



Louisiana Senate Finance Committee



FY22 Recommended Budget

03 – Department of Veterans Affairs

March 2021

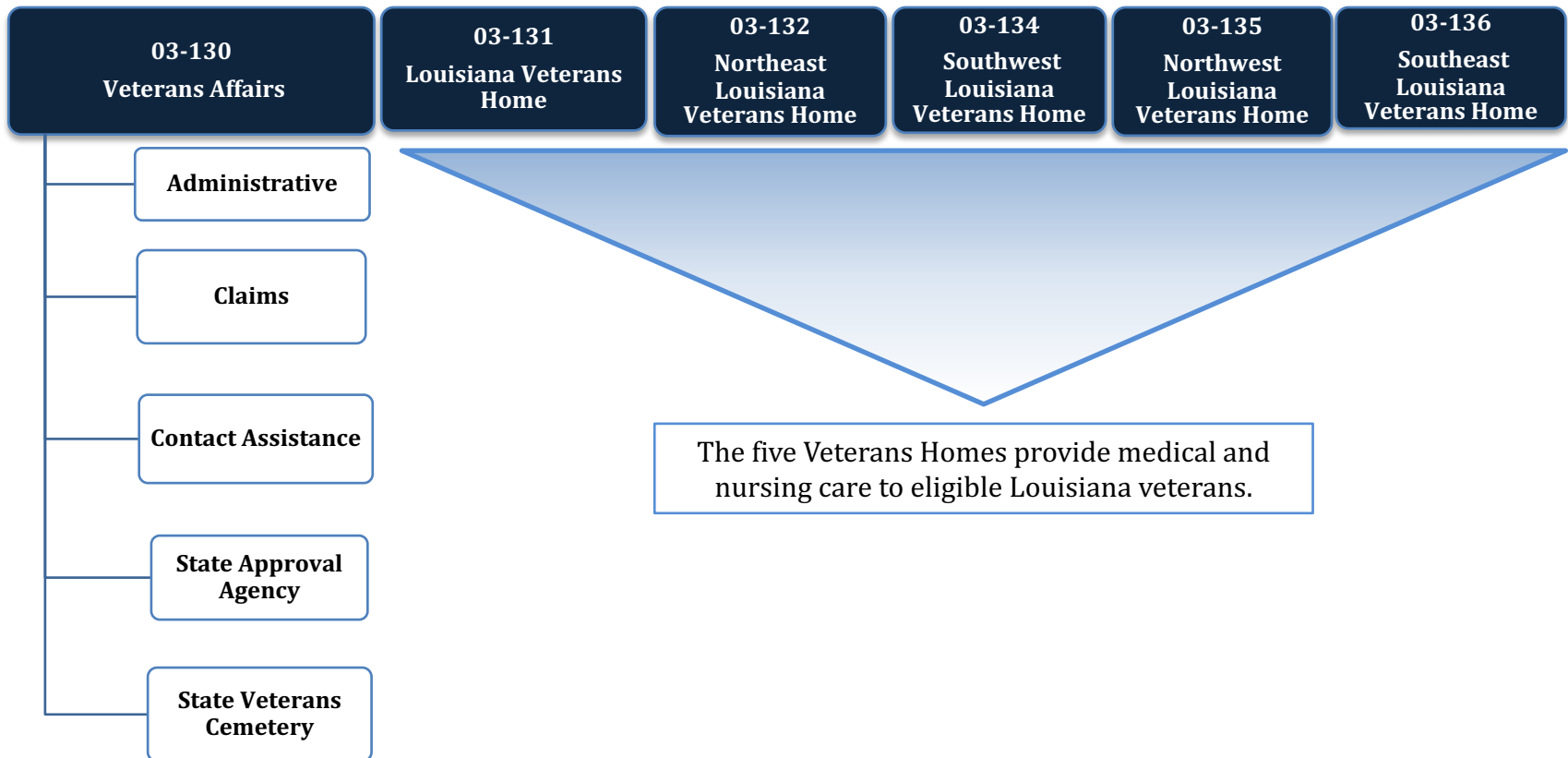
Sen. Patrick Page Cortez, President
Sen. Bodi White, Chairman



FY22 Executive Budget

Schedule 03 — Veterans Affairs Agencies

Departmental mission: “To provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana’s Veterans and their families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care and burial honors.”





