

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

KLRD Analyst: Pratt
KLRD Summary: Vol. 2, Pg. 936

DOB Analyst: Schafer
GBR Analysis: Vol. 2, Pg. 308

Executive Summary

Summary of Total Expenditures, FY 2023 – FY 2027						
	SGF	SIBF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2023 Actual	\$ 10,839,461	\$ 2,368,850	\$ 17,841,793	\$ 31,050,104	375.0	
FY 2024 Actual	14,495,331	4,923,952	18,973,058	38,392,341	376.0	
FY 2025 Actual	15,241,799	1,614,566	19,570,347	36,426,712	376.0	
FY 2026						
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 17,928,861	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 40,955,232	\$ 79,699,281	376.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	16,861,956	20,815,188	22,752,362	60,429,506	376.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	16,216,479	20,815,188	22,752,362	59,784,029	376.0	
House Committee of the Whole	16,861,956	20,815,188	22,752,362	60,429,506	376.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	16,377,032	20,815,188	22,752,362	59,944,582	376.0	
Legislative Approved	16,579,414	20,815,188	22,752,362	60,146,964	376.0	
Governor's Recommendation	16,861,956	20,815,188	22,752,362	60,429,506	376.0	
FY 2027						
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 16,280,005	\$ 2,612,318	\$ 24,406,651	\$ 43,298,974	376.0	
Agency Request	16,192,505	5,853,653	21,165,316	43,211,474	377.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	15,916,898	5,853,653	21,165,316	42,935,867	376.0	
House Committee of the Whole	15,994,247	5,853,653	21,165,316	43,013,216	376.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	16,530,005	5,853,653	21,165,316	43,548,974	376.0	
Legislative Approved	16,311,916	5,853,653	21,301,247	43,466,816	376.0	
Governor's Recommendation	15,994,247	5,853,653	27,018,969	43,013,216	376.0	

The Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVs) provides veterans and veterans' families in Kansas with advice and assistance in obtaining veterans' benefits and services that are intended to improve the quality of their lives. Aside from assisting veterans in obtaining federal and state benefits, including internment benefits at one of the four State Veterans' Cemeteries, the KOVS operates two veterans' homes that provide long-term and domiciliary care to veterans and, on occasion, family of veterans. In FY 2025, the agency's Veterans Services Program assisted in submitting 17,769 claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), resulting in more than \$525.0 million being paid to Kansas veterans.

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

FY 2026

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2026						
	SGF	SIBF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 17,928,861	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 40,955,232	\$ 79,699,281	376.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	16,861,956	20,815,188	22,752,362	60,429,506	376.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)						
Change from Agency Revised Estimate	\$ (645,477)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (645,477)	-	
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 16,216,479	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 22,752,362	\$ 59,784,029	376.0	
House Committees						
Social Services Budget	\$ 645,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 645,477	-	
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – House Change from SBC	\$ 645,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 645,477	-	
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 16,861,956	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 22,752,362	\$ 60,429,506	376.0	
Senate Committees						
Public Health and Welfare	\$ 160,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,553	-	
Ways and Means	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC	\$ 160,553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,553	-	
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 16,377,032	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 22,752,362	\$ 59,944,582	376.0	
Legislative Approved						
Conference Committee	\$ 645,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 645,477	-	
Governor's Vetoes	-	-	-	-	-	
Veto Overrides	-	-	-	-	-	
Certifications	(282,542)	-	-	(282,542)	-	
Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC	\$ 362,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 362,935	-	
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 16,579,414	\$ 20,815,188	\$ 22,752,362	\$ 60,146,964	376.0	

Agency

The **agency** requests a revised estimate of \$60.4 million, including \$16.9 million SGF and \$20.8 million SIBF, in expenditures and 376.0 FTE in FY 2026. This is an increase of \$2.1 million, or 3.5 percent, above the amount previously approved by the 2025 Legislature in FY 2026. This is due entirely to the agency budgeting for increased special revenue fund expenditures due to the cost of care at the Kansas Soldiers' Home, as well as the expansion of the in-ground casket and cremation garden at the Winfield Cemetery in FY 2026.

Although not considered a change from the approved amount, the agency carried forward \$19.3 million in appropriated funds from FY 2025 into FY 2026. As such, the reappropriated funds account for 33.0 percent of the approved amount in FY 2026.

