



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Board of Veterans' Appeals**

Washington, DC 20420  
[www.bva.va.gov](http://www.bva.va.gov)

In Reply Refer To: 01C1  
20-09931-F

March 25, 2021

American Oversight  
Attention: Mr. Austin Evers  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Sent via email to:

[foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 28, 2020. Five pages of records responsive to your original request, FOIA tracking number 20-08472-F, were reassigned to my office on October 29, 2020, as FOIA tracking number 20-09931-F.

I have enclosed the records responsive to your requests. I consider this to be a full grant of your request.

If you are unsatisfied with this response, you may contact either the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) or the VA FOIA Public Liaison for mediation services. Both will assist in resolving disputes between FOIA requesters and VA as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS or the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS or the VA Public Liaison in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 1-877-684-6448  
Facsimile: 202-741-5769

VA FOIA Public Liaison  
John Buck, Director, VA FOIA Service  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (005R1C)  
Washington, DC 20420

E-mail: [vacofoiaservice@va.gov](mailto:vacofoiaservice@va.gov)  
Telephone: 1-877-750-3642  
Facsimile: 202-632-7581

You may appeal this determination by writing to the Chief Counsel, Information Law Group (024), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

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Austin Evers / American Oversight

20420. Your appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. Please state clearly why you disagree with the determination of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kary D. Charlebois". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kary D. Charlebois  
FOIA/Privacy Officer

Enclosure



# **Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals and Veterans Benefits Administration 2022 Internal Budget Request**

Presentation for

**The Honorable Robert Wilkie, SECVA**

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



# Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals

## 2022 Internal Budget Request

Presentation for

**The Honorable Robert Wilkie, SECVA**

Presented By

Cheryl Mason, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



# Board FY 2022 Budget Request

Request of \$203.1M, 2.6% increase over FY21 PB with 1,161 FTE



## Goals and Objectives

- Provide Over 90K Decisions
- Hold Over 35K Hearings
- Expansion of Strategic Partnerships

**Access  
Choice  
Customer Service  
Transformation  
Trust**



## Strategic Approach

- Steady State for FTE
- Prioritizing Legacy Resolution - Continuous Stakeholder Engagement
- Critical IT Modernization Investments (Sustainment & Development)



## Scope and Context

- Payroll Account for 90% of Budget Request
- 80% Decision Writing Attorneys/Judges, ~85% of staff with Graduate degrees
- Monitoring and Evaluating Workload and Performance



# Board FY 2022 Budget Build

(\$ in 000's)

|                                    | Incremental Funding Increase | Cumulative Funding | Cumulative % change over 2021 President's Budget | Cumulative FTE (whole number) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2021 President's Budget            | \$198.0                      |                    |                                                  | 1,161                         |
| Adjustments for Payroll Inflation  | \$7.4                        | \$205.4            | 3.7%                                             | 1,161                         |
| Other Current Services Adjustments | \$0.4                        | \$205.8            | 3.9%                                             | 1,161                         |
| Investments/Initiatives            | \$0.0                        | \$205.8            | 3.9%                                             | 1,161                         |
| Operation Increases                | \$0.2                        | \$206.0            | 4.0%                                             | 1,161                         |
| Offsets or Efficiencies            | -\$2.9                       | \$203.1            | 2.6%                                             | 1,161                         |
| 2022 Request                       | \$203.1                      |                    |                                                  | 1,161                         |

- △ Payroll inflation includes \$3.6M associated with grade and step advancements, \$3.4M for benefit payments and \$442K for awards. Increases are partially offset by a savings of \$2.4M from attrition losses.
- △ Other adjustments include increases for Rent and Tableau licenses previously captured in the IT budget.
- △ Additional offsets identified through operational changes associated with more Virtual tele-hearings and less reliance on Travel Board hearings, and changes with Interagency Agreements.

## GAME CHANGER - IT Modernization Investments

~~Pre-Decisional - Internal VA Use Only~~

MULTI-VA-2019-16-27-000004



# Board Mission Status

## Legacy Resolution

- Increased rate of receipts as VBA increases certification tempo
- Prioritizing legacy appeals
- Gradual shift to AMA appeals through FY22

### Board Legacy Inventory Resolution



## Hearings

- COVID-19: Impacted 13K hearings thus far / 1.2K converted to virtual hearings
- Planned hearing capacity increase in FY21 (33%) will continue into FY22
- Shift to Virtual and VTC hearings improves access while realizing travel board savings

### Monthly Hearings Held Compared to FY2020 Goal



## Decisions

- Original goal: 91,500 - on course to achieve ~100,000
- Goal considerations: Union negotiated production standards, hearing request reduction, leave usage, OT
- Conservative target for FY22 to allow focus on pending hearing reduction

### Decisions