Veterans Affairs Program Descriptions

Department of Veterans Affairs

Administrative Program - *Provides the service programs of the Department, as well as the Louisiana Veterans Home, Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home, Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home, Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home, and Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home with administrative and support personnel, assistance, and training necessary to carry out the efficient operation of the activities.*

Claims Program - *Assists veterans and/or their dependents with applying for and receiving any and all benefits to which they are entitled under federal law.*

Contact Assistance Program - *Operates offices throughout the state to inform veterans and/or their dependents of federal and state benefits to which they are entitled, and assists in applying for and securing these benefits.*

State Approval Agency - *Conducts inspections and provides technical assistance to programs of education pursued by veterans and other eligible persons under statute. The program also works to ensure that programs of education, job training, and flight schools are approved in accordance with Title 38, relative to plan of operation and veterans administration contract.*

State Veterans Cemetery - *State Veterans Cemetery consists of the Northwest Louisiana State Veterans Cemetery in Keithville, the Central Louisiana State Veterans Cemetery in Leesville, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Slidell, and the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Rayville. The Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Jennings is scheduled to open soon.*

Veterans Homes – *Provide medical and nursing care to eligible Louisiana veterans in an effort to return the veteran to the highest physical and mental capacity. There are 5 veterans homes across the state.*

Louisiana's War Veterans Homes

NW La.
Veterans
Home

Bossier City

Avg. No. of
Patients
139

NE La.
Veterans
Home

Monroe

Avg. No. of
Patients
145

SW La.
Veterans
Home

Jennings

Avg. No. of
Patients
144

La. Veterans
Home

Jackson

Avg. No. of
Patients
121

SE La.
Veterans
Home

Reserve

Avg. No. of
Patients
148

Louisiana's Veterans Cemeteries

NW La.
Veterans
Cemetery

Keithville

NE La.
Veterans
Cemetery

Rayville

Central La.
Veterans
Cemetery

Leesville

SW La.
Veterans
Cemetery

Jennings

SE La.
Veterans
Cemetery

Slidell

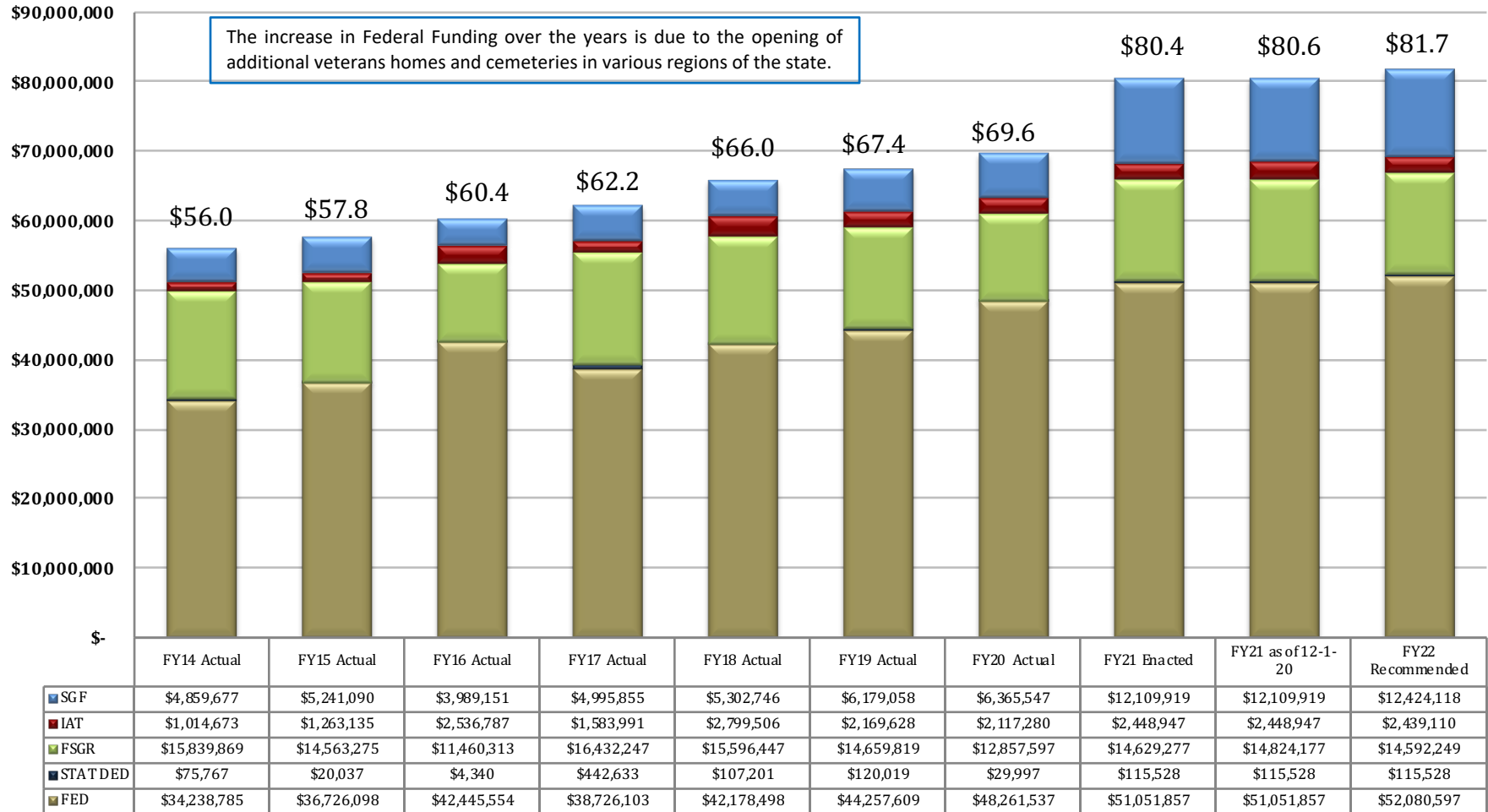


Veterans Affairs

Changes in Funding since FY14

Total Budget by Fiscal Year and Means of Finance (in \$ millions)

Change from FY14 to FY22 is +45.9%.





Veterans Affairs

Statewide Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY22

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$12,109,919	\$2,448,947	\$14,824,177	\$115,528	\$51,051,857	\$80,550,428	842	FY21 Existing Operating Budget as of 12-1-20
\$126,671	\$44,764	\$198,409	\$0	\$641,172	\$1,011,016	0	Market Rate Salary Adjustment – Classified
