



FY 2026 – FY 2027

Budget

September 25, 2025

Office of Veterans Services
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BG (R) William (Bill) Turner, Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

September 22, 2025

Adam Proffit, Director
Division of the Budget
900 SW Jackson, Suite 504-N
Landon State Office Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Proffitt,

As Executive Director of the Kansas Office of Veterans Services, I hereby submit for your consideration the revised FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget request for the agency. It has been prepared in accordance with the instructions transmitted with your letter dated July 9, 2025. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information and explanation included in this budget request are correct and complete.

As always, my staff and I are prepared to provide any additional information which you or your budget analyst may require.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Turner".

BG(R) William Turner
Executive Director, Kansas Office of Veterans Services

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Agency-Wide Information

GENERAL AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY MISSION:

To provide Kansas Veterans and eligible family members with information, advice, direction, and assistance through the coordination of programs and services in the fields of education, health, vocational guidance and placement, and economic security. These programs include Veterans' Services, Long-term and Domiciliary care, and Veterans' Cemeteries.

AGENCY PHILOSOPHY:

The philosophy of the Kansas Office of Veterans Services is to establish an environment of professional, competent and courteous service whereby all Veterans, eligible dependents, staff and other stakeholders are treated with dignity and respect. We strive to be good public stewards of our resources and conduct all our affairs with the highest standards of ethics, accountability, and transparency. The agency will continually seek ways to improve our internal operations and our service to Veterans.

PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST WITH AGENCY MISSION:

- Agency Administration
- Veterans Services
- The State Approving Agency
- State Veterans' Cemetery Program
- The Kansas Soldiers' Home
- The Kansas Veterans' Home

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AGENCY PROGRAM GOALS:

GOAL #1:

Provide accurate and updated information and advocacy to Kansas Veterans and eligible family members, providing assistance in obtaining all federal and state benefits they have earned.

OBJECTIVE:

Maximize state and federal Veterans' benefits and program usage by Veterans, family members, and other stakeholders to improve their quality of life.

STRATEGIES

- Strategically position field offices throughout the state to optimize service to all Veterans and family members
- Utilize mobile offices to provide services to Veterans in their home communities by partnering with service organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders
- Partner with Veteran Service Organizations to coordinate activities in communities to benefit Veterans and family members
- Utilize the federal State Approving Agency to review education programs and better enable Veteran's participation in education
- Continue education and assistance for the public, governmental agencies, and elected officials regarding Veterans' services, programs, initiatives, and policy

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OBJECTIVE:

<u>Outcome Measure:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Monetary Value of Claims Awarded	\$ 274,287,022	\$ 380,627,973	\$525,008,626	\$ 505,000,000	\$ 510,000,000
New Claims Submitted	\$ 14,780	\$ 15,937	\$ 17,769	\$ 16,500	\$ 17,000
Veterans in Database	\$ 114,885	\$ 119,718	\$ 124,393	\$ 125,000	\$ 130,000

<u>Output Measure:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Number of outreach briefings/events	677	614	776	650	675

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GOAL #2:

Provide Veterans and their eligible family members with dignified and honorable interment opportunities in a Kansas Veterans' cemetery.

OBJECTIVES:

Promote the Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery Program and make every Veteran and eligible family members aware of their burial benefits. Ensure Veterans and eligible dependents are informed of and understand how to pre-register for burial.

STRATEGIES

- Outline the Veteran population and assessment for outreach in each county
- Participate in outreach programs delivering presentations to various civic, professional, and service organizations
- Visit every funeral home within a 75-mile radius and discuss burial opportunities for Veterans and eligible family members

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OBJECTIVES:

<u>Output Measure:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Number of burials per-year	459	464	460	465	470
Number of pre-certifications received per year	516	573	478	500	500

<u>Output Measure:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Number of funeral homes visited/contacted per year to update/promote the cemeteries	25	20	21	20	20
Number of events (speaking/handout information) attended locally and statewide	12	13	13	15	15

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Program: Agency-Wide Information

GOAL #3:

Provide quality long-term healthcare services to eligible Kansas Veterans through services provided at the Kansas Veterans' Home and Kansas Soldiers' Home.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide competent and professional staffing of qualified employees in all programs to support and sustain resident census and ensure the safety and comfort of residents, visitors, and staff at state Veterans' homes.

STRATEGIES

- Recruit, orient and retain an adequate staff of qualified employees
- Provide required regulatory training for all employees
- Complete care plans in accordance with regulations for long-term care and special care residents, and negotiate treatment plans annually for domiciliary residents, with updates quarterly and as needed for significant change
- Provide appropriate medications, treatment, and therapies for all persons admitted to the facilities
- Provide a variety of appropriate activities for each level of care and with consideration to the individual preferences of each resident
- Provide and serve meals and snacks for all diets prescribed by a physician and under review of the KVH/KSH Dietitian
- Regularly have managers meet with administration to maintain communication about issues as they arise
- Maintain a clean and orderly environment with adherence to federal and state regulations for safety and infection control
- Annually conduct the Employee Recognition Ceremony to highlight the efforts of staff and the milestones they achieve in their careers

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OBJECTIVES:

<u>KVH - Outcome Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Average Daily Census	102	105	100	105	107
Hours Per Resident Day for LTC *	4.35	4.48	4.75	4.75	4.75
In compliance with State, CMS, USDVA	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<u>KSH - Outcome Measures:</u>					
Average Daily Census	89	90	87	90	92
Hours Per Resident Day for LTC *	4.52	4.3	4.69	4.35	4.35
In compliance with State, CMS, USDVA	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Hours Per Resident Day = Total Direct Care Hours/7 (days per week)/LTC Census

<u>KVH - Output Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
New employees completing General Orientation in the first 60 days of employment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Practicum students conducting CNA Clinicals	24	20	0	10	10
<u>KSH - Output Measures:</u>					
New employees completing General Orientation in the first 60 days of employment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Practicum classes conducting CNA Clinicals	8	0	0	4	6

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GOAL #4:

Maintain fiscal integrity and good relations with other state agencies, vendors, and contractors.

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure adequate funds are available for critical payments and to recover funds lost to delinquent resident accounts. Maintain good relations with state agencies including the Division of the Budget, Office of Procurement and Contracts, and vendors to obtain the best goods and services at the best possible price.

STRATEGIES

- Follow guidelines for prompt payment of vendors and contractors
- Turn in notice of arrears to state agencies responsible for withholding
- Monitor facilities' account and fund balances daily
- Compare prices and purchasing options on all goods used at the facilities
- Maintain symbiotic relationships including the operational agreement with the Winfield Correctional Facility and KVH
- Monitor purchasing trends within the facilities
- Follow guidelines for prompt billing of Medicare, Medicaid, and VA reimbursement services
- Maximize Medicaid, Medicare, and VA reimbursement revenue
- Maximize possible service-connected veteran revenue

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OBJECTIVES:

<u>KVH - Outcome Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
VA & CMS deficiencies in business practices	0	0	0	0	0
Resident accounts in arrears in excess of 60 days	5	7	3	2	2
Average daily census of Medicaid residents	22	23	16	16	16
Average daily census of Medicare residents	2.5	2	1.5	2	2
Average daily census of service-connected residents	16	31	30	30	30
Supplies/Equipment purchased from State contract	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
<u>KSH – Outcome Measures</u>					
VA & CMS Deficiencies in business practices	0	1	0	0	0
Resident accounts in arrears in excess of 60 days	5	3	0	0	0
Average daily census of Medicaid residents	10	19	12	14	14
Average daily census of Medicare residents	1	2	1	2	2
Average daily census of service-connected residents	11	10	23	21	21
Supplies/Equipment purchased from State contract	100%	95%	95%	95%	95%

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR OBJECTIVES (cont.)

<u>KVH - Output Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Special Adaptive Equipment purchased off State contract	3	0	0	0	0
LTC Residents on Medicaid	29%	23%	20%	20%	20%
LTC Residents Medicare Eligible*	65%	70%	70%	70%	70%
<u>KSH - Output Measures:</u>					
Special Adaptive Equipment purchased off State contract	0	0	0	0	0
LTC Residents on Medicaid	45%	37%	24%	27%	27%
LTC Residents Medicare Eligible*	87%	70%	55%	55%	55%

**Approximately 35 percent of KVH and KSH residents in skilled nursing are 70-100% service connected. The VA pays a higher per diem amount for these residents, but they are not eligible for Medicare.*

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GOAL #5:

Maintain and encourage facilities' connections with the local community, area media outlets, and local and national service organizations.

OBJECTIVE:

Encourage interest in the Kansas Veterans' Home and Kansas Soldiers' Home and their missions. Make the public aware of the facilities and other benefits and services available to Veterans by maintaining good relationships with organizations and local communities who are able to assist with the missions of the homes.

STRATEGIES

- Distribute news releases as appropriate to area media outlets
- Meet regularly with representatives from the local service organizations and other stakeholders
- Maximize opportunities to speak to area groups about the homes, their missions and needs
- Track volunteer projects and time, and recognize those who volunteer at the homes each year
- Plan events at the homes designed to include participation from the surrounding communities
- Maintain relationships with area schools for student participation at the homes and resident participation in the schools
- Participate in national and state organizations related to the facilities (Leading Age, KACE, NASVH)

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<u>KVH - Outcome Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Volunteer hours logged	448	609	1,502	1,500	1,500
Individuals volunteering	33	19	104	104	140
NASVH, KACE, KDADS and Leading age meetings/conferences attended – Virtual*	7	4	9	10	10
<u>KSH - Outcome Measures:</u>					
Volunteer hours logged	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500
Individuals volunteering	50	50	50	50	50
NASVH, KACE, and KDADS and Leading age meetings/ conferences attended – Virtual*	15	15	15	20	20

**Volunteer hours, meetings, and conferences attended in FY 2021 were significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and the restrictions imposed by the regulatory agencies. It is anticipated that volunteer hours and conferences/trainings attended will increase with the restrictions for facilities being reduced.*

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<u>KVH - Output Measures:</u>	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
News Releases distributed	36	16	39	40	45
Outreach/Speaking engagements promoting the Home	12	11	10	11	11
Volunteer Orientation Sessions offered	2	2	1	2	2
<u>KSH - Output Measures:</u>					
News Releases distributed	20	25	34	54	54
Outreach/Speaking engagements promoting the Home	10	15	10	10	10
Volunteer Orientation Sessions offered	6	5	8	6	6

**During the COVID pandemic, news releases from the Kansas Veterans' Home and Kansas Soldiers' Home were occurring anytime the restrictions changed, or new information was available from the facility. This amounted to a significant increase in releases. The pandemic also significantly reduced the number of outreach and speaking engagements and prevented any volunteer activities or orientations.*

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STATUTORY HISTORY:

Agency: The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA) was created by K.S.A. 73-1208a, and amendments thereto, on July 1, 1986.

On July 1, 2014, the agency was reorganized by House Bill Substitute 2681, whereby the Commission was abolished, and the agency reports to the Governor's Office.

On July 1, 2024, House Bill 2760 established a new name for the agency, Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVS), and continues to the report directly to the Governor's Office.

Veterans Services: The Service Agency was established in 1937 as a Division of Social Welfare to assist Veterans and survivors in obtaining federal benefits. The Approval Agency was established in 1945 to implement the G.I. Bill ®. On January 20, 1946, the responsibility of accrediting institutions and business establishments was transferred to the Office of Veterans Services, as the State Approving Agency (SAA).

On April 20, 1946, SB 396 created the Veterans' Claims Assistance Program (VCAP).

In 2006, K.S.A. 74-8724 established the Veterans' Enhanced Service Delivery Program. In 2011, this program started receiving funds from Kansas lottery scratch ticket sales.

