

Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County, Illinois

1790 Nations Drive, Ste 221, Gurnee, IL 60031



Agenda - Final

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

10:30 AM

Meeting Held in Person

American Legion Post 771

749 Milwaukee Ave, Gurnee, IL 60031

Quarterly Commission Meeting

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Roll Call of Members**
 - **Quorum Established**
3. **Present the Colors**
 - **Pledge**
4. **Opening Prayer**
5. **Approval of Previous Minutes (March 20, 2024)**
6. **Recognition of Guests**
7. **Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda**
8. **Antioch Veterans Memorial Committee Presentation (10 Minutes)**
9. **Healthy Mind Healthy Bodies - Margaret Kissner (5 minutes)**
10. **President's Remarks**
11. **Superintendent's Report**
 - 10.1 2025 Budget Presentations
 - 10.2 Four New VSO's took NACVSO Basic Benefits
 - 10.3 Illinois Tribal Veterans
 - 10.4 Legislative Update (SB 3479)
 - 10.5 SCOTUS (Rudisill v McDonough)
 - 10.6 Hines Outreach Office Update
12. **Approval of Superintendent Report**
13. **Public Comment For Items on the Agenda**
14. **Unfinished Business**
15. **New Business**
16. **Report by Delegates**
17. **Closing Prayer**
18. **Retire the Colors**
19. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 11, 2024, American Legion Post 771

Lake County Expense Budget Report As Submitted

Line Item Details for FY2025

F208 Working

Accounts	Department	FY2025 Year Total Budget
A41100 Property Taxes	Veteran's Assistance	6,025,939
A49920 Transfers From Other Funds	Veteran's Assistance	
		Total Revenues
		<u>6,025,939</u>

Lake County Expense Budget Report As Submitted

Line Item Details for FY2025

F208 Working

Accounts	Department	FY2025 Year Total Budget	Notes
A51110 Regular Salaries And Wages	Veteran's Assistance	1,594,299	
A51140 Overtime Salaries And Wages	Veteran's Assistance	25,000	
A51240 Opt Out Premium	Veteran's Assistance	7,500	
	Total Wages	1,626,799	
A61010 Office Supplies	Veteran's Assistance	20,000	
A61020 Computer Supplies	Veteran's Assistance	20,000	
A61030 Books Manuals And Periodicals	Veteran's Assistance	2,000	
A61040 Operational Supplies	Veteran's Assistance	15,000	
A61060 Clothing And Uniforms	Veteran's Assistance	1,000	
A61080 Food and Provisions	Veteran's Assistance	4,000	
A61090 Printing and Photographic Supplies	Veteran's Assistance	2,000	
	Total Commodities	64,000	
A74080 H/L/D Employee Benefits	Veteran's Assistance	269,437	
A74100 Retirement Benefits/FICA	Veteran's Assistance	91,484	
A74110 Retirement Benefits/IMRF	Veteran's Assistance	134,399	
	Total Benefits	495,320	Subject to change with new rates, which will be determined during budget process
A71140 Legal Services	Veteran's Assistance	30,000	
A71230 Software & Online Services	Veteran's Assistance	6,500	
A71450 Mileage Reimbursement	Veteran's Assistance	3,000	
A71500 Trips And Training	Veteran's Assistance	50,000	
A71520 Training .	Veteran's Assistance	0	
A71670 Contracted Custodial Service .	Veteran's Assistance	22,000	
A71810 Dues And Subscriptions	Veteran's Assistance	6,000	
A71840 Publications & Legal Notices	Veteran's Assistance	750	
A71850 Advertising	Veteran's Assistance	25,000	
A71950 Cellular Phones	Veteran's Assistance	560	
A71960 Data/Telecommunications	Veteran's Assistance	500	
A71970 Courier Services	Veteran's Assistance	2,000	
A72120 Fidelity And Surety Bonds	Veteran's Assistance	300	