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Market Rate Salary Adjustment – Unclassified
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Unclassified Pay Increase
\$4,988	\$368	\$9,407	\$0	\$33,037	\$47,800	0	Civil Service Training Series Adjustment
\$135,370	\$2,428	\$36,394	\$0	\$164,841	\$339,033	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
(\$21,307)	(\$4,240)	(\$81,952)	\$0	(\$87,470)	(\$194,969)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$15,723	\$2,153	\$24,162	\$0	\$103,765	\$145,803	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$6,150	\$0	\$912	\$0	\$3,830	\$10,892	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$144,931	\$6,067	\$132,690	\$0	\$1,981,957	\$2,265,645	0	Salary Base Adjustment
(\$83,933)	(\$51,540)	(\$465,404)	\$0	(\$1,654,850)	(\$2,255,727)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Personnel Reductions
\$0	\$0	\$82,669	\$0	\$723,381	\$806,050	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$951,447)	(\$951,447)	0	Non-recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	(\$74,900)	\$0	\$0	(\$74,900)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$12,861	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$84,133	\$97,994	0	Risk Management
(\$10,006)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$10,006)	0	Legislative Auditor Fees
(\$114,057)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$114,057)	0	Rent in State-owned Buildings
\$632	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$632	0	Capitol Park Security
\$0	\$0	(\$276)	\$0	\$757	\$481	0	UPS Fees
\$2,585	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,191)	\$1,394	0	Civil Service Fees
\$168	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$168	0	State Treasury Fees
\$10,330	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,996	\$53,326	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$3,440	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$25,421	\$38,861	0	Office of State Procurement
\$234,546	\$0	(\$126,889)	\$0	\$1,110,332	\$1,217,989	0	Total Statewide Adjustments
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Total Means of Financing Substitution Adjustments
\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	0	Total Non-Recurring Other Adjustments
\$79,653	(\$9,837)	\$14,961	\$0	(\$81,592)	\$3,185	0	Total Other Adjustments
\$12,424,118	\$2,439,110	\$14,592,249	\$115,528	\$52,080,597	\$81,651,602	842	Total FY22 Proposed Budget
\$314,199	(\$9,837)	(\$231,928)	\$0	\$1,028,740	\$1,101,174	0	Total Adjustments (Statewide and Agency-Specific)



Veterans Affairs

Non-Statewide Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY22

Non-Recurring Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	0	VETS CEMETERY -Non-recurs a BA-7 for a Cemetery expansion at the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.
\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$120,000)	0	Total Non-Recurring Other Adjustments

Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$27,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$27,600	0	VETS CEMETERY -Funds a landscaping contract to improve and maintain the condition of the grounds at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. Currently this cemetery is averaging more burials than other State Veterans Cemeteries and have not been able to engage in all best practices.
\$36,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,000	0	VETS CEMETERY -Increases operating services for the recently-opened Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. Funding is needed to ensure the new cemetery can operate at 100% capacity.
\$16,053	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,053	0	LA VETS HOME -Increases funding for electricity by \$10,000 for an additional Covid-19 wing and water by \$6,053 due to the permanent loss of one of two wells which necessitates a backup water supply from East Feliciana Rural Water System.
\$0	\$0	\$14,961	\$0	\$200,544	\$215,505	0	SW LA VETS HOME -Increases Other Compensation needed to provide adequate care to residents.
\$0	(\$9,837)	\$0	\$0	(\$282,136)	(\$291,973)	0	SE LA VETS HOME -Decreases IAT funding from other Veterans Homes and United States Department of Veterans Affairs reimbursement due to projected lower census.
\$79,653	(\$9,837)	\$14,961	\$0	(\$81,592)	\$3,185	0	Total Other Adjustments

Other Technical Adjustments

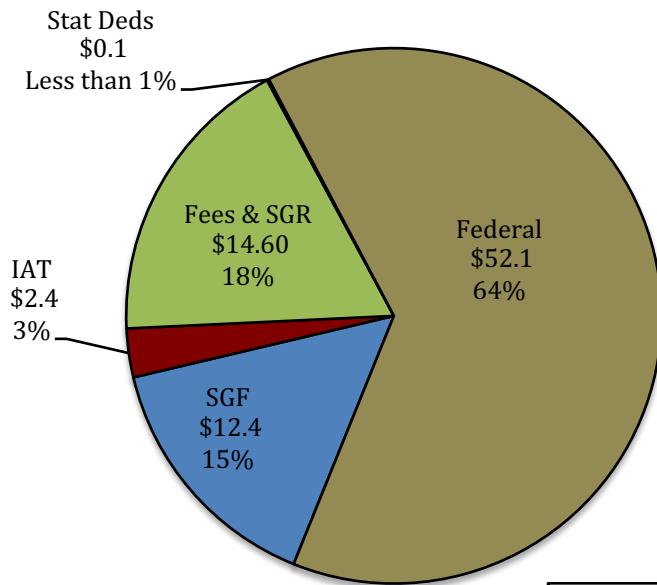
State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
(\$800,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$800,000)	0	ADMINISTRATIVE -Transfers funding for Louisiana National Guard 100% disability claims from the Administrative program to the Contact Assistance program.
(\$3,116,499)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$3,116,499)	(1)	CLAIMS -Moves funds and one T.O. for Louisiana National Guard disability claims from the Claims Program to the Contact Assistance program, which will now handle disability claims.
\$3,116,499	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,116,499	1	CONTACT ASSISTANCE -Moves funds and one T.O. for Louisiana National Guard disability claims from the Claims Program to the Contact Assistance program, which will now handle disability claims.
\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	0	CONTACT ASSISTANCE -Transfers funding for Louisiana National Guard 100% disability claims from the Administrative program to the Contact Assistance program.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Total Other Technical Adjustments



Veterans Affairs

FY22 Recommended Means of Finance

**FY22 Recommended
Total Means of Finance
(In Millions)**



Total \$81.7 m.

Non-SGF Sources of Funding:

Non-State General Fund funding sources for the Department of Veterans Affairs includes dollars derived from Interagency Transfers, Fees and Self-generated Revenues, Statutory Dedications, and Federal Funds.

Statutory Dedications come from the Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund.

Interagency Transfers are derived from other Veterans Affairs agencies and homes.

Fees and Self-generated Revenues are derived from each parish's contribution towards providing a veterans service office. Fees and Self-generated Revenues for Veterans Homes are derived from the residents' ability to pay for part of their care and from employees and visitors purchasing meal tickets.

Federal Funds are derived from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Federal Funds for the homes are derived from the Veterans Administration for patient care days based on a reimbursement rate of \$102.38 per day for the care of each veteran housed as reflected in the daily census and the Medicare eligible residents cost reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dedicated Funds	Source of Funding	FY20 Actual	FY21 EOB	FY22 Recommended
Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund	Tax return donations.	\$29,997	\$115,528	\$115,528
TOTALS		\$29,997	\$115,528	\$115,528



Veterans Affairs

FY21 Enacted vs. FY22 Recommended Means of Finance by Agency

Changes in funding by Means of Finance

FY21 Enacted Total MOF by Agency	SGF	IAT	FSGR	Stat Deds	Federal	Total
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$10,488,942	\$1,754,344	\$1,411,513	\$115,528	\$1,097,554	\$14,867,881
LA Veterans Home	\$1,620,977	\$0	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$7,490,278	\$11,011,255
NELA Veterans Home	\$0	\$0	\$2,619,006	\$0	\$10,271,427	\$12,890,433
SWLA Veterans Home	\$0	\$201,260	\$2,920,936	\$0	\$10,799,943	\$13,922,139
NWLA Veterans Home	\$0	\$0	\$2,874,737	\$0	\$10,863,824	\$13,738,561
SELA Veterans Home	\$0	\$493,343	\$2,903,085	\$0	\$10,528,831	\$13,925,259
TOTALS	\$12,109,919	\$2,448,947	\$14,629,277	\$115,528	\$51,051,857	\$80,355,528