In 2009, K.S.A. 73-1238 established the Vietnam Era Veterans' Medallion Program, which provides for application from Veterans for a medal, medallion and certificate of appreciation for Kansas Vietnam Era Veterans.

State Veterans' Cemetery Program: On April 22, 1999, K.S.A. 73-1232 authorized the Kansas Office of Veterans Services to establish and maintain a state system of Veterans' cemeteries.

Kansas Veterans' Home: In 1997, K.S.A. 76-1951 et seq. established the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH) on the grounds of the former Winfield State Hospital and Training Center.

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Kansas Soldiers' Home: On February 7, 1889, K.S.A. Article 19, Chapters 76-1901 to 76-1941 established the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH) at Fort Dodge. From the date of establishment until June 30, 1976, KSH functioned as an independent agency. On June 30, 1976, K.S.A. 76-1904 vested control and responsibility for the operation of KSH to a three-member Kansas Veterans' Commission, through its Executive Director.

From July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1986, Executive Reorganization Order #14 placed KSH and the Kansas Veterans' Commission under the Department of Human Resources. The Kansas Veterans' Commission continued to be the appointing authority, although the Secretary of Department of Human Resources was the final authority.

In 1986, K.S.A. 73-1219 abolished the Kansas Veterans' Commission and established the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA) and expanded the Commission from three to five members. The KCVA and KSH were moved from the Department of Human Resources to the status of an independent agency. The KCVA, through its Executive Director, continued to be the appointing authority of KSH and had supervisory control.

In 1987, K.S.A. 76-1908 amended and established new admission criteria for KSH. Certain peacetime Veterans became eligible for admission and previously established estate income limits were abolished. In 1995, K.S.A. 76-1902b authorized KSH to operate as a licensed nursing care facility.

AGENCY-WIDE OVERVIEW

Current Year: The Kansas Office of Veterans Services strives to maintain its goals of providing a high level of service from year to year. The agency requests a base budget totaling \$63.8 million from all funding sources, including \$16.8 million from the State General Fund and \$20.8 million from the State Institutions Building Fund for FY 2026. For FY 2027, the agency requests a base budget totaling \$45.9 million from all funding sources, including \$15.9 million from the State General Fund and \$5.9 million from State Institutions Building Fund. The KOVS is not requesting any supplemental requests in this year's budget submission, and, is requesting three enhancements; Support for the ongoing lease cost for the agency's central office relocation from Jayhawk Towers to the Landon Building in early 2026 (enhancement), IT services and transition with Kansas Office of Information of Technology Services (enhancement), and agency attorney position (enhancement).

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It remains a challenge for the KOVS revenue and expenditures to reflect consistency from year to year because of special revenue funds. Actual fund balances at the beginning of a fiscal year compared to original estimates can reflect dramatic variances.

These variances require expenditure adjustments from different funding sources, resulting in variances between the approved budget and the revised budget. However, the overall expenditures by program reflect very little adjustment, and remain consistent. Where there are changes in the overall expenditures for a program, an explanation is provided in the program narratives.

Administration Program Explanation: The role of the Central Office is to provide guidance and oversight for Veterans Homes, Cemeteries, and Veterans Service programs, as well as staff support. In addition to the Director and Administrative Assistant, the Central Office has six sections: Fiscal, Human Resources, Information Technology, Operations, Public Affairs/Outreach, and Director of Homes.

Administration currently funds the salaries of the Central Office Staff, office and equipment rental and travel for the staff. In April 2013, in response to findings by the Legislative Post Audit, the Central Office was restructured. Supervision of the Business Offices at both nursing homes was placed under direct supervision of the KOVS Chief Fiscal & Property Officer. The Human Resources staff at both Veterans Homes were placed under the direct supervision of the KOVS Human Resources Director. This change was implemented to promote standardization, increase efficiency, and enhance accountability across both facilities.

Specific responsibilities of the five sections of Agency Administration are:

Fiscal Section: The Fiscal Section consists of six full-time employees (FTEs) responsible for delivering accurate, timely, and meaningful accounting and reporting services to the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVS) and the Division of the Budget. This team administers the KOVS accounting functions and coordinates the agency's overall budget process.

The Fiscal Section initiates and maintains accounting policies, procedures, and system modifications and enhancements across three locations: the Central Office and the Business Offices at the two state veterans' nursing homes. They are responsible for reporting federal fund expenditures for the State Approving Agency and for applying for and overseeing federal grant awards related to the State Veterans Cemetery Program, Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH), and Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH).

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In addition, the Fiscal Section provides fiscal oversight for both KVH and KSH and offers guidance and supervision to the six Business Office staff members at the two nursing homes.

Human Resources Section: The KOVS Human Resources Section provides development and broad oversight of a comprehensive, agency-wide personnel program. It manages 371 authorized FTE, five (5) non-FTE positions and an annual payroll of \$29.8 million in FY 2026. The Director of Human Resources is located in the Central Office and provides guidance and oversight of the six Human Resources staff members at the two nursing homes. With the implementation of House Bill Substitute 2681 effective July 1, 2014, Executive Order (EO) 11-04 became effective for the agency Human Resources Program. This EO requires all staff performing human resources functions to report directly to the Office of Personnel Services.

The KOVS Human Resources Department plans, organizes, and directs the agency's human resources functions. Its primary focus is to promote efficiency, consistency, and fairness in employment policies, procedures, and practices across the agency's diverse program areas.

Director of Operations: This position is responsible for leading KOVS and cross-functional state teams in planning and coordinating the agency's strategic mission, with a focus on increasing operational efficiency and securing executive, legislative, and public support for agency priorities and goals. The Director must maintain strong working relationships with federal and state agencies to effectively integrate and align available resources, ensuring the delivery of optimal services to Veterans and their Families

Director of Public Affairs/Outreach Coordinator: The Public Affairs Director is responsible for overseeing all internal and external communications strategies for KOVS. This role includes coordinating agency outreach activities and developing, maintaining, and strengthening stakeholder relationships and key partnerships with external organizations.

Director of Homes: The Director of Homes is responsible for overseeing the operations of both the Kansas Soldiers' Home and Kansas Veterans' Home. Includes supervising the Superintendents and as delegated by the Executive Director (KOVS), managing staff-related activities such as recruitment, hiring, training, supervision, performance evaluations, counseling, discipline, and terminations. The Director will collaborate with the KOVS Central Office to standardize processes, enhance efficiency, and drive operational improvements. The Director of Homes also involves working closely with state and federal partners to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and policies. Additionally, the Director provides leadership in the planning and development of the new NE Kansas Veterans Home.

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Information Technology Section: The KOVS Information Technology and Resource Management Section (ITRMS) is composed of one Director of IT, and one Network Administrator and one Technology Support Specialist at both the Kansas Soldiers' Home and the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). The IT Director coordinates and supports the information technology and telecommunications needs for the Central Office; KVH; KSH; four State Veterans Cemeteries located in Fort Dodge, WaKeeney, Winfield, and Fort Riley/Manhattan; and 16 Veterans Services offices across Kansas.

Additionally, ITRMS provides IT support to the KOVS Quality Assurance Office at the Wichita VA Medical/Regional Office and the Veterans Services Mobile Office Program.

The IT Director also serves as the agency's Cybersecurity Officer and Information Security Officer, ensuring compliance with all federal and state data governance regulations and the implementation of cybersecurity best practices.

Budget Years-Allocated Resource Budget: The agency's base budget request for FY 2026 and FY 2027 matches the agency's approved and allocated amounts from the State General Fund.

Due to a number of circumstances dating back to 2019 the KOVS has accumulated non-appropriated funds that have carried forward to hedge against non-appropriated funds shortfalls and subsequently been applied to our budget to address salary/wage requirements as well as select expenditure requirements where necessary. We are continuing the practice of expending funds in these accounts to fulfill annual budgetary requirements in FY 2026 and FY 2027. We are on track to expend majority of these funds during the course of FY 2026 but will need three enhancements; 1) support for the ongoing lease cost for the agency's central office relocation from Jayhawk Towers to the Landon Building in early 2026, 2) IT services and transition with Kansas Office of Information of Technology Services, and 3) agency attorney position.

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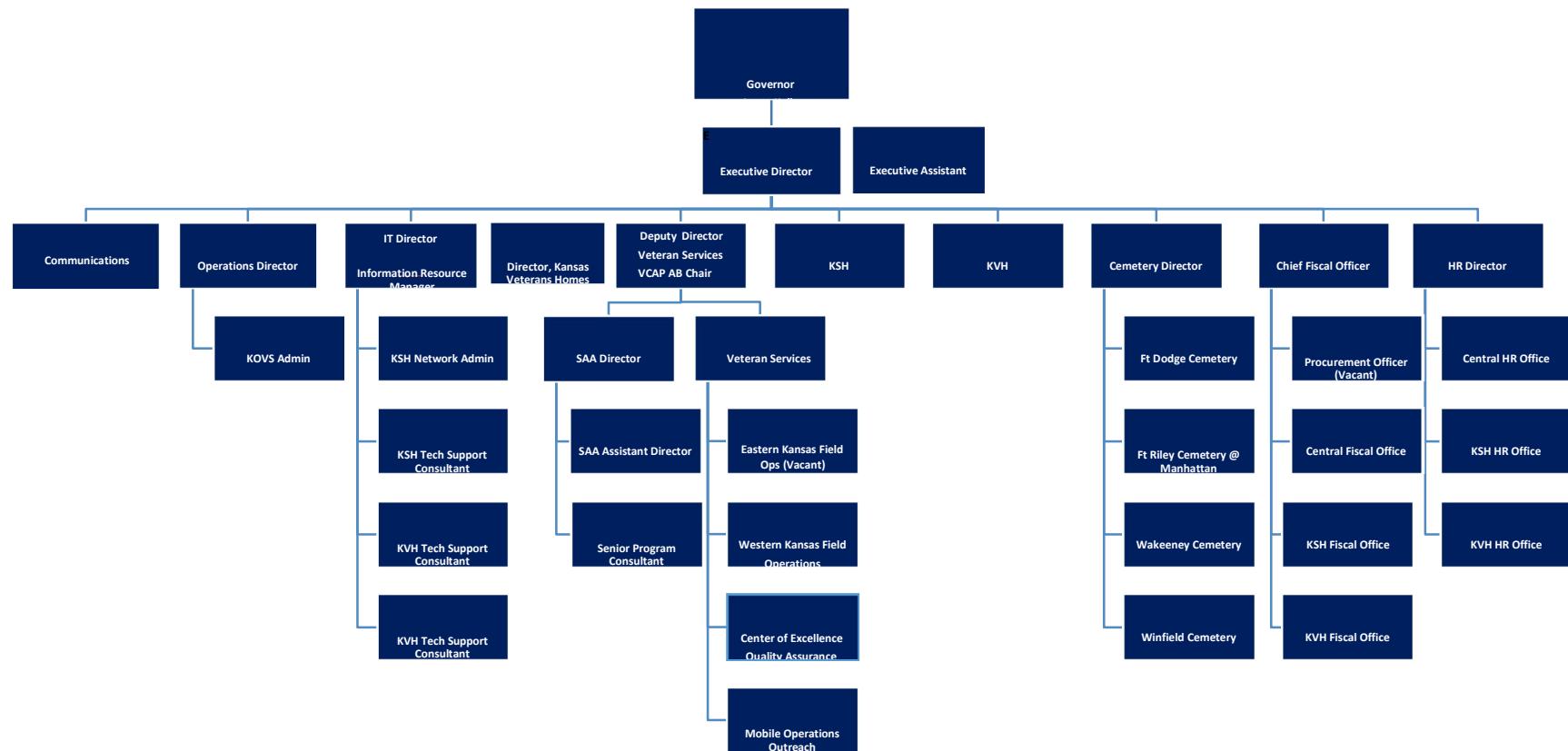
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The Kansas Office of Veterans Services organization is depicted below:



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Actual Position Data:

The KOVS has 371 Authorized FTE and 5 Non-FTE.

