

# VAB Agenda – January 8, 2026

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- I. Call to Order, Pledge, Invocation, Roll Call (action)
- II. Approval of December 11, 2025 minutes (action)
- III. Committee Reports (info)
- IV. 2026 Committee Appointments (action)
- V. 2026 Member at Large Appointments (action)
- VI. Discussion with County Auditor (info)
- VII. November 2025 Contractor and Fund Reports (info)
- VIII. Veterans Assistance Center Updates (info)
- IX. CNA Survey Presentation (info)
- X. Review 2026 Budget Handout (info)
- XI. Old Business (info)
- XII. New Business (info)
- XIII. Open Forum (info)
- XIV. Adjourn



# Agenda Item I. Call to Order/Pledge/Invocation/Roll Call

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# Agenda Item II. Approval of December 11<sup>th</sup> minutes

## Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council December 11, 2025

Chair: Bob Nichols Vice Chair: Buck Marr Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

**Roll Call:** [Bold script indicates presence at meeting; *italics indicates excused*]

<b>POST</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>
40 et 8	<i>Bob Brennan</i>	
American Legion #14	<i>Gene Couture</i>	
American Legion #44	Charles Ingalls	Darren Wertz
American Legion #168	<b>Bob Nichols</b>	
American Legion #176	<b>Michael Gibson</b>	<i>Jonathan Frederick</i>
American Veterans #6	<b>John Lovejoy</b>	<i>Vanise Pratt</i>
DAV Chapter #4	<b>Bruce Maas</b>	<b>Roy Day</b>
Korean War Assoc. #321	<b>Patrick Locke</b>	<i>Earl Edwards</i>
Marine Corps League #826	<b>Steve Slegers</b>	
VFVW #4278	Thomas Brandt	Deborah Proctor
VFVW #7824	<b>Greg Gilbertson</b>	Stewart Bauer
Vietnam Vets #512	<b>Greg Whitson</b>	<b>Nick Herber</b>
Members at Large	<b>Bryan McGillis</b>	
	<i>Tonya Wark</i>	
	<i>Tamara Elam</i>	
	<b>Michael Langsdorf</b>	
	<b>Lloyd Bowman</b>	
	<b>Buck Marr</b>	

**Clark County Representative:** Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim

**Guests:** Judy Russel (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Larry Smith (Community Military Appreciation Committee); Glen Yung (Clark County Council); Michael Torres (Clark County Community Services)

### **Approval of November 13, 2025 meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Lloyd Bowman.

### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** No appeals received.

**Policies and Procedures:** None.

**Nominations:** Final nominations and election to be held at this meeting.

### **2026 Officer Nominations and Election**

No additional nominations for 2026 officers were made. Nomination closed, with Bob Nichols nominated as chair, Buck Marr nominated as vice chair, and Bruce Maas nominated as secretary. Bruce Maas motioned to vote by acclamation to elect the 2026 board officer nominees which was seconded by Michael Gibson. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Member at Large Appointments**

The board voted in favor of appointing Brian McGillis, Michael Langsdorf, Lloyd Bowman, and Buck Marr as Members at Large.

Final appointment of Members at Large will be held at the January meeting.

## Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes An advisory board to the Clark County Council December 11, 2025

### **Work Plan Discussion and Approval**

The board reviewed the proposed work plan for 2026. Staff encouraged members to reach out if there are speakers that they would like to hear from.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Are there standing speakers for VAB meetings?

A: Yes, contracting agencies tend to present annually. Other presentations come at the request of community or board members.

### **October 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports**

- CCVAC: 43 Veterans served in October, with services totaling \$22,859. 33 male veterans, 9 female veterans, 1 widow, 0 other veterans. 9 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 505 visits to the center for essentials and food, 672 sack breakfasts and lunches and 69 food boxes provided. 4,667 total pounds of food. 567.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$22,859 in value.
- Free Clinic: 3 Veterans served in September. Services totaled \$1,815 in value; billed \$696.87
- VAF Fund October: Revenue: \$298,760.85; expenditures: \$143,777.98; fund balance: \$498,910.14, about a \$154,982.87 increase in the fund from last month.

