	\$68,000.00	\$125,510.00	\$50,000.00
4. Additional DAV Van funding (2)	0.00	\$18,800.00	\$18,800.00	\$ -	\$18,800.00	\$ -
5. Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	0.00	\$19,066.00	\$19,066.00	\$ -	\$19,066.00	\$ -
6. Scanning Project	0.00	\$358,780.00	\$78,000.00	\$280,780.00	\$78,000.00	\$280,780.00
						\$ -
Total FTE	8	10	9	1	1	0

\*Difference Governor to House -\$1,000

\*\*Also removed \$50,000 from PTSD Dog funding.

**6. Explain the funding included in each program/line item either in total or by division depending on the size of the agency:**

- a. Amounts included in the base budget and their purpose and use; and
- b. Amounts included in the request/recommendation and justification for the change from the base budget. Discuss changes relating to:
  - (1) Salaries and wages;
  - (2) Operating expenses;
  - (3) Capital assets;
  - (4) Grants;
  - (5) Any special line items;
  - (6) Estimated income - Special funds;
  - (7) Estimated income - Federal funds;
  - (8) General fund; and
  - (9) FTE.



Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

Agency No: 32100

		2	3	4	5	6
		2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Base	2023-25	2023-25 Total
		Biennium	Biennium	Budget	Optional	Budget
		Expenditures	Appropriations	Request	Budget	Request
					Changes	
<b>Veterans Affairs Administration - 321-100</b>						
<b>32152 - Transport Vans</b>						
691000	Equipment Over \$5000	-	-	18,800	18,800	37,600
692000	Motor Vehicles	13,845	18,800	-	-	-
<b>Total: Transport Vans</b>		<b>13,845</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>37,600</b>
<b>32162 - Grants-Transportation Program</b>						
511000	Salaries - Permanent	30,132	-	-	-	-
513000	Temporary Salaries	-	68,000	68,000	-	68,000
536000	Office Supplies	339	-	-	-	-
601000	IT - Data Processing	6,998	-	-	-	-
602000	IT - Communications	672	-	-	-	-
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	882,423	1,152,000	1,058,085	-	1,058,085
<b>Total: Grants-Transportation Program</b>		<b>920,564</b>	<b>1,220,000</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,126,085</b>
<b>32170 - Vets Affairs Administration</b>						
511000	Salaries - Permanent	668,964	780,207	860,386	236,040	1,096,426
512000	Salaries - Other	-	-	-	376,776	376,776
513000	Temporary Salaries	37,680	70,000	2,000	-	2,000
516000	Fringe Benefits	341,515	385,671	373,852	117,040	490,892
521000	Travel	26,482	80,145	80,145	-	80,145
531000	Supplies - IT Software	20,851	13,344	13,744	-	13,744
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	783	781	781	-	781
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	3,689	3,442	3,942	-	3,942
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	6,445	574	574	-	574
536000	Office Supplies	5,796	2,046	3,377	-	3,377
541000	Postage	4,437	750	750	-	750
542000	Printing	1,063	500	500	-	500
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	2,298	-	1,000	-	1,000
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	4,122	-	400	-	400
561000	Utilities	5,757	6,264	6,264	-	6,264
571000	Insurance	3,712	4,800	5,800	-	5,800
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	12,065	14,528	14,528	-	14,528
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	63,425	64,710	68,210	-	68,210
591000	Repairs	2,025	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
601000	IT - Data Processing	32,560	41,621	46,860	9,888	56,748
602000	IT - Communications	6,518	4,545	4,545	1,200	5,745
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	18,338	-	-	-	-

State of North Dakota

220 - Budget Request Summary - Agency

Run Date: 1/6/23

2023-25

Detail by Org Level, Financial Class and Account

Run Time: 4:09:09 PM

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs

Agency No: 32100

		2 2019-21 Biennium Expenditures	3 2021-23 Biennium Appropriations	4 2023-25 Base Budget Request	5 2023-25 Optional Budget Changes	6 2023-25 Total Budget Request
611000	Professional Development	6,633	20,200	20,200	-	20,200
621000	Operating Fees and Services	886	500	500	-	500
623000	Professional Fees and Services	384	4,822	4,822	60,000	64,822
712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	214	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Vets Affairs Administration</b>		<b>1,276,643</b>	<b>1,501,950</b>	<b>1,515,680</b>	<b>800,944</b>	<b>2,316,624</b>

