

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 every war-era 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 notes more Vietnam era veterans are using benefits and programs to off-set their fixed incomes.

The Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are encouraged to apply for both federal and state benefits to assist in their transition when returning home from deployments or at end of service.

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 both state and federal regulations. I participate actively in patriotic and veterans-related events, issues, and organizations.

Fiscal Year 2024 was a robust year in the City for the Veterans' Service Department as we currently have 6 generations of veterans within Newton. 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. The American Legion and the City work together in unison to unite a willing body of volunteers to continue placing flags on all of the bridge overpasses in Newton and to assist and organize the delivery of food to hundreds of veterans and their dependents.

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 healthy 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 via technology and inter-departmental collaboration efforts are being brought into action to enhance access and interface with our vast veteran population. Also, we are taking efforts to expand our relationships to invite veteran-centric agencies and liaisons from metro-west 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

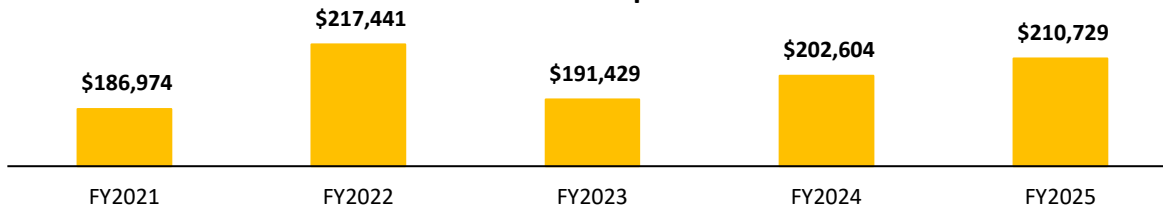
Financial Highlights

	< -----Actual ----->			Original	Proposed
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Expenditure by Department					
Veteran Services	\$ 186,974	\$ 217,441	\$ 191,429	\$ 202,604	\$ 210,729
Total	\$ 186,974	\$ 217,441	\$ 191,429	\$ 202,604	\$ 210,729
% Incr		16.29%	-11.96%	5.84%	4.01%

