

**2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2025**

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Senate Bill No. 2025**

**Executive Budget Comparison to Prior Biennium Appropriations**

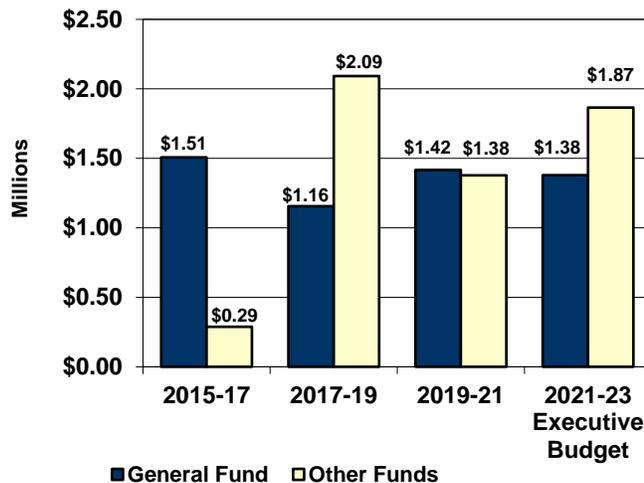
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 Executive Budget	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287
2019-21 Legislative Appropriations <sup>1</sup>	7.00	1,416,430	1,377,157	2,793,587
Increase (Decrease)	0.00	(\$37,806)	\$488,506	\$450,700

<sup>1</sup>The 2019-21 biennium agency appropriation amounts have not been adjusted for additional federal funds authority of \$402,860, of which \$2,860 is related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) costs, resulting from Emergency Commission action during the 2019-21 biennium.

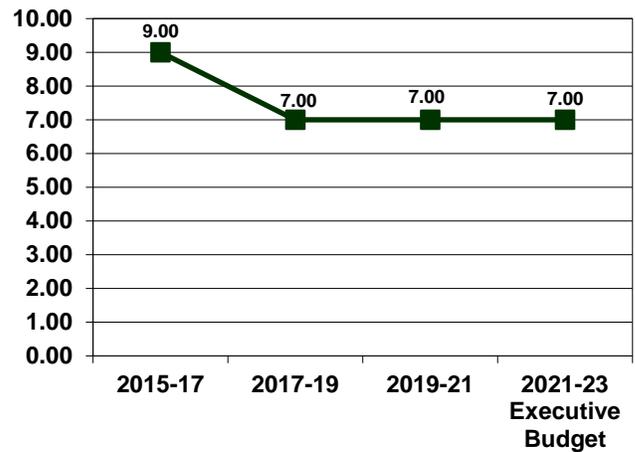
**Ongoing and One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation	Total General Fund Appropriation
2021-23 Executive Budget	\$1,378,624	\$0	\$1,378,624
2019-21 Legislative Appropriations	1,268,930	147,500	1,416,430
Increase (Decrease)	\$109,694	(\$147,500)	(\$37,806)

**Agency Funding**



**FTE Positions**



**Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 Executive Budget	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287
2021-23 Base Level	1,268,930	1,085,657	2,354,587
Increase (Decrease)	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700

Attached as an appendix is a detailed comparison of the executive budget to the agency's base level appropriations.

**Executive Budget Highlights**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$31,281 is for salary increases, \$341 is for health insurance increases, and \$6,437 is for retirement contribution increases	\$31,946	\$6,113	\$38,059
2. Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses	\$1,195	\$127	\$1,322
3. Adjusts funding for operating expenses primarily related to veteran service officer training, travel, and information technology data processing	(\$53,950)	\$1,000	(\$52,950)

4. Adjusts funding for temporary salaries to provide a total of \$140,000, of which \$12,000 is from the general fund in the veterans' affairs line item and \$128,000 is from federal funds in the grants - transportation program line item	\$12,000	\$128,000	\$140,000
5. Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program to provide a total of \$1,280,000 from federal funds	\$0	\$432,000	\$432,000
6. Adds one-time funding from federal funds for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500

**Other Sections Recommended to be Added in the Executive Budget  
(As Detailed in the Attached Appendix)**

**Exemption - Service dogs** - Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.

**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 Appropriation**

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, 2018, identified no significant audit findings.

**Major Related Legislation**

At this time, no major related legislation has been introduced affecting this agency.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**Senate Bill No. 2025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

	<b>Executive Budget Recommendation</b>			
	<b>FTE Position</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2021-23 Biennium Base Level</b>	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587
<b>2021-23 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>				
Base payroll changes		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769
Salary increase		26,258	5,023	31,281
Health insurance increase		284	57	341
Retirement contribution increase		5,404	1,033	6,437
Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses		1,195	127	1,322
Adjusts funding for operating expenses		(53,950)	1,000	(52,950)
Adjusts funding for temporary salaries		12,000	128,000	140,000
Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program			432,000	432,000
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$109,694	\$488,506	\$598,200
<b>One-time funding items</b>				
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	\$291,500
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	0.00	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700
<b>2021-23 Total Funding</b>	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	45.0%	25.4%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	71.8%	37.8%

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

Exemption - Service dogs

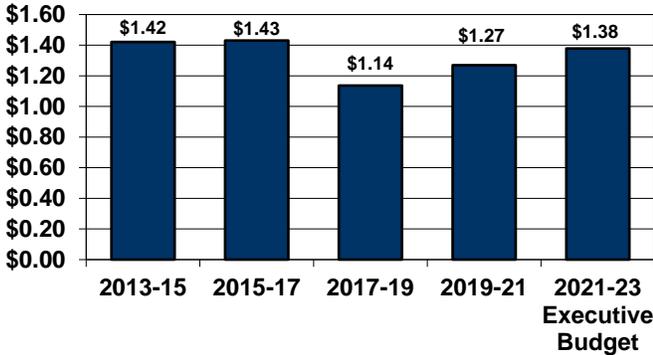
**Executive Budget Recommendation**  
 Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.

Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs

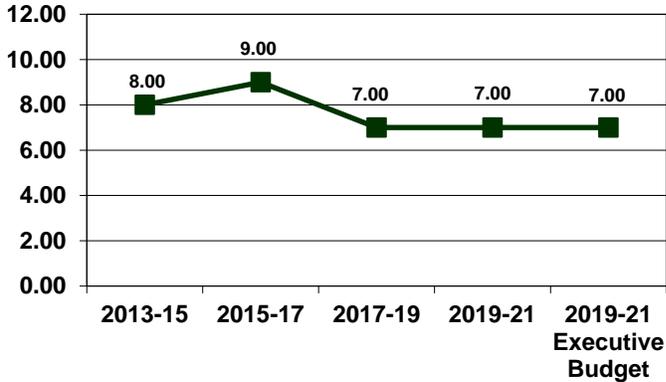
# Historical Appropriations Information

## Ongoing General Fund Appropriations Since 2013-15

Ongoing General Fund Appropriations (in Millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing General Fund Appropriations					
	2013-15	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23 Executive Budget
Ongoing general fund appropriations	\$1,420,703	\$1,429,982	\$1,136,562	\$1,268,930	\$1,378,624
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$9,279	(\$293,420)	\$132,368	\$109,694
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	0.7%	(20.5%)	11.6%	8.6%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2013-15 biennium	N/A	0.7%	(20.0%)	(10.7%)	(3.0%)

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

**2015-17 Biennium**

- 1. Added funding to purchase vans to transport veterans to medical appointments \$15,000
- 2. Added funding for the Agent Orange program \$50,000
- 3. Increased funding for stand down events to provide a total of \$20,000 from the general fund \$10,000

**2017-19 Biennium**

- 1. Removed 2 undesignated FTE positions (\$260,000)
- 2. 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)
- 3. Removed funding for stand down events (\$20,000)
- 4. Removed funding for the Agent Orange program (\$50,000)
- 5. Added funding for service dogs \$50,000
- 6. 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**

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

**2021-23 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Adjusts funding for operating expenses, primarily related to veteran service officer training, travel, and information technology data processing (\$53,950)

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS AS SUBMITTED  
BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' Affairs	\$1,200,130	\$109,821	\$1,309,951
Transport Vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service Dogs	50,000	0	50,000
State Approving Agency	285,657	8,379	294,036
Grants – Transportation Program	800,000	480,000	1,280,000
Veteran's Home Cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total All Funds	\$2,354,587	\$889,700	\$3,244,287
Less Estimated Income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>780,006</u>	<u>1,865,663</u>
Total General Fund	\$1,268,930	\$109,694	\$1,378,624
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	7.00	0.00	7.00

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty- sixth legislative assembly for the 2019-21 biennium and the 2021-23 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2019-21</u>	<u>2021-23</u>
Veterans' Home Cemetery	\$291,500	\$291,500
Temporary Loan and Grant Position	140,000	0
Grant Database Enhancements	<u>7,500</u>	<u>0</u>
Total All Funds	\$439,000	\$291,500
Less Estimated Income	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total General Fund	\$147,500	\$0

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION.** The amount of \$50,000 appropriated for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Sessions Laws, is not subject to section 54-44.1- 11, and any unexpended funds from this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023.

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
1/7/2021  
Senate Appropriations Committee

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

**Chairman Holmberg** called the meeting to order at 10:11 p.m. Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman were present.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Overview of ND Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Budget
  - Fisher House
  - DAV vans

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, ND Department of Veterans Affairs**, testified in favor and submitted testimony #43.

**Chairman Holmberg** closes the hearing at 10:56 a.m.

*Skyler Strand, Committee Clerk*

**SB2025 ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget**  
**Commissioner Lonnie Wangen**  
**Senate Hearing January 7, 2020**

Per the request of Senate Appropriations Chair Senator Ray Holmberg 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

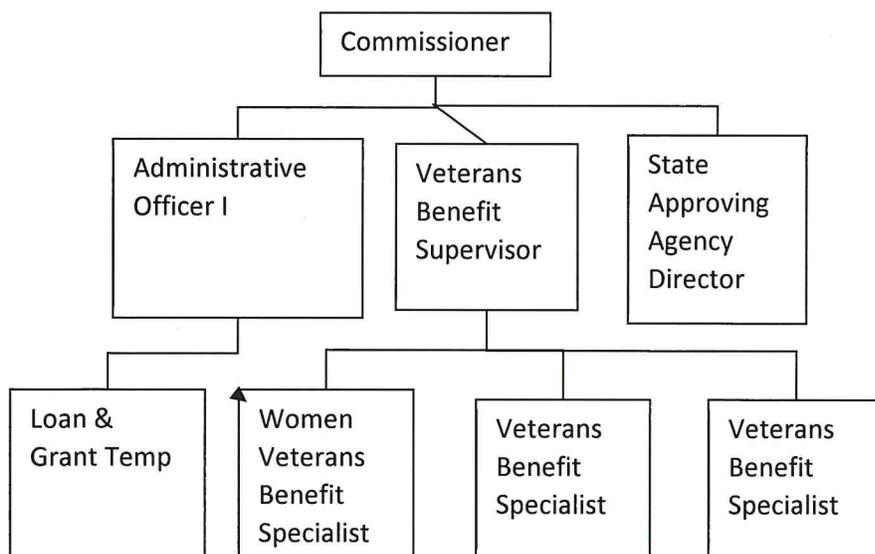
## 2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs - Attach organizational chart.

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 program
  - Highly Rural Transportation program
  - 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



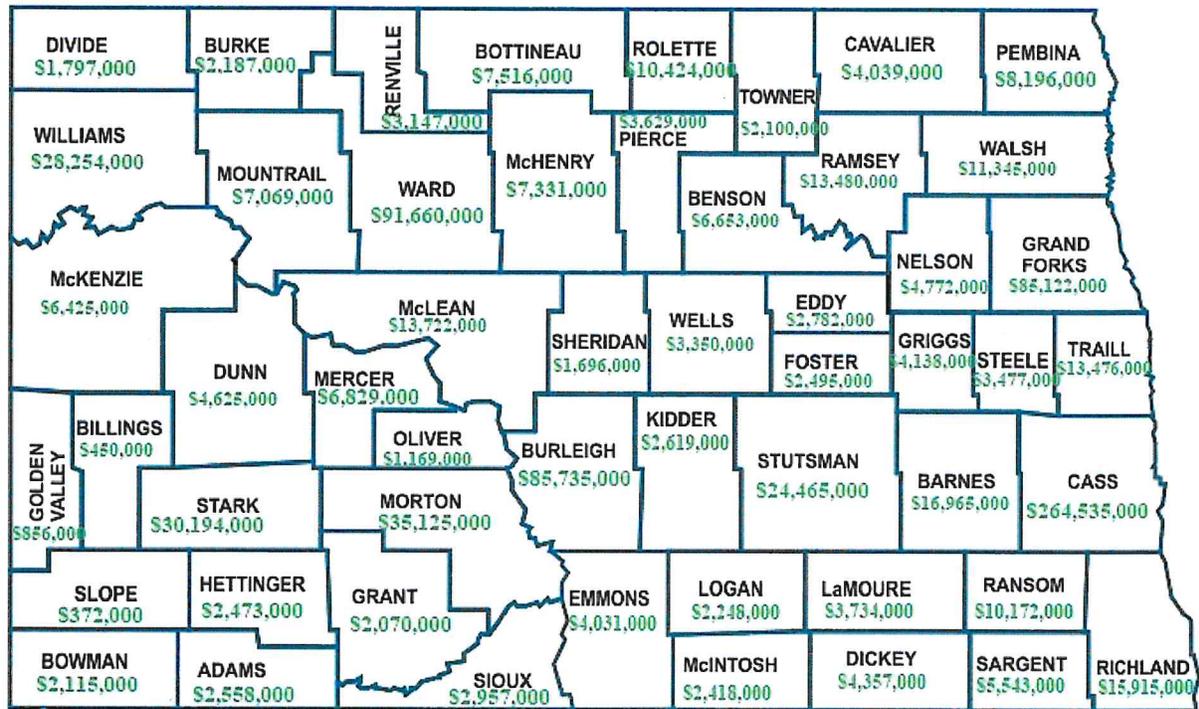
### 3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.

