

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

Agency Overview

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	2006-07
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	13	13	13	13	26
Recommended	13	13	53	53	106
Change		0	40	40	80
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					307.7%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	13	13	53	53	106
Total	13	13	53	53	106
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	13	13	53	53	106
Total	13	13	53	53	106
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Disabled American Veterans	13	13	53	53	106
Total	13	13	53	53	106

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

Change Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	FY2005	Governor's Recomm.		Biennium
		FY2006	FY2007	2006-07
Fund: GENERAL				
FY 2005 Appropriations	13	13	13	26
Subtotal - Forecast Base	13	13	13	26
Change Items				
Vets Services Transportation and Claims	0	40	40	80
Total Governor's Recommendations	13	53	53	106

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

Change Item: Vets Services Transportation and Claims

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund				
Expenditures	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40

Recommendation

The Governor recommends a General Fund appropriation of \$53,000 in FY 2006 and \$53,000 in FY 2007 to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The recommendation for additional spending authority will allow the DAV to spend an additional \$40,000 per fiscal year for veterans' transportation services and claims processing.

Background

The DAV provides support, encouragement, and a better life for men and women who became disabled while serving in the United States Military. The DAV represents the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans by providing free professional service in obtaining benefits and services to which they are entitled. The DAV provides direct assistance to veterans through the Older Veterans Assistance Program, Thrift Store Gift Certificate program, DAV Transportation Network program, and Veterans Service programs, all of which provide direct aid to veterans and their families.

The additional funding will provide ongoing support to significantly increase the DAV's Transportation Program. This program transports veterans in need of transportation to and from medical appointments at the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Medical Centers. This extended service would expand the radius of the service area to outer suburbs and enhance the integration of the DAV St. Cloud/Minneapolis metro programs with the MN County Veteran Transportation program.

The additional funding will also extend the reach and effectiveness of DAV service officers headquartered at Ft. Snelling VA Regional Office. In coordination with the transportation expansion, this investment will allow DAV service officers to be available to thousands of veterans being transported into VA medical facilities and those currently hospitalized veterans in need of service officer support.

Relationship to Base Budget

The Governor's recommendation reflects an annual increase of \$40,000, which is a 308% increase in the agency's FY 2006-07 forecast base budget.

Key Measures

- ⇒ In FY 2003, DAV representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in over \$61 million in new benefits to more than 2,200 Minnesota Veterans.
- ⇒ Over 1,400 veterans had their claims maintained (\$20 million) and 1,500 veterans had claims increased through our Minnesota DAV Service Officers representation in FY 2003 (\$22 million - more than a 10% increase in compensation from the prior year).
- ⇒ In FY 2003, the Transportation Network provided over 29,000 individual rides to VA medical appointments, comprising over 1.2 million miles traveled.

As a result of this investment, the DAV will significantly increase services to disabled veterans with the ongoing support of veterans' transportation services and additional benefits and claims processing.

Agency Purpose

The purpose of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is to provide support, encouragement, and a better life for the noble men and women who became disabled while upholding world peace and freedom of the United States of America. The purpose and mission of the DAV is accomplished by:

- ◆ representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress, the White House, the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- ◆ providing free professional service to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- ◆ extending the DAV’s mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of the department and chapter outreach service programs; and
- ◆ providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

Core Functions

The DAV service officers serve as representatives for veterans and their families in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled. The DAV also provides informational seminars and publishes articles to bring about an awareness concerning potential entitlements to benefits and services available through the DAV and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The DAV provides direct assistance to veterans through the Older Veterans Assistance Program, Thrift Store Gift Certificate program, DAV Transportation Network program, and Veterans Service programs, all of which provide direct aid to veterans and their families in Minnesota.

Operations

The DAV has a Veteran National Service Office at Fort Snelling, staffed by four service officers and two secretaries. Services are rendered to individual veterans and are represented before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain entitled benefits. The Minnesota DAV department office is located in the Veteran Service Building in St. Paul with three personnel and has two other offices located at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Minneapolis and the VAMC in St. Cloud. All services are coordinated with the department and rendered to individual veterans and families. We have nearly 20,000 members of the DAV in 33 Chapters and 24 Auxiliary units across the state of Minnesota.

Budget

The DAV receives a grant from the General Fund and uses it to benefit veterans primarily through the agency’s transportation program. In the FY 2004-05 biennium, this state funding was \$13,000 per year, and represented less than 3% of the DAV’s total budget. In FY 2003, DAV allocated 86.4% of all funds to veteran programs.

At A Glance

- ◆ There are approximately 465,000 veterans in Minnesota.
- ◆ In FY 2003, DAV representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in over \$61 million in new benefits to Minnesota veterans.
- ◆ Over 2,200 Minnesota Veterans received new benefits. Over 1,400 veterans had their claims maintained (\$20 Million) and 1,500 veterans had claims increased through our Minnesota DAV Service Officers representation (\$22 million). Overall, this is more than a 10% increase in compensation from the prior year.
- ◆ In FY 2003, the Transportation Network provided over 29,000 individual rides to VA medical appointments, comprising over 1.2 million miles traveled.
- ◆ Volunteer efforts by DAV chapters, county veteran service officers, and other veteran service organizations resulted in over 96,000 volunteer hours donated.
- ◆ Over 3,000 veterans were assisted with Thrift Store gift certificates for clothing needs.
- ◆ Minnesota DAV provided TV programming to five Minnesota Veterans Homes with more than 400 TVs. DAV donated these TVs in recent years.

Contact

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