

LSC Redbook

Analysis of the Executive Budget Proposal

Veterans' Organizations

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READER'S GUIDE

The Legislative Service Commission prepares an analysis of the executive budget proposal for each agency. These analyses are commonly called "Redbooks." This brief introduction is intended to help readers navigate the Redbook for the Veterans' Organizations (VTO), which includes the following three sections.

1. Overview: Provides a brief description of the purpose of the veterans' organizations that receive a state subsidy and an overview of the executive recommended budget for the FY 2012-FY 2013 biennium.
2. Analysis of Executive Proposal: Provides a detailed analysis of the executive budget recommendations for each veterans' organization by line item.
3. Attachments: Includes LSC's Catalog of Budget Line Items (COBLI), which describes each line item's purpose, revenue, and expenditures, and the LSC budget spreadsheet, which summarizes each line item's recent expenditure and appropriations history.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Catalog of Budget Line Items
- Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Veterans' Organizations

- Subsidies reduced by 5% from FY 2011 levels
- Many veterans' organizations face increasing caseloads and declining revenues

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The state of Ohio currently grants subsidies to 13 different organizations that serve Ohio's veterans. The primary mission of all of these organizations is to promote and provide assistance to veterans of their particular community. These groups provide services to veterans and their families to help assist with accessing benefits, job placement and training, transportation to and from Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities, and emergency assistance.

All 13 veterans' organizations receive a GRF subsidy. In addition to state GRF, each organization receives funding through federal grants, membership dues, fundraising efforts, and private donations. These subsidies primarily are used to pay salaries and wages for service officers, transportation and meeting expenses, as well as other operating expenses. These organizations are required to annually report to the Director of Veterans Services.

Appropriation Overview

The executive budget recommends total GRF funding of \$1,708,178 in both FY 2012 and FY 2013 for these veterans' organizations. This funding level represents a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. Most of the organizations had originally requested a flat funded budget. Those that had requested an increase in funding are noted in more detail below. Many of the organizations have indicated that caseloads have increased in recent years, primarily due to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan seeking medical care at VA facilities.

ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Veterans' Subsidy Program

This section provides an analysis of the recommended funding level for each of the veterans' organizations that receive a GRF subsidy.

Executive Recommended Amounts for Veterans' Subsidy Program				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2012	FY 2013
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	743501	American Ex-Prisoners of War	\$26,156	\$26,156
GRF	746501	Army & Navy Union, USA, Inc.	\$57,487	\$57,487
GRF	747501	Korean War Veterans	\$51,678	\$51,678
GRF	748501	Jewish War Veterans	\$31,053	\$31,053
GRF	749501	Catholic War Veterans	\$60,600	\$60,600
GRF	750501	Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$58,914	\$58,914
GRF	751501	Vietnam Veterans of America	\$194,322	\$194,322
GRF	752501	American Legion of Ohio	\$315,933	\$315,933
GRF	753501	Amvets	\$300,875	\$300,875
GRF	754501	Disabled American Veterans	\$226,042	\$226,042
GRF	756501	Marine Corps League	\$121,191	\$121,191
GRF	757501	37th Division Veterans' Association	\$6,214	\$6,214
GRF	758501	Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$257,713	\$257,713
General Revenue Fund Group Subtotal			\$1,708,178	\$1,708,178
Total Funding: Veterans' Subsidy Program			\$1,708,178	\$1,708,178

American Ex-Prisoners of War (GRF line item 743501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports travel, training, and lodging expenses for the five national service officers of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization. Additionally, the organization mails a quarterly newsletter to former prisoners of war and their spouses informing them of possible benefits available to them. There are 12 chapters in the state with a total of 933 members.

The executive recommends funding of \$26,156 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$27,533 for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Army & Navy Union, USA, Inc. (GRF line item 746501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Army & Navy Union, USA, Inc., which was founded in 1886 and is the oldest veterans' organization in America. The only requirement for membership is that the individual was honorably discharged or presently honorably serving in the armed forces of the United States. This line item

funds various services or activities of the organization such as wages for service officers, veterans' emergency aid, patriotic observances, web site maintenance, training expenses, and utilities.

