



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1527 hrs. on September 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Smith, Vikki Domina
Commissioner James Marren Absent
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Present
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen Present

Minutes:

Augusts' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Second month into the fiscal year; currently 2.5% over budget. Pat discussed the comparison of expenditures for previous fiscal year to current. August 2023 our office expended \$55,000 and August 2024 total expended is \$58,401.92.

Pat thanked the Board of Supervisors for the continue support.

Moved by Domina, seconded by Smith to approve the previous months claims.

VOTE YEA: Smith, Domina

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 45 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of August 2024.

The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Domina to approve the exceptions for August 2024.

VOTE YEA: Domina, Smith

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat reviewed statistics comparing several data points to last fiscal year, all aspects of services provided have shown significant increase. DART program continues to be of success.

The annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down took place September 13-15; County Veteran Service Officer, Blaine Hudnall serves on the Stand Down committee, assisting with logistics and planning. CVSO, Angel Kifer volunteered to assist with transporting Veterans to and from the Stand Down location. Our office funded the transportation rental vans, canopies, chairs and golf carts for the Stand Down.

Our annual coat drive will be held November 1st at River place. The Board of Supervisors allotted \$10,000 for the purchase of winter gear. Distribution will be the same as previous years with Veterans only in the morning and then open to the public in the afternoon.

Guideline Modification Discussion:

A few items within the guidelines are needing modified to include the definition of Veteran as Iowa Code Ch. 35 reflects. Dependent assistance; current practice for assisting dependents has been policy for years, however there is no formal guidance within our guidelines. Veterans who have a current Payee should not need our assistance if the Payee is doing their job. Discussed

adding language to the current guidelines in regard to assistance for Veterans who have a Payee service in place.

Proposed changes will be made prior to the October meeting for your review.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Michael discussed the reporting is now available with Megan receiving an emailed list daily and manually completing the intakes for those incarcerated in Polk County. Mike continues to have contact with patrol officers who may have an interaction with a Veteran in need of assistance to avoid incarceration. Michael has built a great relationship with officers in Ankeny and receives numerous calls monthly for assistance with Veterans.

October meeting scheduled for October 8, 2024 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Marty Smith, Chair
Marty Smith, Chairperson