32172 - Service Dogs

712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	37,500	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total: Service Dogs</b>		<b>37,500</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>

32174 - State Approving Agency

511000	Salaries - Permanent	136,370	140,006	143,410	-	143,410
516000	Fringe Benefits	67,581	69,844	69,064	-	69,064
521000	Travel	5,434	18,258	18,258	-	18,258
531000	Supplies - IT Software	96	2,136	2,136	-	2,136
532000	Supply/Material - Professional	-	1,489	1,489	-	1,489
534000	Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	6	1,274	1,274	-	1,274
535000	Miscellaneous Supplies	-	523	523	-	523
536000	Office Supplies	-	2,825	2,825	-	2,825
541000	Postage	-	1,187	1,187	-	1,187
542000	Printing	60	1,973	1,973	-	1,973
551000	IT Equipment under \$5,000	-	6,279	6,279	-	6,279
552000	Other Equipment under \$5,000	-	264	264	-	264
553000	Office Equip & Furniture-Under	-	1,279	1,279	-	1,279
561000	Utilities	1,592	1,735	1,735	-	1,735
571000	Insurance	42	1,636	1,636	-	1,636
581000	Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	-	4,810	4,810	-	4,810
582000	Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	14,534	14,748	14,748	-	14,748
591000	Repairs	-	1,030	1,030	-	1,030
601000	IT - Data Processing	7,041	8,214	9,650	-	9,650
602000	IT - Communications	974	2,873	2,873	-	2,873
603000	IT Contractual Services and Re	-	685	685	-	685
611000	Professional Development	2,535	5,021	5,021	-	5,021
621000	Operating Fees and Services	-	315	315	-	315
623000	Professional Fees and Services	-	3,620	3,620	-	3,620
<b>Total: State Approving Agency</b>		<b>236,266</b>	<b>292,024</b>	<b>296,084</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>296,084</b>

32175 - Veterans Home Cemetery

712000	Grants, Benefits & Claims	-	291,500	-	291,500	291,500
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		2	3	4	5	6
		2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Base	2023-25	2023-25 Total
		Biennium	Biennium	Budget	Optional	Budget
		Expenditures	Appropriations	Request	Budget	Request
					Changes	
<b>General - GEN</b>						
001	GENERAL FUND	1,282,487	1,570,624	1,584,480	819,744	2,404,224
<b>Total: General</b>		<b>1,282,487</b>	<b>1,570,624</b>	<b>1,584,480</b>	<b>819,744</b>	<b>2,404,224</b>
<b>Federal - FED</b>						
H1345	Rural Transportation Grant	963,205	1,220,126	1,126,085	-	1,126,085
H1355	State Approving Agency	236,266	292,024	296,084	-	296,084
H1361	VETERANS CEMETERY GRANTS	-	291,500	-	291,500	291,500
H1370	CRF Federal CARES Money	2,860	-	-	-	-
<b>Total: Federal</b>		<b>1,202,331</b>	<b>1,803,650</b>	<b>1,422,169</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>1,713,669</b>
<b>Total: Department of Veterans Affairs</b>		<b>2,484,819</b>	<b>3,374,274</b>	<b>3,006,649</b>	<b>1,111,244</b>	<b>4,117,893</b>

**7. Discuss the purpose and use of any one-time funding items for the current biennium.**

General Fund	Current Biennium 2021-2023		
	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No One-Time funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgard)	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
		\$ 291,500.00	\$ -
Veterans' Home Cemetery repairs	\$ 291,500.00	\$ -	\$ 291,500.00

\*This is an authorization to accept and expend funds if Federal grant is awarded (VA priority group 4)

**8. Identify and justify the need for any one-time funding being requested/recommended.**

General Fund: Optional One-Time Requests	2023-2025			House Actions	
	NDDVA Request	Governor Recommends	Diff. of Request	House Action	Diff. of Request
<b>Total:</b>	\$396,646.00	\$115,866.00	\$(280,780.00)	\$115,866.00	\$(280,780.00)
Additional DAV Van funding	\$18,800.00	\$18,800.00	\$ -	\$18,800.00	\$ -
Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$19,066.00	\$19,066.00	\$ -	\$19,066.00	\$ -
Scanning Project	\$358,780.00	\$78,000.00	\$(280,780.00)	\$78,000.00	\$(280,780.00)
			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Non-General Fund: (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgard)	2023-2025			House Actions	
	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference	House Actions	Diff. of Request
<b>Total:</b>	\$291,500.00	\$291,500.00	\$ -	\$291,500	\$0
Veterans' Home Cemetery repairs	\$291,500.00	\$291,500.00	\$ -	\$291,500	\$0

