Veterans Assistance Fund Budget Request

Work Session with Veterans Advisory Board

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June 3, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Purpose
- Financial Overview
- Background & Community Need
- Return on Investment
- Closing

Request for County Council

- Additional ongoing funding of **$222,433** for 2027 with a 3.5% increase annually
- Purpose: fund two additional staff at the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC)
  - One FTE Mental Health Professional
  - One FTE Case Manager
- Recommended sources of funding:
  - Raise the Veterans Assistance Fund levy

    AND
  - Incremental implementation of 3-month fund balance policy

Financial Overview

- Three contracted programs funded through Veterans Assistance Fund
  - Free Clinic of Southwest Washington – Veterans Dental Services
  - Washington Department of Veterans Affairs – Veteran Service Officers
  - Clark County Veterans Assistance Center – Veteran Emergency Services

Free Clinic of Southwest Washington – Veteran Dental Services program

2026 Budget	Requested 2027 budget (0% increase)	Purpose
$24,900	$24,900	Personnel costs and Veteran dental services

6-year projection (0% annually):

2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
$24,900	$24,900	$24,900	$24,900	$24,900

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs – Veteran Service Officers

2026 Budget	Requested 2027 budget (6.45% increase)	Purpose
$134,520	$143,192.59	Salaries and admin costs for two Veteran Service Officers

6-year projection (4% annually)

2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
$148,920.29	$154,877.11	$161,072.19	$167,515.08	$174,215.68

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center – Veteran Emergency Services program

2026 Budget	Requested 2027 budget
$991,000	Continue existing services: $1,096,197 (11% increase) Additional staff: $222,433 **Total: $1,318,630 (33.1% increase)**

6-year projection (3.5% annually)

2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
$1,364,782.05	$1,412,549.42	$1,461,988.65	$1,513,158.25	$1,566,118.79

Financial Overview

- The projected Veterans Assistance Fund revenue is sufficient to fund existing services
- Additional funding is needed to hire a Mental Health Professional and a Case Manager at the CCVAC
  - **$222,433** for 2027 with a **3.5%** increase annually

Need for Mental Health Professional

Community Need

- Nationally, 41% of vets diagnosed with mental health needs. (National Institute of Health)
  - ➢33,249 Vets in Clark Co. (WDVA)
- Leading County provider of mental health support says, "Veterans in Clark County face significant mental health challenges." – Pacific Phoenix Psychiatry
- Vet PTSD, depression, anxiety, Traumatic Brain Injury not well understood in community
- VA constraints: eligibility limits; long wait times; capacity restrictions

Need for Mental Health (MH) Professional

Impact at CCVAC

- CCVAC labeled “key service provider”. Lacks trained interventionist
- Untrained staff and volunteers frequently assist vets experiencing the “worst day” of their lives
  - ➢Consoled female vet living in car with two children
  - ➢Talked male vet out of committing suicide in the parking lot
- Incidents cause safety issues for staff
- See 40 vets/mo. Statistically 15 likely have MH needs. Need trained specialty person to make a difference in vet lives

Need for Case Manager (CM)

Community Need

- Case Management Society of America (CMSA):
  - CMs are professionals who;
    - Assess veterans' individual needs and create a plan
    - Coordinate services to focus on core problems; **avoid duplication**
    - Ensure medical treatments are in fact, necessary
    - Serve as client "life coach" to cultivate independence
    - Create confidence to navigate VA and other resources themselves
    - Monitor progress to help accelerate **return to work**
  - **WOULD REDUCE DEMAND ON COUNTY FUNDED SEVICES**

Need for Case Manager (CM)

Impact at CCVAC

- Reduce repeat visits – VetFund sees 40 Vets a month-480/yr
- Vets in crisis face multiple overlapping challenges
- In house individual support will be continuous
- Every $1 spent in CM saves $3-$5 in avoided repeat crisis (CMSA)
- Identify long term risks
- Link from problem to solution

Return on Investment

Mental Health Professional

- National Institute of Health:
  - **"Every $1 of investment typically yields a $4 return"**
- State of Arizona case study over one year:
  - **Immediate availability of services led to $260M reduction in patient spending**
- Rand research summary:
  - **Immediate access reduces reliance on high-cost medical services**

Case Manager (CM):

- Dean/CEO of Hospital Medicine, University of California:
  - **CM's focus on redundant tests and "inefficient utilization" of public tax dollars**
- GoodRX national study:
  - **Documented savings $3,800 per patient in 6 mos. following discharge. $3.4M return for every $1M invested in staff**

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Summary
Comments
Questions

Backup Charts

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center – Veteran Emergency Services program

	2026	2027	Purpose/ notes
Vet Services/ HVSF	$425,000	$502,313	Actual expenditure in 2025 was $469267.18. Increase of 3.5% annually.
Operations	$180,000	$188,639	Includes Vet Fund phone & outreach phone, replace two computers, Homeless Veterans Convention in D.C.
Stand Down/ Outreach	$23,000	$30,000	Will continue to apply for federal grant for $7000
Personnel Costs	$207,000	Maintain existing staff: $214,245 New hires: $222,433 Total: $436,678	Includes 2 full-time & 1 part-time County Service Officer & 1 full-time Outreach Coordinator. Plan to Hire 1 full-time Mental Health Professional and 1 full-time Case Manager. Benefits include Holidays, Vacation, Sick Time and Personal Time.
Admin	$156,000	$161,000	Includes 1 full-time & 1 part-time Administrator
TOTAL	**$991,000**	**$1,318,630**	

6-year projection (3.5% increase per year):

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$1,364,782.05	$1,412,549.42	$1,461,988.65	$1,513,158.25	$1,566,118.79