### **Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates, Judy Russel**

- The county added \$25,000 to the 2025 Veteran Services contract which has been spent out.
- Bingo fundraiser at the Vancouver Elks Lodge will be held on February 1, 2026 at 3 p.m.
- A large number of food boxes and sack lunches were provided in November through the CCVAC non-profit.
- The annual toy store opens on December 15, with shopping slots filled for the first two days. Reservations can be made via phone call.
- Almost 50 veterans served dinner on Thanksgiving. Dinner will also be provided on Christmas Eve.

### **Old Business**

Michael Langsdorf asked that the budget subcommittee proposed at the November meeting be reclassified as a work group. Joseph Fetting, Nick Huber, and Greg Gilbertson have been added to the work group since the November meeting. A motion to change the subcommittee to a work group was made by Bob Nichols and seconded by Patrick Locke. Motion approved unanimously.

Michael Langsdorf requested information on the approved 2026 budget. Staff will send this information to board members.

### **New Business**

Bruce Maas provided a review of the 2026 legislative session. He highlighted a bill that aims to implement restrictions on non-VSO claim assistance.

### **Open Forum and Public Comment**

Larry Smith from the Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) informed the board that Ron Powers is the new chairperson of CMAC, and Jay Williams is the new Vice Chair.

Greg Gilbertson and Patrick Locke shared that their posts will be hosting events to watch the Army-Navy game on Saturday December 13.

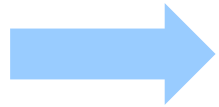
Greg Gilbertson will be visiting the CCVAC to do research for the Policies and Procedures Committee. Judy Russel encouraged all VAB members visit the CCVAC.

Bob Nichols and Greg Gilbertson shared that toys are being collected by their posts for the holidays. Bruce Maas added that local organizations will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots.

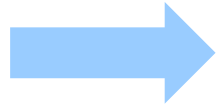


# Agenda Item III. Committee Reports

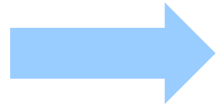
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**Appeals – Gene Couture**



**Policies and Procedures – Greg Gilbertson**



**Nominations – Bruce Maas**



# 2026 Committee Appointments



# 2026 Member at Large Appointments



# Discussion with County Auditor

Larry Stafford



# Agenda Item VIII. November 2025 Contractor Reports

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## • **CCVAC**

- 561 visits to the center for essentials and food. 497 sack breakfasts and lunches and 100 food boxes provided. 7,840 total pounds of food provided (page 1)
- 543 volunteer hours, totaling \$21,872 in value (page 1)
- 50 Veterans served in November, services totaling \$43,397.57 (page 2)
- 41 male Veterans, 9 female Veterans, 0 widow, and 0 others served (page 4)
- 11 denials, 0 subject to appeal (page 5)

## • **Free Clinic**

- 1 veteran served in November. Services totaled \$3,600 in value. Billed \$5,092.30. (page 7-8)

## • **Fund**

- November revenue: \$67,513.20, expenditures: \$100,477.61 (page 9)
- Fund balance: \$465,945.73 (\$32,964.41 decrease from last month) (page 9)



# Agenda Item IX. CCVAC updates

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**Honorably  
serving those  
who served  
honorably**



# Community Needs Assessment Survey

Abby Molloy



# Clark County Survey of Needs Now Available

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- Triennial Community Needs Assessment
- Purpose
  - Help understand needs of those who are struggling financially in our community
  - Prioritize funding for anti-poverty services
  - Provides information on the landscape of poverty in Clark County
  - Used broadly by local organizations in their program development and grant application processes.