\*This is an authorization to accept and expend funds if Federal grant is awarded

\*VA Priority Group 4

**DAV Vans**

**\$18,800**

NDDVA is requesting additional DAV van funding of \$18,800 be added to \$18,800 (amount in the 2021-2023 budget) for a total of \$37,600 in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Current DAV Van inventory in ND is 9 vans serving the urban areas of:

- Bismarck (2 vans): Bismarck/Mandan, Jamestown, Valley City (communities between Bismarck and Fargo)
- Beach (1 van), Beach, Medora, Dickinson (communities between Beach and Fargo and Beach and SD Ft. Meade)
- Lidgerwood (1 van): Communities from Lidgerwood, Wahpeton and to Fargo
- Minot (1 van): Minot and communities along highway 2 and I29 to Fargo
- McHenry County (1 van): Communities along highway 75 to Jamestown and to Fargo
- Pembina Count (1 van): Communities along I29 to Fargo; Grand Forks, Hillsboro

NDDVA's budget for vans:

- 2017-2019 included \$37,200 for the purchase of up to 2 transportation vans, no vans were purchased.
- 2019-2021 budget included: \$18,800, one (1) van was purchased at a cost to NDDVA of \$13,845.
- 2021-2023 budget includes \$18,800 for vans. 1 expected to be purchased 2023.
- It is estimated that two (2) vans will need replacement during the 2023-2025 biennium.

This funding along with funding from the DAV's Columbia Trust is used to purchase vans to transport veterans from across ND to the VAMC in Fargo. In working with the Columbia Trust NDDVA's has been able to purchase vans for \$14,000-\$21,000. When we submit applications to the Columbia-Trust we also request that the trust consider North Dakota for a free van, the trust provides a few free vans nationwide each year. North Dakota received a free van in 2014 and again in 2018.

Once purchased the DAV Vans are donated to the Federal VA in Fargo. The Federal VA maintains all expenses for van to include fuel, maintenance, and licensing. Once van reaches its useful life it is returned to NDDVA for disposal. Useful life has been at 150,000 miles.

**Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave: \$19,066**

1 staff member expected to retire after over 43 years of service.

**Scanning Project *Estimate:* \$358,780**

Preliminary estimate to scan 985,000 documents and 50,000 files from 1 location was received in June 2022 at the estimated cost of \$78,000.

Current estimate is 1.2 million documents in 40 counties. Pick up, scan, name (name and SSN), save in format requested (NDDVA, County, State Historical Society), upload into data base and return as per county instructions

- Discharges
  - Name and upload Discharges into Data base
  - Save as PDF on 2 hard drives for County and State Historical
- Claim Files
  - Scan documents
    - Name and upload estimated 50,000 files to data base
    - Save as PDF or requested format for 40 counties
- NDDVA & ITD Working on ability to conduct mass upload to save time and \$.

**9. Discuss agency collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2021 legislative session estimates during the 2021-23 biennium and estimated changes for the 2023-25 biennium.**

NDDVA does not collect fees for any services.

NDDVA provides Commemorative Memorial Coins (NDCC37-18-12) to families of at Veteran's funerals. These coins are also offered for sale with the proceeds used to purchase more coins. Donations are also requested and accepted for this program. These funds are deposited in the NDDVA fund 410 along with spendable income from the PWTF.

