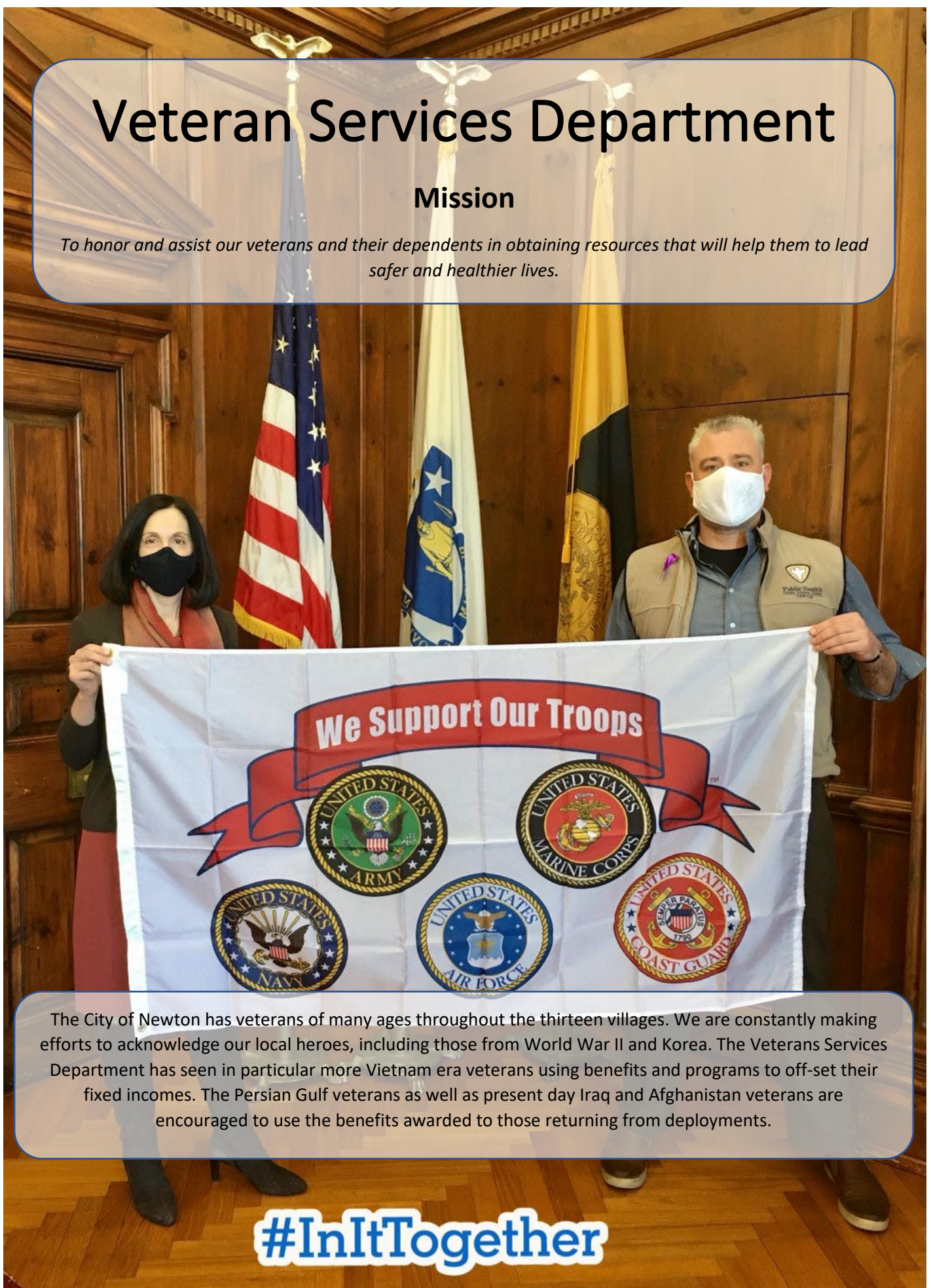


# Veteran Services Department

## Mission

*To honor and assist our veterans and their dependents in obtaining resources that will help them to lead safer and healthier lives.*



The City of Newton has veterans of many ages throughout the thirteen villages. We are constantly making efforts to acknowledge our local heroes, including those from World War II and Korea. The Veterans Services Department has seen in particular more Vietnam era veterans using benefits and programs to off-set their fixed incomes. The Persian Gulf veterans as well as present day Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are encouraged to use the benefits awarded to those returning from deployments.

**#InItTogether**

The Veteran's Services Department executes a prescribed comprehensive program of public assistance and services to veterans and their dependents. The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) takes applications for benefits and for financial and medical assistance to qualified veterans.

The Veterans Service Officer dispenses state-sponsored veterans' benefits and assists veterans and their dependents or survivors in obtaining federal benefits. The VSO acts as the burial agent for the City and arranges proper interment of deceased veterans in accordance with regulations. I participate actively in patriotic and veterans-related events, issues, and organizations.

