

Winnebago County Veterans Assistance Commission
FY2024 Budget Book Submission

Tax Levy Requirement:

Tax Levy Calculation	\$ 2,022	\$ 2,023	\$ 2,024
.02% of EAV			\$ 1,280,000
Reserved funds			
Projected outlays (Aug-Sep)			\$ 205,000
IGA required 25%			\$ 320,000
Vehicle Recapitalization			\$ 164,780
Assistance Payment revolving account			\$ 100,000
			\$ 789,780
Unobligated Funds			
Funds remaining in 0181 Veteran's Assistance Fund			\$ 200,000
VWC Funds in Illinois Bank and Trust (less projected FY23 outlays)			\$ 390,567
			\$ 590,567
Tax Levy	\$ 655,000	\$ 652,000	\$ 689,433

The supervisor of general assistance or the county board shall provide such sums of money as may be just and necessary to be drawn by the commander, quartermaster or commandant of any veteran service organization, in the city or town, or the superintendent of any Veterans' Assistance Commission of the county, upon the recommendation of the assistance committee of that veteran service organization or Veterans' Assistance Commission. (330 ILCS 45/2):

Funding for Veterans Assistance Commissions may be derived from 3 sources, if applicable:

- (i) a tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code;
- (ii) funds from the county general corporate fund; and
- (iii) State funds from the Department of Human Services.

The minimum amount to be provided annually to Veterans Assistance Commissions is provided in Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the delegates of the County Veterans Assistance Commission determine that a lesser amount covers the just and necessary sums.

Per the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/5-2006): The county board of each county having a population of less than 3 million in which there is a Veterans Assistance Commission as provided in Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act may levy a tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value annually on all taxable property of the county, for the purpose of providing assistance to military veterans and their families pursuant to such Act.

The proceeds of any tax so levied shall be used exclusively for the assistance purposes authorized thereunder, and a portion thereof may be expended for the salaries of any officers or employees of the Veterans Assistance Commission, for the authorized reimbursement of any officer or employee of the Veterans Assistance Commission, as provided in Section 10 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act, or for any other expenses incident to the administration of such assistance.

The **tax shall be separate from all other taxes which the county is authorized to levy** on the aggregate valuation of the property within the county and shall not be included in any tax limitation of the rate upon which taxes are required to be extended but shall be excluded therefrom and in addition thereto. The tax shall be levied and collected in like manner as the general taxes of the county, and, when collected, shall be paid into a special fund in the county treasury¹ and used only as herein authorized, or disbursed from the county treasury of a county in which a properly organized Veterans Assistance Commission is authorized under Section 3-11008 of this Code.

Per the Illinois Public Aid Code. (305 ILCS 5/12-21.13) : In a county of less than 3 million population in which there is created a County Veterans Assistance Commission, the county shall levy for assistance to military veterans and their families, within the time that such levy is authorized to be made, a tax of an amount which, when added to the unobligated balance available for such purpose at the close of the preceding fiscal year **will equal .02% of the last known assessed value of the taxable property in the county**, or which will equal .03% of such assessed value if such higher amount is authorized by the electors of the county, as provided in Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code.

If, however, at the latest date in the year on which the aforesaid taxes are authorized to be levied there is in the unobligated balance of the local governmental unit an amount equal to .10%, or .02% in the case of Veterans' Assistance, of the last known total equalized value of all taxable property in the governmental unit, then no tax need be levied in that year in order for the local governmental unit to qualify for State funds.

In determining the amount of the unobligated balance which is to be applied in producing the required levy for receipt of State funds, or which is to be applied in determining whether a tax levy is required, there shall be deducted from the gross unobligated balance of funds available at the close of the preceding fiscal year the total amount of State funds allocated to the governmental unit during that year and the total amount of any monies transferred to a township's general town fund under Section 235-20 of the Township Code during that year, and only the remainder shall be considered in determining the amount of the deficiency needed to produce an amount equal to the qualifying levy for the current year.

County funding:

Budget Requirement	
43190 - VACWC Operations (Other Professional Services)	\$ 801,547
43991 - Total Veterans Assistance Payments	\$ 478,453
Total Budget:	\$ 1,280,000
Unobligated fund balance (est. 9/30/2023)	\$ 590,567
Funds required in FY 2024	\$ 689,433

The designated superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of the county shall, under the direction of the Commission, have charge of and maintain an office in the county building or a central location within the county, to be used solely by the Commission for providing the just, necessary, and needed services mandated by law.

¹ 0181 (48100) - Veterans Assistance Fund

The county shall provide for the funding of the office and provide all necessary furnishings, supplies, and services as passed by the county board in its annual appropriation, and the county shall provide or fund services, including, but not limited to, human resources and payroll support; information technology services and equipment; telephone services and equipment; printing services and equipment; postage costs; and liability insurance. Any litigation or legal settlement that has a financial impact to the county is subject to the approval of the county board.

