

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (385)
2011-13 BIENNIUM - EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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 two Veterans Homes - a 116 bed facility in Little Rock and a 108 bed facility that opened in June of 06 in Fayetteville. The agency also operates the State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock and is preparing to construct a new cemetery in Birdeye. The agency also provides assistance to the County Veterans Service Officers.

TOTAL BIENNIAL BUDGET

The agency's total budget for each year of the biennium is \$13,740,866.

FUNDING SOURCE

The budget is funded by general revenue and by fees for services and federal reimbursement. A total increase of \$193,447 in general revenue funding is being recommended for each year of the biennium.

II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS

The Executive Recommendation provides for reclassification and/or restoration of positions within the Nursing Home and Cemetery operations.

Additional General Revenue funding of \$7,780 each year is provided for reclassification of 7 positions within the food services of the Veterans' Home Division - State appropriation and \$1,782 each year in general revenue funding is for the Little Rock Cemetery Director.

For the operations of the Veterans' Cemetery in Birdeye an additional \$183,885 of general revenue funding is recommended for each year to duplicate the positions and operations of the North Little Rock Cemetery for the new cemetery.

III) POSITIONS

Total positions for the 2011-13 biennium: 225

Total positions for FY 2011: 221

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.