- Audit conducted March of 2019
  - No formal recommendations
  - No informal recommendations
  - No concerns or notations made to NDDVA for improvements

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

#### Accomplishments

- Education:
  - 145 courses across all ND State IHL approved for Military Credit. First time in ND History.
    - 100 and 200 level courses from the top 10 MOS's returning to ND plus some universal 300-400 level courses
    - AmeriCorps Vistas worked at NDDVA over 3-year period
  - 100% review of all IHL catalogs for approval.
  - Over 200 Apprenticeship and On the Job Training programs approved at 97 ND facilities
    - Up 25-30 programs and 20 facilities from previous biennium.
  - **\$47,818,000** in Federal Education benefits in ND (2018 & 2019)
- Grants and Loans (**No Loan and Grant officer 2017-July 2020**)
  - Grants 158 to date (compared to 255 2017-2019)
  - Loans 48 to date (compared to 64 new loans 2017-2019)
- Housing
  - Homeless Veterans Committee. Coordinate services, on database, by name list. Functional Zero!
  - VAMC in Fargo opened new Community Resource and Referral Center in downtown Fargo
  - Fisher House **\$8 Million** project approved
- Legal Services
  - Veterans Court Committee
- CVSO/TVSO support and training
  - New VSO trained 2019-2020: 18 (compared to 2017-2018: 6) **300% increase**
  - First time in ND and possibly the nation County Veteran services to be contracted with tribal veteran service office. Sioux county contracting with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe VSO.
- Benefits -VA
  - Transitioning to serving C&TVSO's.
    - Goal to have Less Direct claim development
      - Currently have 1,297.
      - 2019 NDDVA had more direct claims than the largest ND Counties.
  - Total Claims estimate for 2019-2021 **2,500** (compared to 2017-2019) of 1927 **30% increase**
  - Total appeals in 2019-2020 545 (compared to 171 2017-2019) **320%** increase. 6 months to go.
  - Retroactive payments 2019-2021 to date: \$2,193,284 estimate \$3,000,000
    - Compared to 2017-2019 of \$1,594,026 (**almost 100% increase**)
      - **38% increase** and 6 months to go
      - VA Regional Offices closed for COVID
      - **\$884,808,000** in VA funds to ND (2018-2019)



Total Federal VA Benefits & Expenditures in ND 2018 and 2019  
\$ 884,808,000

**NDDVA Base Budget 2019-2021: \$1,268,930. Return on Investment: 697%**  
**Just the Comp & Pension of \$386,341,000 in ND @ 5% sales tax = \$19,317,050**  
**(\$5 return for every NDDVA dollar)**

**Challenges**

- Staffing
  - 30% cut in staffing levels in 2017 (Governor mandate was 1FTE for NDDVA)
    - 30% increase in claims load in last biennium alone
    - 320% increase in appeals hearings from last biennium
  - 2019 NDDVA had more volunteer staff than Paid employees
    - Volunteer staff ITD support removed from 2021-2023 budget
    - COVID-19 proved volunteer staffing unsustainable for critical needs
  - State funds supplanted by Federal Grant dollars (\$100,000) not sustainable
    - Cuts in Federal expenditures will soon lead to serious shortfall in staff funding.
    - Last quarter of 2020: \$5,398.63 in admin fees. Need \$12,500 per quarter.
  - Lost most Sr. Veteran Benefits Specialist to MN due to workload and compensation. More may be lost if additional staff not added.

**Next Biennium goals and plans**

- Fisher House construction started
- ND Veteran Homelessness at functional zero
- Veterans Court established
- Veterans benefits staffing with sustainable workload and goal of surpassing **\$1 Billion in VA expenditures!**
- Federal grants supplanting fixed so we can apply for new grants (can offset state admin or pay for staffing)

**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	2019-2021	2021-2023			
	Current Budget	OMB Budget	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
<b>Total:</b>		\$ -63,447 (5%)	\$ 677,777.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 537,777.00
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)					\$ -
Training	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
5.FTE Coordinator/Trainer/Information Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
6.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

**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.

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

1

Agency		Department of Veterans Affairs					
Program		100 Veterans Affairs Administration					
Reporting Level		00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Object/Revenue	2019-21	2021-23 Base	2021-23 Total	2021-23 Base	2021-23 Optional	2021-23 Total	
Description	Legislative Base	Budget Changes	Changes	Budget Request	Budget Changes	Budget Request	
Code							
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Motor Vehicles	692000	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Transport Vans	52	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Temporary Salaries	513000	80,000	128,000	48,000	128,000	128,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	6,998	(6,998)	(6,998)	0	0	
IT - Communications	602000	672	(672)	(672)	0	0	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	712,330	439,670	439,670	1,152,000	1,152,000	
Grants - Transportation Program	62	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	1,280,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	609,878	0	110,738	720,616	1,031,656	
Temporary Salaries	513000	0	(128,000)	(128,000)	(128,000)	0	
Fringe Benefits	516000	337,547	0	7,765	345,312	511,093	
Travel	521000	63,145	(30,000)	(30,000)	33,145	63,145	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	13,344	0	0	13,344	13,344	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	729	0	0	729	729	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	3,442	0	0	3,442	3,442	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	4,073	0	0	4,073	4,073	
Office Supplies	536000	2,586	0	0	2,586	2,586	
Postage	541000	750	0	0	750	750	
Printing	542000	300	0	0	300	300	
Utilities	561000	6,264	0	0	6,264	6,264	
Insurance	571000	3,800	0	0	3,800	3,800	
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	14,528	0	0	14,528	14,528	
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	64,710	0	0	64,710	64,710	
Repairs	591000	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	36,467	(7,935)	(7,935)	28,532	36,467	
IT - Communications	602000	6,045	0	0	6,045	6,045	
Professional Development	611000	20,200	(16,015)	(16,015)	4,185	20,200	
Operating Fees and Services	621000	500	0	0	500	500	
Fees - Professional Services	623000	4,822	0	0	4,822	4,822	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	
Veterans Affairs Administration	70	1,200,130	(181,950)	(63,447)	1,136,683	1,795,454	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Service Dogs	72	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	136,870	0	933	137,803	137,803	
Fringe Benefits	516000	67,560	0	333	67,893	67,893	
Travel	521000	17,258	1,000	1,000	18,258	18,258	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	2,136	0	0	2,136	2,136	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	1,489	0	0	1,489	1,489	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	1,274	0	0	1,274	1,274	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	523	0	0	523	523	

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

2

Agency		Department of Veterans Affairs					
Program		100 Veterans Affairs Administration					
Reporting Level		00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Object/Revenue	2019-21	2021-23 Base	2021-23 Total	2021-23 Base	2021-23 Optional	2021-23 Total	
Description	Legislative Base	Budget Changes	Changes	Budget Request	Budget Changes	Budget Request	
Code							
Office Supplies	536000	2,825	0	0	2,825	0	2,825
Postage	541000	1,187	0	0	1,187	0	1,187
Printing	542000	1,973	0	0	1,973	0	1,973
IT Equip Under \$5,000	551000	6,279	0	0	6,279	0	6,279
Other Equip Under \$5,000	552000	264	0	0	264	0	264
Office Equip & Furn Supplies	553000	1,279	0	0	1,279	0	1,279
Utilities	561000	1,788	0	0	1,788	0	1,788
Insurance	571000	1,636	0	0	1,636	0	1,636
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	4,810	0	0	4,810	0	4,810
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	14,748	0	0	14,748	0	14,748
Repairs	591000	1,030	0	0	1,030	0	1,030
IT - Data Processing	601000	8,214	0	0	8,214	0	8,214
IT - Communications	602000	2,873	0	0	2,873	0	2,873
IT Contractual Srvcs and Rprs	603000	685	0	0	685	0	685
Professional Development	611000	5,021	0	0	5,021	0	5,021
Operating Fees and Services	621000	315	0	0	315	0	315
Fees - Professional Services	623000	3,620	0	0	3,620	0	3,620
<b>State Approving Agency</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>285,657</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>287,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>287,923</b>
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>Veterans Home Cemetary</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>291,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>291,500</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>MEANS OF FUNDING</b>							
Rural Transportation Grant	H134	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	0	1,280,000
State Approving Agency	H135	285,657	1,000	2,266	287,923	0	287,923
Veterans Cemetery Grants	H1361	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>FED</b>	<b>1,085,657</b>	<b>852,500</b>	<b>773,766</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>
State General Fund	001	1,268,930	(163,150)	(63,447)	1,205,483	696,371	1,901,854
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>1,268,930</b>	<b>(163,150)</b>	<b>(63,447)</b>	<b>1,205,483</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>1,901,854</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES</b>							
FTE		7.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	7.00
Vacant		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>7.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>

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

<u>General Fund</u>	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ 147,500.00	\$ 145,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Grant Database Enhancements	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Temporary loan and grant position	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -

\*Request to carry over balance of Grant Database Enhancement funds

<u>Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgaard)</u>	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

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

- No one-time funding being requested
- Request balance of one-time funding for Grant Database be carried over to 2021-2023 biennium
- Request Veterans Home Cemetery Repairs authorization remain

**9. Discuss agency collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2019 legislative session estimates during the 2019-21 biennium and estimated changes for the 2021-23 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.

	To date 2019-21	Expected 2021-23
Commemorative Memorial Coins		
Coin Sales (\$7.23 NET of coins sold @ \$10)	\$ 9,507.18	\$ 8,676.00
Donations	\$ 4,120.00	\$ -
Estimated 3,200 Coins conferred @\$2.265 each	\$ 7,248.00	\$ 7,248.00
Net +/-	\$ 6,379.18	\$ 1,428.00

\*\*2019 coins sales: 599

\*\*2020 coins sales to date: 714

\*\*Expected sales in 2021-23: 1,200 coins

\* Total balance of Coin fund as of 10/30/2020 \$11,829.46

\*Estimated 1,600 veteran funerals per year  
cost of 1,600 coins @ \$2.265 each: \$3,624

\*Estimated requirement to sell 503 coins per year at \$10  
with net of \$7.21= \$3,626.63

**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.
  - Make funds permanent and allow carryover of unused funds
    - DAV Van Grant \$40,000
    - PTSD Service Dog Grant \$50,000
  - One time carry over
    - Grant Database improvement \$2,100

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

- No known bills with NDDVA budgetary impact.
- NDVLC focus for 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative session is NDDVA budget.
- Possible bills
  - **Appreciation of Veterans and Military**
    - **Medal of Honor recipients automatic Rough Rider award**
    - **Patriotism Project in Elementary Schools**
    - **Disabled Veteran Hunting.** Certain disabled veterans start with youth hunting season. Guaranteed deer tag.
  - **Education**
    - **In State Tuition** for Veterans, Guard-Reserve, and Dependents of (NDCC:15-10-19.1(2) D F and G
    - **ND tuition waiver** residency requirement 5 years (currently 5 and 10 years)
  - **Financial**
    - **Veteran Charitable Gaming net proceeds use.**
      - **Add: Property Taxes & Special assessments**
      - **Removes: Personal Property**
    - **Post War Trust Fund clearing account (410) and Veterans Aid Loan (368)**
      - Authority to invest CD's outside BND
  - **Health & Wellbeing**
    - **PASS FUND:** Funding for up to 500 persons. Guardian, conservator
  - **Legal Services**
    - **Veterans Docket**-Grand Forks amend NDCC 12.1-32-02(1)
      - Veterans Court-Administrative Rule 60
      - Establish Veterans Docket under Drug Court of NDCC
    - **Military Families Top Ten Key Issues**  
From DSLO Key Issues: <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/#key-issues-report>
      - Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability Sen. Meyer
      - Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access Sen. Meyer
      - Licensing Compacts
      - Military Spouse Teacher Certification (ND is green)
      - Purple Star School Program Will probably not be done legislatively but in DPI policy)
      - Advance Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - Virtual School Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - In-State Tuition Continuity Rep Pyle
      - Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting HHS to address this in policy not legislatively)
      - Ask the Question Campaign
  - **National Guard Specific**
    - 219<sup>th</sup> RUF Minot AFB
    - SAD Death Gratuity Authority
    - Trust Land Accounting Line reactivated
    - House Cleaning bill – Update state law with federal law
    - The NDNG Budget

**12. Discuss the impact of any budget changes made to meet the Governor's budget guidelines.**

	Budgeted	Reduced	Balance
2021-2023 Base Budget cut of 5% or \$63,447		\$ 63,447.00	\$ -
Veteran Service Officer Travel & Training	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 16,012.00	\$ 2,288.00
Outreach to County and Tribal VSO's	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Computers for volunteers/Exp. Works/work studies	\$ 7,935.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 14,300.00

Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012

The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy. To properly serve our veterans and their dependents training is a must. NDDVA believes that each of the Veterans Benefits Specialist should attend at least one training event per year. \$18,300 is a very conservative amount for this important training.

Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935

Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources. Resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. While NDDVA does not pay for the services we do have in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA has worked with ND ITD to negotiate for used computers at lower rates.

County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000

NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 which reads in part: "...; to provide counties with recommended qualifications and standards for county veterans' service officers; to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers; to provide county veterans' service officers with educational materials; to assist county veterans' service officers in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information;...".NDDVA current budget is not sufficient to provide these services. NDDVA is requesting \$30,000 be returned to our budget for training conference expenses, outreach to the VSO offices, Tribal events, and to participate in and support the many outreach programs conducted by the Federal VA, Veteran Organizations, State and County agencies.

DAV vans: \$4,500

NDDVA has had a long-standing working relationship with the ND Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Federal VA in providing transportation for Veterans to VA Medical facilities. Utilizing the DAV's national trust known as the Colorado or Columbia Trust NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The Federal VA in Fargo pays for all the expenses to operate the van and utilizes volunteer drivers coordinated by ND County Veteran Service Officers and ND DAV. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800.

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

1. **Restore Base Budget Funding:** **\$63,447**  
Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012  
 The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy.  
Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935  
 Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. NDDVA pay only in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA utilizes used computers at lower rates.  
County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000  
 NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers provide educational materials to in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information.  
DAV vans: \$4,500  
 Pass-Through funding. NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800 per van.  
Stand downs: \$5,000  
 Pass-Through funding. This appropriation is to provide funding for Stand Down events in communities across North Dakota. The main focus is directed at homeless/at risk of homelessness veterans.
2. **Restore Salary funding supplanted by Highly Rural Transportation Grant administrative fees:** **\$100,000**  
 In 2017 OMB supplanted \$100,000 in State General Fund Salaries with Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) admin funds. The NDDVA state general fund **salary** appropriations were reduced by \$100,000. NDDVA had been utilizing these funds for a part-time temporary HRTG coordinator and administrative costs as authorized by the Federal Grant Program. This action eliminated the HRTG coordinator position.  
 The HRTG allows for up to 10% of the total grant dollars *expended* be available for administrative costs. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 HRTG award was for up to \$859,790. NDDVA spent only \$209,804.52 therefore was only allowed \$20,980 for administrative costs. FFY 2017 HRTG award was for up to \$402,730. NDDVA utilized \$326,392.20 and was authorized \$32,639.22 for admin. Supplanting of state general funds by Federal Grant fund dollars greatly affects NDDVA's ability to apply for and maintain more Federal Grants. NDDVA is requesting that the mandate of utilizing \$100,000 of HRTG funds for salary expenses be removed and the general fund dollars returned. NDDVA utilizes the maximum amount of funds for administrative and salary expenses allowed by law. October-December 2020 total admin: \$5,398.63
3. **Loan and Grant Officer changed to (FTE) and funded** **\$18,910**  
 The 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative assembly (2017) reduced total staffing levels at NDDVA by 30%. The Governors recommendation was to reduce back to 2013 staffing levels which would have resulted in a reduction of 1 FTE. The extent that the NDDVA staff workload had increased prior to the staff reductions was already making an impact on the department. Several services and non-mandated programs have already been eliminated or reduced. Funding of \$140,000 in Governors budget 2021-23 as a Temporary position however \$100,000 of ND general fund salary appropriations supplanted by the Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant funds in the 2017-2019 budget was intended to be replaced in 2019-2021 budget. NDDVA is requesting that the Loan and Grant Officer position be returned as a FTE and be fully funded with state general fund appropriations.
4. **Veteran Benefits Specialist/Women Veterans (FTE)** **\$158,910**  
 NDDVA has been in need of an additional Veteran Benefits Specialist (VBS) for years. With the loss of 3 positions during the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative session and the increase of responsibilities and caseload the NDDVA staff have been unable to serve the ND Veterans as they deserve. During the 2017-2019 biennium NDDVA VBS completed 3,915 Compensation and Pension Claims (144 Military Sexual Trauma claims filed by NDDVA Women Veterans Service Officer), had 3,039 office visits (more than ND's largest counties), uploaded 19,986 documents, completed 3,839 forms and conducted 65 outreach events. Due to the increased workload NDDVA lost its most senior and experienced Veterans Benefits Specialist to a higher paying position with less caseload in the same field. NDDVA believes that an additional FTE would greatly improve our ability to serve our veterans as well as increase the services and benefits received by ND Veterans.
5. **Program coordinator/Training/Information Officer** **\$158,910**  
 1 FTE to act as the training officer & benefits specialist. 70% of the training officer's time would be spent conducting initial and continuing training with County & Tribal Veteran Service Officers (C&TVSO's) and information dissemination. 30% of the training officer's time would be spent doing hands on work and maintaining self-proficiency. Better trained and informed C&TVSO's will result in much better services to our veterans and their dependents. This will greatly improve the lives of many of our veteran' and their dependents as well as the Federal dollars coming into ND.  
 The Federal VA expended over \$472,047,000 in 2019 and over \$412,761,000 in 2018. (\$884,808,000) in Federal funds coming into North Dakota during the last Biennium. Without VSO's this does not happen. Source: VA GDG.
6. **DAV vans** **\$56,400**  
 Pass-Through funding. It is estimated that three (3) vans may need replacement during the 2021-2023 biennium. This funding along with funding from the 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-\$18,600. NDDVA is requesting *total* DAV van funding of \$56,400 for the 2021-2023 biennium. NDDVA requests DAV van funds be carried over from each biennium.

