

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
STAFF: MARK BLEAZARD

BUDGET BRIEF

SUMMARY

During the 2007 General Session the Legislature enacted House Bill 426, "Change to Department of Veterans' Affairs". This legislation created the Department of Veterans' Affairs and removed responsibility of the Utah National Guard to oversee the budgets and administration of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Cemetery, and Veterans' Nursing Home.

The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is the agency responsible for Utah's 160,000 veterans. The primary mission of the agency is to assist former and present members of the United States Armed Forces, both active and reserve, and their families in preparing claims for and securing compensation, health services, education and other federal and state veterans' benefits for service connected conditions.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Base Budget

The Analyst recommends a base budget for the Veterans' Affairs for FY 2013 of \$1,211,700.

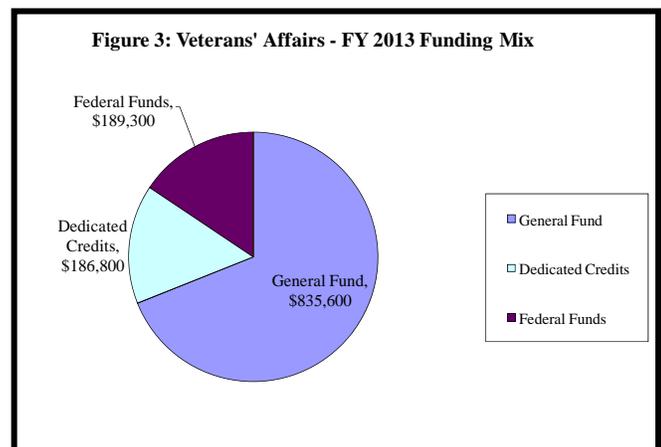
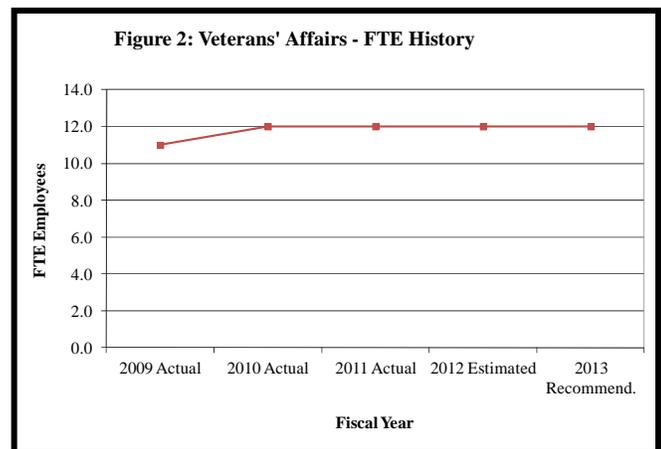
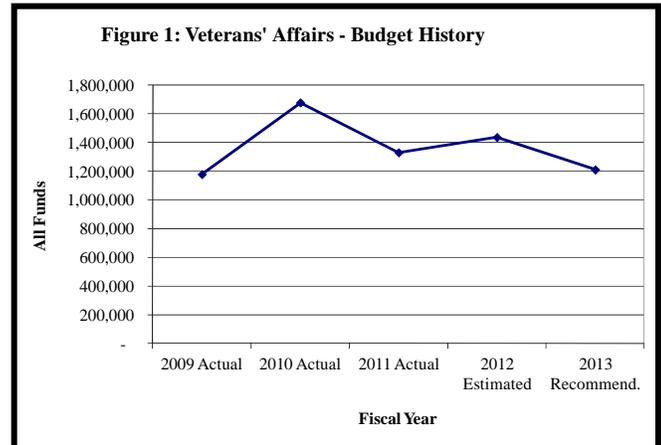
Intent Statement

The Analyst recommends the following intent language to make a portion of the Veterans' Affairs line item non-lapsing at the end of FY 2012:

Under terms of Section 63J-1-603-(3)(a) Utah Code Annotated the Legislature intends that appropriations provided for the Veterans' Affairs in item 2 of Chapter 5 Laws of Utah 2011 not lapse at the close of Fiscal Year 2012. The use of any non-lapsing funds limited to the following: Veterans' Outreach \$130,000; Veterans' Cemetery \$20,000; and Veterans' Nursing Home \$15,000.

ADMINISTRATION

The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is the agency responsible for Utah's 160,000 veterans. The primary mission of the agency is to assist former and present members of the United States Armed Forces, both active and reserve, and their families in preparing claims for and securing compensation, health services, education and other federal and state veterans' benefits for service connected conditions.



