

Mission

The Franklin County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) mission is to advocate for and empower Veterans and their families by providing guidance, resources, immediate financial assistance, and access to benefits, in order to provide a path to sustained solutions (self-sufficiency).

Strategic Focus

Primary Initiative: Reducing Food Insecurities - Continue to develop approaches to reduce food insecurity to the Veteran population, nested within the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Rise Together: A Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County.

Primary Issue: Economic Instability - Mitigate the immediate impact of food insecurity within the Veteran community providing time to link to long-term support agencies. - Collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide short-term and long-term relief, to include employment opportunities.

Performance Spotlight

Measure: Number of applicants provided nutrient subsidies

Program: Earned Entitlements

About this measure		Why it is important	
This measure tracks the number of Franklin County Veterans and their family members who, through the Veterans Service Commission gained access to food.		Approximately 56,845 Franklin County residents are Veterans and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 7.5% of the veteran population lives in poverty. By providing access to food, VSC hopes to improve the overall health and well-being of eligible Franklin County Veterans' and their family members.	
What is being done			
The Veteran Service Commissions (VSC) food assistance program provides food supplements based on family size and those whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. VSC also provides holiday meal cards for those at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2023, the food assistance program provided assistance to 4,686 applicants and the holiday meal card program served 1,406 households with a total food assistance of \$1,595,100.			
2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Budget
4,686	4,800	4,950	5,200

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance	%
			\$	
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

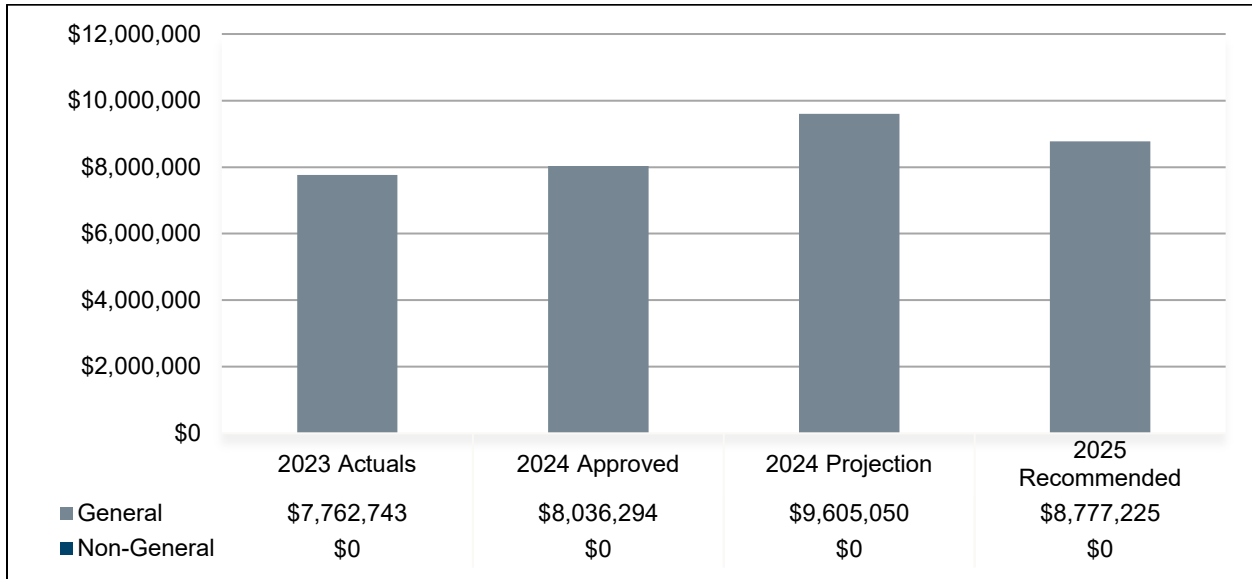
Historically, the Veterans Service Commission does not receive or collect revenue.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Recommended

	2024 Approved	2025 Recommended	Variance	%
			\$	
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

Historically, the Veterans Service Commission does not receive or collect revenue.