Program	FTE Positions: Classified Regular and Unclassified	Non-FTE: Unclassified Temporary
Administration	11.00	1.00
Veterans Services	33.00	2.00
Cemetery Program	19.00	0.00
Kansas Soldiers' Home	115.00	2.00
Kansas Veterans' Home	193.00	0.00
Total	371.00	5.00

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Enhancement Request for SFY 2027:

Enhancement #1: Ongoing Landon Building Lease - \$77,349

The Kansas Office of Veterans Services is undergoing a physical location move from Jayhawk Tower (private Lease) where the agency occupied approximately 3,220 square feet to a state-owned office space in the Landon State Office Building where it will occupy approximately 5,180 square feet. The agency is using current year funding to fund the move which is scheduled to be executed in January 2026 and will include minor renovations to the entry area to enable the placement of three workspaces and enhance access security in addition to refurbishing the existing office space following the Division of Budget's move to the Docking Building. The ongoing enhancement request reflects the annual increase in the lease rate above what the agency currently expends for the Jayhawk Tower space.

Enhancement #2: Ongoing IT Infrastructure Enhancement for KOVS - \$35,758

The Kansas Office of Veterans Services currently resides in Jayhawk Tower. Our agency will be moving to the Landon State Office Building (LSOB) in January 2026. We manage our own network and data center relying on the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services for minimal support including KANWIN Wide Area Network (Router) and voice network telecommunication services as well as Granicus website hosting. Upon our move to LSOB, we plan on using a hosted data center in Eisenhower State Office Building (ESOB) providing professionally managed data center with 24/7 access for the advertised rate of \$1,000 per rack per month. We will have an added expense for the KANWIN Router 23+ nodes at LSOB for \$1,400 per month, and additional data ports for our security firewalls and failover redundancy components.

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Enhancement #3: General Counsel, KOVS - Annual Salary Range \$110,000-130,000 (\$137,500 - \$162,500 w/ Benefits)

The General Counsel (GC) serves as the primary legal advisor to the Executive Director and agency program directors by providing strategic guidance, consultation and support in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the agency. The GC oversees and manages all legal matters to ensure protection of agency legal rights and to maintain its operation within the limits of prescribed law. The GC drafts, reviews, and approves policies and procedures, regulations and other documents, interprets and applies Kansas statutes, regulations and legislation. The GC also prepares or reviews legal documents including real property transactions and proposed litigation filings, oversees the response to open records and open meetings act requests and the review and approval of administrative regulations. In addition, an assigned legal counsel would navigate a complex system of codes and regulations (38 CFR & USC) while ensuring Veterans receive all their earned state and federal benefits. Our attorney would work closely with Veterans Services Representatives and Veterans Service Organizations when deciding how to best assist a claimant throughout the claims and appeal process. The General Counsel works closely with the Governor's General Counsel on matters of statewide importance.

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EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION BY OBJECT CODES

This DA 400 only includes expenditures found in the agency's base budget request for the Administration Program.

Central Office Administration:

Object Code 100: Salaries and Wages – Total FTE for FY 2026 is nine filled, two vacant, with one non-FTE, for a total of 12 FTE.

The following are the salary and wage requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

FY 2026: \$1,284,826

FY 2027: \$1,287,691

Object Code 200: Contractual Services – Contractual Services expenditures pay for items such as rent, office supplies, and travel.

FY 2026: \$372,874

FY 2027: \$159,094

Object Code 300: Commodities – Commodities expenditures are primarily for data processing, supplies, stationery, and other office supplies.

FY 2026: \$22,811

FY 2027: \$18,037

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Agency Overview

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Object Code 400: Capital Outlay – Capital outlay expenditures are for equipment, machinery and other major purchases including computers, printers, and servers.

FY 2026: \$148,000

FY 2027: \$4,000

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

VETERANS' CEMETERY PROGRAM

VETERANS' CEMETERY PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The purpose of the Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery Program is to provide Veterans and their eligible dependents with interment opportunities for burial in a Kansas Veterans' Cemetery. The program has established, manages, and operates four State Veterans' Cemeteries. It provides staff support and assistance to Veterans statewide regarding their interment options and provides the procedures for pre-registration.

The Kansas Office of Veterans Services believes that Veterans deserve to be interred with dignity, respect, and honor for their service. In that regard, the state cemetery is not only a burial site but also a fitting memorial for service to country. It is in full compliance with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs standards that ensure these cemeteries are indeed national shrines. The State Veterans' Cemeteries are geographically distributed across Kansas for optimal access for all concerned. The four locations are Fort Dodge, WaKeeney, Winfield and Fort Riley.

The four State Veterans' Cemeteries across Kansas provide interment opportunities for Veterans and their eligible dependents, as well as other benefits. The benefits at the Cemeteries are provided at no cost to the Veterans and dependents.

Benefits include:

- Burial space
- Grave liner
- Opening and closing of the grave
- Perpetual care
- Placement of cremation remains in either columbarium niche or in-ground interment plot
- Scattering garden
- Headstone or Marker

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

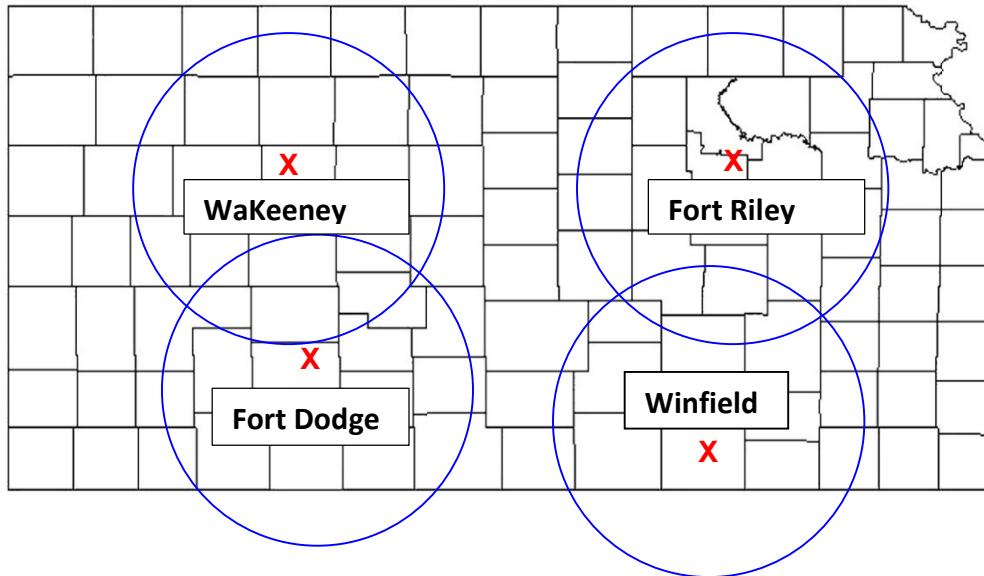
Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

Locations: Map of cemeteries

The state Veterans' cemeteries are located at Fort Dodge, WaKeeney, Winfield, and Fort Riley, Kansas.



The X represents the cemetery locations, and the circle represents a 75-mile radius surrounding the cemetery. It is the VA's and Kansas Office of Veterans Service's goal to provide Veterans and their dependents with interment opportunities that are within reasonable driving distances from their homes.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

Cemetery developed capacities:

State Cemetery	Acres	Interment Areas			
		Full Casket Interment	Grave-liners	In-ground Cremation	Columbarium Wall
Fort Dodge	8.56	2,169	610	1,263	480
WaKeeney	12	1,566	500	250	320
Winfield	27.75	9,663	1,213	1,068	3,360
Fort Riley	30	3,000	2,000	700	768

Note: Only phase I of the cemeteries has been developed.

Cemetery developed and undeveloped acreage capacities:

State Cemetery	Acres	Interment Areas			
		Full Casket Interment	Grave-liners	In-ground Cremation	Columbarium Wall
Fort Dodge	16	4,582	1,210	1,471	960
WaKeeney	24.34	3,132	1,000	500	640
Winfield	40.86	14,163	2,416	1,602	4,640
Fort Riley	90	36,000	6,000	1,400	6,912

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION BY OBJECT CODES:

It remains a challenge for the KOVS revenue and expenditures to reflect consistency from year to year because of special revenue funds. Actual fund balances at the beginning of a fiscal year compared to original estimates can reflect dramatic variances.

These variances require expenditure adjustments from different funding sources, resulting in variances between the approved budget and the revised budget. However, the overall expenditures by program reflect very little adjustment, and remain consistent. Where there are changes in the overall expenditures for a program, an explanation is provided in the program narratives.

Object Code 100: Salaries and Wages

The program is authorized for 19 FTE positions located throughout the state at four State Veterans' Cemeteries. The following are the salary and wage requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027:

FY 2026: \$1,138,196

FY 2027: \$1,148,122

Object Code 200: Contractual Services

The major expenditures for Contractual Services are for operational support for the four Veterans' Cemeteries. This includes all utilities, communication/phone, internet/IT, travel, mowing contracts, rentals when equipment breaks down, and training. The amounts also include official hospitality.

FY 2026: \$220,445

FY 2027: \$242,489

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

Object Code 300: Commodities

The major expenditures for Commodities are used for operational support for the four State Veterans' Cemeteries. This includes grounds maintenance needs (seed, fertilizer, and herbicides), building/facility maintenance needs, purchasing supplies, and maintaining equipment. It also covers the fuel required for equipment operations and staff travel. All Cemetery Managers are required to promote the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery Program and their respective cemeteries. With a small cemetery staff at each cemetery, it is often necessary for staff to travel to other cemeteries to assist one another, or to provide training. Plus, the Cemetery Director visits each cemetery frequently. This accounts primarily for the continued increase in travel expenditures.

FY 2026: \$90,950

FY 2027: \$100,045

Object Code 400: Capital Outlay

Capital outlay expenditures are for machinery, equipment, land, vehicles, buildings, and other major purchases. As the buildings, shops and equipment age and breakdown, this fund will be vital to keep up with needed repairs and equipment replacement. Continued breakdowns, difficulty locating parts, costly repairs and rental fees have made it necessary to create a 12-year plan to replace equipment and vehicles at all four cemeteries. This includes backhoes, tractors, utility vehicles, dump trucks, mowers, and vehicles. A computer replacement plan has also been created.

FY 2026: \$150,000

FY 2027: \$150,000

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

Object Code 500: Capital Improvements

Capital Improvement requirements for the Cemetery Program often vary widely year-to-year. Historically, capital improvement projects for the Cemetery Program have been funded with State General Fund (SGF) or SIBF. The program is challenged in finding sufficient funding for repair projects, maintaining and sustaining the grounds to meet National Cemetery Administration (NCA) standards, and completing routine maintenance.

On July 1, 2024, the cemetery program applied for a NCA state grants program grant at Winfield to expand the casket and inground cremation gardens. The casket garden will include 550 pre-placed concrete grave liners, and 550 additional in-ground cremation plots will be created. Also included in the grant request is a Gettysburg Address bronze sign to be placed near the new columbarium wall plaza and the addition of a medallion at the shelter for the Space Force. The total amount for the expansion grant is \$1,356,477. The grant has been pre-approved, and the program anticipates grant funds will be released October 1, 2025, with construction beginning immediately for June 30, 2026, completion date. It is anticipated that the Winfield Cemetery will have enough casket crypts and in-ground plots to supply the need until construction is complete.