**14. Provide a comparison of your agency's optional adjustment requests to those recommended in the executive budget.**

Optional Requests	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
	\$ 696,577.00	\$ 158,800.00	\$ 537,777.00
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)			\$ -
Training	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
DAV Vans	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
5.FTE Crd./Trainer/Info. Officer	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
6.DAV Van funding	\$ 56,400.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 37,600.00

**15. Identify the amount of federal funding available to your agency relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the actual amount spent, and for what purpose.**

COVID CARE

Funds	Requested	Spent	Difference
Total:	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 2,860.00	\$ -
UV Sanitizer	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 2,475.00	\$ -
PPE	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00	\$ -

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

NDDVA appreciates the need for fiscal responsibility, doing more with less and understands budgetary cuts.

- NDDVA has a long history of being fiscally responsible NDDVA budget is one of the lowest in the nation and continues to bring innovative and new programs and procedures which are adopted by many other states.
- NDDVA has a history of “Doing more with less”. Many new programs such as the HRTG, Legal Services, Education Credit for Military Training, State Heroes recognition, Paperless claims and digitizing of documents were done within NDDVA budget and with public private partnerships such as AmeriCorps VISTA’s, Experience Works, VA work studies, Internships and Volunteers.
- NDDVA did endure a 30% budget cut in 2017. This has resulted in many services and programs being discontinued or less effective. Yet NDDVA staff have continued to produce more.
- NDDVA serves our Veterans and their dependents (about 200,000 North Dakotans).
- Bottom line is NDDVA is an investment that brings Federal Dollars to North Dakota.

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
2/4/2021  
Veterans Affairs subcommittee

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

**Senator Dever** opened the hearing at 3:39.

**Senators Dever, Rust and Mathern** were present.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Melvin Norgaard fund
- County Service Officers

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs** answering subcommittee questions.

**Additional written testimony:** #5549

**Senator Dever** closed the hearing at 4:15 pm.

*Rose Laning, Committee Clerk*

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**Senate Bill No. 2025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
<b>2021-23 Biennium Base Level</b>	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587
<b>2021-23 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>								
Base payroll changes		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769				\$0
Salary increase		26,258	5,023	31,281				0
Health insurance increase		284	57	341				0
Retirement contribution increase		5,404	1,033	6,437				0
Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses		1,195	127	1,322				0
Adjusts funding for operating expenses		(53,950)	1,000	(52,950)				0
Adjusts funding for temporary salaries		12,000	128,000	140,000				0
Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program			432,000	432,000				0
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$109,694	\$488,506	\$598,200	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>One-time funding items</b>								
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	\$291,500				\$0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	0.00	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2021-23 Total Funding</b>	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	45.0%	25.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	71.8%	37.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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

	Executive Budget Recommendation	Senate Version
Exemption - Service dogs	Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.	

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
2/10/2021  
Veterans Affairs Sub-committee

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

**Senator Dever** opened the hearing at 11:34 p.m.

Senators present: **Dever, Rust and Mathern.**

**Discussion Topics:**

- Changes from the Governor's recommendation
- Budget cuts

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, Dept. of Veteran's Affairs** – testifying in favor and answering sub-committee questions.

**Additional written testimony:** Neutral testimony - #6207, #6238

**Senator Dever** closed the hearing at 12:11 pm.

*Rose Laning, Committee Clerk*

North Dakota Association of County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers  
Legislative Testimony regarding SB2025 Appropriations-ND DVA

Good morning Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide input on behalf of the North Dakota Association of County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

The Association's mission is:

- To cultivate a professional culture within its membership;
- To assist in the establishment, maintenance, and perpetuation of County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices.
- And the continuing education and staffing of these offices as prescribed by law under the Statutes of the State of North Dakota

Membership in this association constitutes 52 of the 53 Counties and all 4 Tribal Nations. The association has been officially recognized by the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers.

The ND Department of Veterans Affairs is actively involved in coordinating mandatory bi-annual training/education to the ND veterans' service officers. The training is required for the VSO to maintain US Department of Veterans Affairs accreditation with the various veterans' organizations. This training enhances the ability of the VSO to provide services to veterans by keeping them current on changes in regulations and resources related to veteran benefits. As you know the past year has been challenging to conduct these trainings in person. The ND DVA has valuable employees who were able to utilize technology and deliver some training virtually. However, this is not the most efficient way to deliver information on complex issues for training or for networking and to develop statewide working relationships.

Contrary to what some think, the ND Department of Veterans Affairs provides unprecedented support to County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices.

- The State Veteran Benefits Specialists are a critical link in assisting county and tribal VSOs in providing access to expertise for Veterans applying for state and VA benefits and appealing claims. The Veteran/family contacts local County and Tribal VSO, who develops the claims and with guidance

from the staff at NDDVA and then submits a complete claim that expedites the receipt of benefits.

- Many of the state's county and tribal Veterans Service Offices are one person operations on a part-time basis, who look to the department for daily support and assistance with veteran claims as well as loan and grant assistance applications.
- The department oversees the Rural Transportation program, providing free rides to a VA Medical Center for many highly-rural veterans.
- They provide support personnel to the Veteran Service Offices for outreach events.
- The department sets-up, maintains, and educates Veteran Service Offices on the client management database used across the state.
- They provide personnel to ensure services are provided to counties whose service officer will be absent for a prolonged period.
- The department also maintains a website that provides Veteran Service Offices the tools and up to date information to ensure our clients receive the best possible service for a favorable US Department of Veterans Affairs decision.

NDDVA supports the county and tribal offices just as that of other state agencies with county offices, such as, ND Department of Human Services, ND Department of Health, State Auditor's office and States Attorney to name a few.

Due to previous budget reductions, many of these tasks, such as maintaining the website and processing loans and grants, redirecting incoming calls (from Veterans, families funeral directors and other agencies requesting information) have become additional duties to the assigned staff. Cutting the loan & grant FTE resulted in a backlog and delay in providing immediate financial support to Veterans in hardship situations.

Our association recognizes this and its members have been directly affected by these previous budget cutbacks. A loan and grant program in any department requires full-time, qualified financial experts to ensure it is properly managed. The assistance these programs provide to our veterans can be compared, albeit on a smaller scale, to Social Service's Economic Assistance Division.

The number of Veterans in North Dakota has been increasing with continuous deployments being asked of our reservists and active-duty personnel that return to their home towns upon discharge. This increase in the workload and the complexity of client claims has also been affected with advances in technology and changes in US Department of Veterans Affairs policies and regulations. Support from the ND Department of Veterans Affairs to Veteran Service Offices, like the support the ND Department of Human Services provides to the counties, delivers the knowledge and opportunity for VSOs to be successful in representing North Dakota's veterans with the potential to bring millions of federal dollars to the state.

In closing, the North Dakota Association of County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers fully supports this bill as written and asks for your support in recommending passage to the full legislature.

Thank you, we are happy to entertain any questions, comments or concerns.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy L Benson, NDACTVSO Legislative Committee  
Towner County Veterans Service Officer

Mary K. Vetter, President NDACTVSO  
Richland County Veterans Service Officer

Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321  
 Senate Bill No. 2025  
 Base Level Funding Changes

Prepared for 2/10/2021

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version				Senate 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>2021-23 Biennium Base Level</b>	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>2021-23 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>												
Base payroll changes		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769				\$0
Salary increase		26,258	5,023	31,281		26,096	4,990	31,086		(\$162)	(\$33)	(195)
Health insurance increase		284	57	341		284	57	341				0
Retirement contribution increase		5,404	1,033	6,437				0		(5,404)	(1,033)	(6,437)
Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses		1,195	127	1,322		1,195	127	1,322				0
Adjusts funding for operating expenses		(53,950)	1,000	(52,950)				0		53,950	(1,000)	52,950
Adjusts funding for a loan and grant officer position		12,000	128,000	140,000	1.00	30,910	128,000	158,910	1.00	18,910		18,910
Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program			432,000	432,000			432,000	432,000				0
Adds funding for a nonhighly rural transport van				0		18,800		18,800		18,800		18,800
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$109,694	\$488,506	\$598,200	1.00	\$195,788	\$486,440	\$682,228	1.00	\$86,094	(\$2,066)	\$84,028
<b>One-time funding items</b>												
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	\$291,500			\$291,500	\$291,500			\$0	\$0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	0.00	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700	1.00	\$195,788	\$777,940	\$973,728	1.00	\$86,094	(\$2,066)	\$84,028
<b>2021-23 Total Funding</b>	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287	8.00	\$1,464,718	\$1,863,597	\$3,328,315	1.00	\$86,094	(\$2,066)	\$84,028
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	45.0%	25.4%	14.3%	15.4%	44.8%	29.0%				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	71.8%	37.8%	14.3%	15.4%	71.7%	41.4%				

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

	Executive Budget Recommendation	Senate Version
Exemption - Service dogs	Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.	Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
2/11/2021  
Department of Veterans Affairs Sub-committee

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

**Senator Dever** opened the hearing at 4:04 p.m.

Senators present: **Dever, Rust and Mathern.**

**Discussion Topics:**

- Veteran transportation vans
- Possible sources of funding

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, ND Dept. of Veterans Affairs** – answering sub-committee questions and testifying in favor.

**Senator Dever** closed the hearing at 4:37 p.m.

*Rose Laning, Committee Clerk*

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
February 15, 2021  
Senate Appropriations  
Committee

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

**Senator Holmberg** opened the committee work at 10:13 a.m.

Senators present: **Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Poolman, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman.**

### Discussion Topics:

- Amendments to SB 2025

**Senator Dever** presented amendment LC 21.0307.01001 – testimony #6628 and explained the amendments.

**Senator Dever** moved to adopt amendment LC 21.0307.01001.

**Senator Rust** second.

<i>Senators</i>		<i>Senators</i>	
<i>Senator Holmberg</i>	Y	<i>Senator Hogue</i>	Y
<i>Senator Krebsbach</i>	Y	<i>Senator Oehlke</i>	Y
<i>Senator Wanzek</i>	Y	<i>Senator Poolman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Bekkedahl</i>	Y	<i>Senator Rust</i>	Y
<i>Senator Davison</i>	Y	<i>Senator Sorvaag</i>	Y
<i>Senator Dever</i>	Y	<i>Senator Heckaman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Erbele</i>	Y	<i>Senator Mathern</i>	Y

Roll Call vote - 14-0-0. Motion carried.

**Senator Dever** moved Do Pass as Amended on SB 2025.

**Senator Rust** second.

<i>Senators</i>		<i>Senators</i>	
<i>Senator Holmberg</i>	Y	<i>Senator Hogue</i>	Y
<i>Senator Krebsbach</i>	Y	<i>Senator Oehlke</i>	Y
<i>Senator Wanzek</i>	Y	<i>Senator Poolman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Bekkedahl</i>	Y	<i>Senator Rust</i>	Y
<i>Senator Davison</i>	Y	<i>Senator Sorvaag</i>	Y
<i>Senator Dever</i>	Y	<i>Senator Heckaman</i>	Y
<i>Senator Erbele</i>	Y	<i>Senator Mathern</i>	Y

Roll Call vote – 14-0-0. Motion carried.

**Senator Holmberg** closed the committee work at 10:19 a.m.

*Rose Laning, Committee Clerk*

Sub E  
 108

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2025

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

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,113,728	\$3,468,315
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>717,940</u>	<u>1,803,597</u>
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$395,788	\$1,664,718
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "FUNDING" insert "- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-EIGHTH 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 4 through 7 with:

"Veterans' home cemetery	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$439,000	\$291,500
Less estimated income	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$147,500	\$0

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

**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 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, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action**

Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
----------------	-------------------	-------------------

Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971
Grants - Transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
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>\$2,354,587</b>	<b>\$1,113,728</b>	<b>\$3,468,315</b>
Less estimated income	1,085,657	717,940	1,803,597
<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$1,268,930</b>	<b>\$395,788</b>	<b>\$1,664,718</b>
FTE	7.00	1.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding for a Loan and Grant Officer Position <sup>3</sup>	Adds Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>4</sup>	Adds Funding for Microsoft Office 365 License Expenses <sup>5</sup>	Adds Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$118,503	\$26,380	\$90,910	\$140,000	\$1,322	
State approving agency	1,266	5,047				
Grants - Transportation program	(80,000)		68,000			\$432,000
Transport vans						
Service dogs						
Veterans' Home Cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$39,769</b>	<b>\$31,427</b>	<b>\$158,910</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$1,322</b>	<b>\$432,000</b>
Less estimated income	(78,734)	5,047	68,000	0	127	432,000
<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$118,503</b>	<b>\$26,380</b>	<b>\$90,910</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$1,195</b>	<b>\$0</b>
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for Transport Vans <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Cemetery Grant Program <sup>8</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs			\$377,115
State approving agency			6,313
Grants - Transportation program			420,000
Transport vans	\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs			
Veterans' Home Cemetery		\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$1,113,728</b>
Less estimated income	0	291,500	717,940
<b>General fund</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$395,788</b>
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes, including an increase from the general fund and a reduction from federal funds.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2021-23 biennium salary adjustments of 2 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,427 to \$1,429 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$26,096	\$4,990	\$31,086
Health insurance increase	284	57	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,380</b>	<b>\$5,047</b>	<b>\$31,427</b>

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$158,910 for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position is added, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$140,000 is added from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>5</sup> Funding of \$1,322 is added for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses, of which \$1,195 is from the general fund and \$127 is from federal funds.

<sup>6</sup> Federal funding of \$432,000 is added for the highly rural transportation grant program to provide a total of \$1.22 million.

<sup>7</sup> Funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van for the nonhighly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two vans during the 2021-23 biennium.

<sup>8</sup> Federal funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the cemetery located on the Veterans' Home campus during the 2021-23 biennium.

---

This amendment also adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue \$50,000 of funding from the general fund appropriated for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in the 2019-21 biennium into the 2021-23 biennium.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2025: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2025 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,113,728	\$3,468,315
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>717,940</u>	<u>1,803,597</u>
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$395,788	\$1,664,718
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "**FUNDING**" insert "**- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-EIGHTH 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 4 through 7 with:

"Veterans' home cemetery	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$439,000	\$291,500
Less estimated income	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$147,500	\$0

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

**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 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, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023."