FY22 Recommended Total MOF by Agency	SGF	IAT	FSGR	Stat Deds	Federal	Total
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$10,382,634	\$1,754,344	\$1,411,513	\$115,528	\$1,066,654	\$14,730,673
LA Veterans Home	\$2,041,484	\$0	\$1,961,069	\$0	\$7,596,203	\$11,598,756
NELA Veterans Home	\$0	\$0	\$2,660,000	\$0	\$10,675,505	\$13,335,505
SWLA Veterans Home	\$0	\$201,260	\$2,746,458	\$0	\$11,494,228	\$14,441,946
NWLA Veterans Home	\$0	\$0	\$2,946,734	\$0	\$10,813,642	\$13,760,376
SELA Veterans Home	\$0	\$483,506	\$2,866,475	\$0	\$10,434,365	\$13,784,346
TOTALS	\$12,424,118	\$2,439,110	\$14,592,249	\$115,528	\$52,080,597	\$81,651,602
<i>Difference FY20 Enacted to FY21 Proposed</i>	<i>\$314,199</i>	<i>(\$9,837)</i>	<i>(\$37,028)</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$1,028,740</i>	<i>\$1,296,074</i>

The FY22 Recommended Budget for Veterans Affairs is an increase of \$1.3 million over FY21 Enacted. This equates to a percentage increase of 1.6.

The Louisiana Veterans Home program showed the largest increase at \$587,501, followed by the SWLA Veterans Home at \$519,807 and the NELA Veterans Home at \$445,072.

Federal Funds showed the greatest increase at a little over \$1 million. State General Fund showed a small increase at \$314,199. Fees and Self-generated Revenues showed a slight decrease of (\$37,028) for FY22 Proposed.



Veterans Affairs

Categorical Expenditures

Expenditure Category	FY20 Actual	FY21 EOB (as of 12-01-20)	FY22		Difference FY21 to FY22
			Recommended Budget	Category as Percent of Total	
Personal Services:	\$49,946,031	\$55,380,180	\$56,762,318	70%	\$1,382,138
Salaries	\$33,106,654	\$35,514,544	\$37,062,972	45%	\$1,548,428
Other Compensation	\$1,322,504	\$1,463,260	\$1,475,905	2%	\$12,645
Related Benefits	\$15,516,873	\$18,402,376	\$18,223,441	22%	(\$178,935)
Operating Expenses:	\$9,166,660	\$9,994,789	\$9,971,823	12%	(\$22,966)
Travel	\$144,145	\$209,503	\$209,503	0%	\$0
Operating Services	\$3,183,206	\$3,660,244	\$3,718,051	5%	\$57,807
Supplies	\$5,839,309	\$6,125,042	\$6,044,269	7%	(\$80,773)
Professional Services	\$3,303,410	\$3,493,756	\$3,469,356	4%	(\$24,400)
Other Charges:	\$6,475,828	\$10,730,256	\$10,642,055	13%	(\$88,201)
Other Charges	\$1,149,607	\$4,373,568	\$4,373,568	5%	\$0
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0
Interagency Transfers	\$5,326,221	\$6,356,688	\$6,268,487	8%	(\$88,201)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs:	\$740,029	\$951,447	\$806,050	1%	(\$145,397)
Acquisitions	\$531,637	\$604,947	\$548,814	1%	(\$56,133)
Major Repairs	\$208,392	\$346,500	\$257,236	0%	(\$89,264)
Total Expenditures	\$69,631,958	\$80,550,428	\$81,651,602	100%	\$1,101,174