Other projects slated for FY 2026 include constructing a new metal storage building/shop at Fort Dodge, with an increase in compound size to address a growing need for more storage. The cost of this project will be \$241,696. Ft Dodge is the only Cemetery without a scattering garden; with the wall, memorial plaques will be placed on the wall for MIAs, those laid to rest in overseas cemeteries, and those who choose to scatter their cremains within the Cemetery. The bid for this project has been awarded and construction on the new wall is scheduled to begin in September 2025. The total cost of the project is \$97,800. While original capital improvement budget was \$35,000 for the scattering garden, the additional \$62,800 construction costs will come from the available cemetery rehabilitation and repairs fund. The construction of a family-style bathroom at the Ft Riley Cemetery committal shelter is in the design phase with a budgeted cost of \$262,911. Currently, the only bathrooms located at the cemetery are in the Cemetery Administration building. This is inconvenient for families and visitors because of the distance of the shelter where funerals services are held. Another project at Ft Dodge planned is installing a passageway through Garden B at Fort Dodge to make it safer and more convenient for families to visit gravesites. It will also give more pavement parking for Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America to

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

prevent parking on turf. The road will also make the garden handicap accessible at a cost of \$70,000. Another project we are researching is constructing sliding or pivoting doors on two sides of the Ft Dodge and WaKeeney committal shelters to protect families from high winds and extreme cold temperatures during funeral services with a cost of \$90,000. The architects and engineers have been tasked with finding alternative solutions from the original plan to place the doors on the shelters. It has been discovered that the shelters were not originally designed to have doors placed on them like the shelters at Ft Riley and Winfield. The program is planning to construct a family-style bathroom at the WaKeeney Cemetery shelter with an anticipated cost of \$312,864. Currently, the only bathrooms are located at the cemetery in the Cemetery Administration building. This is inconvenient for families and visitors because of the distance of the shelter where funerals services are held. The final project for FY26 is to create Memorial Walks at all four state cemeteries at the cost of \$96,000. Following NCA standards and guidelines, a memorial walkway functions to provide visitors with access to a beautiful memorial section at each Cemetery, where veteran groups and other groups may place memorial plaques mounted on stones or monuments to commemorate certain groups, units, campaigns, or other military events on walls designated for that purpose. Donated monuments are placed along the path. This construction includes the sidewalk path and benches only, no monuments.

In FY27, the construction of a family style-bathroom at the Ft Dodge committal shelter is planned at a budgeted cost of \$387,951. With this addition, all four cemeteries will have a convenient restroom available for families and Veterans during services at the committal shelters.

Each fiscal year, \$28,980 is added to the budget for emergency facility repairs and maintenance for the four cemeteries. As the buildings and facility ages, repairs are needed that are outside the scope of the normal budget.

Estimated expenditures for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are as follows:

FY 2026: \$2,345,420

FY 2027: \$589,131

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

3212 3310 VA Burial Reimbursement Federal Fund

Statutory History: 38 CFR, Part 3, Subpart B, §3.1707, provides the authority and funds administration guidance for State Cemeteries to receive burial and plot allowance.

This fund for Veteran Cemetery Fees is also authorized in HB 2675 Sec. 97, 2004 Session. Construction of state Veterans' cemeteries is fully funded by grants from the State Veterans' Cemetery Grants Program of the federal government. Once a cemetery is opened, minimal federal funding for operational costs is provided by the National Veterans Cemetery Administration of the VA. The minimal funding comes in the form of plot allowances for eligible Veterans and grave markers for each interment. The remaining expenses for maintenance and upkeep for the four Veterans' cemeteries in Kansas are the responsibility of the State of Kansas.

An annual increase in burial and plot allowances by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began in Federal Fiscal Year 2010 and is based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period. Effective October 1, 2024, the burial/funeral and plot/interment allowance was increased from \$948 to \$978. The interment allowance has increased annually. This allowance is provided for each Veteran buried in a State Veterans' Cemetery and paid directly to the state program if the Veteran was buried without charge in a state-owned cemetery reserved solely for Veteran burials.

Criteria to be eligible to be buried in a State Veterans' Cemetery follows:

- ❖ Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- ❖ Veteran was discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
- ❖ Veteran was receiving VA compensation or pension at the time of death, or would have been entitled to receive VA compensation or pension, but instead was in receipt of military retirement or disability pay
- ❖ Veteran died in a VA facility.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

3212 3310 VA Burial Reimbursement Federal Fund (cont.)

The federal plot allowance may be paid directly to the state if a Veteran is buried without charge in a state-owned cemetery reserved solely for Veteran burials. The Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery Program does not currently require a fee for burial, so the State Veterans' Cemetery Program receives the federal plot allowance directly. The projected plot allowance is based on a five-year average for Veteran interments and an average of 70 percent Veteran of all interments burial rate. In FY2025, there was a slight decrease in that average to 65 percent Veteran and 35 percent dependent interments, while the total number of burials remained stable.

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 137,117	\$ 257,808	\$ 380,020	\$ 371,154
Plot Allowance	320,095	241,084	317,850	317,850
Refunds	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 457,212	\$ 498,892	\$ 697,870	\$ 689,004

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veterans' Cemetery Program

7308 5200 State Veterans Cemetery Donations/Contributions Fund

Statutory History: K.S.A. 73-1233, The Kansas Veterans Cemeteries located at Fort Dodge, Fort Riley, WaKeeney, and Winfield, occasionally receive donations and gifts from next-of-kin, other entities of loved ones buried in the cemeteries, or organizations. The agency uses these funds, according to donors wishes, to purchase and install trees, benches, electronic carillon bells, memorial walk, or complete other beautification projects throughout the Cemetery as required by an institution, building or facility on state-owned property of the Executive Director of the Kansas Office of Veterans Services.

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 38,552	\$ 52,032	\$ 52,784	\$ 57,784
All Other Donations/Contributions	14,709	1,815	5,000	5,000
Total	\$ 53,261	\$ 53,847	\$ 57,784	\$ 62,784

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

VETERAN SERVICES PROGRAM

PROGRAM MISSION:

To serve the 177,701 Kansas Veterans, their families, and survivors by advocating, providing accurate and timely information on benefits, and assisting them in securing their earned benefits as provided for by state and federal law, reaching Veterans in all 105 Kansas counties. Veterans Services uses outreach and mobile office visits to expand visibility and awareness statewide of the many programs and services available to Kansas Veterans and their families.

MAJOR SUBPROGRAMS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST WITH PROGRAM MISSION:

Field Services, the Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP), the Mobile Services Program, Veteran Services Quality Assurance Program, State Approving Agency (SAA), and the Vietnam Era Veterans Medallion Program.

VETERAN SERVICES OVERVIEW:

Veteran Services is the face of the KOVS with Veteran Services Representatives in 16 Field offices at strategic locations throughout the state, we serve Veterans in all 105 counties. Our Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs) are multi accredited advocates who specialize in providing information and assistance with a myriad of benefit services, from Non-Service-Connected Pension Claims to Service-Connected Disability Compensation Claims to maximize the hard-earned benefits of those Veterans. During the previous fiscal year and continuing into FY25, the agency's focus has been the continuation of our strategy to assist Veterans with the signing into law of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) in August 2022. The PACT Act is the largest health care and benefit expansion in the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs history. This single piece of legislation expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. All of the KOVS Veteran Service Representatives participated in 131 outreach events and 62 Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Presentations with our federal and state partners in addition to holding 584 scheduled itinerant remote site visits throughout the state resulting in more benefits for Kansas Veterans and family members.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

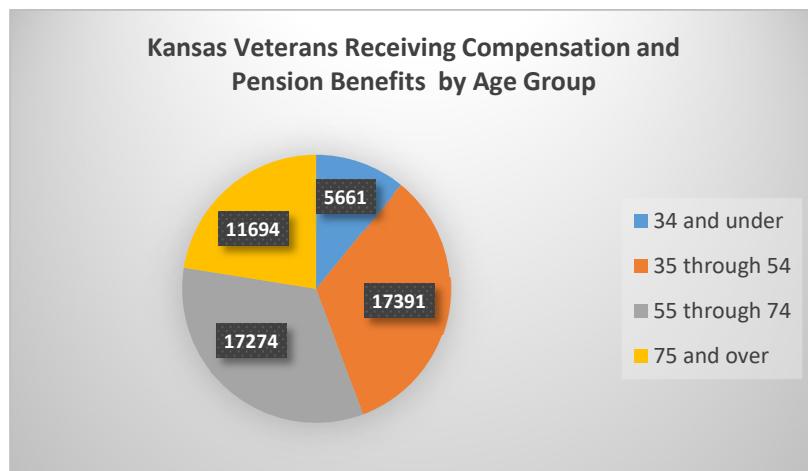
Program: Veteran Services Program

Last fiscal year the Veteran Services Program assisted in submitting almost 17,769 claim submissions to the VA electronically. This resulted in more than \$525 million dollars being paid to Kansas Veterans and family members.

Field Services:

Field Services has been the cornerstone of both the KOVS and Veteran Services since 1948. VSRs are in district offices strategically located to reach Veterans throughout the state. Each of these district offices has an assigned area consisting of 1 to 17 counties. Districts are established based on the number of Veterans in the region, ability to support the needs of Veterans and the needs of the agency.

In FY 2025, the Veteran Services Program was funded for staffing in 16 districts. Position funding consisted of the Deputy Director, 4 area/program supervisors, 2 full-time Quality Assurance Office staff, 23 VSRs and 2 administrative assistants, serving an estimated 177,701 Veterans, and more than 200,000 family members.



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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

KOVS VSRs assist Veterans and their family members with a broad spectrum of support necessary for obtaining Federal and state benefits. Field Services is often the first and only contact the client has for support and follow-up in his or her journey for benefits and services provided by the State of Kansas and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

District field office staff provide outreach across the state through scheduled itinerant travel with stops in many counties, staff participation in community activities, and following up on referrals by other state agencies, community leaders, family, and friends.

Each office is responsible for serving the needs of Veterans in a large geographical or heavily populated area. All of the KOVS VSRs are Veterans themselves with accreditations through the Federal VA.

There is a diverse and complex variety of information and assistance which VSRs provide:

- Service-connected Disability Compensation
- Death Pension
- Health Care Benefits
- TRICARE and TRICARE for Life
- Vet Centers
- Vietnam Medallion Program
- VA Home Loan Guarantees
- State Veterans' Cemeteries
- State of Kansas Benefits
- Appeals
- Non-Service-Connected Pension
- Burial Benefits
- CHAMPVA and CHAMPVA for Life
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Education Benefits
- Life Insurance
- State Veterans Nursing Facilities
- Operation Recognition (High School Diploma Program)
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- DD-214 Requests

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

The Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP):

The Veterans Claims Assistance Program (VCAP) was established “to improve the coordination of Veterans benefits counseling in Kansas to maximize the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars and to ensure that every Veteran is served and receives claims counseling and assistance.”

There are three major components to VCAP. The first is to provide service grants to eligible Veteran Service Organizations, which are used to hire service officers throughout the State. These individuals provide support at the VA hospitals and the VA Regional Office. State General Funds (SGF) are appropriated each year for this program, all of which must be allocated to the participating Veteran Service Organizations as outlined in K.S.A. 73-1234. Grants are awarded annually through grant agreements entered with the Kansas Office of Veterans Services. Each year the agency is required to solicit participation from all Veteran Service Organizations that have a presence in the VA Regional Office or Medical Center in Wichita.