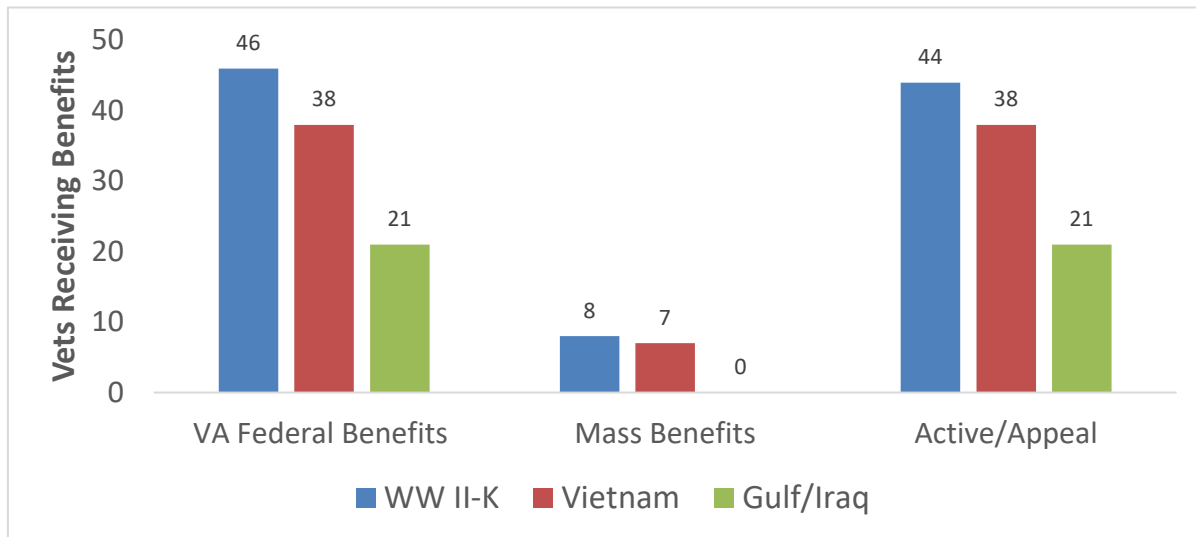
Personnel

Full-Time	1	1	1	1	1
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1	1	1

Total Veterans Expenditures



Operating Highlights



Veterans Services Department

Fiscal Year 2025 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 1

Provide Quality Support Services

Veterans and their dependents in Newton may be qualified for either Federal VA or Massachusetts benefits, rarely both. We will continue to ease the aging process of the “Greatest” and “Silent” Generation simultaneously as Baby-Boomers are retiring and Generation- X and Millennials are in full mid-life and mid-career shifts entering academia, parenthood, or reentry into the workforce. Veterans' Services will work to help our veterans and their dependents apply and make great use of their federal and state entitlements.

Veterans and their dependents in Newton may be qualified for either Federal VA or Massachusetts benefits, rarely both. We will continue to ease the aging process of the “Greatest” and “Silent” Generation simultaneously as Baby-Boomers are retiring

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.

Outcome 2

Support Ceremonies, Observances and Events for Veterans.

Newton Cemetery's veterans 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 2024 Scout troops and students across Newton are coordinating with Veterans' Services and Parks & Rec for a civic beautification project at all the City's memorial parks throughout the villages.

Outcome 3

Provide Monuments and Flag Presence

Veterans Services' annual civic mission is to collaborate and engage across several departmental platforms: School Department, Health and Human Services, Senior Services, Newton Fire and Police Departments and Newton Cultural Awareness. Newton adores our Veterans and their families.

Outcome 4

Participate in Newton Civic Engagement Events.

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
 DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERANS

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL

	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ORIGINAL 2024	RECOMMENDED 2025	CHANGE 2024 to 2025
VETERANS SUMMARY						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	80,325	83,928	86,421	88,663	91,798	3,135
52 - EXPENSES	105,490	132,301	103,760	112,650	117,600	4,950
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,160	1,212	1,248	1,291	1,331	40
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	186,974	217,441	191,429	202,604	210,729	8,125
VETERAN SERVICES						
51 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	80,325	83,928	86,421	88,663	91,798	3,135
52 - EXPENSES	105,490	132,301	103,760	112,650	117,600	4,950
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,160	1,212	1,248	1,291	1,331	40
TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES	186,974	217,441	191,429	202,604	210,729	8,125

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND
DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERANS

**CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL**

	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ORIGINAL 2024	RECOMMENDED 2025	CHANGE 2024 to 2025
503 - VETERANS						
0150343 - VETERAN SERVICES						
PERSONNEL SERVICES						
511001 FULL TIME SALARIES	79,575	83,178	85,671	87,913	90,898	2,985
514001 LONGEVITY	750	750	750	750	900	150
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	80,325	83,928	86,421	88,663	91,798	3,135
EXPENSES						
523000 WATER & SEWER SERVIC	174	0	0	250	250	0
531900 TRAINING EXPENSES	0	0	0	250	250	0
534010 TELEPHONE	95	87	77	100	100	0
534100 POSTAGE	46	85	70	500	500	0
534200 PRINTING	0	676	1,262	1,000	1,000	0
542000 OFFICE SUPPLIES	491	10	7	100	100	0
558500 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	0	953	0	100	100	0
559300 AWARDS & TROPHIES	0	0	200	0	0	0
559400 FLAGS & BUNTINGS	8,476	5,156	4,244	4,000	8,000	4,000
570900 VETERAN BENEFITS-REIM	94,460	103,229	77,413	84,050	85,000	950
571000 VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	0	0	48	100	100	0
571100 IN-STATE CONFERENCES	0	90	766	600	600	0
571200 REFRESHMENTS/MEALS	0	0	0	500	500	0
571600 SPECIAL EVENT EXPENSE	0	436	636	1,000	1,000	0
573000 DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	170	20	449	100	100	0
578200 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	1,580	21,558	18,587	20,000	20,000	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	105,490	132,301	103,760	112,650	117,600	4,950
FRINGE BENEFITS						
57MEDA MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	1,160	1,212	1,248	1,291	1,331	40
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	1,160	1,212	1,248	1,291	1,331	40
TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES	186,974	217,441	191,429	202,604	210,729	8,125
TOTAL VETERANS	186,974	217,441	191,429	202,604	210,729	8,125