

# Veteran Services Department

## Mission

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



The City of Newton has veterans of many ages throughout the thirteen villages. We are constantly making efforts to acknowledge our local heroes from World War II and Korea. The Veterans Services Department has seen in particular an influx of 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 servicemen and women returning from deployments.



The Veteran's Services Department executes a prescribed comprehensive program of public assistance and services to veterans and their dependents. The Veterans' Service Officer 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 to regulations. I participate actively in patriotic and veterans-related events, issues and organizations.

Fiscal Year 2020 was another great year in the City for the Veterans' Service Department. The honorable Mayor Fuller and I bolstered our relationship with the Elks as we expanded participation and attendance at our annual Flag Day ceremony. We worked closely with the American Legion Post 440 and the Sons of the American Legion to assist and organize the "Call to Service" assembly for our graduating high school students.

This past fall the Sons of the American Legion were a strong advocate and willing body of volunteers placing flags on all of the bridge overpasses in Newton. Also this past years' Flag Day ceremony added a new featured event following the traditional ceremony held at the Post 440. We have begun a flag retirement ceremony to show our community how to properly dispose of the American flag. Notably, we relocated the monthly Open House for the veterans from the senior center to the American Legion Post 440.

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. 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 best optimize the budget allocations 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. We are bringing in agencies and liaisons from the area to aid and assist in bridging the electronic technology gap between the various aging veterans population in the City.

*Seth Bai*

Veterans Officer

# VETERAN SERVICES

Veterans' Services Officer  
Seth Bai

# Financial and Operating Highlights

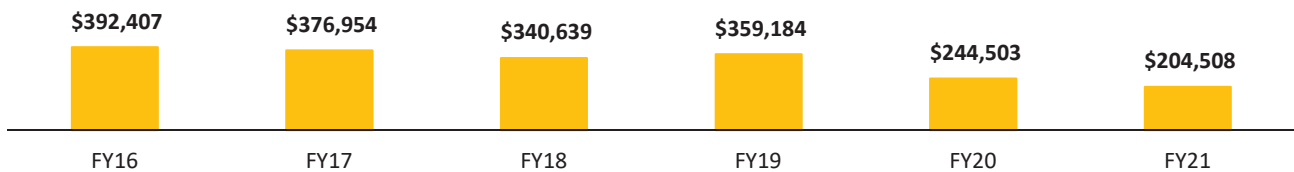
## Financial Highlights

	Actual			Adj Budget		Proposed
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
<b>Expenditure by Department</b>						
Veteran Services	\$ 392,407	\$ 376,954	\$ 340,639	\$ 359,184	\$ 244,503	\$ 204,508
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 392,407</b>	<b>\$ 376,954</b>	<b>\$ 340,639</b>	<b>\$ 359,184</b>	<b>\$ 244,503</b>	<b>\$ 204,508</b>
<b>% Incr</b>		-3.94%	-9.63%	5.44%	-31.93%	-16.36%

