

# DANE COUNTY

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

2023 budget presentation

09/21/2022

# INTRODUCTION

- Dane County Veterans Service Office serves the military veterans population and their families. It provides various services, including assistance in applying for State, Federal, and County benefits such as VA compensation for injuries sustained while serving in the military. We also assist, with achieving education, health care, burial benefits, and financial support. This year President Biden signed into law “Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics” Act, also known as the PACT Act. VA is expanding eligibility for health care and other benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials – including burn pits, radiation, Agent Orange, water contamination, and other Gulf War toxins.

# BUDGETARY SPENDING

- Inevitably the PACT act has, and will affect annual budgetary cvso spending. So far the department has made the following changes:

# BUDGET INCREASE (DI #1)

- \* IMPROVED SOFTWARE /MOVE TO ABERG AVE
- CVSO has migrated to a new and improved software program necessary to improve work efficiency and output. This cost will total an increase of \$707 per year.
- MOVE TO ABERG. Current facility no longer meets the space to meet every day duties and activities. Move to Aberg will allow CVSO to accommodate veterans services such as rooms for VA hearings. As well as consideration for staffing needs, and much more.

# EXPENDITURE REALLOCATION (DI #2)

- \* REDUCE VETERANS RIDE WITH PRIDE TO AN LTE POSITION
- It is the goal of the CVSO to reduce spending on the Veterans Ride with Pride (VRP) program to reallocate funds to an LTE position. This need for LTE position is warranted because of increased handling of phone calls, benefit appointments, and data entry requirements. We do not anticipate this to impact the VRP program negatively.

# OUTREACH DI # 3

- \* VETERANS OUTREACH
- The CVS0 will strive to increase veteran outreach. It is pivotal that veterans are aware of the implication and the impact of the PACT Act. Therefore, we will budget a portion of the grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, a total of \$1, 300 per year. Actions will include outreach to underrepresented veteran communities in Dane County, as well as benefits that are due to surviving spouses.

# HOW WILL THE PACT ACT AFFECT DANE COUNTY?

- Currently, Dane County CVSO staff to veteran ratio is 1:4200. WI CVSO association conducted a study which shows that other WI counties staff to clientele ratio is approximately 1:2000 in other WI counties This will increase in the next few months and will continue to grow exponentially. Our office will need to be proactive in it's efforts to accommodate the needs of the military veterans.
- DANE COUNTY: Studies show that Dane County veteran population has been awarded approximately eighty seven million dollars in monetary compensation. This has no doubt boosted the local economy. Increased benefits based on new legislation will increase local spending.

# SHORT RUN GOALS

- DEPUTY CVSO POSITION (VACANCY). There is currently a vacancy for a Deputy Assistant Veteran Service Officer, which will be filled in coming months.
- Increase Current .5 FTE POSITION TO 1.0 FTE. For reasons mentioned, there is a pressing need to increase this half time position to fulltime.

# LONG RUN GOALS

- INCREASE OFFICE STAFF FULL TIME EMPLOYEES.
- Currently at 6.0
- Anticipated need 10.0
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# THANK YOU!

- Board chairperson, and esteemed members of the Board, thank you all, for your time and consideration, and your continued support.
- Have a good evening!