



# DANE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

BUDGET BRIEF TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VETERANS SERVICE DIRECTOR – DANIEL A CONNERY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE – PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

- Status quo in concert with County Executive Parisi's budget guidelines
- Decision Items – Contractual Changes
  - Rental adjustment for office (\$2500)
  - Software maintenance fee increase (\$1300)



## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 2022-2023 AND BEYOND

- *Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxic (PACT) Act* – Signed into law August 2022
- Office move – October 2022
- Hired and trained new staff – Spring 2023
- Booming business – increasing daily
- Community outreach
- Planning for future



\*Increase in benefit applications submitted by office staff into VA system over 1 year period prior to PACT Act \*

# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



- While we added a total of 2.0 FTE on the heels of the PACT Act, this is only a start. We must remain proactive to keep up with the ever-growing needs of our veterans. PACT Act workload will continue to increase for decades!
- Short-term goal (next couple years) – increase staff by an additional two people.
- Community outreach specialist – A recruiter of sorts to find/identify veterans and survivors in our community who are not already connected to VA benefits. Countless people are out there, we just need to find them!

# LANGUAGE ACCESS

Continued Utilization of existing services – as needed

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has free language assistance
- Translation and interpretation services through Dane County Department of Human Services



Developing plans

- Create Spanish and Hmong office brochures, other pertinent signage
- Additional training for staff member who knows basic American Sign Language (ASL)



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