

Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

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

Secretary Craig C. Crenshaw

January 24, 2024

FY25-26 Introduced Budget

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Total
Operating FY25: \$32,165,844 (GF) \$3,000,000 (NGF)
Operating FY26: \$889,931 (GF) \$3,000,000 (NGF)

Department of Military Affairs Total
Operating FY25: 0 FTEs and \$1,847,014 (GF)
Operating FY26: 0 FTEs and \$1,386,014(GF)
Capital FY25: \$0 (GF) \$99,710,235(NGF)
Capital FY26: \$0(GF) \$0 (NGF)

Veterans Services Foundation Total
Operating FY25: \$53,500 (NGF)
Operating FY26: \$53,500 (NGF)

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS)



DVS Operating Locations

State Veterans Offices

Benefits + VVFS

- 1 Abingdon
- 2 Arlington
- 3 Big Stone Gap
- 4 Charlottesville
- 5 Danville
- 6 Fairfax
- 7 Fredericksburg
- 8 Front Royal
- 9 Hampton
- 10 Henrico
- 11 Loudoun
- 12 Lynchburg
- 13 Manassas

- 14 Norfolk
- 15 Petersburg, Virginia Community Resource Center
- 16 Salem VA Medical Center
- 17 South Hill
- 18 Springfield
- 19 Staunton
- 20 Virginia Beach - Oceana
- 21 Virginia Beach - Pembroke
- 22 Williamsburg
- 23 Wytheville