# Clark County Survey of Needs Now Available

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**Survey of Needs open now through March 31, 2026**

- 15-minute survey
- Anonymous
- Available in paper copy and online in:

English



Spanish



Russian



Ukrainian



Chuukese



**Scan to go to the survey!**



# Clark County Survey of Needs Now Available

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- Ways you can help:
  - Share this information with your network by email or on social media
    - Social media templates and flyers available
  - Distribute surveys to your communities and program participants
    - Paper surveys in English, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Chuukese
    - Flyers in each language
    - Pre-paid return envelopes
  - If you are aware of community groups I can connect with, please reply with the name of the meeting and contact information.
  - Attend community forums when they are available in the summer/fall
    - Will present information from the survey results
- Contact Abby Molloy
  - [abby.molloy@clark.wa.gov](mailto:abby.molloy@clark.wa.gov) or 564.397.7832



# Review 2026 Budget Handout



# Veteran's Assistance Fund (1019) Budget Forecast

Date of Forecast: 12/11/25

**\*\*Forecast\*\*** This data is subject to change as new information is received or if forecasted assumptions change.

	Planning Year Forecast 2026
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	\$ 288,729
<b>Revenue</b>	
Property Taxes	\$ 851,678
Leasehold Excise Tax	\$ 2,700
Payment In-Lieu of Tax	\$ 27
Miscellaneous	\$ -
Proceeds from Sales of Capital Assets	\$ -
General Fund - Transfers In	\$ 118,468
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 972,873</b>
<i>Difference YOY</i>	<i>3.91%</i>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries	\$ (37,107)
Benefits	\$ (16,940)
Operating Expenses	\$ (30,000)
<b>Contracts</b>	
<i>Clark County Veterans Assistance Center</i>	\$ (991,000)
<i>SW WA Free Dental Clinic</i>	\$ (24,900)
<i>WA State Dept of Veterans Affairs</i>	\$ (134,520)
<b>Total Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>\$ (1,234,467)</b>
<i>Difference YOY</i>	<i>5.42%</i>
<b>Budget Forecast Modifiers</b>	
COS-XX-26AD	\$ 30,000
<b>Total Budget Forecast Modifiers</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Projected Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 57,135</b>



## Q & A

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**Q: The property tax line is \$851,678 . How was it computed?**

A: This amount was approved by the County Council at the Dec 2, 2025 hearing.

- Council may choose to implement Flat Rate or Proportional Rate based on General Fund levy choice – chose Proportional Rate (1% increase + banked capacity)



# Clark County 2026 Property Tax Options

## General Fund Subordinate Levies

- Levy amount for mental health and developmental disabilities may be based on a flat rate of \$0.0125 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or it may be increased or reduced in same proportion as the prior year’s certified county general levy. RCW 71.20.110
- Veterans standard minimum rate is \$0.01125 and maximum is \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Rate can be below minimum if Veterans Assistance Fund has sufficient fund balance , or levy amount may be increased or reduced in same proportion as the prior year’s certified county general levy. RCW 73.08.080.
- Council may choose to implement the Flat Rate or the Proportional Rate based on the General Fund levy choice.
- Council chose to implement the proportional increase in 2025.

General Fund Subordinate Levy	2026 Flat Rate	Proportional Increase*			
		General Fund 0%*	General Fund 1%*	General Fund Banked Capacity*	Total for General Fund 1% + Banked Capacity
<b>Mental Health</b>	\$ 1,457,039,950	\$ 932,827	\$ 941,931	\$ 4,378	\$ 946,310
<b>Developmental Disabilities</b>	\$ 1,457,039,950	\$ 932,827	\$ 941,931	\$ 4,378	\$ 946,310
<b>Veterans Assistance</b>	\$ 1,311,335,955	\$ 839,543	\$ 847,738	\$ 3,940	\$ 851,678

\*Estimated total levy based on the same proportional increase as the General Levy. Proportional amounts are based on either increasing the general fund 0% or 1% over last year plus increases due to new construction and state assessed utility value.

