



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of the Commissioner

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Sen. Erin Murphy, Chair
Senate State and Local Government and
Veterans Committee

Rep. Jerry Newton, Chair
House Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee

Sen. Bruce Anderson, Minority Lead
Senate State and Local Government and
Veterans Committee

Rep. Matt Bliss, Minority Lead
House Veterans and Military Affairs
Committee

Date: January 25, 2024

RE: FY23 "Support Our Troops" Account Activity for MDVA

Per Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3; the adjutant general and commissioner of veterans affairs must report by February 1 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs on the number, amounts, and use of grants made by each agency from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in the previous year.

The attached report includes the amounts, recipients, and a description of uses of grants and expenditures made by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2023.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley S. Lindsay".

Brad Lindsay
Commissioner, MDVA

Cc: Teresa Mozur, Committee Administrator, Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
Adam Kopel, Committee Administrator, House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Attachment: Support Our Troops Grant Expenditures for FY2023

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This document will be made available upon request in an alternative format by contacting the MDVA Office for Diversity and Equality at 612-548-5961 or at diversity.mdva@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Support Our Troops (SOT) License Plate Funds
FY2023 Grants & Expenditures = \$399,005

\$36,461 - American Heroes – Grant to American Heroes Outdoors to provide therapeutic outdoor adventures and activities to Minnesota Veterans. *\$60,000 grant was executed in FY22 with grant expenditures of \$3,564 occurring in FY22, \$36,461 in FY23 and the remaining \$19,975 is expected to be spent in FY24.*

\$48,600 - American Legion – Grant to American Legion VSO to continue offering a magazine to be mailed to its members while also offering an online presence to reach even more Veterans. *\$90,000 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$48,600 occurring in FY23 with the remaining \$41,400 is expected to be spent in FY24.*

\$12,500 – Department of Employment & Economic Development – For the Minnesota Veteran Career Fair which is a partnership between MDVA and DEED to promote Veteran access to state jobs. MDVA assists in the statewide marketing initiative, facility procurement, print materials, and refreshments for the attendees.

\$14,070 – Jewish War Veterans – Grant to Jewish War Veteran VSO to set-up office headquarters in Minnesota to support veterans. Funding will assist the Grantee to contract with technology needs, new office equipment, expand social media presence, provide chapter advocacy training, and increase JWV membership. *\$81,760 grant was executed in FY22 with grant expenditures of \$7,774 occurring in FY22, \$14,070 in FY23 and the remaining \$59,916 to be spent in FY24.*

\$8,986 - Leech Lake – Grant for the Homeless Veteran Financial Assistance Program which seeks to provide financial assistance to at least 50 eligible homeless and at risk participants living on the Leech Lake Tribal Reservation. *\$93,767 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$8,986 occurring in FY23 and the remaining \$84,781 is expected to be spent in FY24 and FY25.*

\$6,018 - Legal Corp – Grant for the Ventures 4 Veterans Program to provide free transactional business and patent law services to help increase economic success to Veterans throughout Minnesota. *\$70,000 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$6,018 occurring in FY23 and the remaining \$63,982 is expected to be spent in FY24 and FY25.*

\$152,000 – “LinkVet”- NW Technical College - to support MDVA service contract with NW Technical College, which provides staff and support services for LinkVet (1-888-LinkVet or <https://linkvet.custhelp.com>) the veteran's resource and referral system.

\$13,055 - Lutheran Social Services – Grant for LSS Respite Care staff to develop a care plan for up to 35 Veteran families to be implemented in the event of a crisis that pulls the caregiver out of the caregiver role. *\$20,700 grant was executed in FY20 with \$4,541 spent in FY21 and \$13,055 in FY23. \$3,104 was unspent and this grant is closed out.*

\$30,000 - Mandatory Fun Outdoors – Grant for Mandatory Fun Outdoors Ice Castle events to purchase a fish house to serve as a mobile office by providing safe/secure storage to transport and store equipment and to shelter Veterans and their families attending MFO events. *\$30,000 grant was executed and spent in FY23.*

\$26,167 – Military Radio – Promote MDVA by increasing the public's awareness and knowledge about MDVA and other Minnesota Veteran organizations by conducting a weekly radio broadcast targeted to Veterans and military personnel.

\$27,605 - Prairie Five CAC – Grant for Prairie Five Community Action Council to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van and provide transportation to Minnesota Veterans in the five-county region of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine. *\$80,000 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$27,605 occurring in FY23 and the remaining \$52,395 is expected to be spent in FY24.*

\$4,749 – Statewide Systems Costs – Used to support statewide systems costs for systems managed by MMB.

\$1,560 – SOT Advertising – Advertising in the Minnesota Legionnaire to encourage Veterans and their families to purchase SOT license plates.

\$15,616 – VFW – Grant replace 6 computers that are no longer compatible with Federal and State database upgrades.

\$1,618 – YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities – Grant for Veterans Rendezvous Program to help Veterans get access to resources and other support to build community connections outreach and engagement. *\$82,775 grant was executed in FY19 with \$25,240 of grant expenditures occurring in FY19, \$26,879 in FY20, \$5,736 and in FY21 and \$1,618 FY23. Grant was closed out with \$23,300 as unspent from the original grant amount.*