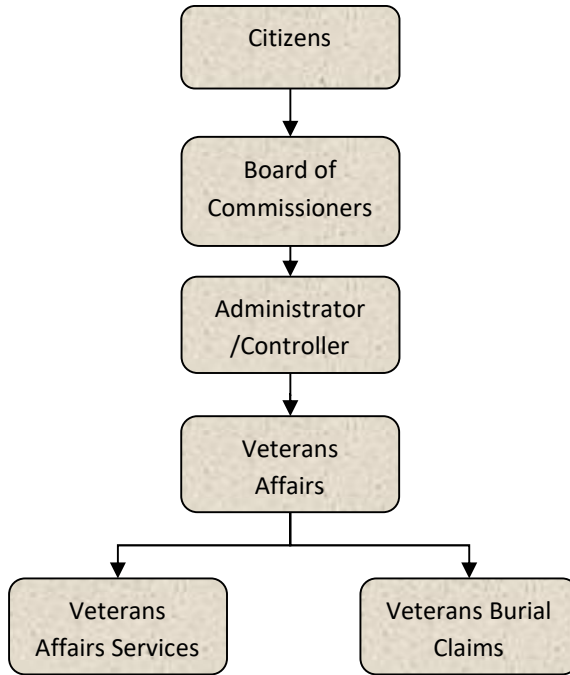


Activities

Veterans Affairs



Veteran Burial Claims assists families of deceased veterans with expenses for their funerals.

Through this office, the county supplies all flags that are placed on all graves of veterans buried in Jackson County.

To serve as the veteran’s representative to assist veterans and their families in exploring and applying for a wide range of VA benefits

These benefits include, but are not limited to; disability compensation & pension, education & training, career exploration, home loans, burial benefits, dependent & survivor benefits, healthcare and life insurance claims.

Assist veterans in coordinating social services through related state and local agencies. All Michigan counties are mandated to provide relief and burial benefits to eligible veterans and their family members.

There are 10,2015 veterans from Jackson County in the VA GDx report that bring \$44,537,000 into the county in VA benefit money; our focus is to increase those numbers by creating more public awareness of the functions of this office.



Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Jackson County Veteran Affairs Department to ensure that veterans and their families receive all benefits they are entitled to from the VA, state and local programs. To preserve the dignity they deserve at the time of their greatest sorrow and to ensure that the veteran’s family receives the help they need to bury and/or to place his/her marker.

Veteran Burial Claims

Strategic Plan Impact

- ✓ Economic Development
- ✓ Providing assistance for qualified veterans and their spouses to help lift the burden of burial costs
 - Amount range up to \$300 for county benefits
 - Amount range up to \$2000 for federal VA benefits

Accomplishments

- ✓ With training and support, we are able to assist the family members that make this claim in a way that will make the process as smooth as possible treating each person that makes this application with dignity and respect.
- ✓ Notarized employee able to process county burial applications
- ✓ Accredited training through American Legion
- ✓ Bronze Marker/ Headstone Applications
 - 70+ assisted applications
 - County VA provides graveside flag and flag holder at time of marker application
- ✓ Burial Benefits
 - 30+ applications submitted for burial reimbursement benefits
- ✓ Flag Distribution to partnered organizations for Jackson County Cemeteries graveside flags
 - Over 15,857

Budget Adjustments

There are no significant adjustments to this budget.

Veteran Burial Claims Expenditures



	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	2026 DEPT REQUESTED	2026 BUDGET	Draft 2027 BUDGET
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$900	\$-	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	\$13,862	\$12,686	\$16,500	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$16,500
OTHER EXPENSES	0	450	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	\$14,762	\$13,136	\$17,700	\$18,200	\$18,200	\$17,700

Veteran Services

Strategic Plan Impact

✓ **Economic Development**

Currently in Jackson County, over \$55 million are being issued from the VA to the veteran citizens and their families. These funds are benefits for VA Compensation and Pension. When all programs from VA are considered there is over \$106 million spent on the veterans of our county.