Fiscal Year 2023 was a challenging year in the City for the Veterans' Service Department because of post-pandemic reintegration guidelines. The honorable Mayor Fuller and I maintained our commitment to work closely with the American Legion Post 440 and the Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Elks to assist and organize the delivery of food to hundreds of resident/veterans and dependents. The American Legion and the City were strong advocates and had a willing body of volunteers continue to place flags on all of the bridge overpasses in Newton.

Key changes that will be represented in the budget are the increase to the funding of all the various ceremonies that take place over the Memorial Day weekend and in preparation for a robust Veterans' Day Observance. As the cost of much of the resources we use increases, so does the cost of proper celebrations, patriotic décor, and marching bands in our annual parade.

Going forward, we will continue to find ways to support appropriate and meaningful

observances and remembrance services annually.

New initiatives that are being brought to action are improving access and interface of technology with an aging veteran population. Also, we are scheduling an event similar to a "town hall symposium" in order to bring in agencies and liaisons from the area to aid and assist in bridging the gap of programs and services between the various veteran populations in the City.

*Seth Bai*

Veterans' Service Director

# Financial and Operating Highlights

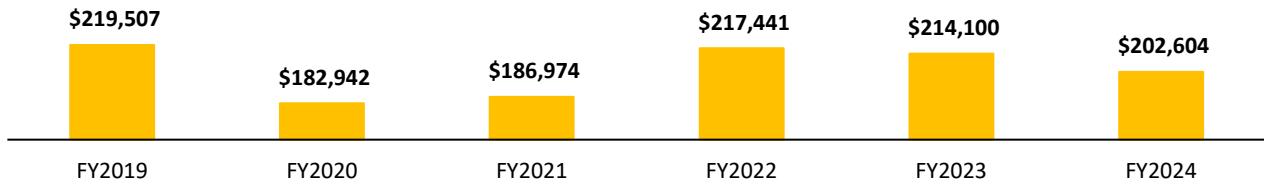
## Financial Highlights

	< -----Actual ----->					Original FY2023	Proposed FY2024
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023		
<b>Expenditure by Department</b>							
Veteran Services	\$ 219,507	\$ 182,942	\$ 186,974	\$ 217,441	\$ 214,100	\$ 202,604	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 219,507</b>	<b>\$ 182,942</b>	<b>\$ 186,974</b>	<b>\$ 217,441</b>	<b>\$ 214,100</b>	<b>\$ 202,604</b>	
<b>% Incr</b>	<b>-35.56%</b>	<b>-16.66%</b>	<b>2.20%</b>	<b>16.29%</b>	<b>-1.54%</b>	<b>-5.37%</b>	

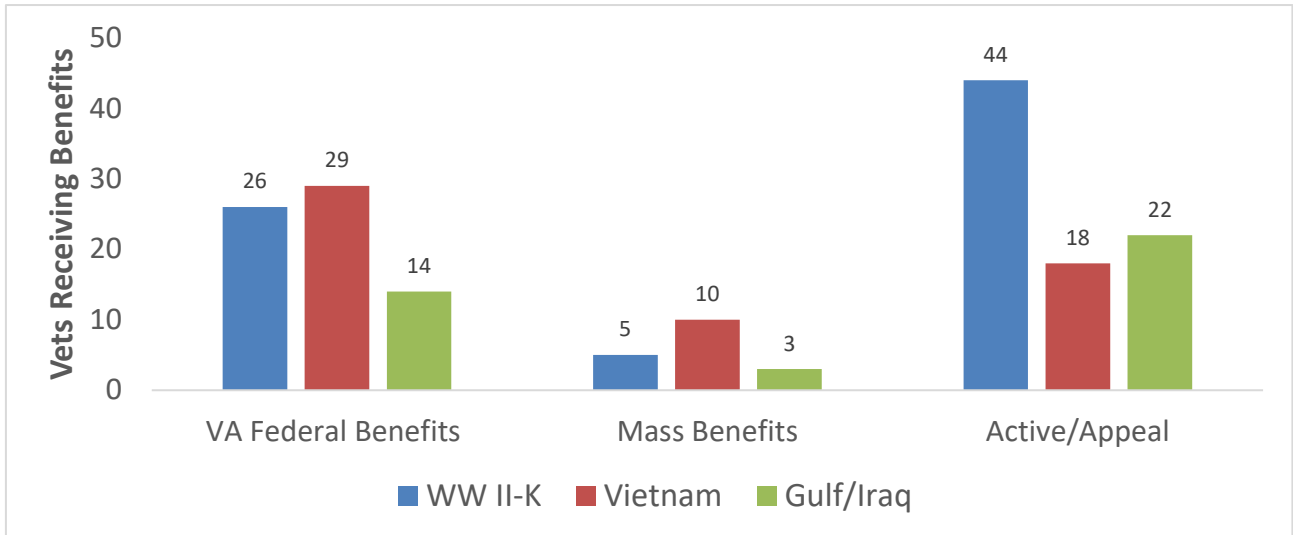
## Personnel

Full-Time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## Total Veterans Expenditures



## Operating Highlights



# Veterans Services Department

## Fiscal Year 2024 Outcomes and Strategies

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### Outcome 1

#### Provide Quality Support Services

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reentry into the workforce. Veterans' Services will work to help our veterans apply and make great use of their entitlements.