*These are estimated calculations that will be finalized during the levy certification process.*



## Q & A

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**Q: Please explain the numbers for salaries, benefits and operating expenses.**

A: All county staff salaries and benefits are established by the budget office and approved by the County Council.

- Budget projections are based on historical direct time by staff spent working on the program and anticipated changes (inflation, etc.).
- Actual expenditures will be determined by the time staff spend working on this program.\*
- Operating expenses include a portion of DCS rent, printing, postage, phone, indirects, etc.
  - Detail for each month is available upon request

\*DCS budget vs. actuals are not the same. Only actual direct costs are billed.



## Q & A

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**Q: Does staff think this contract is sufficient knowing that it will not cover a year of costs? Or, is it their goal to run out of contract dollars in Nov so that the 501C3 in CCVAC will cover it like this year?**

A: The CCVAC budget is developed and requested by CCVAC staff, and should be based on CCVAC's projected expenditures for the program year driven by expected service levels, operating costs, salaries.

- The CCVAC proposed budget is brought to the VAB for approval.
- This year, after VAB approval of 2025 budget in Nov 2024, we supported a requested increase to the CCVAC 2025 contract in March. We received a second 2025 contract budget increase request in November and supported another budget increase as available funds allowed.
- We received the CCVAC budget in August and worked with the Budget Office and County Council to ensure the 2026 revenue would be able to support the request in full.



## Q & A

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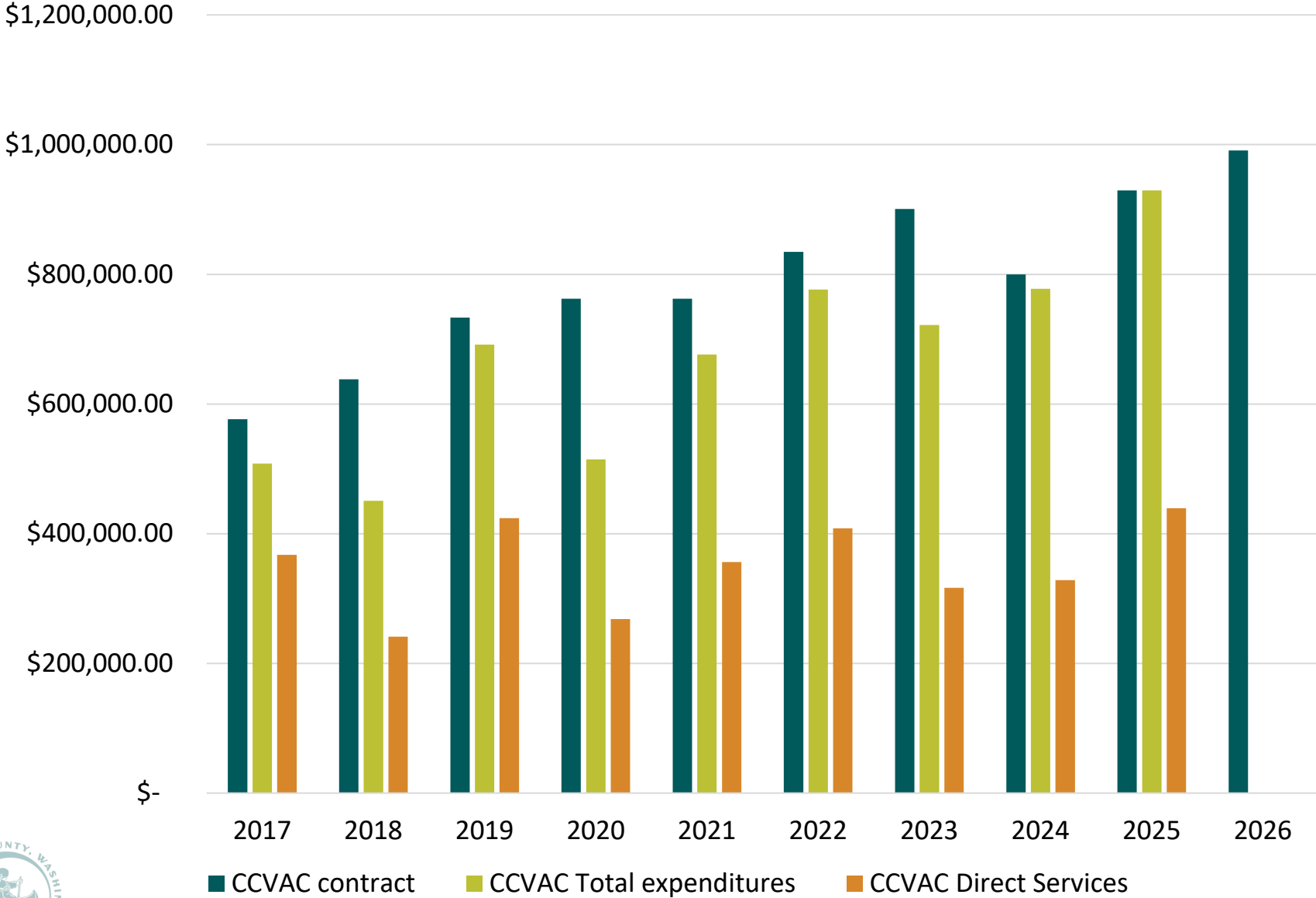
**Q: Why is the staff building a contract similar to the one when the CCVAC was on Columbia Street.? All staff knew the Harney St facility would be more expensive and offer far more services. The county manager approved the leasing of Harney.**