These services are performed via outreach efforts around the state, information and benefit fairs, workshops and briefings. The Department also conducts veterans benefit briefings for returning National Guardsmen and Reservists. The Division is also the repository of military discharge documents verifying military service required to receive veteran's benefits. The Division responds to complaints from individual veterans, veterans' groups, the governor's office, and state and federal congressional offices. The base budget recommended for Veterans' Affairs Administration for FY 2013 is \$647,800.

VETERANS' CEMETERY

The Veterans' Cemetery was established to allow veterans and their spouses a local burial option in a military cemetery. A base budget of \$307,100 for FY 2013 for the Veterans' Cemetery is included in the Base Budget Bill.

VETERANS' NURSING HOME

The Utah State Veterans' Nursing Home Program has an 81-bed long-term care facility in Salt Lake City and a new 120 bed facility in Ogden that provide both skilled and intermediate levels of care to Utah's veterans and eligible spouses who are residents of Utah. The General Fund portion of the Veterans' Nursing Home for FY 2013 is \$256,800.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Outreach Program – The Department of Veterans' Affairs attempts to assist veterans and returning national guardsmen and reservists via outreach efforts around the state, information and benefit fairs, workshops, and briefings. The Department is requesting \$200,000 for FY 2013 from the General Fund to continue their outreach program.

Veterans' Nursing Homes Startup – The Legislature authorized construction of two additional nursing home facilities during the 2011 General Session. One of the new facilities will be in Payson and the other will be located in Ivins. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is expecting those facilities will be completed in FY 2013. The facilities will operate as veterans' nursing homes for veterans and eligible family members to provide skilled nursing facilities operated by private providers under contract with the State of Utah. The United States Department of Veterans' Affairs pays a per diem for approximately one half the cost of daily care for veterans in need of long term nursing facilities. The patient is required to pay the balance of the daily fee.

Veterans' Affairs has requested one-time funding of \$500,000 from the General Fund for startup costs for the facilities. Those expenditures include funding for State, Federal, and Medicaid surveys, certifications, licensure, inspection fees, office equipment, and data processing equipment. The \$500,000 request would also include an equivalent of two months per diem that is collected with a time lag before receiving reimbursement from the federal government.

Veterans' Nursing Homes Personnel – The Federal Office of Veterans' Affairs mandates that the state have a full time person to oversee operations of all state sponsored nursing facilities. Veterans' Affairs is requesting ongoing funding from the General Fund of \$192,800 to fund a full time state employee at each of the new facilities.

ADOPTION OF FEES

The listing of fees is provided as a separate Issue Brief under tab 10 in the Executive Appropriations Budget Book.

ADOPTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS

The request for Federal Funds expenditures for FY 2013 is provided as a separate Issue Brief under tab 10 in the Executive Appropriations Budget Book.

Veterans' Affairs						
Sources of Finance	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2012 Revised	Changes	FY 2013* Recommended
General Fund	841,400	835,600	0	835,600	0	835,600
General Fund, One-time	100,000	220,000	0	220,000	(220,000)	0
Federal Funds	187,500	121,600	67,700	189,300	0	189,300
Dedicated Credits Revenue	202,600	186,800	0	186,800	0	186,800
Beginning Nonlapsing	5,900	0	5,900	5,900	(5,900)	0
Closing Nonlapsing	(5,900)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$1,331,500	\$1,364,000	\$73,600	\$1,437,600	(\$225,900)	\$1,211,700
Programs						
Administration	747,900	800,100	71,800	871,900	(224,100)	647,800
Cemetery	326,500	307,100	1,800	308,900	(1,800)	307,100
Nursing Home	257,100	256,800	0	256,800	0	256,800
Total	\$1,331,500	\$1,364,000	\$73,600	\$1,437,600	(\$225,900)	\$1,211,700
Categories of Expenditure						
Personnel Services	1,043,000	970,000	63,000	1,033,000	0	1,033,000
In-state Travel	10,900	11,600	(6,400)	5,200	0	5,200
Out-of-state Travel	18,400	16,800	(3,300)	13,500	0	13,500
Current Expense	150,800	72,000	16,200	88,200	(1,800)	86,400
DP Current Expense	25,000	238,500	(234,600)	3,900	0	3,900
Capital Outlay	0	100	(100)	0	0	0
Other Charges/Pass Thru	119,900	55,000	238,800	293,800	(224,100)	69,700
Operating Transfers	(36,500)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$1,331,500	\$1,364,000	\$73,600	\$1,437,600	(\$225,900)	\$1,211,700
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	12.0	12.0	0.0	12.0	0.0	12.0
Actual FTE	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vehicles	8.0	6.0	2.0	8.0	(1.0)	7.0

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends the Legislature:

1. Adopt the FY 2013 base budget of \$1,211,700 as shown in the budget detail table
2. Approve the intent language on page 1
3. Approve the fee schedule from the issue brief on the following page
4. Approve the federal funds appropriation request from the issue brief on the following pages