Veterans and their dependents in Newton may be qualified for either Federal VA or Massachusetts benefits, rarely both. As Baby-Boomers are retiring, the Generation- X and Millennials are in full mid-life and mid-career shifts entering academia, parenthood, or

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The City of Newton continues to maintain a solid and strong partnership with the American Legion Post 440 and the other veteran-based tenants at the Post 440. The City is adding coverage and presence to veteran awareness activities to spread patriotic themes around Newton's own hosted Flag Day ceremony, Memorial Day, and our Veterans Day observance. We are planning an interactive veteran-centric "Town Hall" symposium in the Fall of 2023 in conjunction with a "Cell Phones for Soldiers" drive.

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### Outcome 2

#### Support Ceremonies, Observances and Events for Veterans.

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There are three lots designated for the interment of Newton resident/veterans at the Newton Cemetery. The main/primary lot was erected in 1950 and is completely full. The second and third lots are still available; yet the lot themselves would benefit from decorative monuments and flowering shrubs to beautify

them. Spring of 2023 Scout troops and students are coordinating with Parks & Rec along with Veterans Services for a civic beautification project at the several memorial parks throughout the city.

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### Outcome 3

#### Provide Monuments and Flag Presence

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### Outcome 4

#### Participate in Newton Civic Engagement Events.

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Veterans Services' mission is to collaborate and engage across several departmental platforms: School Department, Health and Human Services, Senior Services, Newton Fire and Police Departments, Parks & Recreation, and many other civic organizations.

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND  
 DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERANS

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL

	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ORIGINAL 2023	RECOMMENDED 2024	CHANGE 2023 to 2024
<b>VETERANS SUMMARY</b>						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	78,307	80,325	83,928	86,422	88,663	2,241
52 - EXPENSES	103,508	105,490	132,301	126,425	112,650	-13,775
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,127	1,160	1,212	1,253	1,291	38
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>182,942</b>	<b>186,974</b>	<b>217,441</b>	<b>214,100</b>	<b>202,604</b>	<b>-11,496</b>
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FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND  
DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERANS

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ORIGINAL 2023	RECOMMENDED 2024	CHANGE 2023 to 2024
<b>503 - VETERANS</b>						
<b>0150343 - VETERAN SERVICES</b>						
<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	77,557	79,575	83,178	85,672	87,913	2,241
514001 LONGEVITY	750	750	750	750	750	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b>78,307</b>	<b>80,325</b>	<b>83,928</b>	<b>86,422</b>	<b>88,663</b>	<b>2,241</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	45	174	0	250	250	0
531900 TRAINING EXPENSES	0	0	0	250	250	0
534010 TELEPHONE	88	95	87	100	100	0
534100 POSTAGE	1,007	46	85	1,000	500	-500
534200 PRINTING	2,049	0	676	2,000	1,000	-1,000
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	425	491	10	100	100	0
558500 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	127	0	953	250	100	-150
559300 AWARDS & TROPHIES	0	0	0	200	0	-200
559400 FLAGS & BUNTINGS	2,779	8,476	5,156	4,000	4,000	0
570900 VETERAN BENEFITS-REIM	92,282	94,460	103,229	100,000	84,050	-15,950
571000 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	74	0	0	100	100	0
571100 IN-STATE CONFERENCES	338	0	90	600	600	0
571200 REFRESHMENTS/MEALS	579	0	0	1,500	500	-1,000
571600 SPECIAL EVENT EXPENSE	500	0	436	1,000	1,000	0
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	170	20	75	100	25
578200 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	3,215	1,580	21,558	15,000	20,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>103,508</b>	<b>105,490</b>	<b>132,301</b>	<b>126,425</b>	<b>112,650</b>	<b>-13,775</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>						
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	1,127	1,160	1,212	1,253	1,291	38
<b>TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES</b>	<b>182,942</b>	<b>186,974</b>	<b>217,441</b>	<b>214,100</b>	<b>202,604</b>	<b>-11,496</b>
<b>TOTAL VETERANS</b>	<b>182,942</b>	<b>186,974</b>	<b>217,441</b>	<b>214,100</b>	<b>202,604</b>	<b>-11,496</b>