Requests to participate are sent to eligible service organizations, including the American Legion (AL), American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Currently, two chartered Veteran Service Organizations, the American Legion and VFW, elected to participate for FY 2025.

To participate in the grant program, Service Organizations must meet minimum requirements. The requirements outlined in K.S.A. 73-1234(f) include cross-accrediting of Veteran Service Representatives to provide a one-stop opportunity for Veterans needing assistance, utilization of the central Veteran’s database, as provided by KOVS, and continuation of the grant participant in the program funding in the form of a match, which can be monetary or in-kind.

The second major component of this legislation established the Veterans Claim Assistance Advisory Board to advise the agency Director in the implementation and administration of the VCAP. The Advisory Board meets quarterly to discuss Veterans topics and issues.

The third component established a Quality Assurance Program that reviews all claims submitted by KOVS VSRs and Veteran Service Organization VSRs receiving grants under this section.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

The Mobile Services Program:

This is the KOVS mobile office program. The program uses appropriated funds it receives from the Veterans Benefit Lottery Game, as authorized and outlined in K.S.A. 74-8724. In FY 25 the KOVS mobile services division staffed offices in Hays, Topeka, and Wichita.

In 1945, when then Governor Schoeppele established the Kansas Veterans Administration, he was quoted as saying “I am sure you will agree that the consideration we give to our returning Veterans is of primary importance” and that “sufficient importance to justify the establishment of a separate state agency to render all possible assistance to the Veterans of all wars” remains as relevant today as then. The Mobile Services Program uses limited resources and takes services to rural areas where Veterans reside. These mobile offices also participate in numerous community events and other outreach activities, representing the KOVS throughout the state. Staff assigned to the Mobile Program provide rural outreach and support services to all KOVS district field offices. Mobile staff also partner with the Federal VA, other state agencies, Veteran Service Organizations, and community leaders to identify the needs of Veterans and assist them in filing claims and obtaining benefits.

Veterans Services Quality Assurance Program:

The Quality Assurance (QA) Program performs a key role in reviewing claims from KOVS district office staff and VCAP participants, thus ensuring Veterans’ claims meet standards for development, accuracy, and completeness. The QA staff conduct reviews of all benefit claims paperwork, thereby facilitating a faster response in adjudication from the Federal VA. Data from QA reviews is used to analyze claims completion and accuracy rates, reaffirm production numbers of participating organizations, and evaluate individual VSR quality levels to determine training needs.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

State Approving Agency:

The Kansas Office of Veterans Services is designated by the Governor as the State Approving Agency (SAA) for the State of Kansas. The SAA program is operated under a contractual agreement between the VA and KOVS. The program uses Public Service Administrative staff to perform Risk Based Survey visits, program approvals, and to develop and approve On-the-Job Training (OJT) and apprenticeship programs for Veterans using their GI-Bill benefits in Kansas. This program is essential to one of Kansas Veterans' fundamental earned benefits. Veterans only receive reimbursement for programs reviewed by the SAA and approved for reimbursement under the GI-Bill. An annual cooperative agreement between the KOVS/SAA and the Federal VA is signed by each party. This agreement is in effect October through September, the Federal Fiscal Year, and establishes goals and outcomes of the program.

The Public Service Administrator duties include performing Risk Based Survey visits, education program approvals, Supervisory Visits, program inspections, technical visits, and working with business owners to develop on-the-job training (OJT) and apprenticeship programs for Veterans. They also perform a compliance function for qualified degree, non-degree, apprenticeship and OJT programs and schools of flight instruction at over 120 institutions throughout the state.

In addition, the staff meets with business leaders employing Veterans, workforce Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) to provide them with information on programs available to Veterans they may hire. The program is focused to expand and improve quality education and training opportunities for Veterans and other qualified family members, for them to reach career objectives and be successful in their goals.

Annual authorized amounts paid to Kansas SAA are determined by an allocation model based on several factors including the number of active facilities within the state, number of SAA employees, and the total amount of salary and wages paid to those employees. Each year the program is reviewed by the Joint Peer Review Group made up of other state's SAAs and the Federal VA.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

Vietnam Era Veterans Medallion Program:

This program provides a Vietnam Era Medallion, Medal and a Certificate of Appreciation from the State of Kansas to Veterans who served on active duty in the United States military at any time between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975. The agency has awarded over 8,350 Vietnam Era Medallions to date. While applications for the Vietnam Era Medallion, Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation are declining, the KOVS receives on about 10-12 applications per month on average. The program is currently funded using Veteran Services Program SGF.

Other Programs That Fall Under the Veteran Services Program:

- Review and certification of service-connected hunting and fishing licenses for all 30% or greater service-connected disabled Veterans who wish to receive a free hunting and fishing license from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks.
- A review and certification of all requests for eligibility for Veteran Memorial Signage for the Kansas Department of Transportation.
- Review and certification of Veteran's preference for service-connected disabled owned small businesses for Kansas procurement contracts.
- Provide certification to the sentencing judge of service in a combat zone when requested by the Veteran.
- Provide assistance and mentorship to the Kansas Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC). The mission of the VTC is to identify veterans in the criminal justice system and, when eligible, get them into treatment and court supervision as an alternative to incarceration.

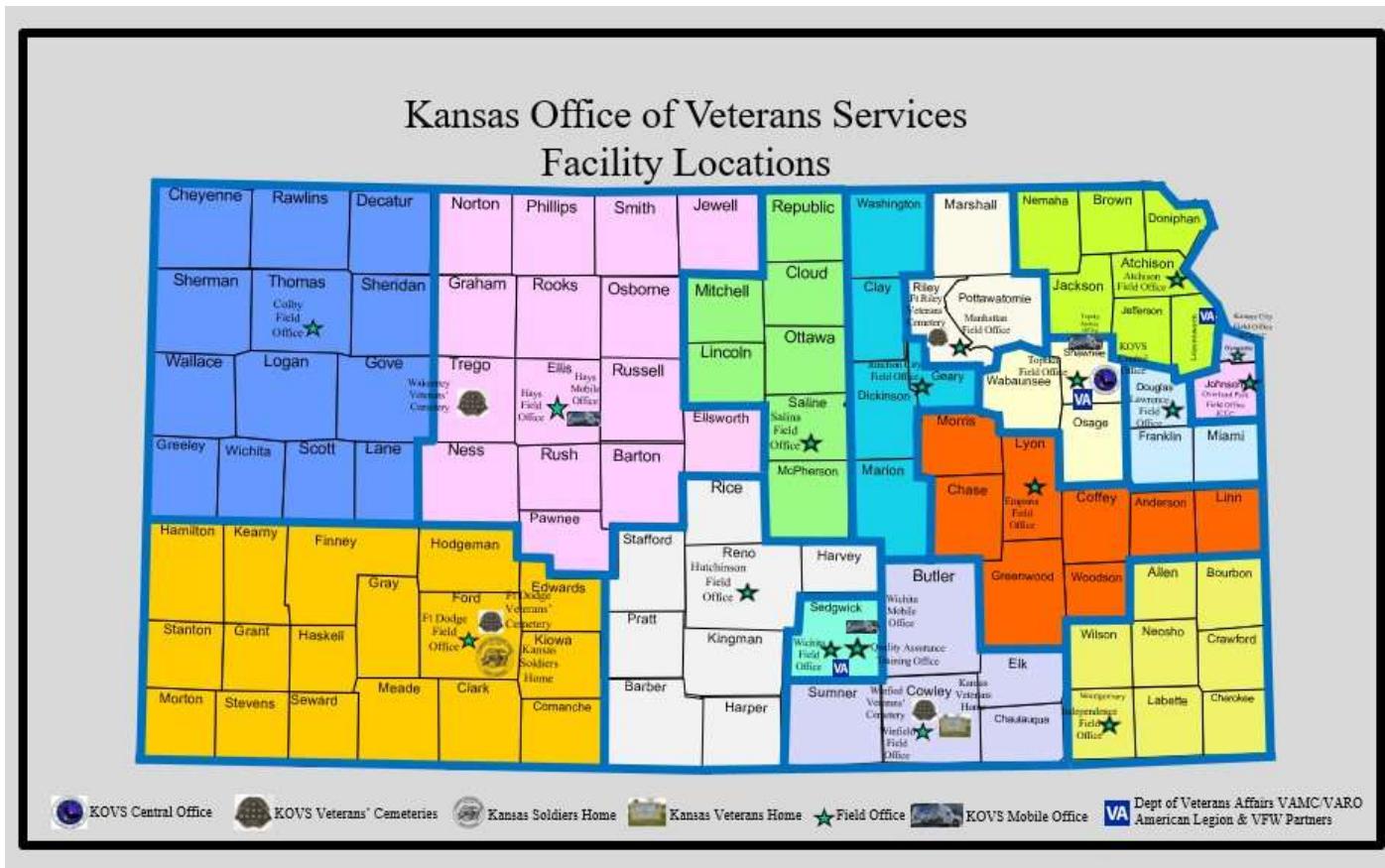
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Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program



The KOVS has staffed district offices in Colby, Hays, Salina, Junction City, Manhattan, Atchison, Lawrence, Overland Park, Kansas City, Emporia, Independence, Topeka, Winfield, Hutchinson, Wichita Vet Center, and Fort Dodge. The American Legion and VFW have offices in the three VA hospitals in Wichita, Topeka, and Leavenworth and the Regional Office in Wichita.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION BY OBJECT CODES:

It remains a challenge for the KOVS revenue and expenditures to reflect consistency from year to year because of special revenue funds. Actual fund balances at the beginning of a fiscal year compared to original estimates can reflect dramatic variances.

These variances require expenditure adjustments from different funding sources, resulting in variances between the approved budget and the revised budget. However, the overall expenditures by program reflect very little adjustment, and remain consistent. Where there are changes in the overall expenditures for a program, an explanation is provided in the program narratives.

Object Code 100: Salaries and Wages – Salaries for the program fund 33 FTE, and 2 unclassified temporary positions.

Salary costs include the statutory Scratch Lotto transfers as prescribed by K.S.A. 74-8724(c)(3). The following are the salary and wage requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027:

FY 2026: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$2,292,905

FY 2026: State Approving Agency: \$196,054

Total: \$2,488,959

FY 2027: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$2,295,562

FY 2027: State Approving Agency: \$196,266

Total: \$2,491,1828

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

Object Code 200: Contractual Services – The major expenditures for contractual services are used for operational support for the KOVS Field Offices, with the second largest component being the Mobile Office Program. This includes communication/phone, internet, travel, statutorily required training, rents, and all utilities.

FY 2026: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$416,102

FY 2026: State Approving Agency: \$49,627

Total: \$465,729

FY 2027: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$413,436

FY 2027: State Approving Agency: \$34,346

Total: \$447,782

Object Code 300: Commodities – The major expenditures for commodities are used for operational support for the Field and Mobile Offices. These include fuel, travel and related expenditures. Mobile Offices have greatly enhanced access to federal benefits for Kansas Veterans. These offices take KOVS Veteran Service Representatives to rural communities, other underserved Veteran populations, as well as Veterans that are homebound or in nursing homes.

FY 2026: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$39,217

FY 2026: State Approving Agency: \$1,545

Total: \$40,762

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

FY 2027: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$39,218

FY 2027: State Approving Agency: \$1,545

Total: \$40,763

Object Code 400: Capital Outlay – Capital outlay expenditures are used for office equipment, machinery, fixtures, and IT equipment.