A: The 2026 contract for the CCVAC is based on the budget submitted by the CCVAC, which was approved in full.

- The 2026 budget is a \$86,400 increase from 2025 to account for increased rent at the new location.



# CCVAC budget vs. expenditures



## Q & A

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**Q: The CCVAC staff submitted a \$991,000 budget in August. Why doesn't the staff ask for an updated budget based on figures from the latter half of CY2025 and the learning curve on operating from Harney Place. The CCVAC contract has not been signed by both parties.**

A: The \$991,000 budget was submitted by CCVAC and is their projection for 2026 expenditures. They have not requested an updated budget.



## Q & A

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**Q: The \$288,729 beginning fund balance was in the forecast dated 12/11. Why couldn't it be distributed to the Center in late December to pay invoices?**

A: This fund balance was already factored in for 2026 commitments and is needed to allow us to support the projected 2026 costs.

- By the time we received the 2025 contract increase request from the CCVAC, the council had already made its decision about the 2026 budget. We must account for future expenditures so we do not go into a negative fund balance.
- The VAF receives property tax revenue when property tax payments are made. The bulk of payments are made in April and October. We must have a fund balance to be able to pay for invoices during months we do not receive as much revenue.



## Q & A

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**Q: Why has the General Fund transfer in remained the same since 2018/2019 while the property tax revenue has increased around \$150K? The country manager added \$30K for 2026. A one time add we were told to “balance the books.”**

A: The \$118K General Fund transfer was a County Council decision in 2018/2019 as an ongoing set amount per year. This did not include an inflationary increase.

- The \$30K one-time addition was to support the 2026 CCVAC budget request.