Re-number accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action**

	<u>Base Budget</u>	<u>Senate Changes</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971
Grants - Transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery	<u>                    </u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>

Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,113,728	\$3,468,315
Less estimated income	1,085,657	717,940	1,803,597
General fund	\$1,268,930	\$395,788	\$1,664,718
FTE	7.00	1.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding for a Loan and Grant Officer Position <sup>3</sup>	Adds Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>4</sup>	Adds Funding for Microsoft Office 365 License Expenses <sup>5</sup>	Adds Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$118,503	\$26,380	\$90,910	\$140,000	\$1,322	
State approving agency	1,266	5,047				
Grants - Transportation program	(80,000)		68,000			\$432,000
Transport vans						
Service dogs						
Veterans' Home Cemetery						
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$39,769</b>	<b>\$31,427</b>	<b>\$158,910</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$1,322</b>	<b>\$432,000</b>
Less estimated income	(78,734)	5,047	68,000	0	127	432,000
General fund	\$118,503	\$26,380	\$90,910	\$140,000	\$1,195	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for Transport Vans <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Cemetery Grant Program <sup>8</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs			\$377,115
State approving agency			6,313
Grants - Transportation program			420,000
Transport vans	\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs			
Veterans' Home Cemetery		\$291,500	291,500
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$291,500</b>	<b>\$1,113,728</b>
Less estimated income	0	291,500	717,940
General fund	\$18,800	\$0	\$395,788
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes, including an increase from the general fund and a reduction from federal funds.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2021-23 biennium salary adjustments of 2 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,427 to \$1,429 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$26,096	\$4,990	\$31,086
Health insurance increase	284	57	341
Total	\$26,380	\$5,047	\$31,427

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$158,910 for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position is added, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$140,000 is added from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>5</sup> Funding of \$1,322 is added for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses, of which \$1,195 is from the general fund and \$127 is from federal funds.

<sup>6</sup> Federal funding of \$432,000 is added for the highly rural transportation grant program to provide a total of \$1.22 million.

<sup>7</sup> Funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van for the nonhighly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general

fund for the purchase of two vans during the 2021-23 biennium.

<sup>8</sup> Federal funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the cemetery located on the Veterans' Home campus during the 2021-23 biennium.

This amendment also adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue \$50,000 of funding from the general fund appropriated for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in the 2019-21 biennium into the 2021-23 biennium.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2025

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

Page 1, replace lines 10 through 21 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,113,728	\$3,468,315
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>717,940</u>	<u>1,803,597</u>
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$395,788	\$1,664,718
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Page 1, line 22, after "FUNDING" insert "- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-EIGHTH 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 4 through 7 with:

"Veterans' home cemetery	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$439,000	\$291,500
Less estimated income	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total general fund	\$147,500	\$0

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

**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 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, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023."

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$377,115	\$1,577,244
State approving agency	285,658	6,313	291,971

Grants - Transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	18,800	37,600
Service dogs	50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery		291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,113,728	\$3,468,315
Less estimated income	1,085,657	717,940	1,803,597
General fund	\$1,268,930	\$395,788	\$1,664,718
FTE	7.00	1.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Base Level Funding <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>2</sup>	Adds Funding for a Loan and Grant Officer Position <sup>3</sup>	Adds Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>4</sup>	Adds Funding for Microsoft Office 365 License Expenses <sup>5</sup>	Adds Funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Program <sup>6</sup>
Veterans' affairs	\$118,503	\$26,380	\$90,910	\$140,000	\$1,322	
State approving agency	1,266	5,047				
Grants - Transportation program	(80,000)		68,000			\$432,000
Transport vans						
Service dogs						
Veterans' Home Cemetery						
Total all funds	\$39,769	\$31,427	\$158,910	\$140,000	\$1,322	\$432,000
Less estimated income	(78,734)	5,047	68,000	0	127	432,000
General fund	\$118,503	\$26,380	\$90,910	\$140,000	\$1,195	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for Transport Vans <sup>7</sup>	Adds One-Time Funding for the Cemetery Grant Program <sup>8</sup>	Total Senate Changes
Veterans' affairs			\$377,115
State approving agency			6,313
Grants - Transportation program			420,000
Transport vans	\$18,800		18,800
Service dogs			
Veterans' Home Cemetery		\$291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$18,800	\$291,500	\$1,113,728
Less estimated income	0	291,500	717,940
General fund	\$18,800	\$0	\$395,788
FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes, including an increase from the general fund and a reduction from federal funds.

<sup>2</sup> The following funding is added for 2021-23 biennium salary adjustments of 2 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,427 to \$1,429 per month:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$26,096	\$4,990	\$31,086
Health insurance increase	284	57	341
Total	\$26,380	\$5,047	\$31,427

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$158,910 for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position is added, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$140,000 is added from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>5</sup> Funding of \$1,322 is added for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses, of which \$1,195 is from the general fund and \$127 is from federal funds.

<sup>6</sup> Federal funding of \$432,000 is added for the highly rural transportation grant program to provide a total of \$1.22 million.

<sup>7</sup> Funding of \$18,800 is added from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van for the nonhighly rural transportation program to provide a total of \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two vans during the 2021-23 biennium.

<sup>8</sup> Federal funding of \$291,500 is added for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the cemetery located on the Veterans' Home campus during the 2021-23 biennium.

---

This amendment also adds a section to provide an exemption to authorize the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue \$50,000 of funding from the general fund appropriated for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in the 2019-21 biennium into the 2021-23 biennium.

**2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2025**

**Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
**Senate Bill No. 2025**

**Executive Budget Comparison to Prior Biennium Appropriations**

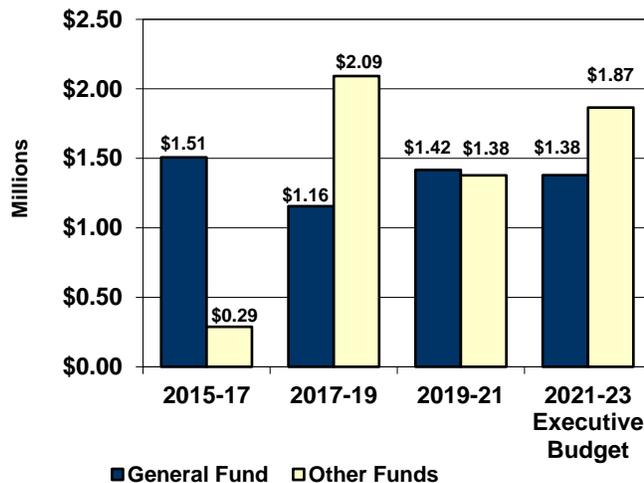
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 Executive Budget	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287
2019-21 Legislative Appropriations <sup>1</sup>	7.00	1,416,430	1,377,157	2,793,587
Increase (Decrease)	0.00	(\$37,806)	\$488,506	\$450,700

<sup>1</sup>The 2019-21 biennium agency appropriation amounts have not been adjusted for additional federal funds authority of \$402,860, of which \$2,860 is related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) costs, resulting from Emergency Commission action during the 2019-21 biennium.

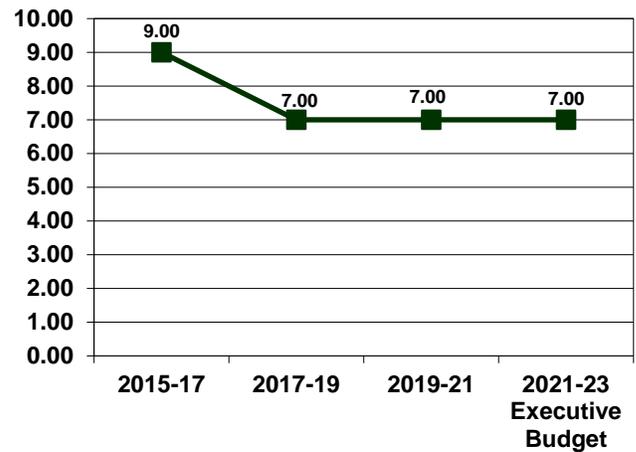
**Ongoing and One-Time General Fund Appropriations**

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation	Total General Fund Appropriation
2021-23 Executive Budget	\$1,378,624	\$0	\$1,378,624
2019-21 Legislative Appropriations	1,268,930	147,500	1,416,430
Increase (Decrease)	\$109,694	(\$147,500)	(\$37,806)

**Agency Funding**



**FTE Positions**



**Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 Executive Budget	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287
2021-23 Base Level	1,268,930	1,085,657	2,354,587
Increase (Decrease)	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700

**First House Action**

Attached is a comparison worksheet detailing first house changes to base level funding and the executive budget.

**Executive Budget Highlights  
 (With First House Changes in Bold)**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$31,281 is for salary increases, \$341 is for health insurance increases, and \$6,437 is for retirement contribution increases. <b>The Senate added funding for salary adjustments of 2 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,427 to \$1,429 per month. The Senate did not add funding for retirement contribution increases.</b>	\$31,946	\$6,113	\$38,059

2. Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses	\$1,195	\$127	\$1,322
3. Adjusts funding for operating expenses primarily related to veteran service officer training, travel, and information technology data processing. <b>The Senate did not adjust funding for operating expenses.</b>	(\$53,950)	\$1,000	(\$52,950)
4. Adjusts funding for temporary salaries for a loan and grant officer position to provide a total of \$140,000, of which \$12,000 is from the general fund in the veterans' affairs line item and \$128,000 is from federal funds in the grants - transportation program line item. <b>The Senate added \$158,910 for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position, of which \$90,910 is from the general fund in the veterans' affairs line item and \$68,000 is from federal funds in the grants - transportation program line item. The Senate also added \$140,000 from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position.</b>	\$12,000	\$128,000	\$140,000
5. Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program to provide a total of \$1,280,000 from federal funds	\$0	\$432,000	\$432,000
6. Adds one-time funding from federal funds for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500

### Other Sections in Senate Bill No. 2025

**Exemption - Service dogs** - Section 3 provides an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.

### 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.

**Veterans' postwar trust fund** - Section 37-14-14 - All income earned from investments in the veterans' postwar trust fund in a biennium are appropriated on a continuing basis to the Administrative Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the following biennium.

### Deficiency Appropriation

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, 2018, identified no significant audit findings.

### Major Related Legislation

**House Bill No. 1211** - This bill expands the State Treasurer's ability to invest funds within the veterans' aid fund and the income from the veterans' postwar trust fund by allowing investment in assets not held by the Bank of North Dakota.

**House Bill No. 1395** - This bill provides a 2019-21 biennium appropriation of \$2,860 of federal funding to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, as approved by the Emergency Commission and Budget Section during the 2019-20 interim, from the state's allocation from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund for costs incurred related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs - Budget No. 321**  
**Senate Bill No. 2025**  
**Base Level Funding Changes**

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
<b>2021-23 Biennium Base Level</b>	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587	7.00	\$1,268,930	\$1,085,657	\$2,354,587
<b>2021-23 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>								
Base payroll changes		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769		\$118,503	(\$78,734)	\$39,769
Salary increase		26,258	5,023	31,281		26,096	4,990	31,086
Health insurance increase		284	57	341		284	57	341
Retirement contribution increase		5,404	1,033	6,437				0
Adjusts funding for a loan and grant officer position		12,000	128,000	140,000	1.00	90,910	68,000	158,910
Adds funding for a temporary training and information officer position				0		140,000		140,000
Adds funding for Microsoft Office 365 license expenses		1,195	127	1,322		1,195	127	1,322
Adjusts funding for operating expenses		(53,950)	1,000	(52,950)				0
Adds funding for the highly rural transportation grant program			432,000	432,000			432,000	432,000
Adds funding for a nonhighly rural transport van				0		18,800		18,800
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$109,694	\$488,506	\$598,200	1.00	\$395,788	\$426,440	\$822,228
<b>One-time funding items</b>								
Adds funding for the Veterans' Home cemetery grant program			\$291,500	\$291,500			\$291,500	\$291,500
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500	0.00	\$0	\$291,500	\$291,500
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	0.00	\$109,694	\$780,006	\$889,700	1.00	\$395,788	\$717,940	\$1,113,728
<b>2021-23 Total Funding</b>	7.00	\$1,378,624	\$1,865,663	\$3,244,287	8.00	\$1,664,718	\$1,803,597	\$3,468,315
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	45.0%	25.4%	14.3%	31.2%	39.3%	34.9%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	0.0%	8.6%	71.8%	37.8%	14.3%	31.2%	66.1%	47.3%

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

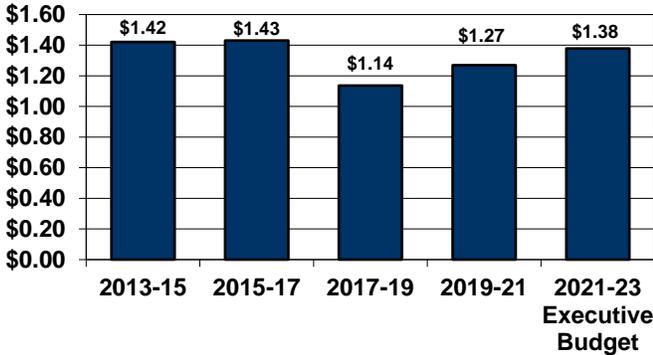
	Executive Budget Recommendation	Senate Version
Exemption - Posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program	Section 3 would provide an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.	Section 3 provides an exemption for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program to continue any unexpended 2019-21 biennium funds into the 2021-23 biennium.

Department 321 - Department of Veterans' Affairs

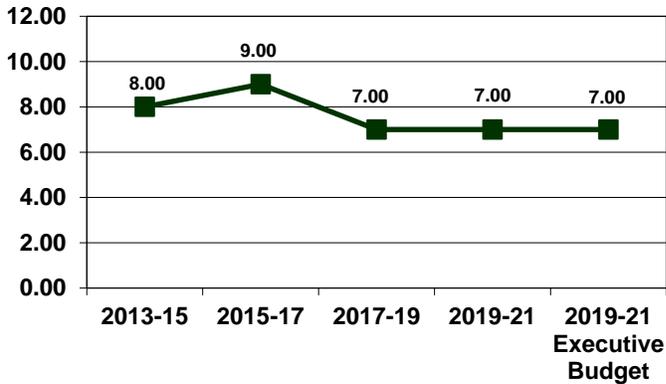
# Historical Appropriations Information

## Ongoing General Fund Appropriations Since 2013-15

Ongoing General Fund Appropriations (in Millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing General Fund Appropriations					
	2013-15	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23 Executive Budget
Ongoing general fund appropriations	\$1,420,703	\$1,429,982	\$1,136,562	\$1,268,930	\$1,378,624
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$9,279	(\$293,420)	\$132,368	\$109,694
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	0.7%	(20.5%)	11.6%	8.6%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2013-15 biennium	N/A	0.7%	(20.0%)	(10.7%)	(3.0%)

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

**2015-17 Biennium**

- 1. Added funding to purchase vans to transport veterans to medical appointments \$15,000
- 2. Added funding for the Agent Orange program \$50,000
- 3. Increased funding for stand down events to provide a total of \$20,000 from the general fund \$10,000

**2017-19 Biennium**

- 1. Removed 2 undesignated FTE positions (\$260,000)
- 2. 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)
- 3. Removed funding for stand down events (\$20,000)
- 4. Removed funding for the Agent Orange program (\$50,000)
- 5. Added funding for service dogs \$50,000
- 6. 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**

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

**2021-23 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)**

- 1. Adjusts funding for operating expenses, primarily related to veteran service officer training, travel, and information technology data processing. **The Senate did not adjust funding for operating expenses.** (\$53,950)

**GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS AS SUBMITTED  
BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Veterans' Affairs	\$1,200,130	\$109,821	\$1,309,951
Transport Vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service Dogs	50,000	0	50,000
State Approving Agency	285,657	8,379	294,036
Grants – Transportation Program	800,000	480,000	1,280,000
Veteran's Home Cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total All Funds	\$2,354,587	\$889,700	\$3,244,287
Less Estimated Income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>780,006</u>	<u>1,865,663</u>
Total General Fund	\$1,268,930	\$109,694	\$1,378,624
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	7.00	0.00	7.00

**SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty- sixth legislative assembly for the 2019-21 biennium and the 2021-23 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2019-21</u>	<u>2021-23</u>
Veterans' Home Cemetery	\$291,500	\$291,500
Temporary Loan and Grant Position	140,000	0
Grant Database Enhancements	<u>7,500</u>	<u>0</u>
Total All Funds	\$439,000	\$291,500
Less Estimated Income	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total General Fund	\$147,500	\$0

The 2021-23 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The department of veterans' affairs shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-eighth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023.