The executive recommends funding of \$57,487 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease over the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$60,513 for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Korean War Veterans (GRF line item 747501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Korean War Veterans organization. The organization consists of 20 local chapters and 2,600 members. The funds are used for officer and committee expenses, as well as mileage reimbursements for meetings, local chapters' approved expenses, and general operating expenses. Additionally, funds are used to support veterans in need, veterans' homes, and other service and educational activities.

The executive recommends funding of \$51,678 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$54,398 for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Jewish War Veterans (GRF line item 748501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Jewish War Veterans organization. The organization has six local posts and 1,400 members. The posts are located in Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland (which is also the headquarters), Columbus, and Dayton. The organization has four executive officers and seven assistant officers. Funds are also used to pay the salary of a service officer who is located at the Cleveland Regional VA Office. The organization provides services at eight veterans medical centers and outpatient clinics.

The executive recommends funding of \$31,053 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization had originally requested \$33,064 for FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 1.2% increase over the FY 2011 appropriation.

Catholic War Veterans (GRF line item 749501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Catholic War Veterans organization. The organization in Ohio was formed in 1945 to serve any and all Ohio veterans. The funds are used for a variety of purposes, including general office expenses, payroll for an office manager, reimbursement for board officers, high school scholarships, and a quarterly publication, the *Buckeye Veteran*, that informs members of current events and benefit information.

The executive recommends funding of \$60,600 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$63,789 for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (GRF line item 750501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization. The organization serves all combat wounded veterans who received the Purple Heart Medal. The organization has several service officers to assist veterans. The funds are used for a variety of purposes, such as general office expenses, administrative part-time staff salaries, newsletters and communications, reimbursement for officers, and conventions and other regional meetings.

The executive recommends funding of \$58,914 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization had originally requested \$76,000 for FY 2012 and \$78,000 for FY 2013. The additional funding was to be used to increase communications with members, specifically through a more regularly published newsletter as well as to make computer and software purchases.

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an armed force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died, or may have later die after being wounded.

Vietnam Veterans of America (GRF line item 751501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Vietnam Veterans of America organization. The organization is the only Vietnam veteran organization chartered by Congress and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. There are 40 chapters in Ohio with more than 3,000 members. Membership continues to increase and an additional chapter is currently in development. The organization has two service representatives – one in Cleveland and one in Columbus – that assist veterans in obtaining benefits. Additionally, the organization has a board of directors, consisting of five executive members and six district directors. The line item helps to, among other things, pay for general operations, accounting and legal fees, travel, printing of publications, education and training, conferences, and compensation of current officers, and veterans aid activities.

The executive recommends funding of \$194,322 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$204,549 for FY 2012 and FY 2013. The organization's budget request states that claims are on the rise and service officers are increasingly being tasked with additional responsibilities.

American Legion of Ohio (GRF line item 752501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the American Legion of Ohio organization. The organization has 583 posts and more than 120,000 members statewide and is Ohio's largest veterans' organization. The organization assists veterans, widows, and

dependents in obtaining benefits from governmental entities and other community resources. The line item helps the organization employ clerical assistants, train service officers, and provide training and resource materials to various locations. Approximately 14,000 veterans and dependents are served each year. The Ohio American Legion Service Division consists of a service director and half-time secretary in Delaware; Department service officers at the VA medical centers in Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati; four department service officers at the Cleveland VA Regional Office (with two clerical assistants). A stipend salary is also provided to the Lucas County Council of the American Legion to employ a service officer at the Toledo VA Outpatient Clinic.

The executive recommends funding of \$315,933 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$332,561 for FY 2012 and FY 2013, amounts that would have only partially covered their costs.

Amvets (GRF line item 753501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the American Veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam organization, also known as "AMVETS." The organization is the fourth largest veterans' organization in Ohio, with 140 posts statewide. The organization has service officers and support staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in Brecksville, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Wade Park. Service officers and staff are also provided in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Portsmouth. The organization assists veterans in obtaining benefits. In addition, the organization sponsors, among other things, Christmas baskets for the needy, veterans aid activities, Special Olympics, and youth athletic programs. The line item supports salaries for service officers and support staff, office equipment, and other programming activities.