Commemorative Memorial Coins	2021 & 22	2023 & 24
Coin Sales (\$7.23 NET of coins sold @ \$10)	\$ 11,336.64	\$ 12,000.00
Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Estimated 3,200 Coins conferred @\$2.49 each	\$ 7,248.00	\$ 7,968.00
Net +/-	\$ 5,088.64	\$ 5,032.00

\*\*2021 & 2022 coins sales: 1,568

**10. Discuss the need for any other sections that are included or are requested/recommended to be included in the agency appropriation bill.**

- Carry over funding.
  - PTSD Dogs: *House removed from base budget-kept carry over.*

**11. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on the agency.**

- **HB 1157 Fisher House** **\$500,000**
  - Provide one time match to Federal funds
  - No impact to NDDVA budget
- **HB 1182 Funeral Honor Stipend** **\$200,000**
  - Provide \$50 stipend for F.H. Guard team.
  - House **reduced** to \$135,000
  - Additional duty for NDDVA no impact to budget
- **HB 1426 Increase principal of Post War Trust Fund (PWTF)** **\$1,900,000**
  - 50% gaming tax paid by Veteran Org. to PWTF
  - House **DEFEATED** 45-46

**12. Provide a one-page itemized listing of the changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the executive recommendation.**

Optional Request	2023-2025			House Action		Senate Request	
	NDDVA Request	Governor Recommends	Diff. of Request	House Action	Diff. of Request	Senate Request:	Diff. of Request
Total:	\$1,061,622.00	\$325,376.00	\$736,246.00	\$ 276,376.00	\$ (785,246.00)	\$ 1,111,622.00	\$ 50,000.00
1.Equity Funding	\$ 289,710.00	\$102,000.00	\$187,710.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ (204,710.00)	\$ 289,710.00	\$ -
2.Deputy Commissioner	\$ 199,756.00	\$ -	\$199,756.00	\$ -	\$ (199,756.00)	\$ 199,756.00	\$ -
3.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ 175,510.00	\$107,510.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 125,510.00	\$ (50,000.00)	\$ 175,510.00	\$ -
4.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -
5.Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$ 19,066.00	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -
6.Scanning Project	\$ 358,780.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$280,780.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ (280,780.00)	\$ 358,780.00	\$ -
7. PTSD dogs				\$ (50,000.00)	\$ (50,000.00)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Total FTE	10	9	1	0	1	0	1

**Equity Funding****\$289,710**

During the previous biennium ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) experienced 30% staff turnover. All staff turn-over was attributed to their salary/compensation amounts.

- Civilian, County and Federal employers are paying higher compensation packages.
- Four of our top candidates refused employment due to the compensation package NDDVA could offer.
- It is unacceptable that NDDVA cannot afford to recruit the qualified staff needed to serve North Dakota's Veterans. We need to provide funding to move these employees closer to a compensation package which is more reflective of the work that they are doing and competitive with the civilian, County and Federal employment markets
- In comparison to the top 3 competitors for NDDVA Veterans Benefit Specialist (VBS) positions NDDVA salary is on average 34% below. See below;
  - **MNDVA (23%)** Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs poached one of NDDVA VBS at a starting annual salary of \$12,000 more than current salary of NDDVA VBS. That is a 23% higher wage. *Source: MN DVA. Update-MNDVA implementing large increases.*
  - **VARO (36%)**: Federal VA Regional Office Veterans Claims examiners grade 11 and 12 step 4 is 36% higher than NDDVA. *Source: VA online pay schedule*
  - **CVSO ND (44%)**: County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) of the top 8 largest counties in ND are paid on average 44% more than the NDDVA VBS who train and support them. *Source 2022 Mill report.*
- NDDVA VBS are also below ND Salary Market Mid-Point (MMP)
  - **ND Salary MMP (17%)**: NDDVA VBS Grade 105 are on average 17% below MMP of the ND Salary Ranges for 2022-2023
- Total General Fund Salary Base for NDDVA 2021-2023 Biennium: \$852,087
  - **34% of Base** = \$289,709.58
- \*\* Federal VA expenditures brought into North Dakota exceeds **\$1 Billion** biennium. NDDVA is at the center of making that happen and increasing those dollar amounts.
  - 2021-2023 North Dakota General Fund dollars appropriated to NDDVA= \$1.5 million.
    - Return on Investment: **710%**

**Deputy Commissioner****\$199,756**

NDDVA is requesting full time Deputy Commissioner as most states have several deputy commissioners. Currently the NDDVA commissioner is charged with and is sole participant in many important programs. It is not practical for 1 agency director to be the single contact for important programs and serve on committees which result in having to choose which to attend when they are all very important.