**SECTION 3. EXEMPTION.** The amount of \$50,000 appropriated for the posttraumatic stress disorder service dogs program in section 1 of chapter 25 of the 2019 Sessions Laws, is not subject to section 54-44.1- 11, and any unexpended funds from this program are available for the program during the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023.

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

SB 2025

3/8/2021

pm

House Appropriations Human Resources

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

Chair Nelson Opened the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Nelson	P	
Kreidt		A
Andersen	P	
Mitskog	P	
Schobinger	P	
Strinden	P	

### Discussion Topics:

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Purpose of the Agency
- Accomplishments
- Challenges
- Budget

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, Department of veterans affairs (2:09 pm)**  
testified #7830

Chair Nelson closed the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

*Cole Fleck, Committee Clerk*

**SB2025 ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget**  
**Commissioner Lonnie Wangen**  
**House Hearing March 8, 2021 #7830**

Per the request of House Appropriations Human Resources Chair Representative Jon Nelson 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

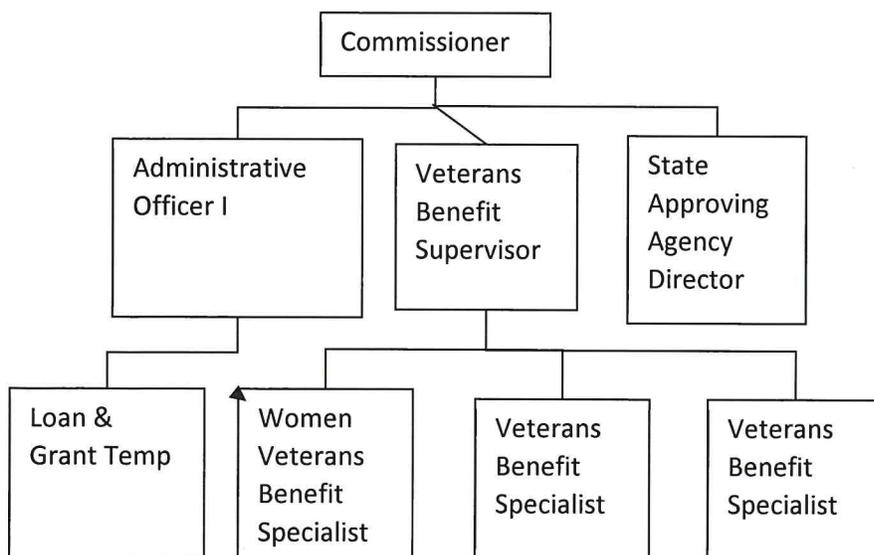
## 2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs - Attach organizational chart.

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 program
  - Highly Rural Transportation program
  - 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



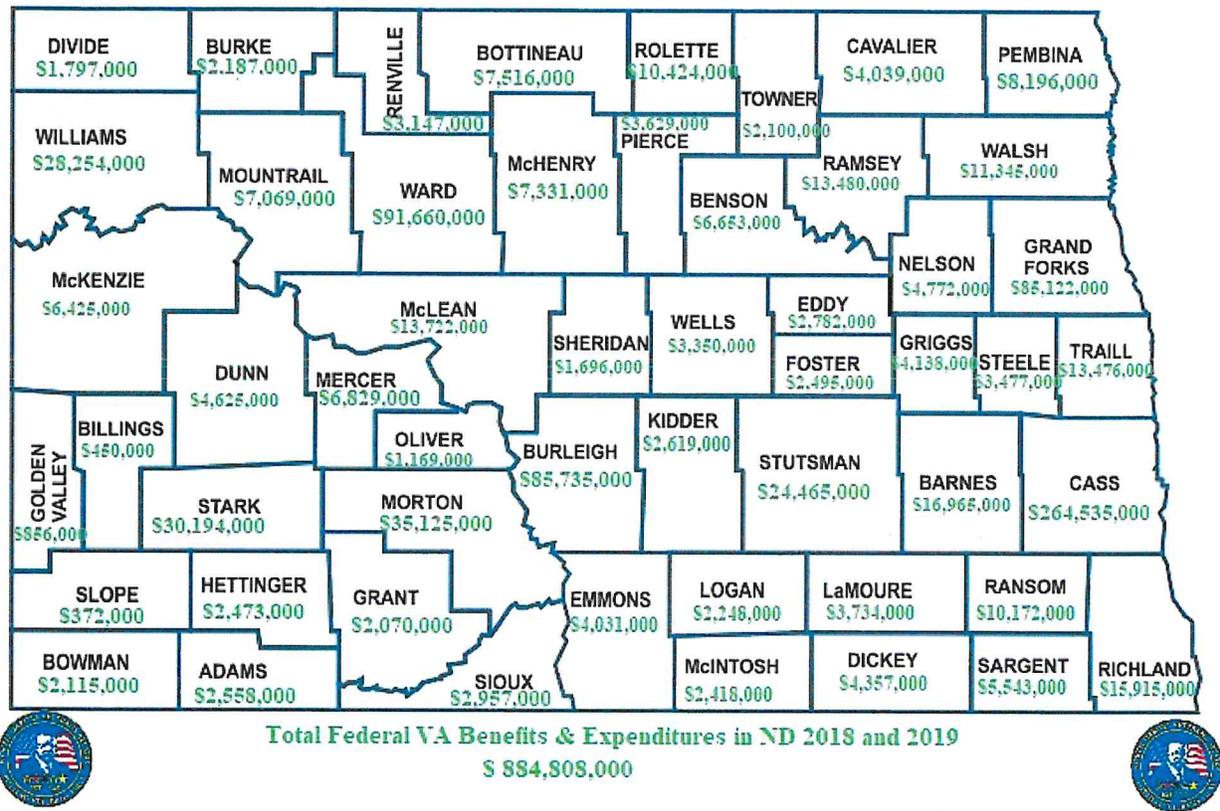
### 3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.

- Audit conducted March of 2019
  - No formal recommendations
  - No informal recommendations
  - No concerns or notations made to NDDVA for improvements

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

#### Accomplishments

- Education:
  - 145 courses across all ND State IHL approved for Military Credit. First time in ND History.
    - 100 and 200 level courses from the top 10 MOS's returning to ND plus some universal 300-400 level courses
    - AmeriCorps Vistas worked at NDDVA over 3-year period
  - 100% review of all IHL catalogs for approval.
  - Over 200 Apprenticeship and On the Job Training programs approved at 97 ND facilities
    - Up 25-30 programs and 20 facilities from previous biennium.
  - **\$47,818,000** in Federal Education benefits in ND (2018 & 2019)
- Grants and Loans (**No Loan and Grant officer 2017-July 2020**)
  - Grants 158 to date (compared to 255 2017-2019)
  - Loans 48 to date (compared to 64 new loans 2017-2019)
- Housing
  - Homeless Veterans Committee. Coordinate services, on database, by name list. Functional Zero!
  - VAMC in Fargo opened new Community Resource and Referral Center in downtown Fargo
  - Fisher House **\$8 Million** project approved
- Legal Services
  - Veterans Court Committee
- CVSO/TVSO support and training
  - New VSO trained 2019-2020: 18 (compared to 2017-2018: 6) **300% increase**
  - First time in ND and possibly the nation County Veteran services to be contracted with tribal veteran service office. Sioux county contracting with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe VSO.
- Benefits -VA
  - Transitioning to serving C&TVSO's.
    - Goal to have Less Direct claim development
      - Currently have 1,297.
      - 2019 NDDVA had more direct claims than the largest ND Counties.
  - Total Claims estimate for 2019-2021 **2,500** (compared to 2017-2019) of 1927 **30% increase**
  - Total appeals in 2019-2020 545 (compared to 171 2017-2019) **320%** increase. 6 months to go.
  - Retroactive payments 2019-2021 to date: \$2,193,284 estimate \$3,000,000
    - Compared to 2017-2019 of \$1,594,026 (**almost 100% increase**)
      - **38% increase** and 6 months to go
      - VA Regional Offices closed for COVID
      - **\$884,808,000** in VA funds to ND (2018-2019)



**NDDVA Base Budget 2019-2021: \$1,268,930. Return on Investment: 697%**  
**Just the Comp & Pension of \$386,341,000 in ND @ 5% sales tax = \$19,317,050**  
**(\$5 return for every NDDVA dollar)**

**Challenges**

- Staffing
  - 30% cut in staffing levels in 2017 (Governor mandate was 1FTE for NDDVA)
    - 30% increase in claims load in last biennium alone
    - 320% increase in appeals hearings from last biennium
  - 2019 NDDVA had more volunteer staff than Paid employees
    - Volunteer staff ITD support removed from 2021-2023 budget
    - COVID-19 proved volunteer staffing unsustainable for critical needs
  - State funds supplanted by Federal Grant dollars (\$100,000) not sustainable
    - Cuts in Federal expenditures will soon lead to serious shortfall in staff funding.
    - Last quarter of 2020: \$5,398.63 in admin fees. Need \$12,500 per quarter.
  - Lost most Sr. Veteran Benefits Specialist to MN due to workload and compensation. More may be lost if additional staff not added.

**Next Biennium goals and plans**

- Fisher House construction started
- ND Veteran Homelessness at functional zero
- Veterans Court established
- Veterans benefits staffing with sustainable workload and goal of surpassing **\$1 Billion in VA expenditures!**
- Federal grants supplanting fixed so we can apply for new grants (can offset state admin or pay for staffing)

**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	2019-2021	2021-2023			
	Current Budget	OMB Budget	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:		\$ -63,447 (5%)	\$ 677,777.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 537,777.00
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)					\$ -
Training	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ 137,500.00		\$ 100,000.00
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
5.FTE Coordinator/Trainer/Information Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
6.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

### 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.

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

Agency		SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level					
Program							
Reporting Level							
Department of Veterans Affairs 100 Veterans Affairs Administration 00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000							
1 Object/Revenue	2 2019-21 Legislative Base	3 2021-23 Base Budget Changes	4 2021-23 Total Changes	5 2021-23 Base Budget Request	6 2021-23 Optional Budget Changes	7 2021-23 Total Budget Request	
Description	Code						
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Motor Vehicles	692000	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Transport Vans	52	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Temporary Salaries	513000	80,000	128,000	48,000	128,000	128,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	6,998	(6,998)	(6,998)	0	0	
IT - Communications	602000	672	(672)	(672)	0	0	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	712,330	439,670	439,670	1,152,000	1,152,000	
Grants - Transportation Program	62	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	1,280,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	609,878	0	110,738	720,616	1,031,656	
Temporary Salaries	513000	0	(128,000)	(128,000)	(128,000)	0	
Fringe Benefits	516000	337,547	0	7,765	345,312	511,093	
Travel	521000	63,145	(30,000)	(30,000)	33,145	63,145	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	13,344	0	0	13,344	13,344	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	729	0	0	729	729	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	3,442	0	0	3,442	3,442	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	4,073	0	0	4,073	4,073	
Office Supplies	536000	2,586	0	0	2,586	2,586	
Postage	541000	750	0	0	750	750	
Printing	542000	300	0	0	300	300	
Utilities	561000	6,264	0	0	6,264	6,264	
Insurance	571000	3,800	0	0	3,800	3,800	
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	14,528	0	0	14,528	14,528	
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	64,710	0	0	64,710	64,710	
Repairs	591000	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	36,467	(7,935)	(7,935)	28,532	36,467	
IT - Communications	602000	6,045	0	0	6,045	6,045	
Professional Development	611000	20,200	(16,015)	(16,015)	4,185	20,200	
Operating Fees and Services	621000	500	0	0	500	500	
Fees - Professional Services	623000	4,822	0	0	4,822	4,822	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	
Veterans Affairs Administration	70	1,200,130	(181,950)	(63,447)	1,136,683	1,795,454	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Service Dogs	72	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	136,870	0	933	137,803	137,803	
Fringe Benefits	516000	67,560	0	333	67,893	67,893	
Travel	521000	17,258	1,000	1,000	18,258	18,258	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	2,136	0	0	2,136	2,136	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	1,489	0	0	1,489	1,489	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	1,274	0	0	1,274	1,274	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	523	0	0	523	523	

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

2

<b>Agency</b>	Department of Veterans Affairs
<b>Program</b>	100 Veterans Affairs Administration
<b>Reporting Level</b>	00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000

1 Object/Revenue		2 2019-21 Legislative Base	3 2021-23 Base Budget Changes	4 2021-23 Total Changes	5 2021-23 Base Budget Request	6 2021-23 Optional Budget Changes	7 2021-23 Total Budget Request
Description	Code						
Office Supplies	536000	2,825	0	0	2,825	0	2,825
Postage	541000	1,187	0	0	1,187	0	1,187
Printing	542000	1,973	0	0	1,973	0	1,973
IT Equip Under \$5,000	551000	6,279	0	0	6,279	0	6,279
Other Equip Under \$5,000	552000	264	0	0	264	0	264
Office Equip & Furn Supplies	553000	1,279	0	0	1,279	0	1,279
Utilities	561000	1,788	0	0	1,788	0	1,788
Insurance	571000	1,636	0	0	1,636	0	1,636
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	4,810	0	0	4,810	0	4,810
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	14,748	0	0	14,748	0	14,748
Repairs	591000	1,030	0	0	1,030	0	1,030
IT - Data Processing	601000	8,214	0	0	8,214	0	8,214
IT - Communications	602000	2,873	0	0	2,873	0	2,873
IT Contractual Svcs and Rprs	603000	685	0	0	685	0	685
Professional Development	611000	5,021	0	0	5,021	0	5,021
Operating Fees and Services	621000	315	0	0	315	0	315
Fees - Professional Services	623000	3,620	0	0	3,620	0	3,620
<b>State Approving Agency</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>285,657</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>287,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>287,923</b>
Grants Benefits & Claims	712000	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
Grants Home Cemetary	75	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>MEANS OF FUNDING</b>							
Rural Transportation Grant	H134	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	0	1,280,000
State Approving Agency	H135	285,657	1,000	2,266	287,923	0	287,923
Veterans Cemetery Grants	H1361	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>FED</b>	<b>1,085,657</b>	<b>852,500</b>	<b>773,766</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>
State General Fund	001	1,268,930	(163,150)	(63,447)	1,205,483	696,371	1,901,854
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>1,268,930</b>	<b>(163,150)</b>	<b>(63,447)</b>	<b>1,205,483</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>1,901,854</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES</b>							
FTE		7.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	7.00
Vacant		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>7.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>

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

General Fund

	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ 147,500.00	\$ 145,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Grant Database Enhancements	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Temporary loan and grant position	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -

\*Request to carry over balance of Grant Database Enhancement funds

Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgaard)

	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

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

- No one-time funding being requested
- Request balance of one-time funding for Grant Database be carried over to 2021-2023 biennium
- Request Veterans Home Cemetery Repairs authorization remain

**9. Discuss agency collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2019 legislative session estimates during the 2019-21 biennium and estimated changes for the 2021-23 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.