## Q & A

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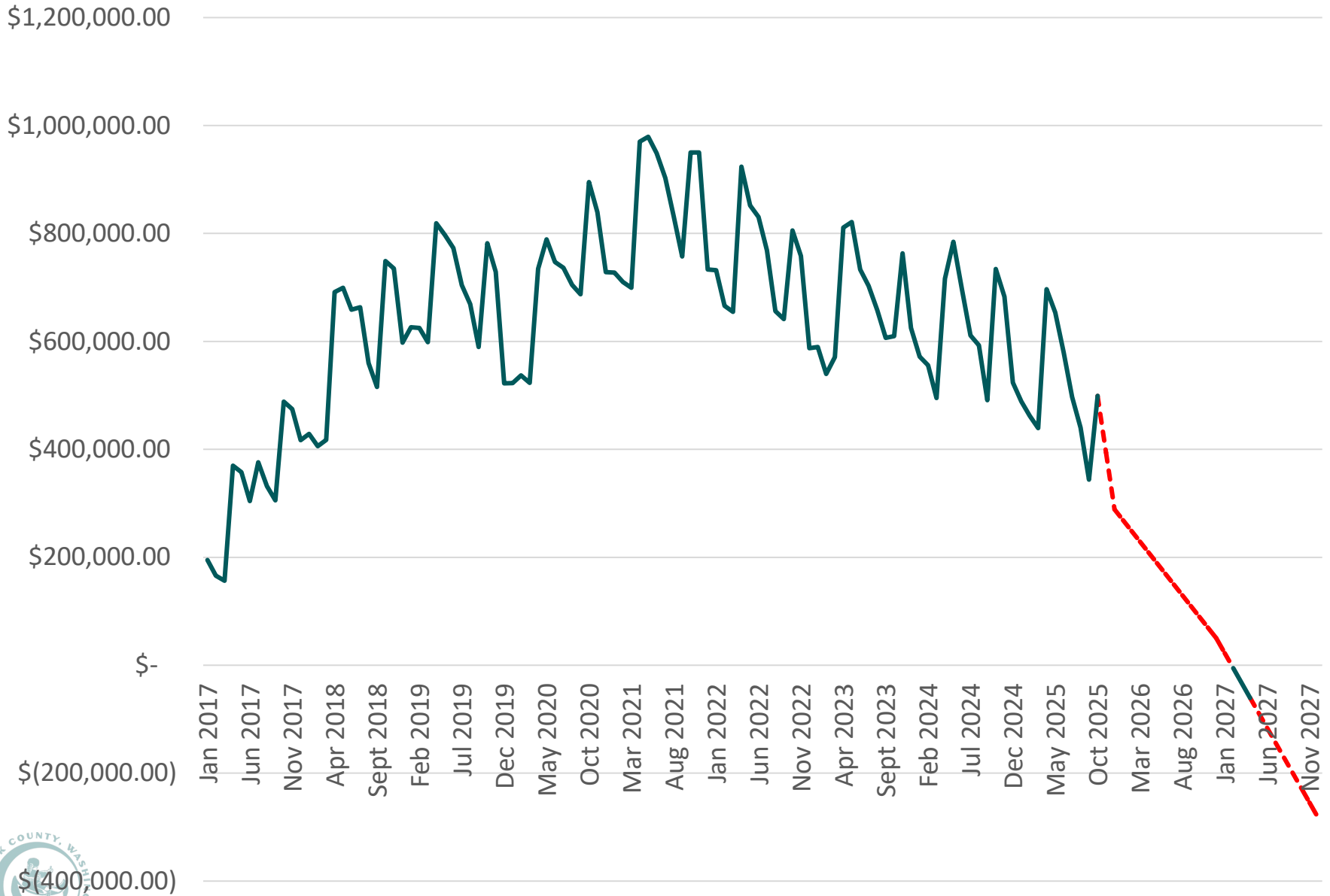
**Q: The Veterans' Assistance Fund has a lot of available cash in it. Why can't it be used?**

A: The funds are committed for 2026 contracts and will be almost entirely spent out by the end of 2026.

- We need to have a fund balance to be able to pay for invoices each month.
- This is the first time in years that we are facing a fund balance issue, and we have a Work Session with the Council in Q2 to discuss long term solutions.



# VAF Fund Balance and Projections



# Agenda Items XI. – XIV.

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- **Old Business**
  - Work Plan
- **New Business**
- **Open Forum**
- **Adjourn**

***Next meeting: February 12, 2026***

