



Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

Budget Overview for the Public Safety Subcommittee of Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee

Secretary Carlos L. Hopkins

January 20, 2021

Department of Veterans Services

Past Year's Accomplishments

- Filed **77,738** submissions to VA in FY20 (contributed to **\$3.57B** in federal disability compensation benefits paid to Virginia veterans in FFY19);
- Connected **1,770** veterans to behavioral health/supportive services;
- Helped **947** homeless veterans obtain secure housing in 2020; (950 in 2019)
- ***Governor's Challenge***: Led the Commonwealth's national roadmap to prevent suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF) and trained **3,496** providers in crisis intervention and military cultural competence;
- **Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program**: **14,773** hires in FY20; Over 67,000 since program established.
- **Women Veterans Program**: 2020 Virtual Summit had **1,300+** participants;

Dept. of Military Affairs' Past Year's Accomplishments

- The Virginia National Guard called up **609** Guardsmen to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Over **153,000** COVID-19 tests conducted at over hundreds of community-based and point prevalence testing events;
 - Over **1.2 million** pounds of food distributed at local food banks;
 - **400,000** PPE transported and delivered;
 - **3,200** contact tracing calls completed;
 - **51,000** hours of planning.
- The Virginia National Guard called up **899** members for civil unrest response over the summer (*State Active Duty*).
- D.C. and Inauguration Security Operations: VNG now has over **2,400** on orders in Washington, D.C. (*Title 32*).
- Even though COVID had significant effects on training, the 29th Infantry Division HQ still participated in a Warfighter rotation at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, last fall in preparation for their mobilization later this year

Office of the Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

Office of the Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

+\$600,000 (FY21) \$0.00 (FY22) (NGF) (Item 462)

• Provide non-general fund appropriation for Access Control Point at SMR-Camp Pendleton:

- Provides a NGF increase for the previously approved project that is required to establish a secure entry into the SMR off of General Booth Boulevard. Increase is due to some project cost overrun that will be addressed by federal military construction funds.

+\$0.00 (FY21) **+\$0.00** (FY22) (GF) (Item 461)

• Member Request (MARSDEN): Language Only- Transfer one NGF FTE to one GF FTE

- Strikes language associated with GF match requirement to NGF Federal Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grants. In DEC 2021, OEA Grant will expire.
- Converts NG FTE to GF FTE. Military Liaison Officer (MLO) has generated over \$30million in federal grant awards for Virginia Defense Communities since 2013.
- MLO is vital for Virginia to continue its successful engagements with 30+ military installations and defense communities.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS)



VDVS: Statewide Overlay



Benefits Services Offices

- 1 Abingdon
- 2 Accomac
- 3 Big Stone Gap
- 4 Charlottesville
- 5 Chesapeake
- 6 Danville
- 7 Emporia
- 8 Fairfax
- 9 Fort Belvoir
- 10 Fort Lee
- 11 Fredericksburg
- 12 Hampton
- 13 Hampton VA Medical Center
- 14 Henrico
- 15 Loudoun
- 16 Lynchburg
- 17 Manassas
- 18 McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
- 19 Norfolk
- 20 Oceana/Virginia Beach
- 21 Pentagon
- 22 Petersburg

- 23 Portsmouth
- 24 Quantico
- 25 Roanoke
- 26 Salem VA Medical Center
- 27 South Hill
- 28 Springfield
- 29 Staunton
- 30 Strasburg
- 31 Tazewell
- 32 Virginia Beach
- 33 Williamsburg
- 34 Wytheville

* VFS: Underlined offices indicate co-location of VFS and Benefits Services offices.

Care Centers

- ★ Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- ★ Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke
- Opening 2022:
★ Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center, Virginia Beach
- ★ Puller Veterans Care Center, Fauquier County

Virginia Veteran and Family Support Regions

- North
- Central
- East
- West

Cemeteries

- ▲ Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
- ▲ Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- ▲ Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin
- ◆ Virginia War Memorial Richmond



Virginia Veterans Care Center



Authority to increase Medicaid reimbursements for veteran care centers (Items 313-DMAS // 463-DVS) (language-only)

“A. The Department of Veterans Services is authorized to transfer funds to the Department of Medical Assistance Services to fully fund the state share for the Medicaid supplemental payments made for state government owned nursing homes. The funds to be transferred must comply with 42 CFR 447.272.”