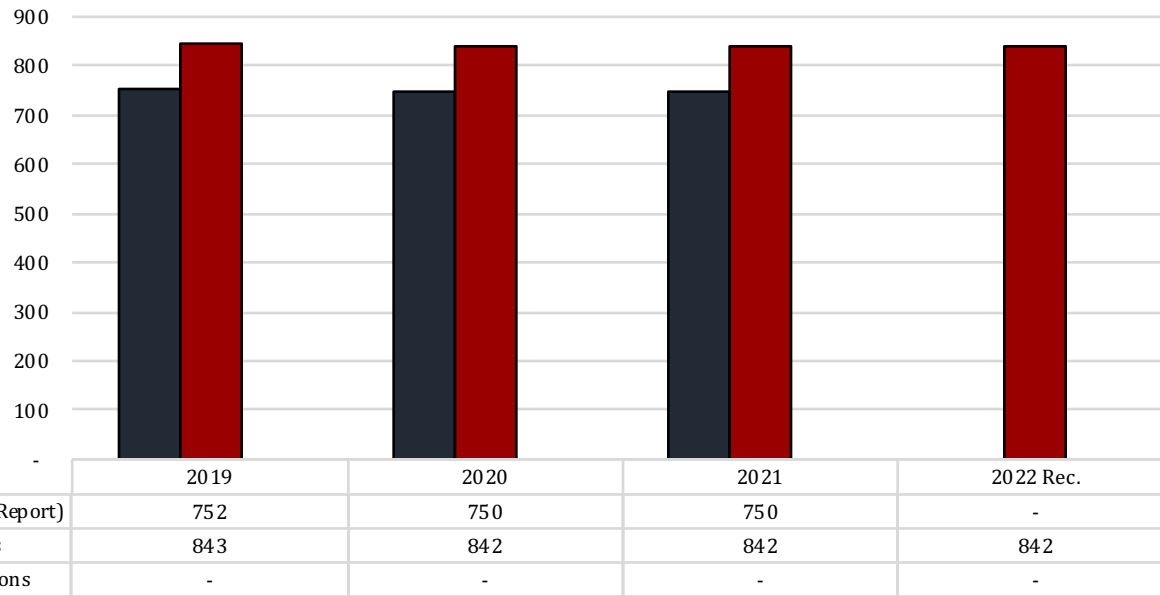
NOTE: The majority of the department's funding is in Personal Services for salaries and related benefits.



03- Veterans Affairs

FTEs, Authorized, and Other Charges Positions and Related Employment Information

Number and Types of Positions



This Department Represents 2.5% of Total State Positions of 34,081.

FY21 number of funded, but not filled, positions as of March 1 = 112

* Remaining Benefits include employer contribution to authorized positions' retirement, health, Medicare, FICA, Emoluments etc. The authorized positions include authorized T.O. positions and authorized other charges positions, both filled and vacant.

Personal Services	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Recommended
Salaries	\$32,436,923	\$33,106,654	\$36,506,029	\$37,062,972
Other Compensation	\$1,448,001	\$1,322,504	\$1,230,100	\$1,475,905
Related Benefits	\$14,063,975	\$15,516,873	\$17,644,051	\$18,223,441
Total Personal Services	\$47,948,899	\$49,946,031	\$55,380,180	\$56,762,318

Examples of Other Compensation include pay for WAE employees, part-time employees, student workers, etc.

Other Charges Benefits
\$0

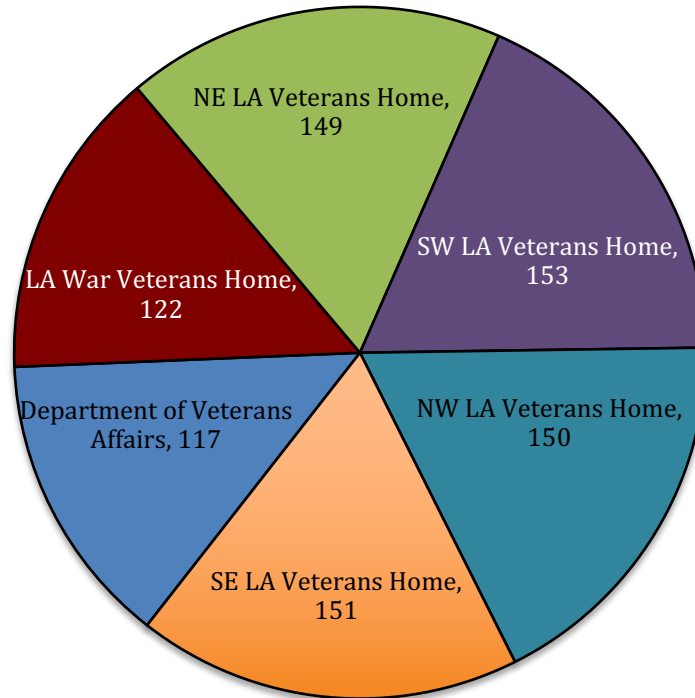
Related Benefits FY22 Recommended	Total Funding	%
Total Related Benefits	\$18,223,441	
UAL payments	\$10,792,623	57%
Retiree Health Benefits	\$772,718	
Remaining Benefits*	\$6,658,100	
Means of Finance	General Fund = 14%	Other = 86%