A72250 Bldg & Grounds Maintenance & Repairs	Veteran's Assistance	3,000	
A72510 Building Rentals	Veteran's Assistance	156,000	
A72520 Record Storage	Veteran's Assistance	0	
A72530 Equipment Rental	Veteran's Assistance	7,000	
A72830 Printing Services	Veteran's Assistance	4,800	
A73010 Assistance To Veterans	Veteran's Assistance	100,000	
	Total Contractuals	417,410	<u><u> </u></u>
A84030 Computer Equipment	Veteran's Assistance	0	
A84060 Furniture And Office Equipment	Veteran's Assistance	5,000	
A84*** Capital Improvement - Building Construction	Veteran's Assistance	3,000,000	
	Total Capital	3,005,000	<u><u> </u></u>
	Total Budget	6,025,939	<u><u> </u></u>



RESOLUTION 24-001

RESOLUTION ADOPTING STAFFING FOR VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of Lake County (VACLC) is an independent unit of local government under the Illinois Constitution, IL CONST Art. VII, Section 1, and the Illinois Public Aid Code, 305 ILCS 5/12-21.5; *and*

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law on May 6, 2022 Public Act 102-0732, which was unanimously passed by both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly; *and*

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law on February 10, 2023 Public Act 102-1132, which was unanimously passed by both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly; *and*

WHEREAS, this Act clarified the relationship between Veterans Assistance Commissions and County Board regarding funding; *and*

WHEREAS, this Act further clarified that Veterans Assistance Commissions determine the number of Veterans Assistance Commission employees; *and*

WHEREAS, this Act further clarifies employees of the Veterans Assistance Commissions are not employees of the County and nothing in the Act should be construed as same; *and*

WHEREAS, the current veterans' population of the County of Lake is approximately 44,454 veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is currently the home of several military installations, to include, but not limited to: Great Lakes Naval Station, the United States Military Entrance Processing Command, the United States Army Chicago Recruiting Battalion; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is currently the home of the only Federal Healthcare Center, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is one of only two counties in the State of Illinois to currently maintain its veterans' population over the next forty (40) years, based on data presented by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is the only County in Illinois to see its veterans' population increase substantially between 2020 and 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC is the central service office for veteran services in the County of Lake; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLCL has seen claims submissions increase from 887 in Fiscal Year 2019 to currently 1736 pending claims and appeals in Fiscal Year 2024; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLCL currently is experiencing a three and a half (3.5) week delay in the scheduling of appointments to provide needed services and assistance to eligible veterans, their families, and the families of deceased veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLCL approved, via Resolution 22-003 to create a staff comprised of the following Full-Time Employees, working forty (40) hour workweeks:

- Superintendent – M13 (1)
- Assistant Superintendent – M12 (1)
- Chief of Staff – M11 (1)
- Senior Veteran Service Officer – K9 (2)
- Veteran Service Officer-In-Charge – K8 (4)
- Veteran Service Officer – K7 (16)
- Executive Assistant – S6 (1)
- Paralegal – S5 (4)
- Administrative Assistant – S4 (5)

; and

WHEREAS, this manning structure has been determined by the Commissioners of the VACLCL to be just and necessary to provide needed services to veterans, their families, and the families of deceased veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the VACLCL have determined this new manning structure will take several Fiscal Years to be fully recognized; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the VACLCL have found this timed and planned out implementation of this new manning structure efficient due to the level of training, understanding, and scope of work; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the VACLCL will consistently re-evaluate staffing and manning of positions; *and*

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the VACLCL directs the Superintendent of the VACLCL to undertake appropriate actions to decrease the delay in services while simultaneously maintaining the high levels of training and knowledge of VACLCL employees to ensure the highest levels of service; *and*

BE IT RESOLVED that for Fiscal Year 2025, the VACLCL will fund the following positions:

- Superintendent – M13 at 50th percentile (1)
- Assistant Superintendent – M12 at 50th percentile (1)
- Senior Veteran Service Officer – K9 at 50th percentile (2)
- Veteran Service Officer-In-Charge – K8 at 50th percentile (2)
- Veteran Service Officer-In-Charge – K8 at entry level (2)
- Veteran Service Officer – K7 at 25th percentile (4)
- Veteran Service Officer – K7 at entry level (2)
- Executive Assistant – S6 at 25th percentile (1)
- Paralegal – S5 at 25th percentile (1)
- Administrative Assistant – S4 at entry level (5)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED VACLCL Delegates approved this Resolution on May 8, 2024, during the regular scheduled meeting.