The executive recommends funding of \$300,875 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$316,711 for FY 2012 and FY 2013. According to the AMVETS' budget request, the recommended funding may make it difficult to handle the expanding veterans service work for the aging veteran population and the veterans returning from current conflicts.

Disabled American Veterans (GRF line item 754501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Disabled American Veterans organization. The organization was founded in 1920 and has 132 affiliated chapters and auxiliary units in Ohio with 43,677 members.

The organization has six service officers working at all VA medical centers in Ohio, as well as the Chalmers Wylie VA Clinic. A transition service officer is also located at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. These officers work with nationally

accredited service officers in Cleveland and Cincinnati to assist in processing claims. The officers assist the hospitalized veterans with problems regarding medical care and begin claims processing for benefits.

Additionally, each service officer coordinates the organization's Department of Ohio Van Transportation Network. This network has 72 Ford passenger vans that provide free transportation for veterans to and from VA medical centers throughout Ohio. The vans were purchased by the organization's chapters. The organization also provides support to the VA medical centers, VA clinics, and both of the veterans homes located in Ohio. The line item helps pay for general operating expenses.

The executive recommends funding of \$226,042 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$237,939, for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Marine Corps League (GRF line item 756501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Marine Corps League organization. The organization consists of 40 detachments and over 2,400 members who are all active duty, reserve, retired, and former Marines. The organization was first chartered by the United States Congress in 1937. The organization's Veteran Services Program serves veterans of all branches of the military. There are five service officers located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Hamilton. This funding pays wages and other operating expenses.

The executive recommends funding of \$121,191 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$127,569 for FY 2012 and FY 2013, and noted in their budget request that any reduction in funding will have a significant impact on their service levels.

37th Division Veterans' Association (GRF line item 757501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the 37th Division Veterans' Association. The Association was formed in 1918 by veterans of the 37th Infantry Division who fought in Europe during World War I with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). The Association assists veterans in obtaining medical and other administrative records and securing medals earned. Additionally, the Association assists families of deceased veterans in obtaining burial details. The line item helps pay for things such as general operating expenses and wages.

The executive recommends funding of \$6,214 in each fiscal year, which is a 5% decrease of from the FY 2011 appropriations. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$6,541 for FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (GRF line item 758501)

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or the VFW, organization. The organization has represented veterans for over a century and is the nation's oldest major veterans' organization. The organization has 410 charters throughout Ohio with membership totaling close to 87,000. The organization has four service officers in the field and three service officers and three temporary staff members in the Cleveland Regional Office. The line item is used to solely pay for the salaries of these individuals.

The executive recommends funding of \$257,716 in FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation. The organization requested a flat funded budget of \$271,277 for FY 2012 and FY 2013. Currently, the organization is struggling with hiring and retaining service officers at a competitive wage.

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Veterans' Organizations

General Revenue Fund

GRF 743501 American Ex-Prisoners of War

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$27,533	\$24,717	\$27,533	\$27,533	\$26,156	\$26,156
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1998 and FY 1999)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 746501 Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc.

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$60,513	\$54,325	\$60,513	\$60,513	\$57,487	\$57,487
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 215 of the 122nd G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1998 and FY 1999)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 747501 Korean War Veterans

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$54,398	\$48,835	\$54,397	\$54,398	\$51,678	\$51,678
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Sub. H.B. 715 of the 120th G.A.)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

Veterans' Organizations

GRF 748501 Jewish War Veterans

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$32,687	\$29,344	\$32,687	\$32,687	\$31,053	\$31,053
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 111 of the 118th G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1990 and FY 1991)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 749501 Catholic War Veterans

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$63,789	\$57,265	\$63,789	\$63,789	\$60,600	\$60,600
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 111 of the 118th G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1990 and FY 1991)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 750501 Military Order of the Purple Heart

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$62,015	\$55,673	\$62,015	\$62,015	\$58,914	\$58,914
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 291 of the 115th G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1984 and FY 1985)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

Veterans' Organizations

GRF 751501 Vietnam Veterans of America

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$204,549	\$183,630	\$204,549	\$204,549	\$194,322	\$194,322
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 694 of the 114th G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1982 and FY 1983)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 752501 American Legion of Ohio

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$332,561	\$298,550	\$332,561	\$332,561	\$315,933	\$315,933
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A.