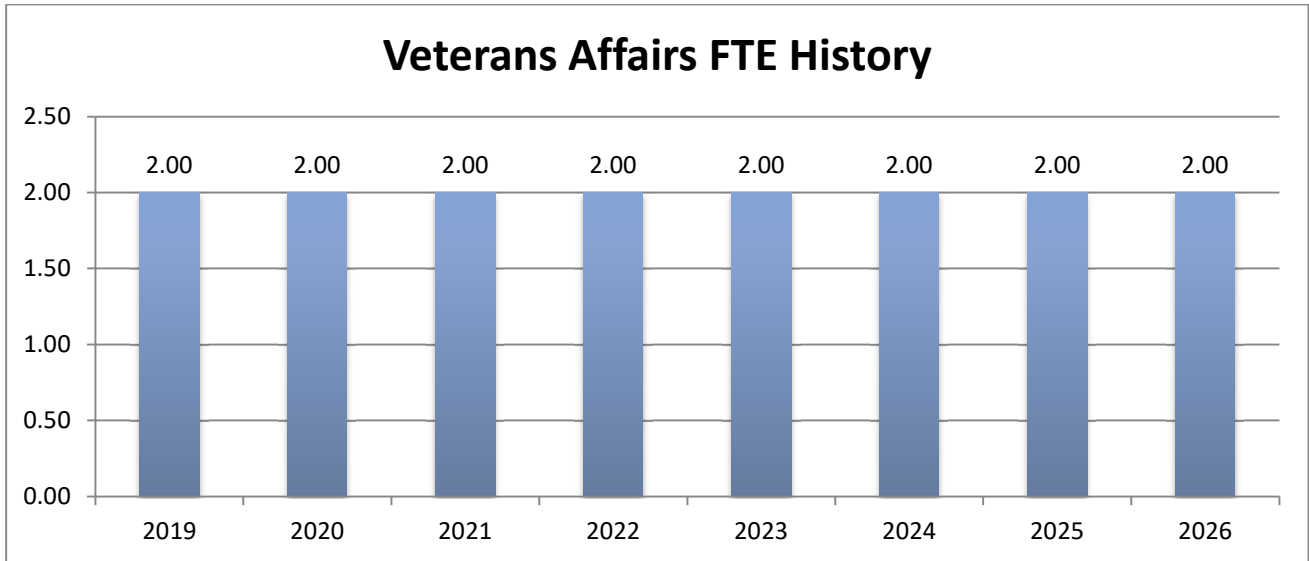
✓ **Healthy Community**

Through the VA Healthcare program, veterans with an honorable discharge are able to enroll into a program that will allow them to visit a doctor's office that is located within Jackson County, to receive medical treatment and prescriptions. Along with the guidelines of the program, VA Healthcare also includes a full service hospital in Ann Arbor. The program not only offers health care in the physical sense but also mental health care. Veterans in Jackson County Used \$48 million in VA health care this year alone.

Accomplishments

- ✓ Partnership with the American Legion Dept. Of Michigan provides an additional accredited service officers Four additional days a month
- ✓ Attended accredited service training in Higgins Lake MI in September 2024
- ✓ PACT ACT law passing has allowed for large influx new claims and medical benefits to be filed for veterans
- ✓ Fielded over 5,100 phone calls
- ✓ Scheduled veterans and/or family in over 680 appointments
- ✓ Mental health social worker from the Dearborn Vet Center in county office two times a month
 - No Cost to veteran or County of Jackson
 - Program currently assisting with 20 veterans
- ✓ Together the county office has been able to maintain a standard of excellence and efficiency and is able meet deadlines for filing claims within VA guidelines, giving veterans and their families the honor and excellence they have earned.

Budget Adjustments



Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs Expenditures



	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 AMENDED BUDGET	2026 DEPT REQUESTED	2026 BUDGET	Draft 2027 BUDGET
OTHER EXPENSES	\$2,629	\$1,126	\$3,004	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,004
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$1,610	\$1,606	\$1,737	\$2,337	\$2,337	\$1,737
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	\$898	\$563	\$2,056	\$2,206	\$2,206	\$2,056
PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$133,362	\$133,311	\$171,759	\$151,470	\$151,470	\$181,860
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	\$138,499	\$136,606	\$178,556	\$160,013	\$160,013	\$188,657