The county shall also provide to the employees of the Commission all benefits available to county employees, including, but not limited to, benefits offered through the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund or any other applicable county retirement fund; health, life, and dental insurance; and workers compensation insurance. Employer contributions and costs for these benefits, services, and coverages may come from Commission funds. Counties not currently providing benefits to Commission employees must comply with this subsection within 90 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

The county board shall, in any county where a Veterans Assistance Commission is organized, in addition to sums appropriated for these just, necessary, and needed services as provided by law and approved by the Commission under this Act, appropriate such additional sums, upon recommendation of the Veterans Assistance Commission, to properly compensate, in accordance with the requirements of subsection (g) of Section 9 and subsection (e) of this Section, the officers and employees required to administer such assistance. The county board shall also provide funds to the Commission to reimburse the superintendent, officers, delegates and employees for certain expenses which are approved by the Commission. The superintendent and other employees shall be employees of the Veterans Assistance Commission, and no provision in this Section or elsewhere in this Act shall be construed to mean that they are employees of the county.

It should be noted that this reduction in annual funding is based on the current unobligated fund balance held by the VAC in accounts at Illinois Bank & Trust. This budget both reduces that balance in FY24 and rebuilds the Fund Equity to the 25% (three-month) level as outlined in the county budget policy and our intergovernmental agreement. This reduction is a one-time budget action. Ultimately, in FY25 and beyond, the VAC will budget towards the .02% EAV established in the public aid code.

State Funds:

The Military Veterans Assistance Act specifies that “Veterans Assistance Commission shall be in charge of the administration of any benefits provided under Articles VI (General Assistance) and IX (Other Social Services) of the Illinois Public Aid Code for military veterans and their families.” (P.A. 102-732). This provision has not been implemented in Winnebago County and the Veterans Assistance Commission currently receives no funding from the State of Illinois. In FY24, the VAC will work with local organizations currently executing these programs as well as county, local, and state governmental bodies to determine if and how we can leverage state resources to best serve veterans in Winnebago county.

Other funding:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) provides safe and reliable transportation to Veterans who require assistance traveling to and from VA health care facilities and authorized non-VA health care appointments. VTS partners with the VAC to serve Veterans’

transportation needs. The VA subsidizes the operation of two vehicles. One van is completely funded by the VA (GSA Vehicle) and the other is a van co-purchased by the VAC and the Disabled American Veterans Department of Illinois. The VAC coordinates with local volunteers to provide transportation to veterans in Winnebago county to the VA medical center in Madison, WI.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is also responsible for accrediting VAC staff as Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) and provides access to systems necessary to represent veterans filing claims or seeking access to VA programs. A primary goal in supporting veterans is to move them off of locally funded assistance by getting them access to better benefits available from federal agencies like the VA and HUD.

Attachment:

Detailed Budget Information

Insurance Expenses

Bond Insurance	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	
Business Liability Insurance	\$	3,000	\$	4,000	\$	4,000	Actual costs
Business Owners Insurance	\$	600	\$	600	\$	600	
Business Owners Insurance (Workers Comp)	\$	2,500	\$	2,500	\$	2,500	
Healthcare	\$	20,740	\$	30,000	\$	50,000	Assumes some staff transitions to county plan as outlined in MVAA
Total Insurance Costs	\$	26,990	\$	37,250	\$	57,250	

Marketing

Advertising/PR	\$	4,000	\$	2,500	\$	6,500	
Website/Social Media	\$	-	\$	3,500	\$	3,500	
Other Marketing	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,787	
Total Marketing Costs	\$	4,000	\$	6,000	\$	18,787	

VACWC Contractual Expenses

Audit	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,000	
Professional Consulting	\$	10,000	\$	12,000	\$	20,000	
Quickbooks Payroll Fees	\$	2,500	\$	2,500	\$	3,000	
VetPro & VetraSpec	\$	1,300	\$	1,300	\$	1,500	
Total VACWC Contractual Expenses	\$	13,800	\$	15,800	\$	39,500	

VACWC Direct Veterans Assistance

Emergency Assistance	\$	7,000	\$	7,553	\$	-	Moved to revolving fund
Personal Care Items	\$	28,000	\$	30,212	\$	-	Moved to revolving fund
RMTD Passes	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	Moved to revolving fund
Other	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	Moved to revolving fund/Account 43991
Total VACWC Direct Veterans Assistance	\$	35,000	\$	37,765	\$	-	

43190 - VACWC Operations (Other Professional Services) \$ 155,080 \$ 169,875 \$ 801,547

Veterans Assistance Payments (Revolving Fund)

Shelter/Rent	\$	254,000	\$	274,066	\$	300,000	Establish fund at \$100,000
Utilities	\$	32,000	\$	34,528	\$	35,000	Reduced demand in FY23 w/ some new clients expected
Personal Care	\$	28,800	\$	31,075	\$	40,000	Reduced demand in FY23 w/ some new clients expected
Emergency Assistance	\$	3,200	\$	3,453	\$	24,000	
Food Aid					\$	24,000	New program
RMTD Passes					\$	500	
New programs					\$	54,953	
43991 - Total Veterans Assistance Payments	\$	318,000	\$	343,122	\$	478,453	

Total \$ 1,280,000
\$ -

County to provide (Per MVAA)

Rent	\$	-	No rent charged in county building (status post transfer of deed to health department?)
Information Technology	\$	-	County provides support/network, but VWC buys workstations/laptops?
Postage	\$	-	VWC currently has a postage meter leased and pays for postage
Printing	\$	-	County provides copier, but not supplies
HR/Payroll support	\$	-	Needs to transition to county payroll/benefits on January 1
Insurance	\$	-	VWC currently pays this bill
Total from General Fund	\$	-	

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