- Increased reimbursement rate will help VDVS continue to deliver top-notch care to residents at state-operated veterans care centers in Richmond and Roanoke.
- Will help offset increased operational costs
- Will help improve bottom-line for new veterans care centers in Virginia Beach and Fauquier County when they come on line in 2022.

Benefits Services



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$64,000 (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

- **Hire two Veteran Service Administrators (VSA) (P-14) in FY22:**

- VSAs will work in the Danville and Williamsburg DVS Offices to support Benefits Veterans Service Representatives and Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program Resource Specialists in these busy offices.
- VSAs provide front-line services to veterans and family members.
- Part of cross-branch services to connect veterans to array of federal and state veterans benefits (disability compensation, medical, behavioral health, supporting services, etc.). Also assist with issues related to suicide prevention and homelessness.

Benefits Services



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$35,000 (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

- **Improve IT Security System and Interoperability in FY-22:**

- Shared systems access at VDVS offices will improve system interoperability between VDVS Benefits Services and VVFS operating divisions. These will help offices implement simple security measures recommended in an assessment conducted by DGS following the Virginia Beach municipal shooting.
- 34 Benefits Services offices and 25 VVFS operating locations, including 19 co-locations.

Veteran & Family Support Programs



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$306,000 (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

Hire three (3x) new Veterans Peer Specialists in FY22:

- Integral part of care coordination delivered by the VVFS program and partners and an important part of the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide*;
- Delivers individualized peer coaching and advocacy services to veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserves, and transitioning service members;
- Supports veterans in their personal management of daily living and behavioral challenges;
- Provides support, knowledge, coaching, role-modeling, connection, navigation, and additional one-on-one support through the veteran peer specialist's lived experience as a military service member or veteran with challenges related to their own military service and/or transition;
- New positions will go to VDVS offices in west/southwest Virginia (2) and NoVa (1), where distance or gaps in service are barriers to helping veterans get this service.



Veteran & Family Support Programs

\$0.00 (FY21) +\$204,000 (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

- **Hire two (2x) Resource Specialists in FY22:**

- Integral part of care coordination delivered by the VVFS program and partners and an important part of the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide*;
- Resource Specialists are critical in care coordination and ensuring veterans and family members receive the services that meet their needs.
- Major focus areas include:
 - Suicide prevention
 - Behavioral health connections
 - Supportive services
 - Military cultural competency and crisis intervention training for partners
 - New Veteran Treatment Dockets (VTDs)
 - Incarcerated veterans – transition.

Virginia Women Veterans Program



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$118,000 (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

• Hire Assistant Women Veterans Coordinator:

- This position will enhance and increase support for Virginia's 108,000+ women veterans
 - Highest percentage of women veterans in any state.
 - Growing sub-set of the veterans population.
- Women veterans are hard to identify without direct engagement and active strategies to provide appropriate transition and benefits support; employment and education outreach; and health and community advocacy.
- This position will allow the program to increase visibility in hard to reach communities, thus identifying women Veterans and creating access to a wide array of veteran benefits, especially those tailored to meet women's needs.

Unallotted Items in Central Appropriations



(\$1,058,279) (FY21) (\$1,289,992) (FY22) (GF) (Item 464)

(\$3,092,900) (FY21) (\$92,900) (FY22) (GF) (Item 465)

- **Moves Reductions from 2020 Special Session to Agency Budget:**

- Moves the reductions included in **Item 482.20** of the 2020 Special Session Appropriation Act from Central Appropriations to the agency budget.

Va. Department of Veterans Services Capital Outlay



\$129,000 (FY21) \$0.00 (FY22) (VPBA) (C-61.60)

- **Renovate Veterans Care Centers to Respond to Pandemic Needs:**

- Two projects:
 - Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke): COVID-19-Isolation Units, Storage Area, Vinyl Flooring, Air Filtration System
 - Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond): COVID-19-Isolation Units, Storage Area
- \$129,000 in additional VPBA funds for state share (to match federal grant)

Va. Department of Veterans Services Capital Outlay



*\$0.00 (FY21) **\$2,173,789** (FY22) (NGF) (C-61.70)*

*\$0.00 (FY21) **\$1,621,000** (FY22) (VPBA) (C-61.70)*

• Support Renovation Projects at Veterans Care Centers:

- Supports three life/safety projects – two at Richmond veterans care center, one in Roanoke:
 - Richmond: emergency generator replacement;
 - Roanoke: replace elopement system (Alzheimer's/memory unit), building automation, and telephone system; install new water management system (prevent Legionella's);
 - Richmond: replace elopement system (Alzheimer's/memory unit) and building control system; install additional circuitry for emergency generator.
- NGF provided spending authority for federal grant funding requested for these projects.
- VPBA dollars provide state share (to match federal grant).