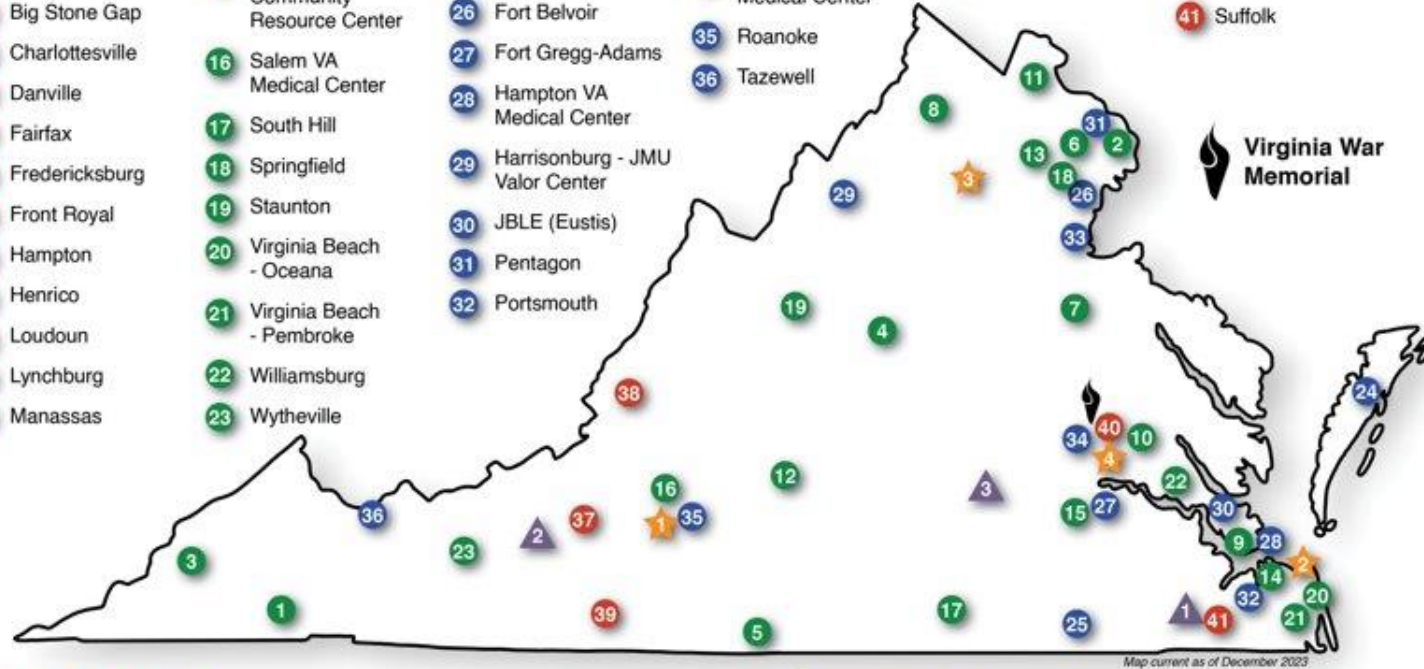
Benefits Only

- 24 Accomac
- 25 Emporia
- 26 Fort Belvoir
- 27 Fort Gregg-Adams
- 28 Hampton VA Medical Center
- 29 Harrisonburg - JMU Valor Center
- 30 JBLE (Eustis)
- 31 Pentagon
- 32 Portsmouth

- 33 Quantico
- 34 Richmond VA Medical Center
- 35 Roanoke
- 36 Tazewell

Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Only

- 37 Blacksburg
- 38 Covington
- 39 Martinsville
- 40 Richmond
- 41 Suffolk



Care Centers

- 1 Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center, Roanoke
- 2 Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center, Virginia Beach
- 3 Puller Veterans Care Center, Vint Hill*
- 4 Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond

* Facility to open in 2024. Visit dvs.virginia.gov for more information.

Cemeteries

- 1 Albert G Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- 2 Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin
- 3 Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia

Veterans Care Centers



+\$30,500,000 (FY25 GF) +\$3,000,000 (FY25 NGF) +\$3,000,000 (FY26 NGF) (Item 455)

- **Mission:** provide first-class facilities designed to enhance the quality of life for Virginia's veterans with a clean, caring, and dignified setting appropriate for those men and women who have served our country with honor.

- **Core Services:**

- Affordable, long-term skilled nursing care
- Alzheimer's/memory care
- Short-term rehabilitative care

- **Introduced Budget:**

- Increase in non-general fund appropriation to support the operations of the Jones & Cabacoy (Virginia Beach) and Puller (Fauquier County) Veterans Care Centers;
- Provides one-time general fund appropriation to support start-up operations of Jones & Cabacoy and Puller Veterans Care Centers and to repay authorized one-time treasury loan.

Veterans Benefits Services



+\$487,930 (FY25 GF) +\$473,111 (FY26 GF) (Item 456)

- **Mission:** provide Virginia’s veterans and their family members with accurate, timely, and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice to our Commonwealth and nation.
- **Core Activities:**
 - **Claims:** Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) assist Virginia’s veterans in filing for federal disability compensation, pension, and medical benefits.
 - **Appeals:** Licensed Attorneys, Appeals Specialists, and an assistant who provide legal assistance to claimants challenging adverse USDVA decisions.
 - **Access to federal, state, and community programs:** “No wrong door” connections to other benefits.
- **Introduced Budget:**
 - Provides general fund appropriation to procure a cloud-based digital signature and document management software to support and manage veterans claims with improved efficiency;
 - Provides general fund appropriation to procure a cloud-based software to support and manage veterans claims;
 - Provides general fund appropriation to support the Partnership for Petersburg Initiative.

Information Technology and Security

+\$1,177,914 (FY25 GF) +\$416,820 (FY26 GF) (Item 458)

- **Mission:** provide reliable, secure, high-availability IT services so the DVS staff can focus on fulfilling the agency's mission
- **Core Activities:**
 - Develop and launch IT solutions to improve the veteran/family customer experience and the way that we serve them. Premier example is the Gold Standard Digital Hub (GSDH)
 - Manage network, voice and data services, personal computers and cellphones to the agency
 - Implement and ensure compliance with IT security and procurement policies governing security
 - Monitor agency assets and networks
 - Provide IT application development, support and quality assurance
- **Introduced Budget:**
 - Funding to develop a veteran self-service portal: personalized dashboard would inform veterans of the benefits they qualify for based on their eligibility criteria, track the status of services requested, follow their claim through the application process (GSDH phase development)
 - Funding to develop an integrated virtual contact phone system and digital customer experience, which includes chatbot, to improve services to veterans (GSDH phase development)

Capital Projects



Veterans Cemetery Construction Project (Item C-45):

- Authorizes federal fund support and a state interest-free treasury loan to support phase expansion at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk

Military Women's Memorial (Item 457):

- Provides one-time general fund for the construction of the Military Women's Memorial and Education Center in Arlington County