FY 2026: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$203,874

FY 2026: State Approving Agency: \$5,640

Total: \$209,514

FY 2027: Veteran Srv/Enhanced: \$0

FY 2027: State Approving Agency: \$0

Total: \$ 0

Object Code 900: Other Assistance – Other assistance expenditures include Veterans Claims Assistance Program grant award payments.

FY 2026: \$1,160,553

FY 2027: \$1,000,000

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

2303 2303 Veterans Benefit Lottery Game

Statutory History: K.S.A. 74-8724, provides the authority for the Kansas Lottery Commission to establish an instant lottery scratch-off game beginning in 2008, designated as the Veterans' Benefit Game and administered by the Kansas Lottery. All net profits, received from the sale of Veterans' Benefit Game lottery tickets, are deposited in the state treasury, and utilized by the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and their families (40.0 percent), operating expenditures at the Kansas Soldiers' Home, Kansas Veterans' Home, and Kansas Veteran Cemeteries (30.0 percent), and the Veteran Services Program (30.0 percent). In FY 2019, the amount of lottery proceeds received transferred to the Kansas National Guard and the KOVS transitioned to a fixed amount and is not tied to the amount of scratch tickets sold in the previous year.

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 780,598	\$ 847,909	\$ 697,441	\$ 429,430	\$ 163,602
Operating Transfers In	1,260,000	1,260,000	1,260,000	1,260,000	1,260,000
Total	\$ 2,040,598	\$ 2,107,909	\$ 1,957,441	\$ 1,689,430	\$ 1,423,602

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

3241 3340 Office of Veterans Services FDF/State Approving Agency (SAA)

Statutory History: The Approving Agency was established in 1945 to assist with the implementation of the original G.I. Bill. On January 26, 1946, the responsibility for approving courses and programs was transferred to the Kansas Office of Veterans Services, as the State Approving Agency (SAA).

Title 38 CFR Part 21 provides the VA guidance to State Approving Agencies on their requirements to administer the program. Additionally, the annual cooperative agreement we sign with the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), provides other targeted performance measures and goals.

Funding is based on the federal fiscal year (October-September). The amount of funding is determined by an allocation model designed by a third-party contractor and agreed upon by the National State Approving Agency Organization (NASAA) and the VA. The current contract is for 2.25 professional staff. There are two full-time Public Service Administrator Education Specialists who work under the supervision of the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director is considered the 0.25 staff personnel. The amount KOVS receives from the federal VA funds all SAA expenditures, including salaries, travel, supplies and other office expenses. Invoices for reimbursement are submitted to the VA Quarterly for documented expenditures.

In FY 2023, all SAAs in NASAA, transitioned from a Compliance-Based-Survey to a Risk-Based-Survey/Supervisory Visit business model. Simply put, instead of conducting compliance checks on schools on a routine basis every few years, we now conduct checks of educational institutions when they get flagged for two or more risk factors set forth by the VA. We are now able to visit schools (supervisory visits) and complete a courtesy “check-up” to identify issues before they become flagged by the VA.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

3241 3340 State Approving Agency (SAA) Funding

Invoice reimbursements to the agency often run one to two months behind. Funds for this program are allocated based on the federal fiscal year from October 1 – September 30. The FFY 2026 contract allocation is \$252,427 and we anticipate a small COLA increase above the contracted amount will be offered to us in January 2026. The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs has changed their allocation model for determining the amount a state SAA organization receives based on factors such as how many active education facilities are in the state, how many Risk Based Surveys and supervisory visits the SAA is scheduled to accomplish, and other pertinent data such as salary and wages. Figures below are based on the State Fiscal Year, not the Federal Fiscal Year. Also, not reflected in the figures below are outstanding/pending billings.

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 235,204	\$ 260,856	\$ 347,654	\$ 336,118	\$ 288,494
All Other Operating Costs	189,335	230,798	146,751	195,615	195,615
Total	\$ 424,539	\$ 491,654	\$ 494,405	\$ 531,733	\$ 484,109

Note: This is a grant program so none of the carry forward amount cannot be utilized for expenses.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Veteran Services Program

7003 7001 Kansas Hometown Heroes Fund

Statutory History: K.S.A. 79-3221k, provides the authority for the director of taxation of the department of revenue to determine annually the total amount designated for contribution to the Kansas Hometown Heroes Fund pursuant to subsection (a) and shall report such amount to the state treasurer who shall credit the entire amount thereof to the Kansas Hometown Heroes Fund. All moneys deposited in such fund shall be used solely for the purpose of funding the continued operations of the Veteran Services program of the Kansas Office of Veterans Services.

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 59,566	\$ 78,688	\$ 98,742	\$ 110,406	\$ 77,448
All Other Operating Grants	19,122	20,054	14,339	17,838	17,838
Total	\$ 78,688	\$ 98,742	\$ 113,081	\$ 128,244	\$ 95,286

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME (KVH)**KANSAS VETERANS' HOME OVERVIEW:**

The primary purpose of the Kansas Veterans' Home is to provide care of any individuals who served in the active military service of the United States during any period of war, or who served in the active military service of the United States during peacetime and is entitled to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) hospitalization or domiciliary care under Title 38 of the United States Code and the federal Veterans Affairs rules and regulations. The home serves these eligible Veterans were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and who may be disabled due to disease, wounds, aging, or other causes, and are thereby incapacitated from earning a livelihood.

To fulfill its purpose, the Kansas Veterans' Home provides long-term care to Veterans who require skilled or intermediate nursing care, along with related medical services. These services must be prescribed by, or delivered under the general supervision of, appropriately licensed healthcare professionals. Skilled nursing care is provided under the direct supervision of a registered professional nurse, ensuring that residents receive the level of care appropriate to their medical needs.

The secondary purpose of the KVH is to provide domiciliary care to eligible Veterans. This includes shelter, food, and necessary medical support on an ambulatory, self-care basis. It is intended for Veterans who, due to a disability, disease, or defect, are incapacitated from earning a living but do not require hospitalization or skilled nursing care. The goal of domiciliary care is to promote physical, mental, and social well-being through a coordinated treatment plan aimed at restoring or maintaining each resident's highest possible level of functioning.

KVH may also provide nursing home and domiciliary care, on a space-available basis, to eligible Family members of Veterans, i.e., spouses, surviving spouses, eligible dependents, and Gold Star parents.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

Average Daily Census (ADC):

	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Long-Term Care	79	79	83	83
Domiciliary	26	21	22	24
Total	105	100	105	107

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, KVH experienced a slight increase in admissions; however, this was offset by a corresponding rise in discharges, primarily due to deaths. Despite this, we remain optimistic that both admissions and overall census will increase in the coming year. Our goal is to restore the average daily census to 105, with continued growth anticipated into FY 2027.

Despite ongoing nursing staff shortages in Kansas and across the United States, KVH has made significant efforts to improve recruitment. The organization has hosted job fairs and participated in multiple events, setting up promotional booths to raise awareness and attract potential candidates. These proactive recruiting strategies—combined with competitive salary and wage increases—have led to a notable improvement in staffing levels.

However, KVH continues to experience a modest shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), particularly during second and third shifts. To address these gaps, KVH relies on temporary staffing agencies. While this helps ensure adequate coverage, it also results in substantially higher staffing costs.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION BY OBJECT CODES

It remains a challenge for the KOVS revenue and expenditures to reflect consistency from year to year because of special revenue funds. Actual fund balances at the beginning of a fiscal year compared to original estimates can reflect dramatic variances. These variances require expenditure adjustments from different funding sources, like Medicaid, Medicare, and VA Per-diem, which are heavily driven by the census that results in variances between the approved budget and the revised budget. However, the overall expenditures by program reflect very little adjustment, and remain consistent. Where there are changes in the overall expenditures for a program, an explanation is provided in the program narratives.

The sources of all revenue for KVH, other than SGF, are monthly reimbursements and the KOVS does not control when these reimbursements will post. It is not always predictable that within a certain number of days of uploading the reimbursement requests, the reimbursements will post. At times, there can be a one to two-month lag between when a reimbursement request is uploaded and when the reimbursement is received. This can sometimes cause an uneven flow of receipts into each fund. KOVS fiscal staff continually monitor each fund to see where sufficient balances are available to pay the bills that are due.

Object Code 100: Salaries and Wages

KVH administers four programs: Administration, Non-Nursing, Nursing, and Physical Plant, with an authorized FTE count of 193. At the end of FY 2025, the current staffing level was 165.5 filled FTE. Optimal FTE staffing based on census, and acuity levels requires 176 filled FTE to meet operational needs. KVH filled 10.5 FTE positions in FY 2025, and FY 2026 plan to fill 10.5 FTE positions. The following are the salary and wage requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027:

FY 2026: \$14,650,390
FY 2027: \$14,719,340

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

Object Code 200: Contractual Services

Major expenditures in this Object Code include a contract for pharmacy services, the facility's Medical Director, lab fees, electronic communication services, repairs, and temp agency staffing. In FY 2026 and FY 2027, the KVH is anticipating a decrease in Temp Agency Staffing usage due to filling vacant nursing FTE positions. Expenditures are estimated for FY 2026 and FY 2027. The amounts below include on-budget and off-budget expenditures.

FY 2026: \$200,110

FY 2026: \$1,980,722 (off-budget)

Total: \$2,180,832

FY 2027: \$426,314

FY 2027: \$ 1,863,552 (off-budget)

Total: \$2,289,866

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

Object Code 300: Commodities

Major expenditures in this Object Code are for Food for Human Consumption, Nursing Supplies, Fuel, Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies, and Office Supplies. FY 2026 and FY 2027, the KVH is anticipating and overall slight increase in commodities due to cost increase for Food, products, and supplies. The amounts below include on-budget and off-budget expenditures. Expenditures estimated for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are as follows.

FY 2026: \$1,613,018

FY 2027: \$1,693,673

Object Code 400: Capital Outlay

Major expenditures in this Object Code are for office equipment, machinery, furniture, equipment, vehicles, information technology equipment, and therapy, nursing, and dietary equipment. FY 2026 and FY 2027, the KVH is anticipating and overall increase in expenditures in Capital Outlay for computers and printers' replacement and to purchase one new Transit Van with wheelchair lift in FY 2025 and in FY 2026. Currently, all four of our transit vans/buses have over 100,000 miles. Expenditures estimated for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are as follows.

FY 2026: \$391,486

FY 2027: \$237,849

Object Code 500: Capital Improvements

The agency's Capital Improvement Plan lists eight projects scheduled for FY 2026, in addition to emergency rehabilitation and repair; include electrical infrastructure upgrade for the facility, replace main entrance doors for the Timmerman Hall building, repair steam

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

line from Timmerman Hall building to the Holly Power Plant building, install new 100 ton chiller, replace exterior doors for Donlon Hall building, facility boiler water softener system, repair steam lines in Holly Power Plant building, and Donlon Hall – Ehlers wing remodel. There are three projects slated for FY 2027, Bleckey Hall Dining room and Holly Kitchen Renovation, replace sidewalk and add lighting from Timmerman Hall building to the Donlon Hall building, and replace flooring in Midway Memorial Walkway.

FY 2026: \$3,468,281

FY 2027: \$4,809,244

Object Code 900: Other Assistance

This category consists of comfort money for residents of the Home. Medicaid residents who are Veterans receive \$98 per month and non-Veteran Medicaid residents can apply for a reduced rate.

FY 2026: \$5,512

FY 2027: \$5,512

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

2236 2200 Veterans' Home Fee Fund

Statutory History: This fund is authorized by K.S.A. 76-1952, as amended by Sub HB 2681. Resident Fees are reviewed annually, and any changes are effective January 1st of each year. The costs associated with health care and other fees associated with operations, including pharmaceuticals, utilities, food service, transportation and other costs result in the overall cost of care increasing dramatically. Review and consideration of rate increases to sustain quality care and services are ongoing.