Average Salary = \$39,712.50



Veterans Affairs

FY22 Recommended Total Authorized Positions by Agency



Department of Veterans Affairs

Administrative	16
Claims	7
Contact Assistance	61
State Approval Agency	4
State Veterans Cemetery	29

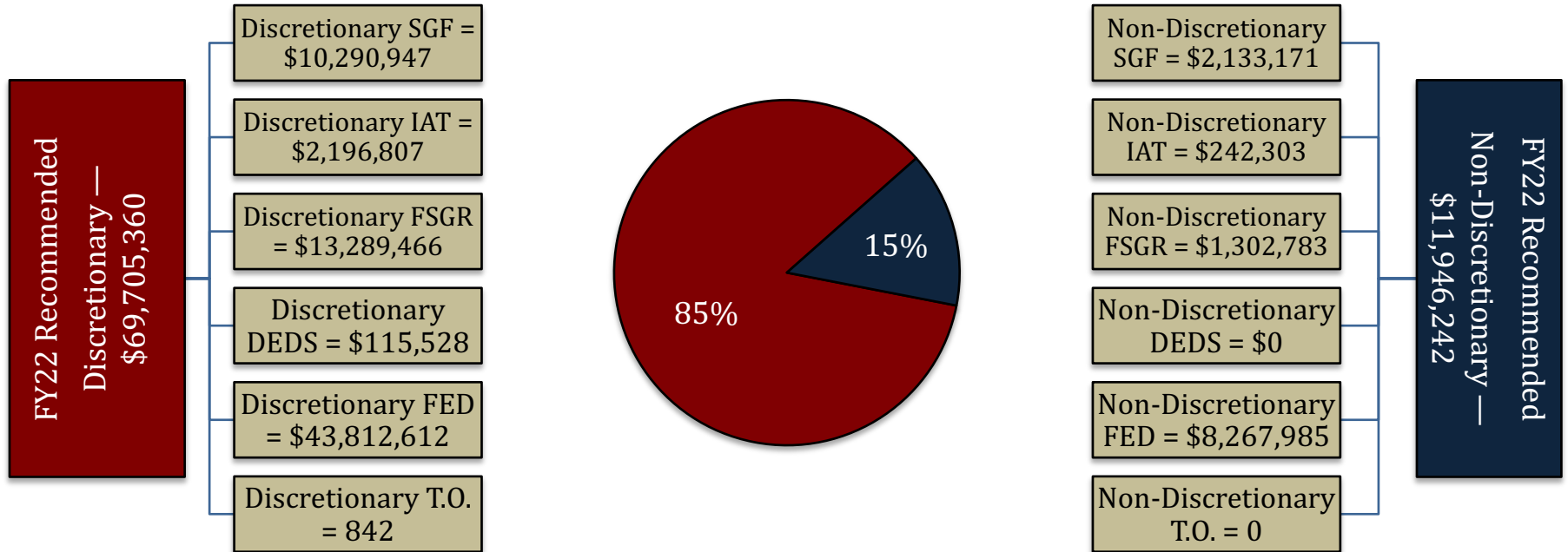
War Veterans Homes

Louisiana War Veterans Home	122
Northeast LA War Veterans Home	149
Southwest LA War Veterans Home	153
Northwest LA War Veterans Home	150
Southeast LA War Veterans Home	151



Veterans Affairs

FY22 Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Comparison



Total Discretionary Funding by Office		
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$ 12,407,367	18%
Louisiana Veterans Home	\$ 9,634,854	14%
Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home	\$ 11,403,127	16%
Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home	\$ 12,519,778	18%
Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home	\$ 11,914,744	17%
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home	\$ 11,825,490	17%
Total Discretionary	\$ 69,705,360	100%

Total Non-Discretionary Funding by Type		
Required by the Constitution	\$ 10,792,623	90%
Needed for Debt Service	\$ 228,725	2%
Unavoidable Obligations	\$ 924,894	8%
Total Non-Discretionary	\$ 11,946,242	100%
<i>Debt Service = Rent in State-owned Buildings</i>		
<i>Unavoidable Obligations = Retirees Group Insurance;</i>		
<i>Legislative Auditor Fees.</i>		



