

# **LSC Greenbook**

**Analysis of the Enacted Budget**

## **Veterans' Organizations**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Organizational Subsidies</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Appropriation Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Veterans' Subsidy Program</b> .....	<b>2</b>
American Ex-Prisoners of War (GRF line item 743501).....	2
Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc. (GRF line item 746501).....	2
Korean War Veterans (GRF line item 747501) .....	3
Jewish War Veterans (GRF line item 748501) .....	3
Catholic War Veterans (GRF line item 749501).....	3
Military Order of the Purple Heart (GRF line item 750501) .....	3
Vietnam Veterans of America (GRF line item 751501) .....	3
American Legion of Ohio (GRF line item 752501).....	4
AMVETS (GRF line item 753501).....	4
Disabled American Veterans (GRF line item 754501).....	4
Marine Corps League (GRF line item 756501) .....	5
37th Division Veterans' Association (GRF line item 757501).....	5
Veterans of Foreign Wars (GRF line item 758501) .....	5

**ATTACHMENT:**

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

# Veterans' Organizations

- GRF subsidies flat-funded
- \$1.9 million in annual subsidies for 13 veterans' organizations

## OVERVIEW

### Organizational Subsidies

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.

These state subsidies are primarily used to pay salaries and wages for service officers, transportation and meeting expenses, as well as other organizational operating expenses. These organizations are required to annually report to the Director of Veterans Services.<sup>1</sup> In addition to these subsidies, each organization receives funding through federal grants, membership dues, fundraising efforts, and private donations.

### Appropriation Overview

As shown in the table below, these subsidies to veterans' organizations are paid for solely with money appropriated from the General Revenue Fund (GRF). For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$1,887,986 in FY 2016 and FY 2017, identical to the amount appropriated and then expended in FY 2015.

Veterans' Subsidy Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2016-FY 2017 (Am. Sub. H.B. 64)					
Fund Group	FY 2015*	FY 2016	% change, FY 2015-FY 2016	FY 2017	% change, FY 2016-FY 2017
General Revenue	\$1,887,986	\$1,887,986	0.0%	\$1,887,986	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,887,986</b>	<b>\$1,887,986</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>\$1,887,986</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

\*FY 2015 figures represent actual expenditures.

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5902.02

## ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

### Veterans' Subsidy Program

This section provides an analysis of the amount appropriated for each of the veterans' organizations that receive a GRF subsidy. The FY 2016 and FY 2017 line item appropriations for each of the 13 veterans' organizations receiving a subsidy are summarized in the table below. For all organizations listed, the appropriation represents a zero-growth change from the actual FY 2015 expenditure level.

Appropriations for Veterans' Subsidy Program				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	743501	American Ex-Prisoners of War	\$28,910	\$28,910
GRF	746501	Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc.	\$63,539	\$63,539
GRF	747501	Korean War Veterans	\$57,118	\$57,118
GRF	748501	Jewish War Veterans	\$34,321	\$34,321
GRF	749501	Catholic War Veterans	\$66,978	\$66,978
GRF	750501	Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$65,116	\$65,116
GRF	751501	Vietnam Veterans of America	\$214,776	\$214,776
GRF	752501	American Legion of Ohio	\$349,189	\$349,189
GRF	753501	AMVETS	\$332,547	\$332,547
GRF	754501	Disabled American Veterans	\$249,836	\$249,836
GRF	756501	Marine Corps League	\$133,947	\$133,947
GRF	757501	37th Division Veterans' Association	\$6,868	\$6,868
GRF	758501	Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$284,841	\$284,841
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,887,986</b>	<b>\$1,887,986</b>
<b>Total Funding: Veterans' Subsidy Program</b>			<b>\$1,887,986</b>	<b>\$1,887,986</b>

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

This GRF subsidy line item supports the five chapters (approximately 785 members) of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, and helps fund the organization's state convention. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$28,910 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

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

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc., which was founded in 1886. The state subsidy funds various services or activities of the organization such as wages for service officers, veterans' emergency aid, patriotic observances, website maintenance, training expenses, and utilities. The only requirement for membership is that the individual was honorably discharged or

presently honorably serving in the armed forces of the United States. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$63,539 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

#### **Korean War Veterans (GRF line item 747501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Korean War Veterans organization. The funds are used for committee expenses, mileage reimbursements for meetings, local chapters' approved expenses, and general operating expenses. The organization consists of 20 local chapters and 2,654 members. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$57,118 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

#### **Jewish War Veterans (GRF line item 748501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Jewish War Veterans organization, founded nationally in 1896. The funds assist with costs of stationing a service officer who is located at the Cleveland Regional VA Office. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$34,321 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

#### **Catholic War Veterans (GRF line item 749501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Catholic War Veterans organization. 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 organization in Ohio was formed in 1945 to serve any and all Ohio veterans. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$66,978 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

#### **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 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. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$65,116 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization serves all combat wounded veterans who received the Purple Heart Medal. The organization has several service officers to assist veterans. 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 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 line item helps to, among other things, pay for general operations,

accounting and legal fees, travel, printing of publications, education and training, conferences, compensation of current officers, and veterans aid activities. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$214,776 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization is the only Vietnam veteran organization chartered by Congress and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. There are 41 chapters in Ohio with more than 3,000 members.