	To date 2019-21	Expected 2021-23
Commemorative Memorial Coins		
Coin Sales (\$7.23 NET of coins sold @ \$10)	\$ 9,507.18	\$ 8,676.00
Donations	\$ 4,120.00	\$ -
Estimated 3,200 Coins conferred @\$2.265 each	\$ 7,248.00	\$ 7,248.00
Net +/-	\$ 6,379.18	\$ 1,428.00

\*\*2019 coins sales: 599

\*\*2020 coins sales to date: 714

\*\*Expected sales in 2021-23: 1,200 coins

\* Total balance of Coin fund as of 10/30/2020 \$11,829.46

\*Estimated 1,600 veteran funerals per year  
cost of 1,600 coins @ \$2.265 each: \$3,624

\*Estimated requirement to sell 503 coins per year at \$10  
with net of \$7.21= \$3,626.63

**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.
  - Make funds permanent and allow carryover of unused funds
    - DAV Van Grant \$40,000
    - PTSD Service Dog Grant \$50,000
  - One time carry over
    - Grant Database improvement \$2,100

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

- No known bills with NDDVA budgetary impact.
- NDVLC focus for 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative session is NDDVA budget.
- Possible bills
  - **Appreciation of Veterans and Military**
    - **Medal of Honor recipients automatic Rough Rider award**
    - **Patriotism Project in Elementary Schools**
    - **Disabled Veteran Hunting.** Certain disabled veterans start with youth hunting season. Guaranteed deer tag.
  - **Education**
    - **In State Tuition** for Veterans, Guard-Reserve, and Dependents of (NDCC:15-10-19.1(2) D F and G
    - **ND tuition waiver** residency requirement 5 years (currently 5 and 10 years)
  - **Financial**
    - **Veteran Charitable Gaming net proceeds use.**
      - **Add: Property Taxes & Special assessments**
      - **Removes: Personal Property**
    - **Post War Trust Fund clearing account (410) and Veterans Aid Loan (368)**
      - Authority to invest CD's outside BND
  - **Health & Wellbeing**
    - **PASS FUND:** Funding for up to 500 persons. Guardian, conservator
  - **Legal Services**
    - **Veterans Docket**-Grand Forks amend NDCC 12.1-32-02(1)
      - Veterans Court-Administrative Rule 60
      - Establish Veterans Docket under Drug Court of NDCC
    - **Military Families Top Ten Key Issues**  
From DSLO Key Issues: <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/#key-issues-report>
      - Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability Sen. Meyer
      - Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access Sen. Meyer
      - Licensing Compacts
      - Military Spouse Teacher Certification (ND is green)
      - Purple Star School Program Will probably not be done legislatively but in DPI policy)
      - Advance Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - Virtual School Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - In-State Tuition Continuity Rep Pyle
      - Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting HHS to address this in policy not legislatively)
      - Ask the Question Campaign
  - **National Guard Specific**
    - 219<sup>th</sup> RUF Minot AFB
    - SAD Death Gratuity Authority
    - Trust Land Accounting Line reactivated
    - House Cleaning bill – Update state law with federal law
    - The NDNG Budget

**12. Discuss the impact of any budget changes made to meet the Governor's budget guidelines.**

	Budgeted	Reduced	Balance
2021-2023 Base Budget cut of 5% or \$63,447		\$ 63,447.00	\$ -
Veteran Service Officer Travel & Training	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 16,012.00	\$ 2,288.00
Outreach to County and Tribal VSO's	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Computers for volunteers/Exp. Works/work studies	\$ 7,935.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 14,300.00

Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012

The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy. To properly serve our veterans and their dependents training is a must. NDDVA believes that each of the Veterans Benefits Specialist should attend at least one training event per year. \$18,300 is a very conservative amount for this important training.

Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935

Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources. Resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. While NDDVA does not pay for the services we do have in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA has worked with ND ITD to negotiate for used computers at lower rates.

County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000

NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 which reads in part: "...; to provide counties with recommended qualifications and standards for county veterans' service officers; to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers; to provide county veterans' service officers with educational materials; to assist county veterans' service officers in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information;...".NDDVA current budget is not sufficient to provide these services. NDDVA is requesting \$30,000 be returned to our budget for training conference expenses, outreach to the VSO offices, Tribal events, and to participate in and support the many outreach programs conducted by the Federal VA, Veteran Organizations, State and County agencies.

DAV vans: \$4,500

NDDVA has had a long-standing working relationship with the ND Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Federal VA in providing transportation for Veterans to VA Medical facilities. Utilizing the DAV's national trust known as the Colorado or Columbia Trust NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The Federal VA in Fargo pays for all the expenses to operate the van and utilizes volunteer drivers coordinated by ND County Veteran Service Officers and ND DAV. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800.

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

1. **Restore Base Budget Funding:** **\$63,447**  
Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012  
 The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy.  
Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935  
 Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. NDDVA pay only in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA utilizes used computers at lower rates.  
County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000  
 NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers provide educational materials to in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information.  
DAV vans: \$4,500  
 Pass-Through funding. NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800 per van.  
Stand downs: \$5,000  
 Pass-Through funding. This appropriation is to provide funding for Stand Down events in communities across North Dakota. The main focus is directed at homeless/at risk of homelessness veterans.
  
2. **Restore Salary funding supplanted by Highly Rural Transportation Grant administrative fees:** **\$100,000**  
 In 2017 OMB supplanted \$100,000 in State General Fund Salaries with Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) admin funds. The NDDVA state general fund salary appropriations were reduced by \$100,000. NDDVA had been utilizing these funds for a part-time temporary HRTG coordinator and administrative costs as authorized by the Federal Grant Program. This action eliminated the HRTG coordinator position.  
 The HRTG allows for up to 10% of the total grant dollars *expended* be available for administrative costs. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 HRTG award was for up to \$859,790. NDDVA spent only \$209,804.52 therefore was only allowed \$20,980 for administrative costs. FFY 2017 HRTG award was for up to \$402,730. NDDVA utilized \$326,392.20 and was authorized \$32,639.22 for admin. Supplanting of state general funds by Federal Grant fund dollars greatly affects NDDVA's ability to apply for and maintain more Federal Grants. NDDVA is requesting that the mandate of utilizing \$100,000 of HRTG funds for salary expenses be removed and the general fund dollars returned. NDDVA utilizes the maximum amount of funds for administrative and salary expenses allowed by law. October-December 2020 total admin: \$5,398.63
  
3. **Loan and Grant Officer changed to (FTE) and funded** **\$18,910**  
 The 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative assembly (2017) reduced total staffing levels at NDDVA by 30%. The Governors recommendation was to reduce back to 2013 staffing levels which would have resulted in a reduction of 1 FTE. The extent that the NDDVA staff workload had increased prior to the staff reductions was already making an impact on the department. Several services and non-mandated programs have already been eliminated or reduced. Funding of \$140,000 in Governors budget 2021-23 as a Temporary position however \$100,000 of ND general fund salary appropriations supplanted by the Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant funds in the 2017-2019 budget was intended to be replaced in 2019-2021 budget. NDDVA is requesting that the Loan and Grant Officer position be returned as a FTE and be fully funded with state general fund appropriations.
  
4. **Veteran Benefits Specialist/Women Veterans (FTE)** **\$158,910**  
 NDDVA has been in need of an additional Veteran Benefits Specialist (VBS) for years. With the loss of 3 positions during the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative session and the increase of responsibilities and caseload the NDDVA staff have been unable to serve the ND Veterans as they deserve. During the 2017-2019 biennium NDDVA VBS completed 3,915 Compensation and Pension Claims (144 Military Sexual Trauma claims filed by NDDVA Women Veterans Service Officer), had 3,039 office visits (more than ND's largest counties), uploaded 19,986 documents, completed 3,839 forms and conducted 65 outreach events. Due to the increased workload NDDVA lost its most senior and experienced Veterans Benefits Specialist to a higher paying position with less caseload in the same field. NDDVA believes that an additional FTE would greatly improve our ability to serve our veterans as well as increase the services and benefits received by ND Veterans.
  
5. **Program coordinator/Training/Information Officer** **\$158,910**  
 1 FTE to act as the training officer & benefits specialist. 70% of the training officer's time would be spent conducting initial and continuing training with County & Tribal Veteran Service Officers (C&TVSO's) and information dissemination. 30% of the training officer's time would be spent doing hands on work and maintaining self-proficiency. Better trained and informed C&TVSO's will result in much better services to our veterans and their dependents. This will greatly improve the lives of many of our veteran' and their dependents as well as the Federal dollars coming into ND.  
 The Federal VA expended over \$472,047,000 in 2019 and over \$412,761,000 in 2018. (\$884,808,000) in Federal funds coming into North Dakota during the last Biennium. Without VSO's this does not happen. Source: VA GDx.
  
6. **DAV vans** **\$56,400**  
 Pass-Through funding. It is estimated that three (3) vans may need replacement during the 2021-2023 biennium. This funding along with funding from the 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-\$18,600. NDDVA is requesting total DAV van funding of \$56,400 for the 2021-2023 biennium. NDDVA requests DAV van funds be carried over from each biennium.

**14. Provide a comparison of your agency's optional adjustment requests to those recommended in the executive budget.**

Optional Requests	2019-2021		2021-2023			Senate Actions	
	Current Budget	OMB	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference	Senate	Diff. of Request
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 159,335.00	\$ (119,012.00)	\$ 715,277.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 575,277.00	\$ 299,657.00	\$ (275,620.00)
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)					\$ -		
Training	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00	\$ 16,012.00	\$ -
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ (4,500.00)
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ 137,500.00		\$ 137,500.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ (69,500.00)
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00	\$ 18,910.00	\$ -
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00	\$ -	\$ (158,910.00)
5.FTE Coord./Trainer/Info. Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ (18,910.00)
6.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ (18,800.00)
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>(2)</b>

**15. Identify the amount of federal funding available to your agency relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the actual amount spent, and for what purpose.**

COVID CARE			
Funds	Requested	Spent	Difference
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 2,860.00	\$ -
UV Sanitizer	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 2,475.00	\$ -
PPE	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00	\$ -

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

NDDVA appreciates the need for fiscal responsibility, doing more with less and understands budgetary cuts.

- NDDVA has a long history of being fiscally responsible NDDVA budget is one of the lowest in the nation and continues to bring innovative and new programs and procedures which are adopted by many other states.
- NDDVA has a history of “Doing more with less”. Many new programs such as the HRTG, Legal Services, Education Credit for Military Training, State Heroes recognition, Paperless claims and digitizing of documents were done within NDDVA budget and with public private partnerships such as AmeriCorps VISTA’s, Experience Works, VA work studies, Internships and Volunteers.
- NDDVA did endure a 30% budget cut in 2017. This has resulted in many services and programs being discontinued or less effective. Yet NDDVA staff have continued to produce more.
- NDDVA serves our Veterans and their dependents (about 200,000 North Dakotans).
- Bottom line is NDDVA is an investment that brings Federal Dollars to North Dakota.

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

SB 2025  
3/18/2021 am  
House Appropriations Human Resources

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

Chair Nelson Opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Nelson	P	
Kreidt	P	
Andersen	P	
Mitskog	P	
Schobinger	P	
Strinden	P	

### Discussion Topics:

- Veteran's Home

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, Department of veterans affairs (9:09 am)** testified #7830

Chair Nelson closed the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

*Cole Fleck, Committee Clerk*

**SB2025 ND Department of Veterans Affairs Budget**  
**Commissioner Lonnie Wangen**  
**House Hearing March 8, 2021 #7830**

Per the request of House Appropriations Human Resources Chair Representative Jon Nelson 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

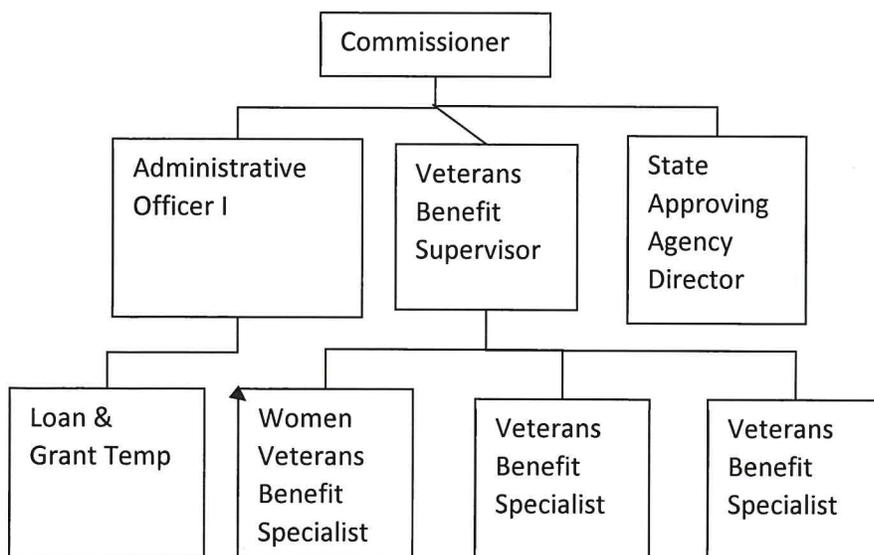
## 2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs - Attach organizational chart.

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 program
  - Highly Rural Transportation program
  - 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



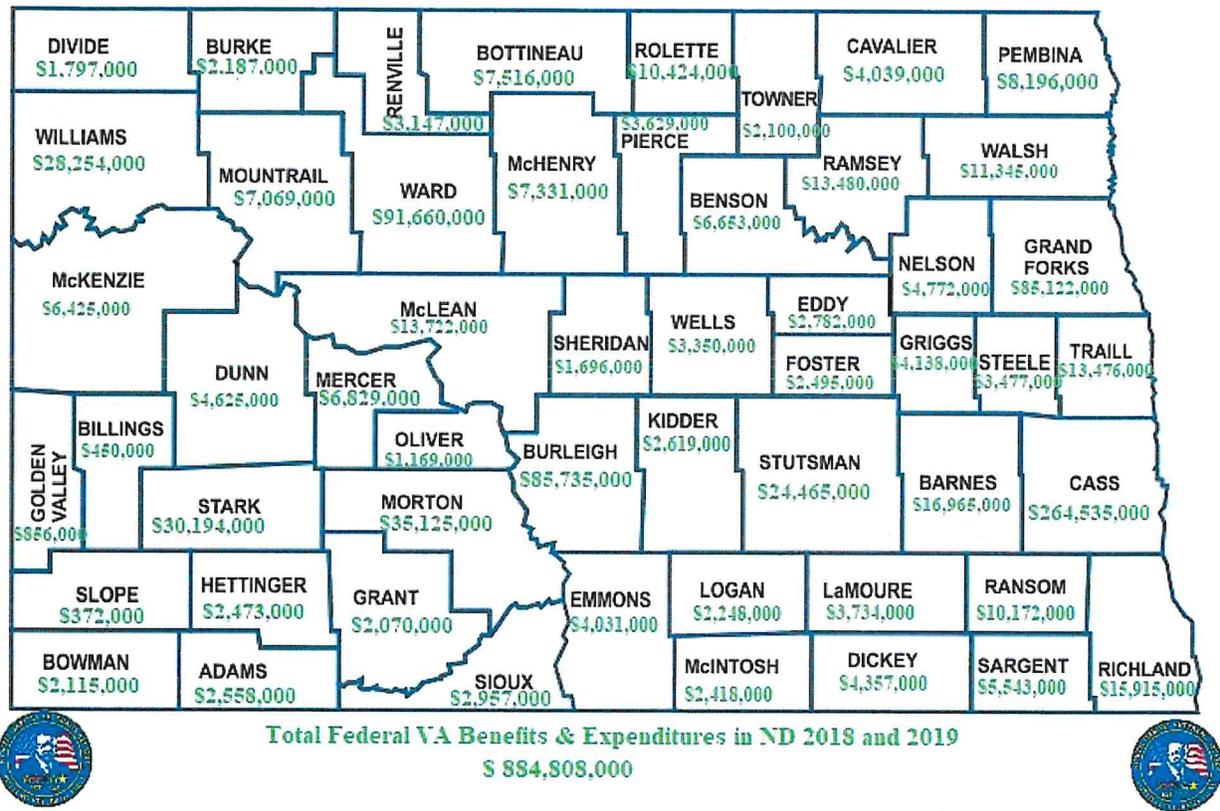
### 3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.