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 753501 Amvets

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$312,506	\$284,321	\$316,711	\$316,711	\$300,875	\$300,875
	-9.0%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A.

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 754501 Disabled American Veterans

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$237,939	\$213,605	\$237,939	\$237,939	\$226,042	\$226,042
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A.

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

Veterans' Organizations

GRF 756501 Marine Corps League

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$127,569	\$114,522	\$127,569	\$127,569	\$121,191	\$121,191
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. H.B. 238 of the 116th G.A., the main operating appropriations act covering FY 1986 and FY 1987)

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 757501 37th Division Veterans' Association

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$6,541	\$5,872	\$6,541	\$6,541	\$6,214	\$6,214
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A.

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

GRF 758501 Veterans of Foreign Wars

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	Introduced FY 2013
\$271,277	\$243,533	\$271,277	\$271,277	\$257,713	\$257,713
	-10.2%	11.4%	0.0%	-5.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 407.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th G.A.

Purpose: This state subsidy is used to support this veterans' organization in assisting eligible veterans and their dependents acquire state and federal benefits.

FY 2012 - FY 2013 Introduced Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency			Estimate FY 2010	Estimate FY 2011	Introduced FY 2012	FY 2011 to FY 2012 % Change	Introduced FY 2013	FY 2012 to FY 2013 % Change
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: As Introduced					
VTO Veterans' Organizations								
GRF	743501	American Ex-Prisoners of War	\$ 27,533	\$ 27,533	\$ 26,156	-5.00%	\$ 26,156	0.00%
GRF	746501	Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc.	\$ 60,513	\$ 60,513	\$ 57,487	-5.00%	\$ 57,487	0.00%
GRF	747501	Korean War Veterans	\$ 54,397	\$ 54,398	\$ 51,678	-5.00%	\$ 51,678	0.00%
GRF	748501	Jewish War Veterans	\$ 32,687	\$ 32,687	\$ 31,053	-5.00%	\$ 31,053	0.00%
GRF	749501	Catholic War Veterans	\$ 63,789	\$ 63,789	\$ 60,600	-5.00%	\$ 60,600	0.00%
GRF	750501	Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$ 62,015	\$ 62,015	\$ 58,914	-5.00%	\$ 58,914	0.00%
GRF	751501	Vietnam Veterans of America	\$ 204,549	\$ 204,549	\$ 194,322	-5.00%	\$ 194,322	0.00%
GRF	752501	American Legion of Ohio	\$ 332,561	\$ 332,561	\$ 315,933	-5.00%	\$ 315,933	0.00%
GRF	753501	Amvets	\$ 316,711	\$ 316,711	\$ 300,875	-5.00%	\$ 300,875	0.00%
GRF	754501	Disabled American Veterans	\$ 237,939	\$ 237,939	\$ 226,042	-5.00%	\$ 226,042	0.00%
GRF	756501	Marine Corps League	\$ 127,569	\$ 127,569	\$ 121,191	-5.00%	\$ 121,191	0.00%
GRF	757501	37th Division Veterans' Association	\$ 6,541	\$ 6,541	\$ 6,214	-5.00%	\$ 6,214	0.00%
GRF	758501	Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$ 271,277	\$ 271,277	\$ 257,713	-5.00%	\$ 257,713	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 1,798,081	\$ 1,798,082	\$ 1,708,178	-5.00%	\$ 1,708,178	0.00%
Veterans' Organizations Total			\$ 1,798,081	\$ 1,798,082	\$ 1,708,178	-5.00%	\$ 1,708,178	0.00%