Committees: VARHAC, NASDVA, ACOVA, NDVLC, MAAC, WDC, VALOR, VA Fargo Leadership, Statewide Aging Collaborative, Committee to end Veteran Homelessness, TF MIND, ND Protection and Advocacy, Suicide Review Committee, ND Transit Grant Board, Veterans Court, ND Oral Health Coalition, ND America 250, SDFA, Fisher House, [NDHOPES](#), [NDCARES](#), [Governor Challenge](#), [VA Suicide Prevention](#), [NDRBH](#), [MHAND](#), [SAMSHA](#), [VA Prevents](#), [American Warrior Partnership](#), [ND Suicide Prevention Coalition](#), [Together with Veterans](#), [VA Veterans Care Coalition](#).

Programs and missed opportunities needing additional attention:

Financial: Federal Grants; Fox Grant (\$750,000 year),

Health/access to care: additional transportation, Toxic exposure: Fort McClellan (AL) Hickam (HI),

Behavior health: Clergy training, shared missions

Employment/Entrepreneur: Entrepreneur programs, Vet Corps & Vista, Tunnels to Towers,

Memorial: Lost 74, County memorials, State Heroes

Housing: Long Term Care, Veteran Adult Day Care, TMIR Housing Project, USDA Housing

Appreciation/coordination/other: Coordination/consolidation of discharges, Legal Services, Stakeholder engagement, shared events and calendar

**13. Provide a comparison of your agency’s major requests to those recommended in the executive budget.**

Optional Requests	2023-2025		
	NDDVA Request	Governor Recommends	Difference
Total:	\$ 1,061,622.00	\$ 325,376.00	\$ 736,246.00
1. Equity Funding	\$ 289,710.00	\$102,000.00	\$ 187,710.00
2. FTE Deputy Commissioner	\$ 199,756.00	\$ -	\$ 199,756.00
3. FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ 175,510.00	\$ 107,510.00	\$ 68,000.00
4. Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ -
5. Retirement Payment Annual and Sick Leave	\$ 19,066.00	\$ 19,066.00	\$ -
6. Scanning Project	\$ 358,780.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 280,780.00
Total FTE	10	9	1

**14. Identify the purpose and amount of federal state fiscal recovery funding appropriated to your agency during the November 2021 special legislative session, amount of fund spent to date, the timeline for obligating and spending the remaining funds, and any amounts that will not be obligated by December 2024.**

2021-2023 ARPA			
	NDDVA approved	Spent to date	Difference
Total:	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00
Transportation	\$ 147,000.00	\$ 10,186.84	\$ 136,813.16
Fisher House	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00

\*Transportation program starting second year. We are expanding eligibility to entire state.

\*Fisher House funding will be distributed once construction begins 2023-2024.



**15. Identify the amount of federal funding available to your agency for the 2023-25 biennium, the purpose of the funding, federal deadlines for spending the funds, and your agency’s plan for spending the funds.**

2023-25 Federal Funds				Deadline
	NDDVA	Estimated	Balance	
	approved	expenditures	by deadline	
Total:	\$ 2,069,169.00	\$ 2,069,169.00	\$ -	
HRTG Transportation	\$ 1,126,085.00	\$ 1,126,085.00	\$ -	9/14/2025
SAA	\$ 296,084.00	\$ 296,084.00	\$ -	9/30/2025
ARPA	647,000	647,000	\$ -	12/30/2024

**16. Provide additional information as necessary.**

**NDDVA is an investment in North Dakota’s,**

- **Veterans**
- **Their Dependents**
- **State economic health**

**NDDVA staff bring Federal Dollars to ND. The additional Staff we request will bring more of those Federal Dollars to ND while decreasing use of state funded programs.**

**Over \$1 Billion per biennium!!  
Small Budget-Big Return**

**NDDVA is asking the Senate Appropriations to...**

- Support the Governors recommendations and add
  - \$187,710 in equity funding
  - 1-FTE: Deputy Commissioner-See FOX GRANT
  - Full Estimated Scanning Project 1-time funding
  - Replace PTSD dog funding in budget and remove 2019-2021 carry over.

**Consider adding principal to Post War Trust Fund**

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**News Release**Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov**EMBARGOED UNTIL RELEASED BY VA****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 2, 2023

## **VA to award \$52.5 million in grants to local organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide**

**WASHINGTON** — Today, VA announced the availability of \$52.5 million in grants to community-based organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and their families – including conducting Veteran mental health screenings, providing case management and peer support services, delivering emergency clinical services, reaching out to Veterans at risk of suicide, and [more](#).

