

Veteran Services Department

Mission

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 2019 was another great year in the City for the Veterans' Service Department. We had new executive leadership in the administration beginning with our new Mayor, Ruthanne Fuller. 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. They expanded their efforts to assist the City to rededicate the bridge on St James Street going over the Mass Turnpike. Also this past years' Veterans 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 include founding a new marker at the veteran's lot at the Newton cemetery, the new relocation of the veterans' center open house back to the American Legion Post 440, and the establishing of a new memorial at the Washington Street Veterans' Memorial Park. We are also working with the Sons of the America Legion to recognize Newton's veterans individually on Memorial Day.

Seth Bai

Veterans Officer

VETERAN SERVICES

Veterans' Services Officer
Seth Bai

Financial and Operating Highlights

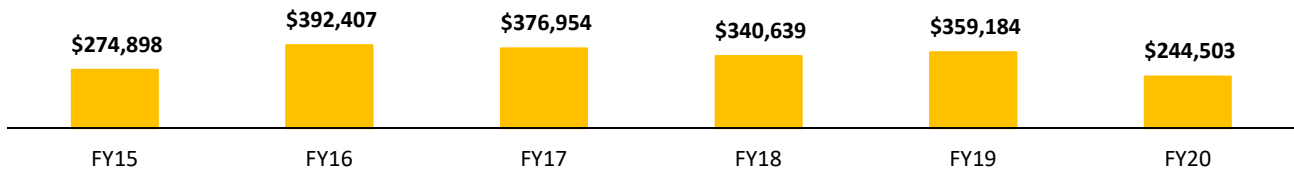
Financial Highlights

	Actual				-<Adj Budget->		-<Proposed->	
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020		
Expenditure by Department								
Veteran Services	\$ 274,898	\$ 392,407	\$ 376,954	\$ 340,639	\$ 359,184	\$ 244,503		
Total	\$ 274,898	\$ 392,407	\$ 376,954	\$ 340,639	\$ 359,184	\$ 244,503		
% Incr		42.75%	-3.94%	-9.63%	5.44%	-31.93%		

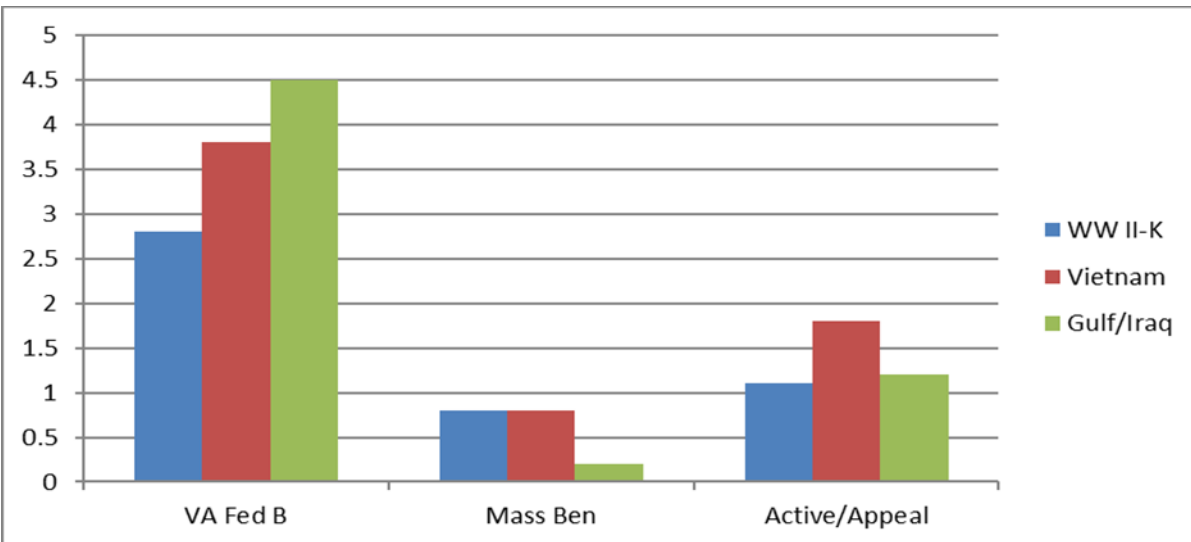
Personnel

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

Total Veterans Expenditures



Operating Highlights



Veteran Services

Fiscal Year 2020 Outcomes and Strategies

Outcome 1

Participate in Newton Civic Engagement Events

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.