The monthly charge for a semi-private room in the domiciliary unit is \$1,658. The monthly charge for a private room in the Nursing Care Unit is \$3,394. The monthly charge for a room in the Alzheimer's Special Care Unit is \$3,820

Determination of charges to Veterans and eligible dependents are based upon ability to pay. No Veteran or eligible dependent will be denied admission because of his or her financial status. Veterans and eligible dependents with limited resources are required to apply for programs they are eligible for, to include Medicaid, Medicare, SSI or any VA pension/compensation programs. The Veterans receiving 70.0 percent to 100.0 percent service-connected disability compensation do not contribute to the Fee Fund. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) per diem for service-connected disability pays for the full cost of care.

In FY 2026 and FY 2027 projecting a slight increase in long-term-care and domiciliary census reflects higher revenue projections in Resident Fee Fund.

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

2236 2200 Veterans' Home Fee Fund (cont.)

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ (195,337)	\$ 214,883	\$ 91,340	\$ -
Care and Hospitalization	\$ 2,167,675	\$ 2,174,463	\$ 2,536,043	\$ 2,575,805
Collection Assistance Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Means and Processed Foods	\$ 2,713	\$ 2,390	\$ 949	\$ 949
Other Interest Dividend Prem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rent and Unimproved Land	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Oil Gas Mineral Sand Royalties	\$ 1,150	\$ -	\$ 2,267	\$ 2,267
All Other Operating Grants	\$ 74,558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health Care Premium Surcharge	\$ (1,748)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Misc. Revenue	\$ 798	\$ 689	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,051,059	\$ 2,392,425	\$ 2,631,849	\$ 2,580,271

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

2469 2469 Veterans' Home Medicaid Fund

Statutory History: Medicare and Medicaid programs were signed into law on July 30, 1965. On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, was enacted. Following enactment of PL 111-148, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, was enacted on March 30, 2010, amending certain provisions of PL 111-148. These laws are collectively known as the Affordable Care Act.

In order for a Skilled Nursing facility to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, an annual survey and certification is conducted. The health and safety standards required of Skilled Nursing facilities are found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, supplemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) manuals.

KVH started providing Medicare and Medicaid services for eligible, qualifying events and began billing in September 2010. Medicaid revenue is associated with the Case Mix Index (CMI) of the residents. The Medicaid daily rate is adjusted up or down quarterly depending on the average of the CMI.

This fund is considered Off-Budget. The federal funds are receipted by KDHE, which then receipts the funds to other agencies and programs.

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 22,106	\$ 104,910	\$ 131,481	\$ 14,310
Care and Hospitalization	\$ 1,905,308	\$ 1,626,910	\$ 1,863,551	\$ 1,863,551
Total	\$ 1,927,486	\$ 1,731,820	\$ 1,995,032	\$ 1,877,861

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

3220 3220 Veterans' Home Domiciliary Fund (VA Per Diem)

Statutory History: 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17, Subpart 51.40 states that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will pay per-diem for Nursing Care and Domiciliary Care provided to an eligible veteran in a facility recognized as a State Home for Veterans. Public Law 108-422, Title II, SEC 202, Section 1741(e) states that payments to states pursuant to this section shall not be considered a liability of a third party or otherwise be used to offset or reduce any other payment made to assist veterans.

DVA per diem is paid to a facility on a monthly basis. The daily rates are normally adjusted on October 1st of every year to coincide with the start of the federal fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The current VA Domiciliary per diem rate is \$62.20.

In order to continue qualifying for per diem, state homes for veterans are required to maintain standards for health and safety as established by the DVA. Each Home undergoes an annual survey conducted by its supporting VA Medical Center. The standards and inspection process guidance is found in VHA Handbook 1145.01.

Receipts in this fund may fluctuate based upon the rate changes determined by the DVA on October 1st, and the veteran census. DVA per diem is paid to a state veterans' home to provide domiciliary care to eligible veterans as long as the state veterans' home meets the DVA standards, as measured by an annual survey conducted by the DVA.

In FY 2026 and FY 2027 a slight decrease in domiciliary census reflects lower revenue projections in VA Per Diem revenues.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

3220 3220 Veterans' Home Domiciliary Fund (VA Per Diem) (cont.)

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ -	\$ 82492	\$ 40291	\$ 40,295
Care and Hospitalization	\$ 546,613	\$ 426,878	\$ 453,960	\$ 519,266
Total	\$ 546,613	\$ 509,370	\$ 494,251	\$ 559,561

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

3232 3232 Veterans' Home Federal Fund Long Term Care (VA Per Diem)

Statutory History: 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17, Subpart 51.40 states that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will pay per-diem for Long Term Care provided to an eligible Veteran in a facility recognized as a State Home for Veterans. DVA per-diem is paid to the facility on a monthly basis. The daily rates are adjusted on October 1st of every year to coincide with the start of the federal fiscal year (FFY). The current VA per diem rate in FFY 2026 is \$144.10.

The above annotated per diem rates are known as the Basic Rate. For Veterans who are service connected at a 70.0 percent or higher rate, Public Law 112-115, Sec. 105, dictates a slightly different formula calculation. The daily rates are adjusted on October 1st of every year to coincide with the start of the federal fiscal year (FFY). The current VA per diem rate in FFY 2026 is \$492.72.

In order to continue qualifying for per diem, State Homes for Veterans are required to maintain standards for health and safety as established by the DVA. Each Home undergoes an annual survey conducted by its supporting VA Medical Center. The standards and inspection process guidance can be found in VHA Handbook 1145.01.

Receipts in this fund may fluctuate based on the rate changes determined by the DVA on October 1st, the Veteran census, and the mix of Veterans with 70.0 percent or greater service-connected compensation in the census. DVA per-diem is paid to a State Veterans' Home to provide Long Term Care to eligible Veterans as long as the State Veterans' Home meets the DVA standards, as measured by an annual survey conducted by the DVA.

In FY 2026 and FY 2027 a slight increase in long-term-care and service-connected census reflects higher revenue projections in VA Per Diem revenues.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

3232 3232 Veterans' Home Federal Fund Long Term Care (VA Per Diem)

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 308,780	\$ 275,786	\$ 288,180	
Care and Hospitalization	\$ 7,290,294	\$ 7,771,741	\$ 7,887,643	\$ 8,201,379
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$ 7,290,294	\$ 8,080,521	\$ 8,163,429	\$ 8,489,559

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Veterans' Home

3893 3893 Veterans' Home Medicare Fund

Statutory History: Medicare and Medicaid programs were signed into law on July 30, 1965. On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, was enacted. Following enactment of PL 111-148, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, was enacted on March 30, 2010, amending certain provisions of PL 111-148. These laws are collectively known as the Affordable Care Act.

In order for a Skilled Nursing facility to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, an annual survey and certification is conducted. The health and safety standards required of Skilled Nursing facilities are found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, supplemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) manuals.

In FY 2025, there was a decrease in Medicare revenue due to fewer resident's skilled qualifying days. In FY 2026 and FY 2027 a slight decrease in Medicare revenues reflect fewer resident's skilled qualifying days.

Revenue Source:	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 19,547	\$ 54,276	\$ 42,931	\$ -
Care and Hospitalization	\$ 357,285	\$ 194,922	\$ 238,685	\$ 238,685
Total	\$ 376,832	\$ 249,198	\$ 281,616	\$ 238,685

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

KANSAS SOLDIERS' HOME

KANSAS SOLDIERS' HOME OVERVIEW:

The primary purpose of the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH) is to provide exceptional nursing home care for any person who served in active military service of the United States during any period of war, or who served in the active military service of the United States during peacetime and who is entitled to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) hospitalization or domiciliary care under Title 38 of the United States Code and federal Veterans' Affairs rules and regulations. The home serves Veterans who have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable who may be disabled by disease, wounds, old age or otherwise disabled, and who by reason of such disability, are incapacitated from earning a living.

To achieve this purpose, KSH provides nursing home care to Veterans who require skilled or intermediate nursing care, and related medical services if such nursing care and medical services are prescribed by or are performed under the general direction of persons duly licensed to provide such care. The care includes intensive care where the nursing service is under the supervision of a registered nurse.

The secondary purpose is to provide domiciliary and cottage care, such as shelter, food, and necessary medical care, on an ambulatory self-care basis to assist eligible Veterans who are suffering from a disability, disease, or defect of such a degree that incapacitates the Veteran from earning a living. These Veterans are not in need of hospitalization or nursing care services, to attain physical, mental, and social well-being, through a coordinated treatment plan to restore the residents to, or maintain the residents at, their highest level of functioning. Eligible applicants may apply for cottage living at KSH if they can handle the day-to-day routine of independent living, provide their own furniture and appliances, and maintain the upkeep of the cottage residences.

With the improvements in health care and lifestyle choices, people are remaining independent much longer, and their long-term care needs, and assistance requirements are lower. Though Domiciliary applications and census have been reduced because of this we are beginning to see an increase in our census.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

KSH may also provide nursing home care and domiciliary care on a space-available basis, to Veteran Family members, i.e., spouses, surviving spouses, eligible dependents, and Gold Star parents.

Average Daily Census (ADC):

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Long-Term Care	48	52	50	52	52
Domiciliary	41	38	37	38	40
Total	89	90	87	90	92

KSH has seen a significant increase in the average daily census after the end of the public health emergency declaration due to COVID-19. This has resulted in an increase in the amount of revenue received in Fee Fund, Medicaid, and both VA Per Diem accounts. With the public's renewed interest in long-term care for their loved ones, KSH expects this trend to continue growing. Applications for long-term care and domiciliary continue to come in regularly and they are quickly processed for admission to the home.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION BY OBJECT CODES:

It remains a challenge for the KOVS revenue and expenditures to reflect consistency from year to year because of special revenue funds. Actual fund balances at the beginning of a fiscal year compared to original estimates can reflect dramatic variances. These variances require expenditure adjustments from different funding sources, like Medicaid, Medicare, and VA Per-diem, which are heavily driven by the census that results in variances between the approved budget and the revised budget. However, the overall expenditures by program reflect very little adjustment and remain consistent. Where there are changes in the overall expenditures for a program, an explanation is provided in the program narratives.

The sources of revenue for KSH, other than SGF, are monthly reimbursements and the KOVS does not control when these reimbursements will post. It is not always predictable that within a certain number of days after uploading the reimbursement requests, that the reimbursements will post. There can sometimes be one to two months of a lag between when they are uploaded and when the reimbursements are received. This can sometimes cause an uneven flow of receipts into each fund. KOVS fiscal staff continually monitor each fund to see where sufficient balances are available to pay the bills that are due.

Object Code 100: Salaries and Wages

The Kansas Soldiers' Home administers four programs: Administration, Domiciliary Resident Services, Long-Term Care, and Physical Plant (Maintenance/Dietary/Housekeeping) with an FTE count of 117. The current staffing level is 104 filled FTE with optimal FTE staffing based on census, and acuity levels need 114 filled FTE to meet operational needs. Due largely to significant salary and wage increases, the KSH has successfully filled 22 FTE positions. KSH believes it can fill 6 FTE positions in FY 2026, bringing positions filled to 110 FTE, and in FY 2027 will be able to fill another 4 FTE positions, bringing our total FTE count to 114. The following are the salary and wage requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027:

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

Salary and wage costs at the Home are funded through a mix of State General Fund and Special Revenue Funds. KSH continues to develop strategies to improve every aspect of care, and specifically balance standards of care, with limited resources, as experienced in the most recent fiscal years. KSH staff are committed to providing the best care possible for the Veterans they serve. Many residents express their appreciation and recognize the staff's efforts.

