

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (0385)  
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

The purpose of this agency is to assist veterans and their dependents in securing their rights and benefits under federal and state laws. This agency also maintains a Veterans Homes - a 108 bed facility that opened in June of 06 in Fayetteville. A facility in Little Rock was recently closed and all residents were transitioned into private residences and VA approved facilities. The agency also operates two State Veterans Cemeteries in North Little Rock and Birdeye. The agency also provides assistance to the County Veterans Service Officers.

**TOTAL BUDGET**

The agency's total appropriation for FY15 is \$11,168,413. General Revenue funding has been reduced due to the closure of the LR Veterans Home and the total number of positions for the agency was reduced by 56.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

The budget is funded by general revenue and by fees for services and federal reimbursement.

**II) APPROPRIATIONS/CHANGES**

- Six (6) of the positions with the Little Rock Veterans Home are being transferred to administrative positions within the agency.
- Sixteen positions (16) are being transferred from the Little Rock Veterans Home to the Fayetteville Home.
- Increase of \$53,215 in FY14 to purchase an Electronic Pharmaceutical Dispensing and Recording System for the Fayetteville VA Home.
- Increase of \$130,000 in appropriation only for each year in Capital Outlay for land improvements at the North Little Rock Cemetery.
- Transfer three (3) positions from the Little Rock Home to work with the VA Cemeteries.
- Additional appropriation of \$1,139,062 for each year for federal grant funding for improvements at the NLR Cemetery.
- One position from the LR VA Home was added back to the agency for the Fayetteville Home.
- Addition of cash appropriation section for Veterans' Home with \$483,000 appropriation.
- Additional \$34,124 appropriation in operating expense for

State Operations appropriation for rental expenses for administration.

- Increase of \$329,000 in Veteran's Cemeteries - Cash Appropriation for personal services and operating expenses.

**FY2014 Changes Approved During 2014 Pre-Fiscal Session Hearings:**

- Supplemental cash appropriation for Veterans' Home of \$483,000 from Governor's Letter #3 for expenses of a new home.

**III) POSITIONS**

Total Positions for FY15: 160

Total Positions for FY14: 160

Total Budgeted Positions for FY13: 225

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

- Training Conferences. Veterans Service Officers: Funds appropriated for Aid to County Veterans Service Offices may be used to pay expenses of the officers for attending training conferences approved by the Department.
- Liability Insurance. Veterans' Affairs shall in no event expend or transfer any appropriation or funds for the purchase of malpractice liability insurance for the benefit of a non-governmental entity.

**Updated January 2014**