These grants will be awarded through VA's [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). The Notice of Funding Opportunity provides information about the program, eligibility, and award process. Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on May 19, 2023 and awards will be granted to eligible entities by Sept. 30, 2023. The funds will be used by the selected organizations in Fiscal Year 2024.

Preventing Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and – as President Biden outlined in his [State of the Union address](#) – a key part of the [Unity Agenda](#). In September, VA released the [2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#), which showed that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row, and that fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006.

“Veterans at risk of suicide deserve quick and easy access to mental health screenings, peer support, emergency services, and more – both from VA and community-based organizations,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “There are countless great organizations across America that are providing Veterans with this type of local, on-the-ground support, and we at VA are proud to support their efforts.”

These grants are a core aspect of VA's 10-year [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#) and the Biden-Harris Administration's plan for [Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide](#). This will be the second round of grants awarded as part of VA's [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). In September 2022, VA awarded grants for the program's first year, totaling \$52.5 million to [80 awardees](#) in 43 states, Washington, D.C., and American Samoa. The grant program is named after Parker Gordon Fox, a sniper instructor who died by suicide at the age of 25.

Grant funding will be divided into two priorities. Under Priority 1, VA will provide opportunities for funding to those entities with existing SSG Fox SPGP awards. Under Priority 2, new

organizations can apply for grants worth up to \$750,000. Following the selection of Priority 1 grantee applicants, any remaining funds will be awarded according to Priority 2. VA may prioritize the distribution of suicide prevention services grants under this Priority to: (i) Rural communities; (ii) Tribal lands; (iii) Territories of the United States; (iv) Medically underserved areas; (v) Areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans; and (vi) Areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line.

Over the past two years, VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide. In January, VA [announced](#) that Veterans in acute suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost — including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. VA has also [established 988 \(then press 1\) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, qualified crisis support 24/7](#); launched [Mission Daybreak, a \\$20 million grand challenge aimed at developing innovations to reduce Veteran suicides](#); conducted an ongoing public outreach effort on [firearm suicide prevention and lethal means safety](#); and leveraged a [national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign, “Don’t Wait. Reach Out.”](#)

*Reporters covering this issue can download [VA’s Safe Messaging Best Practices](#) fact sheet or visit [ReportingOnSuicide.org](#) for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.*

*If you’re a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don’t have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#), or text 838255.*

###

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321  
House Bill No. 1025  
Base Level Funding Changes**

Prepared for: 3/20/2023

	Executive Budget Recommendation				House Version				House Changes to Executive Budget Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
<b>2023-25 Biennium Base Level</b>	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>												
Adds funding for the cost to continue salary increases		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810				\$0
Salary increase		94,285	13,964	108,249		70,597	10,454	81,051		(\$23,688)	(\$3,510)	(27,198)
Health insurance increase		30,006	6,002	36,008		30,696	6,140	36,836		690	138	828
Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff		19,066		19,066				0		(19,066)		(19,066)
Adds funding to convert a temporary position to an FTE veterans benefit specialist position	1.00	99,966		99,966	1.00	99,966		99,966				0
Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program		68,000	(93,915)	(25,915)		50,000	(93,915)	(43,915)		(18,000)		(18,000)
Reduces funding for operating expenses		(6)	(126)	(132)		(6)	(126)	(132)				0
Adds funding for information technology rate increases		3,739	1,436	5,175		3,739	1,436	5,175				0
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses			937	937			937	937				0
Removes funding for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program				0		(50,000)		(50,000)		(50,000)		(50,000)
Total ongoing funding changes	1.00	\$325,179	(\$70,015)	\$255,164	1.00	\$215,115	(\$73,387)	\$141,728	0.00	(\$110,064)	(\$3,372)	(\$113,436)
<b>One-Time Funding Items</b>												
Adds funding for a document scanning project		\$78,000		\$78,000		\$78,000		\$78,000				\$0
Adds one-time funding for accrued leave of retiring staff				0		19,066		19,066		\$19,066		19,066
Adds funding for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van		18,800		18,800		18,800		18,800				0
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	291,500			\$291,500	291,500				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$96,800	\$291,500	\$388,300	0.00	\$115,866	\$291,500	\$407,366	0.00	\$19,066	\$0	\$19,066
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	1.00	\$421,979	\$221,485	\$643,464	1.00	\$330,981	\$218,113	\$549,094	0.00	(\$90,998)	(\$3,372)	(\$94,370)
<b>2023-25 Total Funding</b>	9.00	\$1,992,603	\$1,733,635	\$3,726,238	9.00	\$1,901,605	\$1,730,263	\$3,631,868	0.00	(\$90,998)	(\$3,372)	(\$94,370)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$1,733,635				\$1,703,763				(\$29,872)	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	20.7%	(4.6%)	8.3%	12.5%	13.7%	(4.9%)	4.6%				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	26.9%	14.6%	20.9%	12.5%	21.1%	14.4%	17.8%				

