

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 74

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	SC015	SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	1	GRADE SE05
(2)	U008U	ADVA DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
(3)	L018N	NURSE PRACTITIONER	1	GRADE MP04
(4)	L002C	NURSING DIRECTOR	2	GRADE MP04
(5)	L009C	NURSE MANAGER	1	GRADE MP03
(6)	L019C	REGISTERED NURSE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE MP02



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

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

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

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

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED \$2,592,590

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

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

SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS 36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall authorize up to \$50,000 of the balance of funds remaining in the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account for the Department of Veterans Affairs for operations to be transferred into a sub-fund created within the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account to support the state veteran cemetery realignment and maintenance expenses in the appropriation entitled "Cemetery Realignment and Maintenance Expenses".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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