FY 2026: \$10,277,923

FY 2027: \$10,356,460

Object Code 200: Contractual Services

KSH leadership is committed to finding ways to reduce contractual service expenditures, primarily through a significant reduction in the reliance on temp agencies to meet staffing needs. Recruiting and retaining full-time nursing staff has improved over the last couple of years; however, it is still problematic in rural areas. Minimum staffing requirements force us to use temporary staffing agencies to fill positions to support resident care. Major expenditures in this category are Fees-Professional Services and Utilities. Professional Services consist of contracts with medical professionals providing care to the residents. The amounts below include on-budget and off-budget expenditures and represent a modest decrease.

FY 2026: \$ 689,056

FY 2026: \$ 1,469,491 (off-budget)

Total: \$ 2,158,547

FY 2027: \$ 606,637

FY 2027: \$ 1,181,632 (off-budget)

Total: \$ 1,788,269

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

Object Code 300: Commodities

Major expenditures in this category are Food, Professional & Scientific Supplies, Scientific Research Supplies, and Pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceutical supplies include nursing care items such as: medicine, bandages, and other care items for the residents. The amounts below include on-budget and off-budget expenditures.

FY 2026: \$ 1,563,390

FY 2027: \$ 1,641,560

Object Code 400: Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay expenditures include beds, mattresses, dining room furniture, file cabinets, dietary equipment, nursing equipment, wheelchairs, and miscellaneous other equipment. This includes resident bed replacements in the Long-Term Care building and replacement of computer and IT equipment that is outdated.

FY 2026: \$ 554,453

FY 2027: \$ 340,572

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

Object Code 500: Capital Improvements

The agency's Capital Improvement Plan lists seven projects scheduled for KSH, in addition to emergency rehabilitation and repairs, in FY 2026 and two projects in FY 2027, in addition to emergency rehabilitation and repairs. Projects for FY 2026 include replacing the roof on Halsey Hall, redoing the Halsey Hall Shower Rooms, and replacing the fire alarm panels in Lincoln and Grant Halls.

FY 2026: \$ 3,410,368

FY 2027: \$ 656,458

Object Code 900: Other Assistance

This category consists of comfort money for residents of the Home. Medicaid residents who are Veterans receive \$98 per month and non-Veteran Medicaid residents can apply for a reduced rate. These figures have decreased based on an overall reduction in census due to the COVID pandemic.

FY 2026: \$8,244 (off-budget)

FY 2027: \$8,244 (off-budget)

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

2241 2100 Soldiers' Home Fee Fund

Statutory History: This fund is authorized by K.S.A. 76-1952, as amended by Sub HB 2681. Resident Fees are reviewed annually, and any changes are effective January 1st of each year. The KOVS has not increased the monthly rate April of 2023. The costs associated with health care and other fees associated with operations, including pharmaceuticals, utilities, food service, transportation and other costs result in the overall cost of care continuing to increase. The rate increases are needed to maintain quality care and services. A comparison of fees to other facilities in the region has been made, and our fees remain far lower than all other facilities that provide the same service.

The monthly charge for a room in the Domiciliary is \$1,225.05 for Veterans and \$2,249.45 for eligible dependents. The monthly charge for a semi-private room in the Nursing Care Unit is \$2992.71 for Veterans and \$5,640.22 for eligible dependents.

Determination of charges to Veterans and eligible dependents are based on ability to pay. No Veteran or eligible dependent will be denied admission because of his or her financial status. Veterans and eligible dependents with limited resources are required to apply for programs they are eligible for, including Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, or any US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) pension/compensation programs. The Veterans receiving 70.0 percent to 100.0 percent service-connected disability, or Veterans admitted to the Long-Term Care Unit for a service-connected disability as their primary reason for admission, do not contribute to the Fee Fund. The VA per diem for service-connected disability pays for the full cost of care in the Long-Term Care unit.

Fees for cottage residency were adjusted in SFY 2021 to \$773.71 for Veterans, and \$386.87 for spouses residing with a Veteran. The reduced rate for cottage residents is 35.0 percent of their adjusted income for Veterans and 55.0 percent for their eligible dependents, which reinforces our mission statement that all Veterans are admitted, regardless of their ability to pay.

All applicants are required to disclose all sources of income and net worth so that charges can be assessed in a fair and consistent manner. Veterans and eligible dependents may sign a waiver for excessive income but must then pay the maximum charges. No

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

2241 2100 Soldiers' Home Fee Fund (cont.)

Veteran or eligible dependent will be denied admission because of their financial status. Some Veterans and eligible dependents may pay more or less than others, but in no event will the Veteran or eligible dependent pay more than the established maximum monthly charges for the level of care needed.

Cash Forward	\$ 10,117	\$ 75,688	\$ 409,263	\$ 442,315	\$ 18,790
Care and Hospitalization	1,234,669	1,570,677	1,202,869	1,667,162	1,833,878
Usable Condemned Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Meals and Processed Foods	4,083	136	3,750	-	-
Int Agency Bank Accounts	(695)	(849)	(880)	-	-
Salvaged Materials/Misc	-	1,417	-	-	-
Other Interest Dividend Prem.	-	-	-	-	-
Rent of Unimproved Land	6,095	13,070	13,465	13,070	13,070
Rent Real Estate and Bldgs	-	-	-	-	-
Other Rents and Royalties	140	(3,453)	2,950	-	-
Restitution	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Operating Grants	-	43,044	-	-	-
Other Service Charges	-	-	(265)	-	-
Other Misc. Revenue	-	-	280	-	-
Operating Transfers Out	(200,000)	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,054,409	\$ 1,699,730	\$ 1,631,432	\$ 2,122,547	\$ 1,865,738

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

2464 2464 Soldiers' Home Medicaid Fund

Statutory History: Medicare and Medicaid programs were signed into law on July 30, 1965. On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, was enacted. Following enactment of PL 111-148, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, was enacted on March 30, 2010, amending certain provisions of PL 111-148. These laws are collectively known as the Affordable Care Act.

For a Skilled Nursing facility to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, an annual survey and certification is conducted. The health and safety standards required of Skilled Nursing facilities are found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, supplemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) manuals.

KSH started providing Medicare and Medicaid services for eligible, qualifying events and began billing in September 2009. Medicaid revenue is associated with the Case Mix Index (CMI) of the residents. Medicaid daily rate is adjusted up or down bi-annually depending on the average of the CMI. The current rate is \$356.66 per day which is an increase from the previous period. During FY 2025, the facility did not see a steady increase in the Medicaid census from FY 2024. Over the two-year period from FY 2023 through FY2025, Medicaid census has decreased by 41%. This census is expected to stabilize over the course of FY 2026. This fund is considered Off-Budget.

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 375,101	\$ 157,523	\$ 1,097,166	\$ 1,192,945	\$ 1,017,019
Care and Hospitalization	1,342,100	1,491,036	1,186,076	1,301,809	1,431,990
Total	\$ 1,717,201	\$ 1,648,559	\$ 2,283,242	\$ 2,494,754	\$ 2,449,009

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

3168 3100 Soldiers' Home Medicare Fund

Statutory History: Medicare and Medicaid programs were signed into law on July 30, 1965. On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, was enacted. Following enactment of PL 111-148, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, was enacted on March 30, 2010, amending certain provisions of PL 111-148. These laws are collectively known as the Affordable Care Act.

For a Skilled Nursing facility to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, an annual survey and certification is conducted. The health and safety standards required of Skilled Nursing facilities are found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, supplemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) manuals.

KSH started providing Medicare and Medicaid services for eligible, qualifying events and began billing in September 2009. The first revenue was received in April 2010. Medicare reform commenced reducing reimbursements in FY 2013. Medicare changed the reimbursement methods to the Patient Driven Payment Model, and rates in October 2019. The KSH CMS Certification Number is 175513. During FY 2025, the facility experienced significant difficulties with the contracted provider of the skilled services that generate revenue for this fund. While the facility has experienced a steady increase in census and has secured a new contracted provider, the facility is not experiencing an increase in Medicare census or services.

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ 49,808	\$ 63,660	\$ 63,690	\$ 63,690	\$ 77,700
Care and Hospitalization	13,853	30	-	14,010	16,812
Total	\$ 63,661	\$ 63,690	\$ 63,690	\$ 77,700	\$ 94,512

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

3220 3225 Soldiers' Home Domiciliary Fund (VA Per Diem)

Statutory History: 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17, Subpart 51.40 states that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will pay per diem for Nursing Care and Domiciliary Care provided to an eligible Veteran in a facility recognized as a State Home for Veterans. Public Law 108-422, Title II, SEC 202, Section 1741(e) indicates that payments to states pursuant to this section shall not be considered a liability of a third party or otherwise be used to offset or reduce any other payment made to assist Veterans.

DVA per diem is paid to a facility monthly. The daily rates are normally adjusted on October 1st of every year to coincide with the start of the federal fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The current per diem rate is \$62.20.

To continue qualifying for per diem, State Homes for Veterans are required to maintain standards for health and safety as established by the DVA. Each Home undergoes an annual survey conducted by its supporting VA Medical Center. The standards and inspection process guidance can be found in VHA Handbook 1145.01.

Receipts in this fund may fluctuate based upon the rate changes determined by the DVA on October 1st and the Veteran census. DVA per diem is paid to a State Veterans' Home to provide Domiciliary care to eligible Veterans if the State Veterans' Home meets the DVA standards, as measured by an annual survey conducted by the DVA.

FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
\$ 47,529	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,971	\$ 22,001
569,916	564,886	554,953	566,363	622,999
\$ 617,445	\$ 564,886	\$ 554,953	\$ 575,334	\$ 645,000

Narrative Information – DA 400

Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

3232 3242 Soldiers' Home Federal Fund Long Term Care (VA Per Diem)

Statutory History: 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17, Subpart 51.40 states that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will pay per diem for Long Term Care provided to an eligible Veteran in a facility recognized as a State Home for Veterans. DVA per diem is paid to the facility monthly. The daily rates are normally adjusted on October 1st of every year to coincide with the start of the federal fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The per diem rate is currently \$144.10.

The above annotated per diem rates are known as the Basic Rate. For Veterans who are service connected at a 70.0 percent or higher rate, Public Law 112-115, Sec. 105, dictates a slightly different formula calculation. For FY 2026, the rate is \$492.72.

To continue qualifying for per diem, State Homes for Veterans are required to maintain standards for health and safety as established by the DVA. Each Home undergoes an annual survey conducted by its supporting VA Medical Center. The standards and inspection process guidance are found in VHA Handbook 1145.01.

Receipts in this fund may fluctuate based on the rate changes determined by the DVA on October 1st, the Veteran census, and the mix of Veterans with 70.0 percent or greater service-connected compensation in the census. DVA per diem is paid to a State Veterans' Home to provide Long Term Care to eligible Veterans if the State Veterans' Home meets the DVA standards, as measured by an annual survey conducted by the DVA.

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Division of the Budget

Agency: Kansas Office of Veterans Services 69400

State of Kansas

Program: Kansas Soldiers' Home

3232 3242 Soldiers' Home Federal Fund Long Term Care (VA Per Diem cont.)

Revenue Source:	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate
Cash Forward	\$ -	\$ 108,270	\$ -	\$ 266,357	\$ 290,659
Care and Hospitalization	3,700,424	4,302,219	5,059,347	5,271,455	5,271,455
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	4,815	-	-
Total	\$ 3,700,424	\$ 4,410,489	\$ 5,064,162	\$ 5,537,812	\$ 5,562,114