Specifically, \$1.1 million in unspent SGF moneys reappropriated from FY 2025 into FY 2026 for the following programs and projects:

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

- **Operating Expenditures (\$492,310):** Of this amount, \$448,706 reappropriated due to salary and wage savings from unfilled positions. The agency indicates these moneys will be used for moving-related expenses when the Administration Office relocates to the Landon State Office Building in February 2026. The remaining \$43,604 in reappropriated SGF moneys is due to unencumbered funds that have since been expended for their intended purposes in FY 2026.
- **State Veterans' Cemeteries – R&R Projects (\$427,846):** These funds reappropriated because several rehabilitation and repair projects at the Kansas State Veterans' Cemeteries were in the planning stage and were unable to be committed to prior to the end of FY 2025. The agency plans to move forward on these projects in FY 2026.
- **Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP) Service Grant (\$162,998):** Of this amount, \$150,000 reappropriated from FY 2024 into FY 2025 due to the agency not knowing whether it would receive \$150,000 in enhancement funding until the end of FY 2025. According to the agency, neither the American Legion nor the Veterans of Foreign Wars expended the funds in FY 2025 due to the veterans' service organizations (VSOs) having already finalized their budget estimates for FY 2025 by the time 2024 SB 28 was signed into law. The agency states that both VSOs plan to use their allotted \$75,000 each in FY 2026. The remaining \$12,998 was reappropriated from FY 2025 into FY 2026, though the funds have already been expended by the VFW to reimburse their July invoice in FY 2026.

Similarly, \$18.2 million in unspent SIBF moneys reappropriated from FY 2025 into FY 2026 for the following projects:

- **New Topeka Veterans' Home (\$13.7 million):** Funding for the new Veterans' Home in Topeka was reappropriated due to the agency awaiting construction grant funding from the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). The federal grant would provide the agency with 65.0 percent of the funding necessary to complete the project. The 2023 Legislature previously appropriated \$17.2 million, or 35.0 percent of the total cost, to construct the new Home in Topeka, Kansas.
- **Soldiers' Home and Veterans' Home R&R Projects (\$3.4 million):** Funding for rehabilitation and repair projects at the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH) and the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH) was reappropriated due to the lack of contractors near Fort Dodge and Winfield. The agency states there have been many back-and-forth conversations with contractors to secure the most reasonable bids, but most contractors in the areas choose to take on larger projects in nearby cities.
- **KSH Demolition of Structures (\$798,164):** Funding for the demolition of the Junior Officers Quarters and Walt Hall at the KSH on Fort Dodge was appropriated in FY 2025, though a proviso required that expenditures be made only to preserve or stabilize the structures. Since then, the agency has been in communication with the Kansas State Historical Society and local organizations regarding the transfer of the buildings, which is why the funds reappropriated into FY 2026.
- **State Veterans' Cemeteries (\$282,696):** Funding for projects at the State Veterans' Cemeteries was reappropriated from FY 2025 into FY 2026 due to the agency attempting to find more cost-effective ways to both (a) install doors on the committal shelters at the Fort Dodge and WaKeeney Veterans' Cemeteries, and (b) construct an additional storage/shop building for the Fort Dodge Veterans' Cemetery.

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency's revised estimate in FY 2026, with the following adjustments:

1. Delete \$484,924 SGF in reappropriated operating expenditures in FY 2026.
2. Delete \$160,553 SGF in reappropriated expenditures for the VCAP Service Grant in FY 2026.

House Committees

House Committee on Social Services Budget

The **House Committee on Social Services Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$484,924 SGF in reappropriated operating expenditures in FY 2026.
2. Add \$160,553 SGF in reappropriated expenditures for the VCAP Service Grant in FY 2026.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee on Appropriations** concurs with the House Budget Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the House Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

The **Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$160,553 SGF in reappropriated expenditures for the VCAP Service Grant in FY 2026.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$484,924 SGF in reappropriated operating expenditures in FY 2026.
2. Add \$160,553 SGF in reappropriated expenditures for the VCAP Service Grant in FY 2026.

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustment which was certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Delete \$282,542 SGF to eliminate funding for positions which have been vacant for at least 60 calendar days in FY 2026.

