

Veterans

VETERANS 015430*Personnel Services*

Salary Department Head

Total

Expenses

Supplies and Expenses

Veterans Benefits

Burials

Total

TOTAL BUDGET

	FY2019 ACTUAL	FY2020 ACTUAL	FY2021 ACTUAL	FY2022 ACTUAL	FY2023 TM ADOPTED	FY2024 REQUESTS	FY2024 PROPOSED
Salary Department Head	\$10,712	\$9,630	\$11,195	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,360	
Total	\$10,712	\$9,630	\$11,195	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,360	\$0
Supplies and Expenses	\$537	\$0	\$699	\$870	\$850	\$3,890	
Veterans Benefits	\$32,455	\$22,074	\$37,366	\$16,123	\$44,150	\$25,250	
Burials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$775	\$3,000	\$3,500	
Total	\$32,992	\$22,074	\$38,065	\$17,768	\$48,000	\$32,640	\$0
TOTAL BUDGET	\$43,704	\$31,704	\$49,260	\$35,768	\$66,000	\$51,000	\$0
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BUDGET NARRATIVE

Description of Department Function

The Veterans Services Department is dedicated to securing and providing financial and medical aid assistance to veterans (and/or dependents) in need in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115, CMR 108, through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services (DVS). The state will reimburse the Town 75% of the expense of authorized assistance provided to veterans in Millis. The Department is committed to informing veterans and their families of any and all benefits that are available to them, whether federal, state, local, or from national or local non-profits, which may have grants to assist Veterans in need.

The Director of Veteran Services/Veteran Services Officer (VSO) conducts public information and educational campaigns to ensure that the eligible client population is aware of current laws. The VSO maintains awareness with changes in the laws which affect veteran benefits and services by attending professional development programs and by communicating with the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services and participating in virtual DVS meetings.

The VSO coordinates and supervises the observance of Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans' Day events within the community in conjunction with the member town veteran councils and organizations.

The VSO must maintain Massachusetts state certification and attend all required training.

Programs and Sub-Programs

Chapter 115 (MGL)

Veterans Administration (VA) Claims (Medical, Pensions, GI Bill, burials)

Veterans Property Tax Work-off Program

VA Work Study Program

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVP) Program

FOOD4VETS

Accomplishments

1. Ensured the Chapter 115 Program reimbursement from the State to the town which ensured over \$11,976 budgetary reimbursement.
2. Assisted 6 veterans to receive Massachusetts Annuity payments.
3. Filed 32 VA claims ensuring \$76,000 in additional monthly compensation for Millis veterans. Millis veterans now receive \$230,000 monthly compensation from the Veterans Administration. Disabled Millis veterans average \$1,850 monthly compensation, among the highest averages in the state.
4. Established Millis as a location to conduct VA Claims by purchasing and operating the Vetraspec claims management information system.

5. Ensured passage of two articles for legislative approval; reduction of residency requirements for Millis veterans from two to one year; and enacted Clause 22H that "Gold Star" parents receive full property tax abatement.
6. Participated in VSO virtual meetings and VSO chat groups to ensure latest veterans initiatives and benefits.
7. State certified VSO through completed training and passed exams.

FY24 Departmental Goals

- Expand outreach and information regarding services. Increase social media communication with town veterans especially recently discharged and retired veterans.
- Maintain Chapter 115 Benefit Program and ensure all paperwork submitted to the State for reimbursement to the Town.
- Continue to submit all Millis Veteran VA Claims from Town Hall rather than a certified VA site.
- Support town veterans in all applicable matters to ensure benefits and opportunities within the community, state, and federal systems.

Spending Highlights for FY24

NA

Non-tax Funding

NA