DATED at Gurnee, Illinois, this 8th day of May, A.D., 2024.

Nicholas Konz
President
Veterans Assistance Commission
of Lake County



RESOLUTION 24-002

RESOLUTION ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of Lake County (VACLC) has been in existence since 1926; *and*

WHEREAS, the current veterans' population of the County of Lake is approximately 44,454 veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is one of two counties in the state of Illinois to currently maintain its veterans' population over the next forty (40) years, based on data presented by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics; *and*

WHEREAS, the County of Lake is the only County in Illinois to see its veterans' population increase substantially between 2020 and 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC is the central service office for veteran services in the County of Lake; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC has rented office space from multiple tenants over the last 97 years throughout the county to occupy adequate space to provide needed services to veterans' and their families; *and*

WHEREAS, under Public Act 102-0732 and Public Act 102-1132, the General Assembly clarified that Veteran Assistance Commissions shall provide all Article VI and Article IX programs; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC current office space is insufficient to provide all these programs in a suitable manner; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC is a unit of local government and therefore it is just and necessary to have offices capable of providing these programs; *and*

WHEREAS, it is just and necessary for the VACLC to be centrally located and near major thoroughfares within the County of Lake; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC has purchased land located at the Northridge Plaza, Gurnee, Illinois; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC Commissioners have determined that it is better suitable to the veterans of the County of Lake to have spaces that can be utilized for generations of veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC Commissioners have determined that the long-term tax savings to the citizens of the County of Lake is better served by the VACLC conducting a Capital Improvement Project and the construction of a building to be the central service office for all veterans, their families, and the families of deceased veterans in the County of Lake; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the VACLC will allocate 3 million dollars for Capital Improvements to be utilized towards construction of a building in Lake County; *and*

BE IT RESOLVED that for Fiscal Year 2025, the VACLC will place 3 million dollars into its reserve fund for the future construction of a building; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESPOVED VACLC Delegates and Alternates approved this Resolution on May 8, 2024, during the regular scheduled meeting.

DATED at Gurnee, Illinois, this 8th day of May, A.D., 2024.

Nicholas Konz
President
Veterans Assistance Commission
of Lake County



RESOLUTION 24-003

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION of Lake County (VACLC) is an independent unit of local government under the Illinois Constitution, IL CONST Art. VII, Section 1, and the Illinois Public Aid Code, 305 ILCS 5/12-21.5; *and*

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law on May 6, 2022 Public Act 102-0732, which was unanimously passed by both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly; *and*

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law on February 10, 2023 Public Act 102-1132, which was unanimously passed by both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly; *and*

WHEREAS, these Acts clarified the relationship between Veterans Assistance Commissions and County Board regarding funding; *and*

WHEREAS, these Acts further clarified that Veterans Assistance Commissions determine the budget and the minimum required is 0.02 percent of the equalized assessed valuation of all property of the County of Lake; *and*

WHEREAS, the estimated equalized assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2025 is approximately \$6,300,000; *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC Delegates and Alternates have determined VACLC Operations and Future Planning can be accomplished in Fiscal Year 2025 at an amount to equal approximately 0.0194 percent, which equals \$6,025,939, attached to this Resolution as Enclosure (1); *and*

WHEREAS, the VACLC Delegates and Alternates have determined this amount to be just and necessary for Fiscal Year 2025 to provide needed services and assistance to veterans, their families and the families of deceased veterans; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the VACLC Fiscal Year 2025 Budget shall be \$6,025,939, *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED VACLK Delegates and Alternates approved this Resolution on May 8, 2024, during the regular scheduled meeting.

DATED at Gurnee, Illinois, this 8th day of May, A.D., 2024.

Nicholas Konz
President
Veterans Assistance Commission
of Lake County