- Audit conducted March of 2019
  - No formal recommendations
  - No informal recommendations
  - No concerns or notations made to NDDVA for improvements

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

#### Accomplishments

- Education:
  - 145 courses across all ND State IHL approved for Military Credit. First time in ND History.
    - 100 and 200 level courses from the top 10 MOS's returning to ND plus some universal 300-400 level courses
    - AmeriCorps Vistas worked at NDDVA over 3-year period
  - 100% review of all IHL catalogs for approval.
  - Over 200 Apprenticeship and On the Job Training programs approved at 97 ND facilities
    - Up 25-30 programs and 20 facilities from previous biennium.
  - **\$47,818,000** in Federal Education benefits in ND (2018 & 2019)
- Grants and Loans (**No Loan and Grant officer 2017-July 2020**)
  - Grants 158 to date (compared to 255 2017-2019)
  - Loans 48 to date (compared to 64 new loans 2017-2019)
- Housing
  - Homeless Veterans Committee. Coordinate services, on database, by name list. Functional Zero!
  - VAMC in Fargo opened new Community Resource and Referral Center in downtown Fargo
  - Fisher House **\$8 Million** project approved
- Legal Services
  - Veterans Court Committee
- CVSO/TVSO support and training
  - New VSO trained 2019-2020: 18 (compared to 2017-2018: 6) **300% increase**
  - First time in ND and possibly the nation County Veteran services to be contracted with tribal veteran service office. Sioux county contracting with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe VSO.
- Benefits -VA
  - Transitioning to serving C&TVSO's.
    - Goal to have Less Direct claim development
      - Currently have 1,297.
      - 2019 NDDVA had more direct claims than the largest ND Counties.
  - Total Claims estimate for 2019-2021 **2,500** (compared to 2017-2019) of 1927 **30% increase**
  - Total appeals in 2019-2020 545 (compared to 171 2017-2019) **320% increase**. 6 months to go.
  - Retroactive payments 2019-2021 to date: \$2,193,284 estimate \$3,000,000
    - Compared to 2017-2019 of \$1,594,026 (**almost 100% increase**)
      - **38% increase** and 6 months to go
      - VA Regional Offices closed for COVID
      - **\$884,808,000** in VA funds to ND (2018-2019)



**NDDVA Base Budget 2019-2021: \$1,268,930. Return on Investment: 697%**  
**Just the Comp & Pension of \$386,341,000 in ND @ 5% sales tax = \$19,317,050**  
**(\$5 return for every NDDVA dollar)**

**Challenges**

- Staffing
  - 30% cut in staffing levels in 2017 (Governor mandate was 1FTE for NDDVA)
    - 30% increase in claims load in last biennium alone
    - 320% increase in appeals hearings from last biennium
  - 2019 NDDVA had more volunteer staff than Paid employees
    - Volunteer staff ITD support removed from 2021-2023 budget
    - COVID-19 proved volunteer staffing unsustainable for critical needs
  - State funds supplanted by Federal Grant dollars (\$100,000) not sustainable
    - Cuts in Federal expenditures will soon lead to serious shortfall in staff funding.
    - Last quarter of 2020: \$5,398.63 in admin fees. Need \$12,500 per quarter.
  - Lost most Sr. Veteran Benefits Specialist to MN due to workload and compensation. More may be lost if additional staff not added.

**Next Biennium goals and plans**

- Fisher House construction started
- ND Veteran Homelessness at functional zero
- Veterans Court established
- Veterans benefits staffing with sustainable workload and goal of surpassing **\$1 Billion in VA expenditures!**
- Federal grants supplanting fixed so we can apply for new grants (can offset state admin or pay for staffing)

**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	2019-2021	2021-2023			
	Current Budget	OMB Budget	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference
Total:		\$ -63,447 (5%)	\$ 677,777.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 537,777.00
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)					\$ -
Training	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ 137,500.00		\$ 100,000.00
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
5.FTE Coordinator/Trainer/Information Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00
6.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00
Total FTE	7	7	10	7	3

**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.

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

Agency		SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level					
Program							
Reporting Level							
Department of Veterans Affairs 100 Veterans Affairs Administration 00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000							
1 Object/Revenue	2 2019-21 Legislative Base	3 2021-23 Base Budget Changes	4 2021-23 Total Changes	5 2021-23 Base Budget Request	6 2021-23 Optional Budget Changes	7 2021-23 Total Budget Request	
Description	Code						
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Motor Vehicles	692000	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Transport Vans	52	18,800	18,800	0	18,800	56,400	
Temporary Salaries	513000	80,000	128,000	48,000	128,000	128,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	6,998	(6,998)	(6,998)	0	0	
IT - Communications	602000	672	(672)	(672)	0	0	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	712,330	439,670	439,670	1,152,000	1,152,000	
Grants - Transportation Program	62	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	1,280,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	609,878	0	110,738	720,616	1,031,656	
Temporary Salaries	513000	0	(128,000)	(128,000)	(128,000)	0	
Fringe Benefits	516000	337,547	0	7,765	345,312	511,093	
Travel	521000	63,145	(30,000)	(30,000)	33,145	63,145	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	13,344	0	0	13,344	13,344	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	729	0	0	729	729	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	3,442	0	0	3,442	3,442	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	4,073	0	0	4,073	4,073	
Office Supplies	536000	2,586	0	0	2,586	2,586	
Postage	541000	750	0	0	750	750	
Printing	542000	300	0	0	300	300	
Utilities	561000	6,264	0	0	6,264	6,264	
Insurance	571000	3,800	0	0	3,800	3,800	
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	14,528	0	0	14,528	14,528	
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	64,710	0	0	64,710	64,710	
Repairs	591000	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	
IT - Data Processing	601000	36,467	(7,935)	(7,935)	28,532	36,467	
IT - Communications	602000	6,045	0	0	6,045	6,045	
Professional Development	611000	20,200	(16,015)	(16,015)	4,185	20,200	
Operating Fees and Services	621000	500	0	0	500	500	
Fees - Professional Services	623000	4,822	0	0	4,822	4,822	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000	
Veterans Affairs Administration	70	1,200,130	(181,950)	(63,447)	1,136,683	1,795,454	
Grants, Benefits & Claims	712000	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Service Dogs	72	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	
Salaries - Permanent	511000	136,870	0	933	137,803	137,803	
Fringe Benefits	516000	67,560	0	333	67,893	67,893	
Travel	521000	17,258	1,000	1,000	18,258	18,258	
Supplies - IT Software	531000	2,136	0	0	2,136	2,136	
Supply/Material-Professional	532000	1,489	0	0	1,489	1,489	
Bldg, Ground, Maintenance	534000	1,274	0	0	1,274	1,274	
Miscellaneous Supplies	535000	523	0	0	523	523	

2021 BIEN / 08/24/2020 17:53:47

SR05 - Budget Request Summary - Reporting Level

2

<b>Agency</b>	Department of Veterans Affairs
<b>Program</b>	100 Veterans Affairs Administration
<b>Reporting Level</b>	00-321-100-00-00-00-00000000

1 Object/Revenue		2 2019-21 Legislative Base	3 2021-23 Base Budget Changes	4 2021-23 Total Changes	5 2021-23 Base Budget Request	6 2021-23 Optional Budget Changes	7 2021-23 Total Budget Request
Description	Code						
Office Supplies	536000	2,825	0	0	2,825	0	2,825
Postage	541000	1,187	0	0	1,187	0	1,187
Printing	542000	1,973	0	0	1,973	0	1,973
IT Equip Under \$5,000	551000	6,279	0	0	6,279	0	6,279
Other Equip Under \$5,000	552000	264	0	0	264	0	264
Office Equip & Furn Supplies	553000	1,279	0	0	1,279	0	1,279
Utilities	561000	1,788	0	0	1,788	0	1,788
Insurance	571000	1,636	0	0	1,636	0	1,636
Rentals/Leases-Equip & Other	581000	4,810	0	0	4,810	0	4,810
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	582000	14,748	0	0	14,748	0	14,748
Repairs	591000	1,030	0	0	1,030	0	1,030
IT - Data Processing	601000	8,214	0	0	8,214	0	8,214
IT - Communications	602000	2,873	0	0	2,873	0	2,873
IT Contractual Svcs and Rprs	603000	685	0	0	685	0	685
Professional Development	611000	5,021	0	0	5,021	0	5,021
Operating Fees and Services	621000	315	0	0	315	0	315
Fees - Professional Services	623000	3,620	0	0	3,620	0	3,620
<b>State Approving Agency</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>285,657</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>287,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>287,923</b>
Grants - Benefits & Claims	712000	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
Grants - Veterans Home Cemetery	75	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>MEANS OF FUNDING</b>							
Rural Transportation Grant	H134	800,000	560,000	480,000	1,280,000	0	1,280,000
State Approving Agency	H135	285,657	1,000	2,266	287,923	0	287,923
Veterans Cemetery Grants	H1361	0	291,500	291,500	291,500	0	291,500
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>FED</b>	<b>1,085,657</b>	<b>852,500</b>	<b>773,766</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,859,423</b>
State General Fund	001	1,268,930	(163,150)	(63,447)	1,205,483	696,371	1,901,854
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>1,268,930</b>	<b>(163,150)</b>	<b>(63,447)</b>	<b>1,205,483</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>1,901,854</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>2,354,587</b>	<b>689,350</b>	<b>710,319</b>	<b>3,064,906</b>	<b>696,371</b>	<b>3,761,277</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES</b>							
FTE		7.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	7.00
Vacant		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
<b>TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES for 100 Veterans Affairs Administration</b>		<b>7.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>

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

General Fund

	Budgeted	Expected use	Balance
	\$ 147,500.00	\$ 145,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Grant Database Enhancements	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ (2,100.00)
Temporary loan and grant position	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -

\*Request to carry over balance of Grant Database Enhancement funds

Non-General Fund (Federal Grant. Melvin Norgaard)

	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

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

- No one-time funding being requested
- Request balance of one-time funding for Grant Database be carried over to 2021-2023 biennium
- Request Veterans Home Cemetery Repairs authorization remain

**9. Discuss agency collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2019 legislative session estimates during the 2019-21 biennium and estimated changes for the 2021-23 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.

	To date 2019-21	Expected 2021-23
Commemorative Memorial Coins		
Coin Sales (\$7.23 NET of coins sold @ \$10)	\$ 9,507.18	\$ 8,676.00
Donations	\$ 4,120.00	\$ -
Estimated 3,200 Coins conferred @\$2.265 each	\$ 7,248.00	\$ 7,248.00
Net +/-	\$ 6,379.18	\$ 1,428.00

\*\*2019 coins sales: 599

\*\*2020 coins sales to date: 714

\*\*Expected sales in 2021-23: 1,200 coins

\* Total balance of Coin fund as of 10/30/2020 \$11,829.46

\*Estimated 1,600 veteran funerals per year  
cost of 1,600 coins @ \$2.265 each: \$3,624

\*Estimated requirement to sell 503 coins per year at \$10 with net of \$7.21= \$3,626.63

**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.
  - Make funds permanent and allow carryover of unused funds
    - DAV Van Grant \$40,000
    - PTSD Service Dog Grant \$50,000
  - One time carry over
    - Grant Database improvement \$2,100

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

- No known bills with NDDVA budgetary impact.
- NDVLC focus for 67<sup>th</sup> Legislative session is NDDVA budget.
- Possible bills
  - **Appreciation of Veterans and Military**
    - **Medal of Honor recipients automatic Rough Rider award**
    - **Patriotism Project in Elementary Schools**
    - **Disabled Veteran Hunting.** Certain disabled veterans start with youth hunting season. Guaranteed deer tag.
  - **Education**
    - **In State Tuition** for Veterans, Guard-Reserve, and Dependents of (NDCC:15-10-19.1(2) D F and G
    - **ND tuition waiver** residency requirement 5 years (currently 5 and 10 years)
  - **Financial**
    - **Veteran Charitable Gaming net proceeds use.**
      - **Add: Property Taxes & Special assessments**
      - **Removes: Personal Property**
    - **Post War Trust Fund clearing account (410) and Veterans Aid Loan (368)**
      - Authority to invest CD's outside BND
  - **Health & Wellbeing**
    - **PASS FUND:** Funding for up to 500 persons. Guardian, conservator
  - **Legal Services**
    - **Veterans Docket**-Grand Forks amend NDCC 12.1-32-02(1)
      - Veterans Court-Administrative Rule 60
      - Establish Veterans Docket under Drug Court of NDCC
    - **Military Families Top Ten Key Issues**  
From DSLO Key Issues: <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/#key-issues-report>
      - Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability Sen. Meyer
      - Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access Sen. Meyer
      - Licensing Compacts
      - Military Spouse Teacher Certification (ND is green)
      - Purple Star School Program Will probably not be done legislatively but in DPI policy)
      - Advance Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - Virtual School Enrollment 3 bills that may meet this requirement
      - In-State Tuition Continuity Rep Pyle
      - Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting HHS to address this in policy not legislatively)
      - Ask the Question Campaign
  - **National Guard Specific**
    - 219<sup>th</sup> RUF Minot AFB
    - SAD Death Gratuity Authority
    - Trust Land Accounting Line reactivated
    - House Cleaning bill – Update state law with federal law
    - The NDNG Budget

**12. Discuss the impact of any budget changes made to meet the Governor's budget guidelines.**

	Budgeted	Reduced	Balance
2021-2023 Base Budget cut of 5% or \$63,447		\$ 63,447.00	\$ -
Veteran Service Officer Travel & Training	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 16,012.00	\$ 2,288.00
Outreach to County and Tribal VSO's	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Computers for volunteers/Exp. Works/work studies	\$ 7,935.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 14,300.00

Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012

The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy. To properly serve our veterans and their dependents training is a must. NDDVA believes that each of the Veterans Benefits Specialist should attend at least one training event per year. \$18,300 is a very conservative amount for this important training.

Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935

Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources. Resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. While NDDVA does not pay for the services we do have in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA has worked with ND ITD to negotiate for used computers at lower rates.

County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000

NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 which reads in part: "...; to provide counties with recommended qualifications and standards for county veterans' service officers; to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers; to provide county veterans' service officers with educational materials; to assist county veterans' service officers in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information;...".NDDVA current budget is not sufficient to provide these services. NDDVA is requesting \$30,000 be returned to our budget for training conference expenses, outreach to the VSO offices, Tribal events, and to participate in and support the many outreach programs conducted by the Federal VA, Veteran Organizations, State and County agencies.

DAV vans: \$4,500

NDDVA has had a long-standing working relationship with the ND Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Federal VA in providing transportation for Veterans to VA Medical facilities. Utilizing the DAV's national trust known as the Colorado or Columbia Trust NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The Federal VA in Fargo pays for all the expenses to operate the van and utilizes volunteer drivers coordinated by ND County Veteran Service Officers and ND DAV. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800.