Budget Summary – Expenditures



Significant items in the 2025 Recommended Budget

Object Code	Budgeted Amount	% of Budget
PERSONAL SERVICES & FRINGE	\$2,904,253	33.1%
GRANTS TO OTHER PROVIDERS	\$3,150,000	35.9%
GRANTS FOR RENT	\$1,011,110	11.5%
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	\$637,274	7.3%
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	\$193,131	2.2%
GRAVE MARKERS	\$160,679	1.8%
BURIAL SERVICES & PLOT EXPENSE	\$145,406	1.7%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$88,000	1.0%
SOCIAL SERVICES	\$75,000	0.9%
GENERAL & OTHER EXPENSES	\$68,250	0.8%
<i>Other</i>	\$344,122	3.9%
Total	\$8,777,225	100.0%

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance \$	%
General Fund	\$8,036,294	\$9,605,050	\$1,568,756	19.5%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$8,036,294	\$9,605,050	\$1,568,756	19.5%

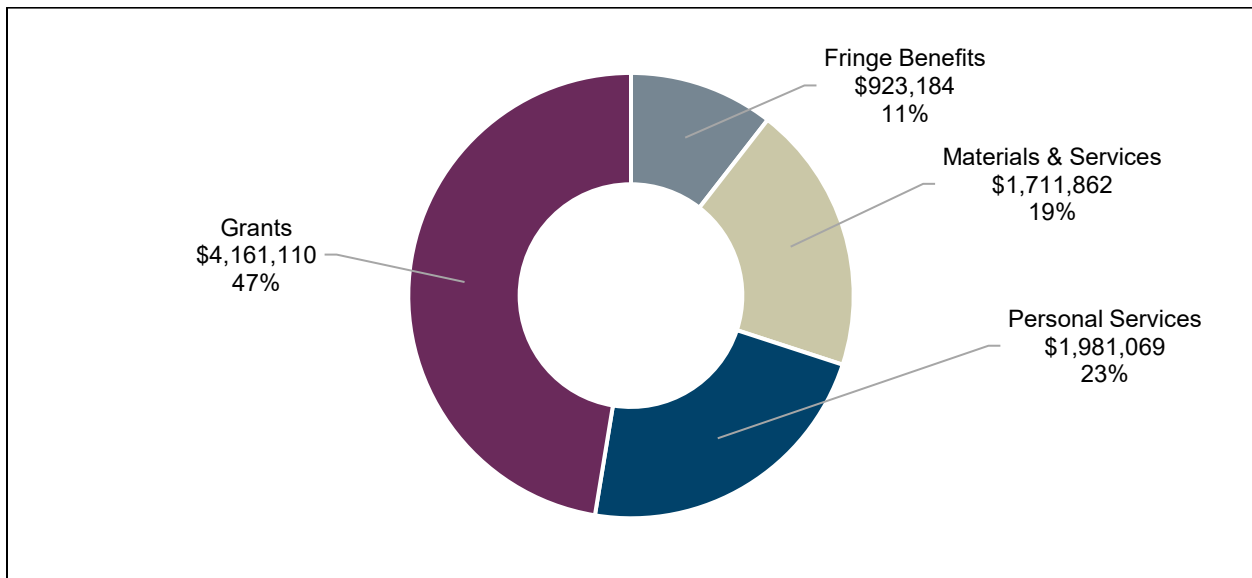
The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2024 Projection is primarily attributed to increased request for immediate financial assistance for food and transportation.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Recommended

	2024 Approved	2025 Recommended	Variance \$	%
General Fund	\$8,036,294	\$8,777,225	\$740,931	9.2%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$8,036,294	\$8,777,225	\$740,931	9.2%

The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2025 Recommended Budget is primarily attributed to an increase in grant funding for immediate financial assistance for food and transportation.