**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

	Executive Budget Recommendation	House Version
Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program	Section 3 would provide the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2021-23 biennium.	Section 3 provides the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.
Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund	Section 4 would provide the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).	Section 4 provides the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

23.0254.02001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
the Senate Appropriations - Human Resources  
Division Committee

Fiscal No.1

March 28, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

Page 1, line 2, after the first semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 2, remove "; and to provide for a report"

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$287,506	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	21,002	313,026
Grants - transportation program	1,220,000	(93,915)	1,126,085
Transport vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	(50,000)	0
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$456,093	\$3,538,867
Less estimated income	1,512,150	319,297	1,831,447
Total general fund	\$1,570,624	\$136,796	\$1,707,420
Full-time equivalent positions	8.00	1.00	9.00"

Page 2, replace line 4 with:

"Document scanning project	\$0	\$100,836"
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Page 2, remove line 6

Page 2, replace lines 10 through 12 with:

"Total all funds	\$938,500	\$411,402
Less estimated income	938,500	392,336
Total general fund	\$0	\$19,066"

Page 2, after line 16, insert:

**"SECTION 3. ESTIMATED INCOME - FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - DOCUMENT SCANNING PROJECT.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$100,836 from federal funds derived from the state fiscal recovery fund for the purpose of a document scanning project."

Page 2, line 30, after the period insert "Of the \$147,000 for veterans' medical transportation, \$18,800 may be used for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van during the 2023-25 biennium."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**House Bill No. 1025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,501,950	\$1,864,005	(\$74,549)	\$1,789,456
State approving agency	292,024	312,678	348	313,026
Grants - Transportation program	1,220,000	1,126,085		1,126,085

Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000			
Veterans' Home cemetery		291,500		291,500
Total all funds	\$3,082,774	\$3,631,868	(\$93,001)	\$3,538,867
Less estimated income	1,512,150	1,730,263	101,184	1,831,447
General fund	\$1,570,624	\$1,901,605	(\$194,185)	\$1,707,420
FTE	8.00	9.00	0.00	9.00

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Detail of Senate Changes**

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>1</sup>	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool <sup>2</sup>	Adjusts One-Time Funding for a Document Scanning Project <sup>3</sup>	Removes One-Time Funding for a Transport Van <sup>4</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	\$22,836		(\$74,549)
State approving agency	3,372	(3,024)			348
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home cemetery					
Total all funds	\$26,370	(\$123,407)	\$22,836	(\$18,800)	(\$93,001)
Less estimated income	3,372	(3,024)	100,836	0	101,184
General fund	\$22,998	(\$120,383)	(\$78,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$194,185)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$23,688	\$3,510	\$27,198
Health insurance increase	(690)	(138)	(828)
Total	\$22,998	\$3,372	\$26,370

The House provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
New FTE positions	(\$99,966)	\$0	(\$99,966)
Vacant FTE positions	(20,417)	(3,024)	(23,441)
Total	(\$120,383)	(\$3,024)	(\$123,407)

<sup>3</sup> One-time funding for a document scanning project is adjusted by removing \$78,000 from the general fund approved by the House and adding \$100,836 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

<sup>4</sup> One-time funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 of ongoing funding from the general fund. The House provided \$37,600 from the general fund, of which \$18,800 was ongoing funding and \$18,800 was one-time funding, for the purchase of two transport vans. The Senate amendments provide the department may use funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to purchase an additional transport van.