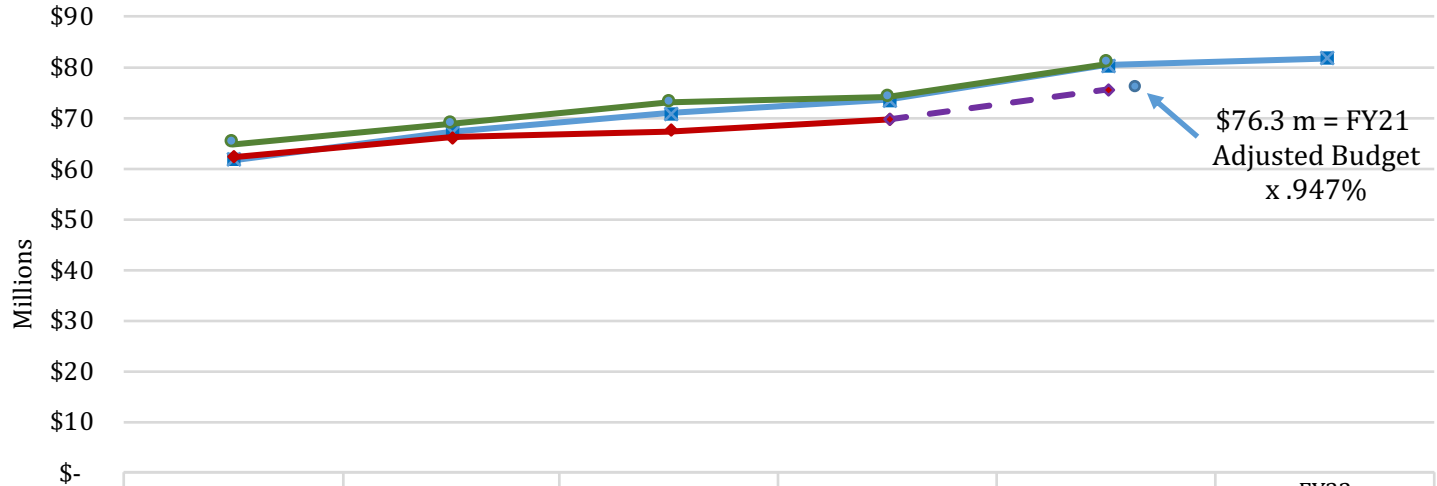
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enacted & FYE Budget vs. Actual Expenditures FY17 to FY20

FYE Budget = "Fiscal Year End" Budget includes all in-house and regular BA-7s through June 30 of the fiscal year. For FY21, it is as of December.

**FY21 Known
Supplemental Needs:
\$0**

**FY20 General Fund
Reversions:
\$315,141**



	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 thru Feb.	FY22 Recommended
Enacted Budget	\$61,561,780	\$67,080,906	\$70,912,036	\$73,305,686	\$80,355,528	\$81,651,602
FYE Budget	\$64,699,243	\$68,730,079	\$72,990,101	\$73,942,444	\$80,550,428	
Actual Expenditures	\$62,180,830	\$65,985,506	\$67,386,134	\$69,631,956		
FY21 Expenditure Trend				\$69,631,956	\$75,533,445	

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY21 Adjusted Budget	FY21 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Jul-20	\$ 80,355,528	\$ 6,193,967	\$ 74,161,561	7.7%
Aug-20	\$ 80,430,428	\$ 12,711,837	\$ 67,718,591	15.8%
Sep-20	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 19,429,641	\$ 61,120,787	24.1%
Oct-20	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 25,622,237	\$ 54,928,191	31.8%
Nov-20	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 30,714,568	\$ 49,835,860	38.1%
Dec-20	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 38,326,825	\$ 42,223,603	47.6%
Jan-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 43,687,901	\$ 36,862,527	54.2%

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY21 Adjusted Budget	FY21 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Feb-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 48,681,567	\$ 31,868,861	60.4%
<i>(Trend based on average monthly expenditures to date)</i>				
Mar-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 55,394,536	\$ 25,155,892	68.8%
Apr-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 62,107,506	\$ 18,442,922	77.1%
May-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 68,820,475	\$ 11,729,953	85.4%
Jun-21	\$ 80,550,428	\$ 75,533,445	\$ 5,016,983	93.8%

Historical Year End Average

94.7%



Veterans Affairs Audit Findings

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

January 13, 2021

For a third time, LDVA failed to ensure employees at all veterans homes followed established policies and procedures to close out accounts for discharged/deceased residents in a timely manner. For the second consecutive report, LDVA Headquarters failed to obtain proper approval for a legal services contract with a vendor. In addition, LDVA employees did not follow established policies and procedures for the certification and approval of time sheets and for approval of leave and overtime requests. Prior-report findings related to accounts receivable, meal ticket revenue, and LaCarte purchasing card expenditures were resolved.