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.

Outcome 2

Revitalize Existing Ceremonies, Observances and Events

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.

Outcome 3

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

Outcome 4

Provide Quality Support Services

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

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
 DEPARTMENT LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL

	ACTUAL 2017	ACTUAL 2018	AMENDED 2019	YTD 4/11/2019	RECOMMENDED 2020	CHANGE 2019 to 2020
VETERAN SERVICES DEPT SUMMARY						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	70,718	72,554	74,732	57,482	78,328	3,596
52 - EXPENSES	305,214	267,033	283,369	103,637	165,050	-118,319
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,021	1,052	1,084	834	1,125	41
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	376,954	340,639	359,184	161,953	244,503	-114,682
VETERAN SERVICES						
51 - PERSONAL SERVICES	70,718	72,554	74,732	57,482	78,328	3,596
52 - EXPENSES	305,214	267,033	283,369	103,637	165,050	-118,319
57 - FRINGE BENEFITS	1,021	1,052	1,084	834	1,125	41
TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES	376,954	340,639	359,184	161,953	244,503	-114,682

FUND: 01 - GENERAL FUND
DEPARTMENT: 503 - VETERAN SERVICES DEPT

CITY OF NEWTON BUDGET
DEPARTMENTAL DETAIL

		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	AMENDED	YTD	RECOMMENDED	CHANGE
		FY2017	FY2018	2019	4/11/2019	2020	2019 to 2020
503 - VETERAN SERVICES DEPT							
0150301 - VETERAN SERVICES							
PERSONAL SERVICES							
511001	FULL TIME SALARIES	70,718	72,554	74,732	57,482	77,578	2,846
514001	LONGEVITY	0	0	0	0	750	750
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		70,718	72,554	74,732	57,482	78,328	3,596
EXPENSES							
5230	WATER & SEWER SERVIC	635	74	750	305	500	-250
5319	TRAINING EXPENSES	0	0	25	25	0	-25
53401	TELEPHONE	68	109	100	66	115	15
5341	POSTAGE	7,103	5,079	8,834	4,141	7,500	-1,334
5342	PRINTING	3,763	2,773	4,500	2,256	3,500	-1,000
5420	OFFICE SUPPLIES	259	42	100	0	100	0
5585	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	0	949	0	0	250	250
5593	AWARDS & TROPHIES	210	210	0	0	210	210
5594	FLAGS & BUNTINGS	3,843	2,443	4,000	0	4,000	0
5709	VETERAN BENEFITS-REIM	274,876	235,697	250,000	92,799	130,000	-120,000
5710	VEHICLE USE REIMBURSE	328	28	300	0	300	0
5711	IN-STATE CONFERENCES	532	618	475	0	500	25
5712	REFRESHMENTS/MEALS	1,226	1,541	1,210	1,014	2,000	790
5716	SPECIAL EVENT EXPENSE	0	650	1,000	721	1,000	0
5730	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	20	50	75	10	75	0
5782	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE	12,350	16,770	12,000	2,300	15,000	3,000
TOTAL EXPENSES		305,214	267,033	283,369	103,637	165,050	-118,319
FRINGE BENEFITS							
57MEDA	MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	1,021	1,052	1,084	834	1,125	41
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS		1,021	1,052	1,084	834	1,125	41
TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES		376,954	340,639	359,184	161,953	244,503	-114,682
TOTAL VETERAN SERVICES DEPT		376,954	340,639	359,184	161,953	244,503	-114,682