



Senate Ways and Means Committee

FY 2025 – FY 2026

Budget Overview

Agenda



- Agency Overview
- Governor's Budget Recommendation
- Agency Funding Sources
- New NE Kansas Veterans Home
- Agency Trends
- Questions

Kansas Office of Veterans Services

➤ In FY24 \$2.37B to Kansas Veterans/Families (up 10% from FY23)
➤ Claims Increased 16% over past FY

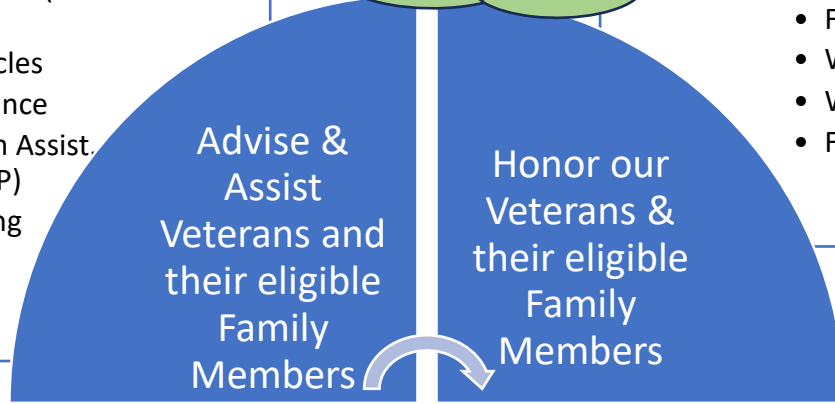
Veterans Services

- 23 Veteran Service Reps across state (16 Field Offices)
- 3 Mobile Vehicles
- Quality Assurance
- Veterans Claim Assist. Program (VCAP)
- State Approving Agency (SAA)

➤ 458 interments in '24
➤ 17% Increase over past 4 FYs

State Veterans Cemeteries

- Fort Riley/Manhattan
- Winfield
- WaKeeney
- Fort Dodge



VETERAN SERVICES PROGRAM

➤ Census up 14%
➤ Staffing/Retention increased 16%

State Veterans Homes

- Kansas Veterans Home (Winfield)
- Kansas Soldiers Home (Fort Dodge)
- *New NE Kansas Veterans Home (Topeka)*

Central Office

- Director
- Deputy/Veteran Service Director
- Human Resource Director
 - Chief Fiscal Officer
- Communications Director
- Information Technology Director
- Operations Director
- Procurement Officer

➤ Oversee New NE Kansas Veterans Home, Outreach Events, and Federal and State Partner Engagement



Veterans Services

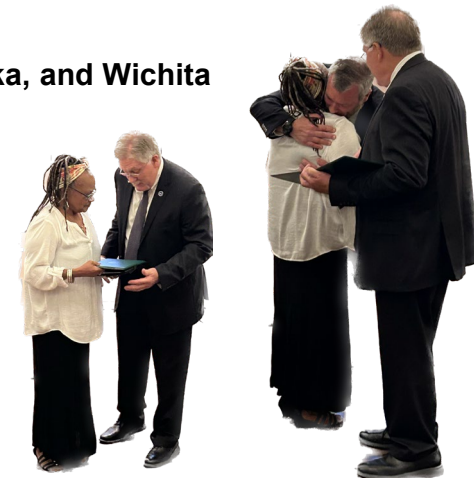


- **Veteran Service Representative (VSR) strategically located around the state:**
Ft Dodge, Topeka, Winfield, Manhattan, Salina, Emporia, Atchison, Colby, Hays, Hutchinson, Junction City, Lawrence, Wichita, Olathe, Independence

- **Veteran Services Representatives can help file VA claims for:**

- Education Benefits
- Non-Service-Connected Pension Benefits
- Service-Connected Disability Compensation Benefits
- Spouse and Dependent Benefits
- State VA Benefits
- VA Health Care Benefits

- **Assist Veterans and Family members to obtain military documents**
- **Provide grants to American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):**
Veterans Service Representatives at Federal VA Hospitals in Leavenworth, Wichita, Topeka, and Wichita Regional Office
- **State Approving Authority (SAA) : Ensures Veterans and their eligible Family Members can utilize educational benefits at approved educational institutions to include**
 - Colleges and Universities
 - Vocational and Technical Schools
 - Apprenticeships Programs
 - On-The-Job Training Programs
 - Flight school



ALL Services are FREE

Governor's Budget Recommendations



- **SY 2025 Actuals:** Budget totals \$56.2 million, including \$16.3 million SGF and \$19.7* million SIBF
- **SY 2026 Budget:** Budget total \$38.7 million, including \$15.5 million SGF and \$2.6 million SIBF

Did not request any supplementals or enhancements in 2025 or 2026

*\$17.2 million allocated for NE Kansas Veterans Home. The states portion (35%) of the VA Grant.

