

**Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Budget 321  
House Bill Nos. 1007, 1177, 1468**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2011-13 legislative appropriation	7.00	\$1,417,219 <sup>1</sup>	\$0	\$1,417,219
2009-11 legislative appropriation	<u>7.00</u>	<u>1,031,487</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,031,487</u>
2011-13 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2009-11 appropriation	0.00	\$385,732	\$0	\$385,732

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$317,593 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing general fund appropriation is \$1,099,626.

**Item Description**

**One-time funding** - The Legislative Assembly identified the following one-time funding items:

- Section 2 of 2011 House Bill No. 1007 - \$37,593 from the general fund, of which \$22,000 is for a discharge project to convert veterans' paper records to an electronic format and \$15,593 is for website redesign;
- House Bill No. 1177 (2011) - \$20,000 from the general fund for "stand down" events to coordinate benefits and provide services to needy veterans in this state; and
- House Bill No. 1468 (2011) - \$260,000 from the general fund, of which \$210,000 is to be used in lieu of income generated from the veterans' postwar trust fund for programs to benefit and serve veterans or their dependents and \$50,000 for the purchase of vans to transport veterans or their dependents.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly amended North Dakota Century Code Section 37-14-14 relating to the veterans' postwar trust fund to provide all income earned by the veterans' postwar trust fund in a biennium is appropriated to the Administrative Committee on Veterans' Affairs on a continuing basis in the biennium following the biennium in which it was earned. Income earned by the veterans' postwar trust fund during the 2011-13 biennium will be available for benefits and services to veterans during the 2013-15 biennium.

**Status/Result**

**Discharge project** - The Department of Veterans' Affairs has two part-time, temporary personnel scanning and entering information, but anticipates the project will not be completed by the end of the biennium with the funding provided. The department will continue to work on the project and anticipates requesting additional funding for the 2013-15 biennium to complete the project.

**Website redesign** - The Department of Veterans' Affairs has received estimates from the Information Technology Department (ITD) for redesign of the department's website. Estimates range from \$18,000 for a basic website to \$30,000 for the functionality desired by the department. The department is working with ITD to determine the work that could be completed with the funding available. The department may request additional funding for website enhancements for the 2013-15 biennium.

**"Stand down" events** - The Department of Veterans' Affairs has received and approved two requests for "stand down" funding for events in Bottineau and Bismarck. Veteran service organizations are providing a combination of funding and in-kind match to qualify for reimbursement of up to \$5,000 on each event. Receipts for expenditures are submitted to the department for reimbursement. The department anticipates using the entire "stand down" appropriation during the 2011-13 biennium.

**Veterans' postwar trust fund programs** - In addition to the \$210,000 provided from the general fund to be used in lieu of income generated from the veterans' postwar trust fund for programs, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has available \$59,406 of veterans' postwar trust fund income remaining from the 2009-11 biennium for a total of \$269,406 available for programs authorized by law to benefit and serve veterans or their dependents. Through March 2012 the department has provided grants and transportation reimbursements totaling \$69,267 and anticipates all of the funding will be expended during the 2011-13 biennium.

**Transport vans** - The Department of Veterans' Affairs has purchased two vans for a total of \$29,000. The department anticipates using the remaining funding of \$21,000 provided from the general fund for vans and funding provided from the general fund for veterans' grant programs to purchase two additional vans in 2013.

**Delivery of services to veterans** - Section 5 of 2011 House Bill No. 1007 provides for a Legislative Management study of the delivery of services to veterans, including the consistency in training and of the provision of services by county veterans' service officers.

This study was not prioritized by the Legislative Management for study during the 2011-12 interim.