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

1. **Restore Base Budget Funding:** **\$63,447**  
Veteran Benefits Specialist (NDDVA Staff) Training and Travel: \$16,012  
 The regulations, qualification, benefit availability and eligibility are constantly changing. NDDVA staff require updated training to maintain a sufficient level of relevancy.  
Volunteer staff computers and ITD expenses: \$7,935  
 Over the last decade NDDVA has worked diligently to make up for its staff shortages by tapping into other labor resources such as Volunteers, Apprentice programs, Experience Works, VA Work Studies and AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers. NDDVA pay only in-kind or administrative costs such as the computers and ITD fees. NDDVA utilizes used computers at lower rates.  
County and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Training and Outreach: \$30,000  
 NDDVA is mandated by NDCC 37-18-04 to assist counties with training of county veterans' service officers provide educational materials to in the performance of their duties; to disseminate information.  
DAV vans: \$4,500  
 Pass-Through funding. NDDVA provides 45-55% of the cost to purchase a new van which is donated to the Federal VA. The cost of a van varied by year and size of van needed. In the recent past NDDVA's share has been \$14,000-\$18,800 per van.  
Stand downs: \$5,000  
 Pass-Through funding. This appropriation is to provide funding for Stand Down events in communities across North Dakota. The main focus is directed at homeless/at risk of homelessness veterans.
  
2. **Restore Salary funding supplanted by Highly Rural Transportation Grant administrative fees:** **\$100,000**  
 In 2017 OMB supplanted \$100,000 in State General Fund Salaries with Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) admin funds. The NDDVA state general fund salary appropriations were reduced by \$100,000. NDDVA had been utilizing these funds for a part-time temporary HRTG coordinator and administrative costs as authorized by the Federal Grant Program. This action eliminated the HRTG coordinator position.  
 The HRTG allows for up to 10% of the total grant dollars *expended* be available for administrative costs. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 HRTG award was for up to \$859,790. NDDVA spent only \$209,804.52 therefore was only allowed \$20,980 for administrative costs. FFY 2017 HRTG award was for up to \$402,730. NDDVA utilized \$326,392.20 and was authorized \$32,639.22 for admin. Supplanting of state general funds by Federal Grant fund dollars greatly affects NDDVA's ability to apply for and maintain more Federal Grants. NDDVA is requesting that the mandate of utilizing \$100,000 of HRTG funds for salary expenses be removed and the general fund dollars returned. NDDVA utilizes the maximum amount of funds for administrative and salary expenses allowed by law. **October-December 2020 total admin: \$5,398.63**
  
3. **Loan and Grant Officer changed to (FTE) and funded** **\$18,910**  
 The 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative assembly (2017) reduced total staffing levels at NDDVA by 30%. The Governors recommendation was to reduce back to 2013 staffing levels which would have resulted in a reduction of 1 FTE. The extent that the NDDVA staff workload had increased prior to the staff reductions was already making an impact on the department. Several services and non-mandated programs have already been eliminated or reduced. Funding of \$140,000 in Governors budget 2021-23 as a Temporary position however \$100,000 of ND general fund salary appropriations supplanted by the Federal Highly Rural Transportation Grant funds in the 2017-2019 budget was intended to be replaced in 2019-2021 budget. NDDVA is requesting that the Loan and Grant Officer position be returned as a FTE and be fully funded with state general fund appropriations.
  
4. **Veteran Benefits Specialist/Women Veterans (FTE)** **\$158,910**  
 NDDVA has been in need of an additional Veteran Benefits Specialist (VBS) for years. With the loss of 3 positions during the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative session and the increase of responsibilities and caseload the NDDVA staff have been unable to serve the ND Veterans as they deserve. During the 2017-2019 biennium NDDVA VBS completed 3,915 Compensation and Pension Claims (144 Military Sexual Trauma claims filed by NDDVA Women Veterans Service Officer), had 3,039 office visits (more than ND's largest counties), uploaded 19,986 documents, completed 3,839 forms and conducted 65 outreach events. Due to the increased workload NDDVA lost its most senior and experienced Veterans Benefits Specialist to a higher paying position with less caseload in the same field. NDDVA believes that an additional FTE would greatly improve our ability to serve our veterans as well as increase the services and benefits received by ND Veterans.
  
5. **Program coordinator/Training/Information Officer** **\$158,910**  
 1 FTE to act as the training officer & benefits specialist. 70% of the training officer's time would be spent conducting initial and continuing training with County & Tribal Veteran Service Officers (C&TVSO's) and information dissemination. 30% of the training officer's time would be spent doing hands on work and maintaining self-proficiency. Better trained and informed C&TVSO's will result in much better services to our veterans and their dependents. This will greatly improve the lives of many of our veteran' and their dependents as well as the Federal dollars coming into ND.  
 The Federal VA expended over \$472,047,000 in 2019 and over \$412,761,000 in 2018. (\$884,808,000) in Federal funds coming into North Dakota during the last Biennium. Without VSO's this does not happen. Source: VA GDx.
  
6. **DAV vans** **\$56,400**  
 Pass-Through funding. It is estimated that three (3) vans may need replacement during the 2021-2023 biennium. This funding along with funding from the 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-\$18,600. NDDVA is requesting total DAV van funding of \$56,400 for the 2021-2023 biennium. NDDVA requests DAV van funds be carried over from each biennium.

**14. Provide a comparison of your agency's optional adjustment requests to those recommended in the executive budget.**

Optional Requests	2019-2021		2021-2023			Senate Actions	
	Current Budget	OMB	NDDVA Requested	Included in Exec. Budget	Difference	Senate	Diff. of Request
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 159,335.00	\$ (119,012.00)	\$ 715,277.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 575,277.00	\$ 299,657.00	\$ (275,620.00)
1.Restore Base Budget (\$63,447)					\$ -		
Training	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 16,012.00		\$ 16,012.00	\$ 16,012.00	\$ -
Volunteer IT expenses	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -	\$ 7,935.00		\$ 7,935.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ -
C&TVSO training	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
DAV Vans	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 4,500.00		\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ (4,500.00)
Stand Downs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)
2.Restore salary supplanted	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ (137,500.00)	\$ 137,500.00		\$ 137,500.00	\$ 68,000.00	\$ (69,500.00)
3.Loan and Grant Officer	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 18,910.00	\$ 18,910.00	\$ -
4.FTE Veteran Benefits Specialist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00	\$ -	\$ (158,910.00)
5.FTE Coord./Trainer/Info. Officer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,910.00		\$ 158,910.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ (18,910.00)
6.Additional DAV Van funding (2)	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ -	\$ 37,600.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ (18,800.00)
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>(2)</b>

**15. Identify the amount of federal funding available to your agency relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the actual amount spent, and for what purpose.**

COVID CARE			
Funds	Requested	Spent	Difference
<b>Total:</b>	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 2,860.00	\$ -
UV Sanitizer	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 2,475.00	\$ -
PPE	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00	\$ -

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

NDDVA appreciates the need for fiscal responsibility, doing more with less and understands budgetary cuts.

- NDDVA has a long history of being fiscally responsible NDDVA budget is one of the lowest in the nation and continues to bring innovative and new programs and procedures which are adopted by many other states.
- NDDVA has a history of “Doing more with less”. Many new programs such as the HRTG, Legal Services, Education Credit for Military Training, State Heroes recognition, Paperless claims and digitizing of documents were done within NDDVA budget and with public private partnerships such as AmeriCorps VISTA’s, Experience Works, VA work studies, Internships and Volunteers.
- NDDVA did endure a 30% budget cut in 2017. This has resulted in many services and programs being discontinued or less effective. Yet NDDVA staff have continued to produce more.
- NDDVA serves our Veterans and their dependents (about 200,000 North Dakotans).
- Bottom line is NDDVA is an investment that brings Federal Dollars to North Dakota.

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

SB 2025  
3/29/2021 am  
House Appropriations Human Resources

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

Chair Nelson Opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Representative	Present	Absent
Nelson	P	
Kreidt	P	
Andersen	P	
Mitskog	P	
Schobinger	P	
Strinden	P	

### Discussion Topics:

- Review and Approval
- Salary Changes
- FTE Changes
- Van Changes

Rep Nelson introduced the bill (11:06 am) general discussion

Rep Kreidt moved amendment for salaries changes

Seconded by Rep Anderson

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 motion passed

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Nelson	x		
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger	x		
Strinden	x		

Rep Anderson moved amendment for FTE

Seconded by Rep Kreidt

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 motion passed

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Nelson	x		
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger	x		

Strinden	x		
----------	---	--	--

**Rep Kreidt moved amendment for Van changes**

**Seconded by Rep Strinden**

**Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 motion passed**

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Nelson	x		
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger	x		
Strinden	x		

**Rep Nelson moved amendment for stand downs**

**Seconded by Rep Kreidt**

**Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 motion passed**

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Nelson	x		
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger	x		
Strinden	x		

**Rep Anderson moved do pass as amended**

**Seconded by Rep Strinden**

**Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 motion passed**

Representative	Yea	Nay	Absent
Nelson	x		
Kreidt	x		
Anderson	x		
Mitskog	x		
Schobinger	x		
Strinden	x		

Chair Nelson closed the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

*Cole Fleck, Committee Clerk*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2025

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$301,821	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	6,366	292,024
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,019,687	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	1,085,657	717,993	1,803,650
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$301,694	\$1,570,624
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Re-number accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$1,577,244	(\$75,294)	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	291,971	53	292,024
Grants - Transportation program	800,000	1,220,000		1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery		291,500		291,500
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$3,468,315	(\$94,041)	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	1,085,657	1,803,597	53	1,803,650
General fund	\$1,268,930	\$1,664,718	(\$94,094)	\$1,570,624
FTE	7.00	8.00	0.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>1</sup>	Reduces Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>2</sup>	Removes Funding for Stand Down Events <sup>3</sup>	Removes Funding for a Transport Van <sup>4</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)		(\$75,294)
State approving agency	53				53
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home Cemetery					
Total all funds	(\$241)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,041)
Less estimated income	53	0	0	0	53
General fund	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,094)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Salaries and wages funding is adjusted for 2021-23 biennium salary increases of 1.5 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$100 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022. The Senate provided salary adjustments of 2 percent with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 on July 1, 2021, and 2 percent on July 1, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$70,000 from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position is removed to provide a total of \$70,000 for a temporary half-time position. The Senate approved \$140,000 from the general fund for a full-time temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$5,000 from the general fund for stand down events is removed to provide total funding of \$0 for stand downs.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of one transport van. The Senate approved \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans.

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2025  
3/31/2021

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

**3:21 Chairman Delzer-** Opened the meeting for SB 2025

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	A
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

### Discussion Topics:

- Budget
- Amendment

**Representative B. Anderson** – Introduces the budget and the amendment  
21.0307.02001

**3:30 Representative B. Anderson** - Makes a motion to adopt the amendment

**Representative Strinden** - Second

Further discussion

**3:34 Voice Vote- Motion Carries**

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

**Representative Strinden** Second

Further discussion

**3:35 Roll Call Vote was Taken;**

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Jeff Delzer	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Tracy Boe	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	A
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y

**Motion Carries 18-1-2 Representative B. Anderson will carry the bill**

**Additional written testimony:** No Additional Testimony

**3:36 Chairman Delzer-** Closes the meeting for SB 2025

*Risa Berube,*

*House Appropriations Committee Clerk*

*Handwritten:*  
3/31/21  
182

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2025

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$301,821	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	6,366	292,024
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	<u>0</u>	<u>291,500</u>	<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,019,687	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>717,993</u>	<u>1,803,650</u>
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$301,694	\$1,570,624
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$1,577,244	(\$75,294)	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	291,971	53	292,024
Grants - Transportation program	800,000	1,220,000		1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery		<u>291,500</u>		<u>291,500</u>
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$3,468,315	(\$94,041)	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>1,803,597</u>	53	<u>1,803,650</u>
General fund	\$1,268,930	\$1,664,718	(\$94,094)	\$1,570,624
FTE	7.00	8.00	0.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>1</sup>	Reduces Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>2</sup>	Removes Funding for Stand Down Events <sup>3</sup>	Removes Funding for a Transport Van <sup>4</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)		(\$75,294)
State approving agency	53				53
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home Cemetery					
Total all funds	(\$241)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,041)
Less estimated income	<u>53</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>53</u>
General fund	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,094)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Salaries and wages funding is adjusted for 2021-23 biennium salary increases of 1.5 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$100 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022. The Senate provided salary adjustments of 2 percent with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 on July 1, 2021, and 2 percent on July 1, 2022.

3/21/21  
2/8/2

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$70,000 from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position is removed to provide a total of \$70,000 for a temporary half-time position. The Senate approved \$140,000 from the general fund for a full-time temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$5,000 from the general fund for stand down events is removed to provide total funding of \$0 for stand downs.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of one transport van. The Senate approved \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2025, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (18 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2025 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, replace lines 12 through 21 with:

"Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$301,821	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	6,366	292,024
Grants - transportation program	800,000	420,000	1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	0	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	0	50,000
Veterans' home cemetery	0	291,500	291,500
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$1,019,687	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>717,993</u>	<u>1,803,650</u>
Total general fund	\$1,268,930	\$301,694	\$1,570,624
Full-time equivalent positions	7.00	1.00	8.00"

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

**Senate Bill No. 2025 - Department of Veterans' Affairs - House Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Veterans' affairs	\$1,200,129	\$1,577,244	(\$75,294)	\$1,501,950
State approving agency	285,658	291,971	53	292,024
Grants - Transportation program	800,000	1,220,000		1,220,000
Transport vans	18,800	37,600	(18,800)	18,800
Service dogs	50,000	50,000		50,000
Veterans' Home Cemetery		291,500		291,500
Total all funds	\$2,354,587	\$3,468,315	(\$94,041)	\$3,374,274
Less estimated income	<u>1,085,657</u>	<u>1,803,597</u>	53	<u>1,803,650</u>
General fund	\$1,268,930	\$1,664,718	(\$94,094)	\$1,570,624
FTE	7.00	8.00	0.00	8.00

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

	Adjusts Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases <sup>1</sup>	Reduces Funding for a Temporary Position <sup>2</sup>	Removes Funding for Stand Down Events <sup>3</sup>	Removes Funding for a Transport Van <sup>4</sup>	Total House Changes
Veterans' affairs	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)		(\$75,294)
State approving agency	53				53
Grants - Transportation program					
Transport vans				(\$18,800)	(18,800)
Service dogs					
Veterans' Home Cemetery					
Total all funds	(\$241)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,041)
Less estimated income	<u>53</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>53</u>
General fund	(\$294)	(\$70,000)	(\$5,000)	(\$18,800)	(\$94,094)
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Salaries and wages funding is adjusted for 2021-23 biennium salary increases of 1.5 percent on July 1, 2021, with a minimum monthly increase of \$100 and 2 percent on July 1, 2022. The Senate provided salary adjustments of 2 percent with a minimum monthly increase of \$80 and a maximum monthly increase of \$300 on July 1, 2021, and 2 percent on July 1, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$70,000 from the general fund for a temporary training and information officer position is removed to provide a total of \$70,000 for a temporary half-time position. The

Senate approved \$140,000 from the general fund for a full-time temporary training and information officer position.

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$5,000 from the general fund for stand down events is removed to provide total funding of \$0 for stand downs.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of a transport van is removed to provide a total of \$18,800 from the general fund for the purchase of one transport van. The Senate approved \$37,600 from the general fund for the purchase of two transport vans.