#### **American Legion of Ohio (GRF line item 752501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the American Legion of Ohio organization. The funds are used for the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program, which assists veterans in receiving benefits for which they may be entitled. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$349,189 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization operates and staffs seven offices and has more than 100,000 members statewide. It is Ohio's largest veterans' organization. The organization assists veterans, widows, and dependents in obtaining benefits from governmental entities and other community resources.

#### **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 funds support salaries for service officers and support staff, office equipment, and other programming activities. The organization has previously experienced a reduction in service officers. The intention now is to add two new service officers in Chillicothe and Columbus to better serve veterans statewide. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$332,547 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization has service officers and support staff in Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and Chillicothe, and 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.

#### **Disabled American Veterans (GRF line item 754501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization. The funds help pay for general operating expenses. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$249,836 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization was founded nationally in 1920 and then in Ohio in 1921. It has seven service officers working at all VA medical centers in Ohio, as well as the Columbus VA Clinic. These officers assist the hospitalized veterans with problems regarding medical care and begin claims processing for benefits. The organization is currently implementing a Department Service Office Program which will add an additional three service officers in the Warren, Toledo, and Marietta areas.

Each service officer also coordinates the organization's Department of Ohio Van Transportation Network. This network has 92 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 volunteer and monetary support to the VA medical centers, VA clinics, and both of the veterans homes located in Ohio.

### **Marine Corps League (GRF line item 756501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Marine Corps League organization. These funds pay wages and other operating expenses for service officers. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$133,947 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization consists of 37 detachments and over 2,200 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 Service Officer Program serves veterans of all branches of the military. There are five service officers, three part-time and two full-time, located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Hamilton.

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

This GRF subsidy line item supports the 37th Division Veterans' Association. The funds help pay for a portion of the Executive Director's wages. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$6,868 in each fiscal year.

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.

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars (GRF line item 758501)**

This GRF subsidy line item supports the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or the VFW, organization. The funds are used to solely pay for the salaries of service officers. For this purpose, the budget appropriates \$284,841 in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The organization has represented veterans for over a century and has 375 chapters throughout Ohio with membership totaling more than 68,000. The organization currently has 11 service officers who cover the state. Unable to provide adequate compensation to retain qualified service officers, the organization has closed its offices in Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo. Vacancies exist in the Cleveland regional office and Cincinnati office.

# FY 2016 - FY 2017 Final Appropriation Amounts

# All Fund Groups

## Line Item Detail by Agency

Line Item Detail by Agency			FY 2014	FY 2015	Appropriation FY 2016	FY 2015 to FY 2016 % Change	Appropriation FY 2017	FY 2016 to FY 2017 % Change
			<b>Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>			<b>Version: As Enacted</b>		
<b>VTO Veterans' Organizations</b>								
GRF	743501	American Ex-Prisoners of War	\$ 28,910	\$ 28,910	\$ 28,910	0.00%	\$ 28,910	0.00%
GRF	746501	Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc.	\$ 63,539	\$ 63,539	\$ 63,539	0.00%	\$ 63,539	0.00%
GRF	747501	Korean War Veterans	\$ 57,118	\$ 57,118	\$ 57,118	0.00%	\$ 57,118	0.00%
GRF	748501	Jewish War Veterans	\$ 34,321	\$ 34,321	\$ 34,321	0.00%	\$ 34,321	0.00%
GRF	749501	Catholic War Veterans	\$ 66,978	\$ 66,978	\$ 66,978	0.00%	\$ 66,978	0.00%
GRF	750501	Military Order of the Purple Heart	\$ 65,116	\$ 65,116	\$ 65,116	0.00%	\$ 65,116	0.00%
GRF	751501	Vietnam Veterans of America	\$ 214,776	\$ 214,776	\$ 214,776	0.00%	\$ 214,776	0.00%
GRF	752501	American Legion of Ohio	\$ 349,189	\$ 349,189	\$ 349,189	0.00%	\$ 349,189	0.00%
GRF	753501	AMVETS	\$ 332,475	\$ 332,547	\$ 332,547	0.00%	\$ 332,547	0.00%
GRF	754501	Disabled American Veterans	\$ 249,836	\$ 249,836	\$ 249,836	0.00%	\$ 249,836	0.00%
GRF	756501	Marine Corps League	\$ 133,947	\$ 133,947	\$ 133,947	0.00%	\$ 133,947	0.00%
GRF	757501	37th Division Veterans' Association	\$ 6,868	\$ 6,868	\$ 6,868	0.00%	\$ 6,868	0.00%
GRF	758501	Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$ 284,841	\$ 284,841	\$ 284,841	0.00%	\$ 284,841	0.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,887,914</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Veterans' Organizations Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,887,914</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,986</b>	<b>0.00%</b>