

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 74

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
11 AFFAIRS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
16 AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026
17 FISCAL YEAR.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
24 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the
25 following maximum number of regular employees.
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Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
31	(1) SC015	SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	1	GRADE SE05
32	(2) U008U	ADVA DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
33	(3) L018N	NURSE PRACTITIONER	1	GRADE MP04
34	(4) L002C	NURSING DIRECTOR	2	GRADE MP04
35	(5) L009C	NURSE MANAGER	1	GRADE MP03
36	(6) L019C	REGISTERED NURSE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE MP02



1	(7)	L027C REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE MP02
2	(8)	L032C REGISTERED NURSE - HOSPITAL	18	GRADE MP01
3	(9)	D022N IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
4	(10)	D079C COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE IT02
5	(11)	N197N NURSING HOME DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
6	(12)	L026N ADVA STATE VETERANS HOME ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS14
7	(13)	A133C ADVA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	GRADE GS13
8	(14)	G318C ADVA DIVISION DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS13
9	(15)	L111C ADVA NURSING HOME ASST ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS12
10	(16)	R006C HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE GS12
11	(17)	A027C ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
12	(18)	X223C ADVA QUALITY ASSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE GS11
13	(19)	A044C AUDIT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS10
14	(20)	M009C LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER	2	GRADE GS09
15	(21)	P004C PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
16	(22)	X038C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	2	GRADE GS09
17	(23)	A082C ACCOUNTANT II	1	GRADE GS08
18	(24)	S003C FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS08
19	(25)	R014C PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
20	(26)	V004C PROCUREMENT MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
21	(27)	A041C PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
22	(28)	X062C QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS08
23	(29)	G253C ADVA SERVICE OFFICER	11	GRADE GS07
24	(30)	G237C ADVA CEMETERY MANAGER	2	GRADE GS07
25	(31)	U009U ADVA VETERANS CHILD WELFARE DIR	1	GRADE GS07
26	(32)	R024C ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
27	(33)	G159C DEPARTMENT BUSINESS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
28	(34)	P065C DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS07
29	(35)	S017C MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
30	(36)	M024C RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
31	(37)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
32	(38)	L069C LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	40	GRADE GS06
33	(39)	S033C MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS06
34	(40)	C022C BUSINESS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
35	(41)	V014C BUYER	1	GRADE GS05
36	(42)	A091C FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS05

1	(43)	R032C HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE	3	GRADE GS05
2	(44)	V015C PURCHASING SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
3	(45)	M065C RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS05
4	(46)	V018C WAREHOUSE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS05
5	(47)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	2	GRADE GS04
6	(48)	S044C FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS04
7	(49)	S046C MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	9	GRADE GS04
8	(50)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	3	GRADE GS03
9	(51)	L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	146	GRADE GS03
10	(52)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	3	GRADE GS03
11	(53)	S050C MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	3	GRADE GS03
12	(54)	C087C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST I	1	GRADE GS02
13	(55)	S085C FOOD PREPARATION SPECIALIST	7	GRADE GS02
14	(56)	S084C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS02
15	(57)	S089C FOOD PREPARATION TECHNICIAN	<u>2</u>	GRADE GS01
16		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	305	

17
 18 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby
 19 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the
 20 Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating
 21 expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - State Operations for the
 22 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

24	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
26	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,328,091
27	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	476,999
28	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
29	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	197,906
30	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	69,594
31	(C) PROF. FEES	0
32	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
33	(E) DATA PROC.	0
34	(04) AID TO COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE	
35	OFFICES	516,000
36	(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>4,000</u>

1 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED \$2,592,590

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 3 SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' HOMES. There is hereby authorized,
 4 for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the 2025-2026
 5 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary
 6 employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated
 7 herein for such purposes: thirty (30) temporary or part-time employees, when
 8 needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform
 9 Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the
 10 appropriate classification.