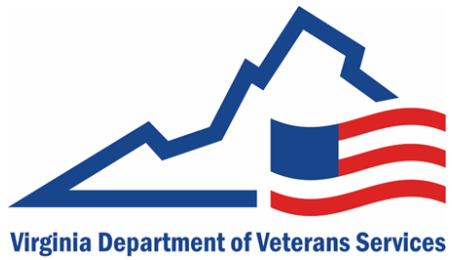
**VIRGINIA VETERANS
SERVICES FOUNDATION**

Veterans Services Foundation



+\$53,500 (FY25 NGF) +\$53,500 (FY26 NGF) (Item 459)

- **Mission:** provide *supplemental funding* when state and federal resources are not available. Donations support selected programs and critical services offered through the Department of Veterans Services.
- **Core Services:**
 - Administer the Veterans Services Fund, request appropriations, and make allocations of revenue from the Fund to the Department of Veterans Services to provide supplemental funding for the Department's services and programs;
 - Accept, hold, and administer gifts and bequests of money, securities, or other property, absolutely or in trust, for the purposes for which the Foundation is created;
 - Take such actions as may be reasonably necessary to seek, promote, and stimulate contributions for the Fund.
- **Introduced Budget:**
 - Additional funding provides an increase in nongeneral fund appropriation to support the Veterans Services Foundation's efforts to raise donations in support of veterans.



Department of Military Affairs (DMA)



Va. Department of Military Affairs Operating Budget



+\$845,000 (FY25) +\$384,000 (FY26) (GF)

- **Provide funding support of the development of a Cash Management (CMS) Software (Item 465):**

- Requests general fund appropriation to cover ongoing software development costs and cloud hosting fees +\$845,000 for year-1 and +\$384,000 for year-2 increase in General Funds for Program-799 in order to address two challenges: 1-Provide DMA with an automated tool to better manage and operate their Federal Cooperative Agreement Programs; and 2- enable the Department to better manage State Active Duty (SAD) events when tasked by the Governor. This software will handle the automated tasks that are not available in the Agency's Cardinal or eVA capabilities.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Capital Outlay



+\$2,000,000 (FY25) (NGF)

- **Provide funding for Maintenance Reserve (C-40):**

- Provides nongeneral fund appropriation to support maintenance reserve projects.

+\$3,000,000 (FY25) (GF) +\$9,000,000 (FY25) (NGF)

- **Provide funding to continue improvement of Readiness Centers (C-41):**

- The average age of RCs is 44 years with 30% over 50 years old, lacking modern mechanical and information technology systems, equipment storage, and training space. 64% of RCs have space shortages directly impacting their ability to support mission requirements.

Va. Department of Military Affairs Capital Outlay



+\$6,367,100 (FY25) (NGF)

Convert Southwest Virginia Readiness Center to Regional Field Maintenance Shop (C-42):

- Provides nongeneral fund appropriation to convert a readiness center into a regional field maintenance shop.

+\$49,343,135 (FY25) (NGF)

• Construct Microgrid Emergency Backup Generator at the State Military Reservation (C-43):

- Provides nongeneral fund appropriation to construct a microgrid emergency backup generator at the State Military Reservation.

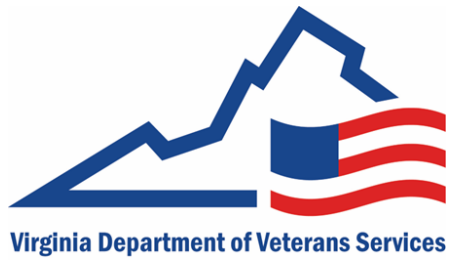
Va. Department of Military Affairs Capital Outlay



+\$30,000,000 (FY25) (NGF)

- **Construct Indoor Small Arms Firing Range and Military-Owned Vehicle Parking Lot at the State Military Reservation (C-44):**

- Provides nongeneral fund appropriation to the Department of Military Affairs to mitigate physical impacts to buildings and the grounds at the State Military Reservation (SMR) in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as a result of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project. The Department shall use the funds to plan, design, and construct an indoor firing range and a parking facility for military vehicles and equipment at the SMR, including project management and associated costs.



Questions?

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Craig C. Crenshaw