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)



Va. Department of Military Affairs Operating Budget



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$50,000 (FY22) (GF)

- **Provide Funding to Purchase Protective Equipment for Operations involving Civil Disturbance (Item 473):**

- Funding for 100 sets of personal protective equipment designed for riot and crowd control operations during State Active Duty.
- As we have seen with recent events, DMA needs protective gear for units besides MP's or Security Forces, in order to provide the number of personnel for which the Commonwealth requests.

\$0.00 (FY21) +\$50,000/ +1xFTE (FY22) (GF)

- **Add Safety & Occupational Health Technician (Item 473):**

- Provides GF and one position to assist with the oversight of workplace safety, employee health, and inspection of facilities.
- Currently, DMA has one only 1 Safety/Occ Health Tech for over 400 employees.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Operating Budget



\$0.00 (FY21) \$150,000 (FY22) (GF)

- **Purchase Mobile Command Post (Item 473):**

- One-time purchase of critical command and control vehicle.
- The Department of Military Affairs does not have a Mobile Command Post, which puts the agency at a disadvantage in effective coordination and communication at incident sites.

(\$250,000) (FY21) (\$250,000) (FY22) (GF)

- **Move Reductions to Agency Budget (Item 473):**

- Moves the reductions included in Item 482.20 of the 2020 Special Session Appropriation Act from Central Appropriations to the agency budget.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Operating Budget



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$3.2 million (FY22) (GF)

- **Member Amendment (Marsden): Fully Fund Tuition Assistance for Va. National Guardsmen (Item 469):**

- Funding for tuition assistance for members of the Virginia National Guard to help recruitment and retention of Guard members.
- The last documented state median cost of tuition at Virginia colleges and universities by SCHEV is for 2018, at \$12,545 per year for tuition and fees.
- \$12,545 for 500 students is \$6,272,500 per year. DMA's normal GF appropriation for the State Tuition Assistance program is \$3,028,382 (which has not changed in over a decade, despite fluctuations in take rate as well as several increases in tuition costs), meaning there is a deficit for fully funding those 500 students of \$3,244,118 per year.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Capital Outlay



\$0.00 (FY21) +\$2,000,000 (FY22) (VPBA)

• Capital Project for Fire Safety Systems (C-62):

- Bond funding, added to \$5M previously authorized in FY18, for improvement of Fire Safety Systems in armories state-wide.
- Improvements will meet fire codes to allow soldiers to safely operate and sleep overnight during emergency responses.

\$0.00 (FY21) +\$1,000,000 (FY22) (VPBA)

• Provide Funding for Antiterrorism and Force Protection Security Enhancements (C-63.10):

- Funds will be used for such things as anti-vehicle bollards, blast laminate film, electronic vehicle and personnel gates with integrated camera systems, and ballistic guard posts.
- The requested amounts will address the most pressing concerns, in addition to low-cost measures already taken, as well as continuous review and improvement within available funding.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Capital Outlay



+\$4,500,000 (FY21) **\$0.00** (FY22) (NGF)

• Construct Army Airfield Flight Control Tower at Fort Pickett (C-63.20):

- This project will be 100% federally reimbursed
- The existing temporary Blackstone Army Airfield Flight Control Tower is not only obsolete in system and space layout, but also undersized for its current operations
- Construction will include all utility services, information systems, fire detection and alarm systems, roads, walks, curbs, gutters, storm drainage, parking areas, and site improvements. Facilities will be designed to a minimum life of 50 years in accordance with DoDs Unified Facilities Code.

Governor's FY21-22 Budget Amendments

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Total:

0 FTEs and \$727,000 GF

0 FTEs and \$2,173,789 NGF

VPBA \$1,621,000

Department of Military Affairs (DMA) Total:

1 FTEs and \$250,000 GF*

0 FTEs and \$4,500,000 NGF

\$3,000,000 VPBA

Note *: Does not include Sen. Marsden Member Amendment Request for Tuition Assistance Increase.

VADA TOTAL (DMA & DVS):

1 FTE and \$977,000 GF

1 FTEs and \$4,500,000 NGF

\$4,621,000 VPBA



Questions?

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Carlos L. Hopkins