



Tompkins County

Veterans Service Agency

2020 Budget Presentation

Recommended Budget

1

	2019 Modified	2020 Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Expenditures	\$100,000	\$120,776	\$20,776	20.78%
Net Local	\$100,000	\$120,776	\$20,776	20.78%

Major Influences

2

- ▶ The Tompkins County Department of Veterans Services exists to connect local Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, with federal, state, and local resources. Departmental staff make these connections through a combination of counseling, referral, and direct assistance with filing applications or claims regarding burial, compensation, education, health care, insurances, pension, obtaining military records, and other qualified benefits.

Influences cont.

3

Departmental Activity

- ▶ Phone Calls – 60
- ▶ Appointments – 10
- ▶ Walk-ins – 15
- ▶ Referrals from people and external agencies – 10
- ▶ Topics include, but not limited to:
 - Inquiries about eligible benefits and services
 - Status updates on claims
 - Ordering military records
 - Submitting supplemental documents
 - ID fraud
 - Housing
 - Referral to local agencies and organizations for needed assistance.

Influences cont.

4

Professional visits and training appointments

- ▶ Training with NYS Division of Veterans' Services staff
- ▶ American Legion Basic Training for Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)
- ▶ VSO Counterparts in Schuyler and Cortland Counties
- ▶ Disabled Veteran Services Representative at Workforce NY
- ▶ Tompkins County VA Clinic
- ▶ Veteran-related Services at Cornell University

Influences cont.

5

Outreach Activities

- ▶ American Legion Post 221 (includes membership)
- ▶ VFW Post 961
- ▶ Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), #377
- ▶ Disabled American Veterans Transportation Coordinator

Events

- ▶ Claims Day with NYS DVS John Canestaro
- ▶ VVA annual picnic
- ▶ VetZero Walk Across America
- ▶ Annual POW/MIA Watchfire

Full-Time Equivalents

6

2017	2018	2019	2020 Target	2020 Rec.	# Change	% Change
0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1	100.00%

Upcoming

7

- ▶ Progression toward accreditation and a resource library
- ▶ Ongoing meetings with County staff regarding related services
- ▶ American Legion Advanced Training for VSOs
- ▶ WDIC's Reading & Discussion group for *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*
- ▶ Mental Health First Aid for Veterans, Families, Caregivers