**2025 Recommended Budget
Expenditures by Category**



Budget Summary – FTEs

	2024 Budget	2025 Recommended	Recommended Budget as % of Total FTEs
General Fund	30.88	32.88	100.0%
Non-General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Agency FTEs	30.88	32.88	100.0%

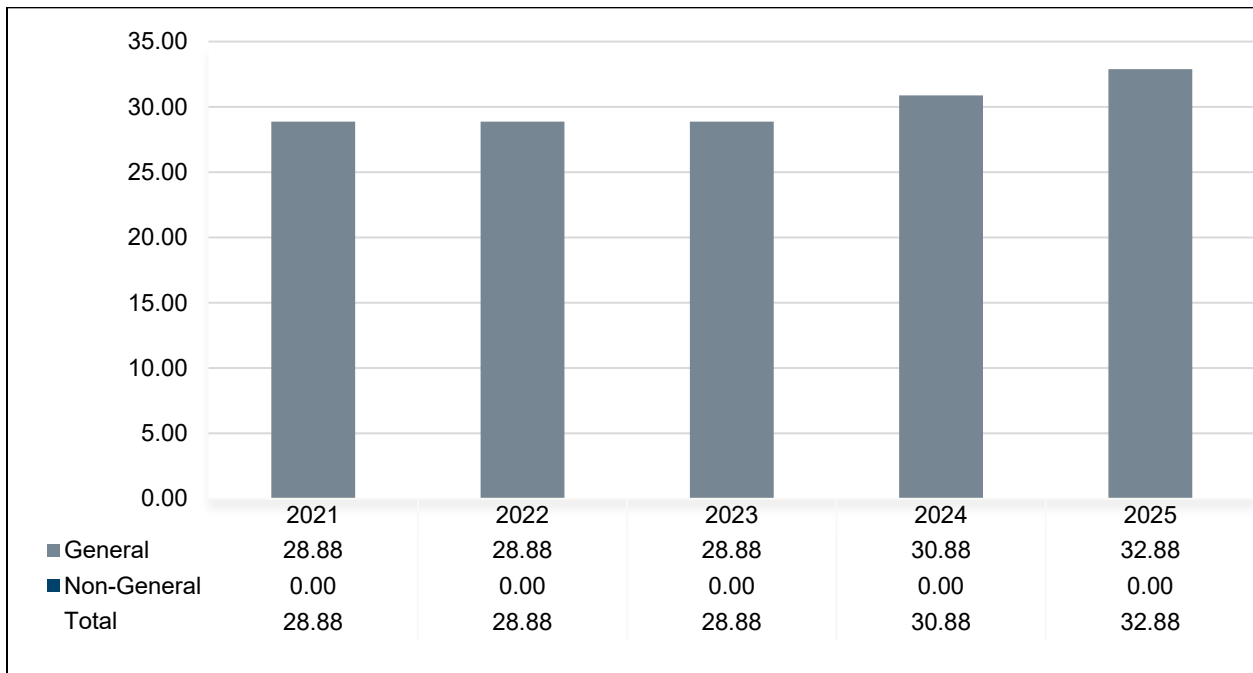
There is an increase of 2.00 FTEs from the 2024 Budget to the 2025 Recommended Budget.

New Positions

Position Title	# of Positions	Annual Salary	Source
Veteran Benefits Specialist	1	\$42,703	RFR
Fiscal Specialist	1	\$42,703	RFR

Details regarding FTEs requested via RFR are available in the Request for Results section.

Budgeted FTE History



Vacancy Credit

The vacancy credit process is designed to more accurately reflect the expenditures for Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits within the agency budget request. The calculations for the budget process begin with funding all approved positions for the entire year excluding new positions contained in a Request for Results. Vacancy credits take into account that not all approved positions will be filled for the entire year. The methodology historically used to estimate an agency’s vacancy credit utilizes a four-year history of unused personnel budgets to determine an appropriate percentage of Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits that will likely remain unspent at the end of the year. However, vacancy credits may vary from the four-year average due to staffing trends or the number of positions supported within a fund. Vacancy Credits may also differ between Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits due to the timing and fixed amount charged for healthcare.

Salaries & Wages

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Recommended	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	3.3%	1.6%	3.3%	(\$64,692)	30.88

Fringe Benefits

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Recommended	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	8.0%	9.6%	8.0%	(\$77,408)	30.88

Request for Results

A Request for Results is a request for additional appropriations to support a new initiative or expand existing services. A Request for Results contains a detailed description of the new initiative, justification for why the increase in appropriations is necessary, and the expected outcomes. In addition to the amount of additional appropriations, a Request for Results should identify any new revenue or savings expected to be achieved from the new initiative. The Office of Management & Budget reviews each Request for Results to determine if adequate justification is provided and sufficient resources are available. The County Administrator makes a recommendation based on this review, with the Board of Commissioners making the final decision on whether the item is included in the budget.