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

FY 2027

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2027						
	SGF	SIBF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 16,280,005	\$ 2,612,318	\$ 24,406,651	\$ 43,298,974	376.0	
Agency Request	16,192,505	5,853,653	21,165,316	43,211,474	377.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)						
Change from Agency Request	\$ (275,607)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (275,607)	(1.0)	
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 15,916,898	\$ 5,853,653	\$ 21,165,316	\$ 42,935,867	376.0	
House Committees						
Social Services Budget	\$ 77,349	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,349	-	
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – House Change from SBC	\$ 77,349	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,349	-	
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 15,994,247	\$ 5,853,653	\$ 21,165,316	\$ 43,013,216	376.0	
Senate Committees						
Public Health and Welfare	\$ 113,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113,107	-	
Ways and Means	500,000	-	-	500,000	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC	\$ 613,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 613,107	-	
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 16,530,005	\$ 5,853,653	\$ 21,165,316	\$ 43,548,974	376.0	
Legislative Approved						
Conference Committee	\$ 363,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 363,107	-	
Governor's Vetoes	-	-	-	-	-	
Veto Overrides	-	-	-	-	-	
Certifications	31,911	-	135,931	167,842	-	
Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC	\$ 395,018	\$ -	\$ 135,931	\$ 530,949	-	
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 16,311,916	\$ 5,853,653	\$ 21,301,247	\$ 43,466,816	376.0	

Agency

The **agency** requests \$43.2 million, including \$16.2 million SGF and \$5.9 million SIBF, in expenditures, and 377.0 FTE for FY 2027. This is an increase of \$4.1 million, or 10.5 percent, and 1.0 FTE above the amount previously approved by the 2025 Legislature in FY 2026.

Specifically, the agency requests an increase of \$397,454 SGF for FY 2027. Of this amount, \$121,847 SGF is due to rate changes for employer contributions to fringe benefits for FY 2027. The remaining amount is due to the agency's enhancement requests for the following three items:

- General Counsel Position (\$162,500);
- Increased Rent at the Landon State Office Building (\$77,349); and
- IT Infrastructure Upgrades (\$35,758).

Similarly, the agency requests an increase of \$3.2 million SIBF, for a total appropriation of \$5.8 million SIBF, for FY 2027. The majority of the funding (\$4.2 million) would go toward renovating the Bleckley Hall dining room and the Holly kitchen at the KVH, because those areas have not been updated

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

since the original design in 1966. Additional funds would go toward replacing the sidewalk and adding a pedestrian barrier between Timmerman Hall and Donlon Hall at the KVH (\$354,751), as well as replacing the flooring between Timmerman Hall and Bleckley Hall at the KVH (\$54,895) for FY 2027. Lastly, any remaining funds would go toward constructing a family bathroom near the committal shelter at the Fort Dodge Veterans' Cemetery, though the agency expects this project to be partially offset by a decrease in expenditures for rehabilitation and repair projects at the KSH for FY 2027.

Finally, the agency requests an increase of \$469,082 in special revenue funds, primarily federal reimbursement funds, for the cost of patient care at the KSH and the KVH for FY 2027.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency request for FY 2027, with the following adjustments:

1. Delete \$162,500 SGF and 1.0 FTE position to not create or fund one General Counsel Position for FY 2027.
2. Delete \$77,349 SGF to not fund the increased cost of rent at the Landon State Office Building for FY 2027.
3. Delete \$35,758 SGF to not fund IT infrastructure upgrades for FY 2027.

House Committees

House Committee on Social Services Budget

The **House Committee on Social Services Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$77,349 SGF to fund the increased cost of rent at the Landon State Office Building for FY 2027.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee on Appropriations** concurs with the House Budget Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the House Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

The **Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$77,349 SGF to fund the increased cost of rent at the Landon State Office Building for FY 2027.
2. Add \$35,758 SGF to fund IT infrastructure upgrades for FY 2027.

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Budget Committee Report

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$500,000 SGF for the Veterans Claims Assistance Program Service Grant for FY 2027, provided that expenditures be made to increase the pay of Veteran Service Officers of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for FY 2027.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$77,349 SGF to fund the increased cost of rent at the Landon State Office Building for FY 2027.
2. Add \$35,758 SGF to fund IT infrastructure upgrades for FY 2027.
3. Add \$250,000 SGF for the Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP) Service Grant for FY 2027, provided that expenditures be made to increase the pay of Veteran Service Officers of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for FY 2027.
4. Add language to require the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to provide a report to the Legislature regarding the VCAP Service Grant for FY 2027.

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustments which were certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Add \$234,187, including \$98,256 SGF, to implement the Executive Branch pay plan approved by the 2026 Legislature and certified by the State Finance Council for FY 2027.
2. Delete \$66,345 SGF to lapse 1.5 percent of state operations funded from the SGF for FY 2027. This lapse does not apply to SGF-financed operating expenditures for authorized contractual services, specific projects, or an identified program or entity.