Agency Funding Sources

Agency Wide

- State General Fund (SGF)
- State Institutions Building Fund (SIBF)
- State Lottery
- Donations

Veterans Homes

- VA Per Diem
 - \$144.10/day LTC; \$62.20/day Dom
 - \$492.72/day Service-Connected disability 70% or above or primary reason for admission
- CMS
 - Medicare
 - KVH - \$542.24/day (based on residents in skilled services); KSH - \$492.72/day (based on residents in skilled services)
 - Medicaid
 - KVH - \$327.77/day; KSH - \$344.40/day
- Maintenance Fee
 - KVH Private Pay (LTC - \$111.58/day; DOM - \$54.51/day; Dementia - \$125.59/day); KSH Private Pay (LTC - \$99.76/day; DOM - \$40.84/day; Dementia - \$99.76/day; Cottages - \$25.79/day)
 - LTC Insurance

Veteran Cemeteries

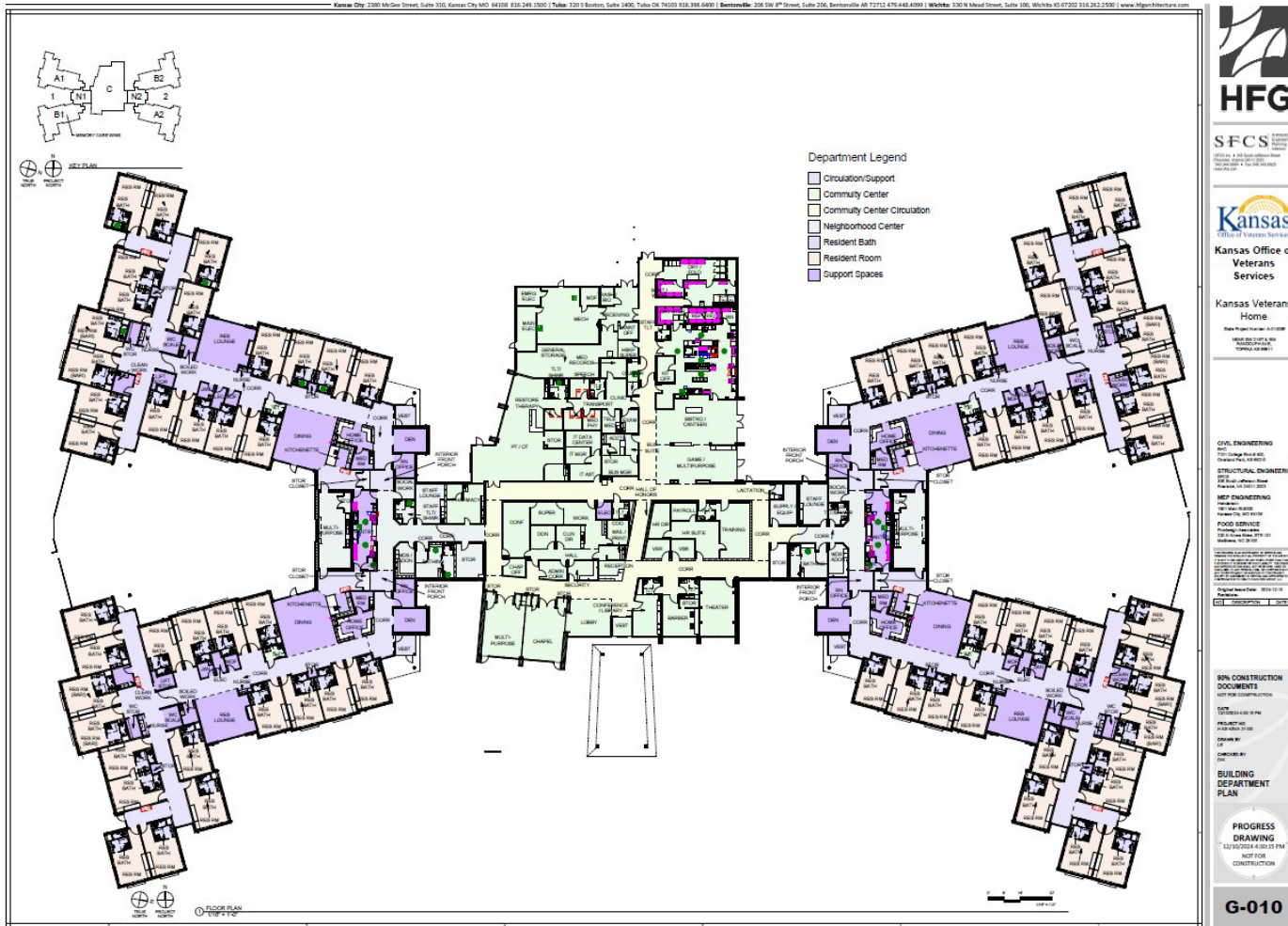
- Plot Allowance \$978/ per Veteran
- VA (National Cemetery Administration) Grants (100% reimbursed)

NE Kansas Veterans Home

New NE Kansas Veterans Home property adjacent to VA Medical Center (Near SW 21st & SW Randolph Ave)

Property transferred pending from KNI to KOVS (Approx 20 acres)





- July '22, KOVS submitted a grant application for the a 72-bed facility located in Topeka, Kansas.
- Estimated project cost is \$49,025,000, with Federal VA providing 65% or \$31,866,250 and Kansas contributing 35%, or \$17,200,000. KOVS has the state's portion of funding.
- Sept '24, the VA released the FY24 Priority Group Funding List. Project is designated as Priority Group 1, Number 78. However, federal funding was not allocated due to a lack of funds.

Agency Trends



- Increase in Veteran/Family Member contact across the state
Awareness of Agency. Outreach events. Staffing of all offices and mobiles
- Veterans Homes census and staff increased
Safety and Security. Quality of Life for Residents.
- Veterans Cemeteries operations have expanded
Dignified and Respectful placement in final resting place

Questions



For more information visit our website at
www.kovs.ks.gov
Or call us at
785-296-3976