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to identify \$100,836 in the estimated income line item in Section 1 from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for a document scanning project.
- Amends a section that provides an exemption to continue \$147,000 appropriated from the federal State Fiscal

Recovery Fund for veterans' medical transportation during the November 2021 special legislative session to also be used for the purchase of a nonhighly rural transport van.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**House Bill No. 1025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

Prepared for: 4/17/2023

	House Version				Senate Version				Senate Changes to House Version Increase (Decrease) - House Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
<b>2023-25 Biennium Base Level</b>	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	8.00	\$1,570,624	\$1,512,150	\$3,082,774	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>												
Adds funding for the cost to continue salary increases		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810		\$10,123	\$1,687	\$11,810				\$0
Salary increase		70,597	10,454	81,051		94,285	13,964	108,249		\$23,688	\$3,510	27,198
Health insurance increase		30,696	6,140	36,836		30,006	6,002	36,008		(690)	(138)	(828)
Adds funding for accrued leave of retiring staff				0				0				0
Adds funding to convert a temporary position to an FTE veterans benefit specialist position	1.00	99,966		99,966	1.00	99,966		99,966				0
Removes salary funding for funding pool				0		(120,383)	(3,024)	(123,407)		(120,383)	(3,024)	(123,407)
Adjusts funding for the highly rural transportation program		50,000	(93,915)	(43,915)		50,000	(93,915)	(43,915)				0
Reduces funding for operating expenses		(6)	(126)	(132)		(6)	(126)	(132)				0
Adds funding for information technology rate increases		3,739	1,436	5,175		3,739	1,436	5,175				0
Adds funding for State Approving Agency salaries and operating expenses			937	937			937	937				0
Removes funding for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program		(50,000)		(50,000)		(50,000)		(50,000)				0
Total ongoing funding changes	1.00	\$215,115	(\$73,387)	\$141,728	1.00	\$117,730	(\$73,039)	\$44,691	0.00	(\$97,385)	\$348	(\$97,037)
<b>One-Time Funding Items</b>												
Adds funding for a document scanning project		\$78,000		\$78,000		\$0	\$100,836	\$100,836		(\$78,000)	\$100,836	\$22,836
Adds one-time funding for accrued leave of retiring staff		19,066		19,066		19,066		19,066				0
Adds funding for the purchase of an additional nonhighly rural transport van		18,800		18,800		0		0		(18,800)		(18,800)
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	291,500			\$291,500	291,500				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$115,866	\$291,500	\$407,366	0.00	\$19,066	\$392,336	\$411,402	0.00	(\$96,800)	\$100,836	\$4,036
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	1.00	\$330,981	\$218,113	\$549,094	1.00	\$136,796	\$319,297	\$456,093	0.00	(\$194,185)	\$101,184	(\$93,001)
<b>2023-25 Total Funding</b>	9.00	\$1,901,605	\$1,730,263	\$3,631,868	9.00	\$1,707,420	\$1,831,447	\$3,538,867	0.00	(\$194,185)	\$101,184	(\$93,001)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$1,703,763				\$1,804,947				\$101,184	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	13.7%	(4.9%)	4.6%	12.5%	7.5%	(4.8%)	1.4%				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	12.5%	21.1%	14.4%	17.8%	12.5%	8.7%	21.1%	14.8%				

**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

Estimated income - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund

Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program

**House Version**

Section 3 provides the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.

**Senate Version**

Section 3 identifies \$100,836 in the estimated income line item in Section 1 is from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for a document scanning project.

Section 4 provides the department an exemption to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium and 2021-23 biennium funds for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dog program into the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the department for the program for the 2019-21 biennium and \$50,000 from the general fund for the 2021-23 biennium.



**Other Sections in Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**

Exemption - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund

**House Version**

Section 4 provides the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000).

**Senate Version**

Section 5 provides the department an exemption to continue funding appropriated from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the 2021-23 biennium into the 2023-25 biennium. During the November 2021 special legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$647,000 to the department for a grant to assist in the construction of the Fisher House at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center (\$500,000) and to improve and expand veterans' medical transportation (\$147,000). Of the \$147,000 provided for veterans' medical transportation, the department is authorized to use \$18,800 for the purchase of one non-highly rural transport van.