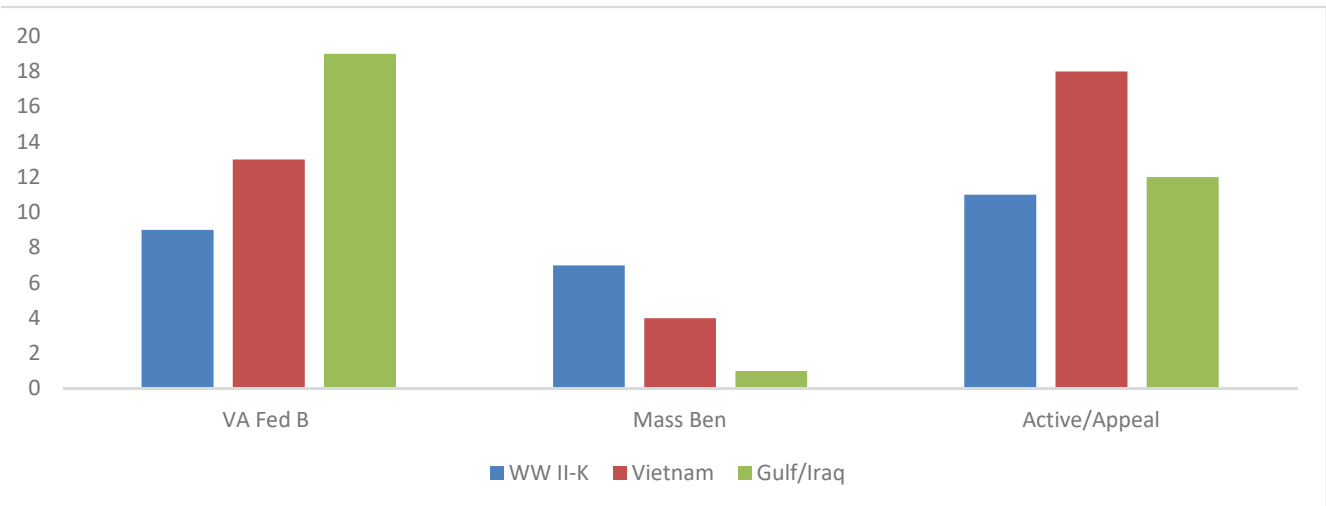
## Personnel

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



# Veteran Services

## Fiscal Year 2021 Outcomes and Strategies

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### Outcome 1

#### Participate in Newton Civic Engagement Events

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In support of the Mayor's mission to collaborate with other City departments the Veteran Services Dept. will support civic engagements across several platforms: School Department, Health and Human Services, Senior Services, the Council on Aging and all other veterans' organizations.

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The City of Newton has entered into a solid and strong partnership with the American Legion Post 440 and the other veteran-based organizations that meet at the Post 440 in Nonantum. Planning has begun on a new memorial monument for the current day veterans returning from the battles and operations over the past fifteen years. The city is adding to the additional activities to spread patriotic themes around Flag Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

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### Outcome 2

#### Revitalize Existing Ceremonies, Observances and Events

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There are currently 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 are absent of monuments to identify them and the flag poles require

work as well.

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### Outcome 3

#### Finalize the Proper Installment of Monuments and Flag Presence at the Newton Cemetery

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### Outcome 4

#### Provide Quality Support Services

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Veterans and dependents in Newton may be qualified for either Federal VA or Massachusetts benefits, rarely both. As Baby-Boomers are retiring and Millennials are entering the workforce we will work to help our veterans know their entitlements.

FUND: 0001 - GENERAL FUND  
 DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERAN SERVICES DEPT

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL

	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	ACTUAL 2019	ORIGINAL 2020	RECOMMENDED 2021	CHANGE 2020 to 2021
<b>VETERANS SUMMARY</b>						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	70,718	72,554	74,727	78,328	80,329	2,001
52 - EXPENSES	305,264	267,033	143,697	165,050	120,150	-44,900
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,021	1,052	1,084	1,125	4,030	2,905
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>377,004</b>	<b>340,639</b>	<b>219,507</b>	<b>244,503</b>	<b>204,508</b>	<b>-39,994</b>
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CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET  
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL	RECOMMENDED	CHANGE
		FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	2020	2021	2020 to 2021
<b>503 - VETERANS</b>							
<b>0150343 - VETERAN SERVICES</b>							
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>							
511001	FULL TIME SALARIES	70,718	72,554	74,727	77,578	79,579	2,001
514001	LONGEVITY	0	0	0	750	750	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>		<b>70,718</b>	<b>72,554</b>	<b>74,727</b>	<b>78,328</b>	<b>80,329</b>	<b>2,001</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
523000	WATER & SEWER SERVIC	635	74	330	500	500	0
531000	BACKFLOW PREV INSPEC	50	0	0	0	0	0
531900	TRAINING EXPENSES	0	0	25	0	0	0
534010	TELEPHONE	68	109	117	115	115	0
534100	POSTAGE	7,103	5,079	5,134	7,500	7,500	0
534200	PRINTING	3,763	2,773	2,843	3,500	3,500	0
542000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	259	42	111	100	100	0
558500	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	0	949	0	250	250	0
559300	AWARDS & TROPHIES	210	210	0	210	210	0
559400	FLAGS & BUNTINGS	3,843	2,443	2,683	4,000	4,000	0
570900	VETERAN BENEFITS-REIM	274,876	235,697	111,495	130,000	100,000	-30,000
571000	VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	328	28	0	300	300	0
571100	IN-STATE CONFERENCES	532	618	0	500	600	100
571200	REFRESHMENTS/MEALS	1,226	1,541	1,322	2,000	2,000	0
571600	SPECIAL EVENT EXPENSE	0	650	971	1,000	1,000	0
573000	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	20	50	10	75	75	0
578200	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	12,350	16,770	18,655	15,000	0	-15,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>305,264</b>	<b>267,033</b>	<b>143,697</b>	<b>165,050</b>	<b>120,150</b>	<b>-44,900</b>
<b>FRINGE BENEFITS</b>							
57MEDA	MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	1,021	1,052	1,084	1,125	1,165	40
57OPEB	OPEB CONTRIBUTION	0	0	0	0	2,865	2,865
<b>TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS</b>		<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>2,905</b>
<b>TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES</b>		<b>377,004</b>	<b>340,639</b>	<b>219,507</b>	<b>244,503</b>	<b>204,508</b>	<b>-39,994</b>
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