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 12 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' HOMES - CASH. There is hereby
 13 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the
 14 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal
 15 Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the
 16 Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes - Cash for the fiscal year
 17 ending June 30, 2026, the following:

19 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
20 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
21 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$11,198,689
22 (02) EXTRA HELP	45,339
23 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	4,810,335
24 (04) OVERTIME	550,000
25 (05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
26 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	14,903,703
27 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	52,500
28 (C) PROF. FEES	1,176,000
29 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	313,000
30 (E) DATA PROC.	0
31 (06) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	6,000
32 (07) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>72,831</u>
33 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$33,128,397</u>

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 35 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - CASH. There is
 36 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable

1 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 2 Fiscal Officer of the State, for matching funds for land acquisition,
 3 improvements, construction, renovation, and purchase of equipment for a State
 4 Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for the Department of Veterans Affairs -
 5 NW AR State Veterans' Home - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,
 6 the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME	<u>\$15,000,000</u>

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 12 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - FEDERAL. There
 13 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 14 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 15 State, for land acquisition, improvements, construction renovation, and
 16 purchase of equipment for a State Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for
 17 the Department of Veterans Affairs - NW AR State Veterans Home - Federal for
 18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME - FEDERAL	<u>\$30,000,000</u>

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 24 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - STATE. There is
 25 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 26 from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and
 27 operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans'
 28 Cemeteries - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$688,586
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	286,867
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	158,350
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0

1	(C) PROF. FEES	0
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
3	(E) DATA PROC.	0
4	(04) CEMETERY REALIGNMENT AND MAINTENANCE	<u>50,000</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,183,803</u>

7 SECTION 8. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby
 8 authorized, for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries -
 9 Cash for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time
 10 or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds
 11 appropriated herein for such purposes: five (5) temporary or part-time
 12 employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the
 13 Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act
 14 for the appropriate classification.

16 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is
 17 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 18 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 19 Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of
 20 the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the
 21 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

23	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
24	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
25	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$28,020
26	(02) EXTRA HELP	24,000
27	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	14,213
28	(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
29	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	453,475
30	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	17,600
31	(C) PROF. FEES	0
32	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	125,000
33	(E) DATA PROC.	0
34	(05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>6,500</u>
35	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$668,808</u>

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1 SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM. There is
 2 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 3 from the Military Funeral Honors Fund, for operating expenses of the
 4 Department of Veterans Affairs - Military Funeral Honors Program for the
 5 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

7 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
8 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
9 (01) MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS EXPENSES	<u>\$45,900</u>

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 11 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - NLR CEMETERY EXPANSION 2 - FEDERAL. There
 12 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable
 13 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 14 State, for construction and expansion expenses for the North Little Rock
 15 Veterans' Cemetery of the Department of Veterans Affairs - NLR Cemetery
 16 Expansion 2 - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the
 17 following:

19 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
20 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
21 (01) CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION EXPENSES	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

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 23 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES
 24 OFFICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs,
 25 to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal
 26 services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs -
 27 Disabled Veteran's Services Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,
 28 the following:

30 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
31 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
32 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$33,205
33 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	15,547
34 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
35 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,000
36 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0

1	(C) PROF. FEES	0
2	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
3	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
4	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$51,752</u></u>

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6 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD

7 WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans

8 Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for

9 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans

10 Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the fiscal year ending

11 June 30, 2026, the following:

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
15	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$48,400
16	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	19,037
17	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	4,182
19	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
20	(C) PROF. FEES	0
21	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
22	(E) DATA PROC.	0
23	(04) GRANTS/AID-ASSISTANCE TO MINOR	
24	CHILDREN	<u>107,762</u>
25	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$179,381</u></u>

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27 SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

28 36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

29 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. At the close of the fiscal year

30 ending June 30, 2025, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall authorize

31 up to \$50,000 of the balance of funds remaining in the Miscellaneous Agencies

32 Fund Account for the Department of Veterans Affairs for operations to be

33 transferred into a sub-fund created within the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

34 Account to support the state veteran cemetery realignment and maintenance

35 expenses in the appropriation entitled "Cemetery Realignment and Maintenance

36 Expenses".

1 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may
2 be carried forward under the following conditions:

3 (1) Prior to June 30, 2025 the Agency shall by written statement set forth
4 its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department
5 of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

6 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall
7 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the
8 September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting
9 which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or
10 Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward from the first
11 fiscal year to the second fiscal year, the program name or line item, the
12 funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set
13 forth in (1) above;

14 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written
15 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee
16 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written
17 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for
18 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)
19 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents
20 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget
21 Committee; and

22 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include
23 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a
24 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.
25 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025
26 through June 30, 2026.

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28 SECTION 15. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
29 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
30 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
31 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
32 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
33 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
34 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
35 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
36 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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SECTION 16. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 17. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.

APPROVED: 2/25/25