Additional Staffing		
Fund Type	New Positions	Amount
General Fund	2.00 FTEs	\$159,057
<p>Description: This request is for the addition of 1 new Veteran Benefits Specialist (annual salary of \$42,703) and 1 new Fiscal Specialist (annual salary of \$42,703) due to the increased demand for support for financial assistance. The addition of these two positions will result in decreased wait times for financial support.</p>		

Earned Entitlements

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Earned Entitlements program is to provide subsidies to active-duty personnel, veterans, and their dependents so they can meet basic living requirements and lead to improved quality of life opportunities. Also, to provide consultations and benefits claim submissions for active-duty personnel, veterans, and their dependents so they can obtain eligible entitlements and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as state and local benefits.

Primary Services

- Provide immediate financial assistance through our grant program; and provide financial coaching to those who lack financial literacy.
- Prepare benefit claim submissions and provide eligibility consultation for veterans and family members seeking VA entitlements.
- Coordinate and provide support to veterans and family members seeking long-term solutions through community resources by way of partner referrals.

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Recommended	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$1,529,160	\$1,722,152	\$192,992	12.6%
Fringe Benefits	\$826,023	\$806,046	(\$19,977)	-2.4%
Materials & Services	\$482,214	\$482,753	\$539	0.1%
Grants	\$3,711,110	\$4,161,110	\$450,000	12.1%
Total Expenditures	\$6,548,507	\$7,172,061	\$623,554	9.5%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Supportive Health & Human Services

The Earned Entitlements program is linked by helping prevent active-duty personnel, veterans, and their dependents from becoming homeless and losing their employment while also providing them increased per capita income, increased health, and wellness.

Veterans Memorials

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Veterans Memorials program is to provide burial assistance, not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars, for indigent veteran's and their surviving spouses or parents who die without the means to defray the necessary funeral expenses; provide for the placement of government marker, government medallion, replacement markers, and setting of flags and flag holders for veteran's; and to promote patriotism and veteran services by participation and supporting memorial and commemorative activities.

Primary Services

- Provide financial support for indigent funeral subsidies of up to \$1,000.
- Provide the necessary burial accessories to include grave markers, flags, flag holders, medallions for the marking of veteran's graves.
- Provide financial support to veteran's organizations and community organizations for Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day, and other significant veteran's/patriot events.

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Recommended	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$82,147	\$132,514	\$50,367	61.3%
Fringe Benefits	\$33,451	\$55,691	\$22,240	66.5%
Materials & Services	\$336,285	\$416,835	\$80,550	24.0%
Total Expenditures	\$451,883	\$605,040	\$153,157	33.9%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Supportive Health & Human Services

The Veterans Memorial program is linked by providing one-time burial payment, not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars, to the vulnerable population in the community which in some cases prevents that family from further financial hardship. Also, the program is linked by providing families in communities with a sense of comfort and ensuring that all veterans' graves are marked and promoting civic participation that builds good community relations and improves the quality of life of county residents by increasing awareness of government and allowing residents to participate in services.

Independent Living

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Independent Living program is to provide eligible veterans and their spouse or surviving spouses who are residents of Franklin County with transportation services so they can access proper medical care, home delivered nutritional meals, home modifications/repairs, safety products, and assistance so they can maintain independent living in their homes free of barriers and unsafe conditions.

Primary Services

- Provide medical transportation for eligible veterans, spouses and surviving spouses to their medical appointments.
- Provide financial support to community partners in support of eligible veterans and dependents receiving home delivered meals, minor home repairs/modifications, wheelchair ramps, moving assistance, safety products, home repair services, sanitation, and pest control.

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Recommended	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$136,604	\$126,403	(\$10,201)	-7.5%
Fringe Benefits	\$81,026	\$61,447	(\$19,579)	-24.2%
Materials & Services	\$818,274	\$812,274	(\$6,000)	-0.7%
Total Expenditures	\$1,035,904	\$1,000,124	(\$35,780)	-3.5%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Supportive Health & Human Services

The Independent Living program increases access to basic health care, public transportation, and services that meet basic needs in order to provide assistance to vulnerable populations and improve their quality of life.