U.S. Department
Of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington DC 20240
www.va.gov

April 26, 2021

Via Email: foia@americanoversight.org

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

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your July 28, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in which you requested:

- "a copy of "All calendars and calendar entries for the agency official listed below, including any calendars maintained on their behalf, reflecting events that took place from January 1, 2020 to the date the search is conducted." The specific calendars that you are seeking pertain to the following: a. Secretary Robert Wilkie; b. Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela J. Powers; and, c. Acting Chief of Staff Brooks D. Tucker."

The Office of the Secretary forwarded a 12-page document to our office (Office of Information & Technology (OIT)) for processing as it had OIT equity. We received the document related to your request (21-01723-F) on December 12, 2020. Please refer to this number when communicating with the VA about this request.

The Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), reviewed and processed the twelve (12) pages related to your request and they are being released at no cost to you. Some information has been redacted under exemption (b)5 (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)).

FOIA Exemption 5 permits withholding of information under the deliberative process privilege, including pre-decisional documents, inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency, or information that could be withheld under civil discovery, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product privileges.

You have the right to appeal this response within 90 days of the date of this communication if you do not agree with this determination. You may appeal in writing to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
General Counsel (024)
810 Vermont Avenue
Washington, DC 20420

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov If you do appeal this determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing. Please include a copy of your request andmy letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal". Please also include a daytime telephone number in case the Office of General Counsel needs additional information.

As an alternative to submitting an appeal, you may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and the VA. Using the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to appeal.

You may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison at:

Department of Veterans Affairs VA
FOIA Public Liaison (005R1C)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Email: vacofoiaservice@va.gov; Phone: (877) 750-3642; Fax: (202) 632-7581

As another alternative to submitting an appeal, you may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) whom was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. Using OGIS does not affect your right to appeal. You may contact OGIS in any of the following manners:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives & Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov; Phone: (202) 741-5770; Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448; Fax: (202) 741-5769

This concludes the FOIA Service's response to your request for the documents referred to our office.

We appreciate your interest in the VA. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. James Killens III of my staff at 202-632-7728.

Sincerely,

James Killens III
James Killens III
FOIA Specialist
VACO FOIA Service
Quality, Performance, and Risk (QPR)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

Enclosure

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FY2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Presentation for

Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Presented By

James Gfrerer, Assistant Secretary for Office of Information Technology

July 27, 2020

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Information and Technology

(b) (5)

[redacted]

2022 OIT request – Full Requirement

OIT's full requirement of $9.6B (+$4.7B over 2021) provides support for all Mandatory Sustainment and:

- **IT Staffing** – supports demand and growth
- **Digital Health Platform** – development in Audiology and Oncology services
- **Post COVID enduring requirements**
  - Increases in Telehealth (24,000 video encounters to 30,000)
  - Increase in Telework users (45,000 to 125,000)
  - Increased Telecommunication (support remote telework and telehealth)
  - Additional 225,000 laptops (up from 60,000)
  - Growth in Enterprise Licenses
- **IT Infrastructure Modernization**
  - Infrastructure Readiness – refresh and modernization of aging/outdated infrastructure assets
  - Support Major VA's strategic Business Initiatives (EHRM, FMBT, Cost Center Modernization, DMLSS, Memorials Benefits Management System (MBMS), etc.).
  - Software Applications – modernization of outdated/legacy platforms
  - Cloud Migration (VAEC is an essential, foundational, enabling element of the VA IT Modernization Strategy)
  - Modernization/Enhancement of tools for Veteran Facing Services
    - VA.Gov platform
    - Modernizing VAMC websites
    - Improve access to Veteran Healthcare information
- **Legislative Initiatives**
  - Colmery, BWN, Community Care, OMB's Cloud First Strategy
- **Information Security** – protection for increased network users
- **Activations (historically underfunded/supports VHA Activations and Leases growth)**

2022 OIT request – 15% Increase

OIT'S request of $5.6B ($737M over 2021) provides support for some Major Focus Areas, limiting IT's ability to respond to increased demand and growth of the Administrations, but doesn't support modernization and new business capabilities.

- **Major Focus Areas**
  - Infrastructure Readiness Program (IRP) - $275M (+25M over 2021)
  - Activations - $54M (+5M over 2021)
  - VA Enterprise Cloud migration – $60M (+920K over 2021)
  - Workforce Recruitment – $1.5B ($273M over 2021)
  - Maintaining Infrastructure Operations – ($218M over 2021)

- **Risks/What can't be done?**
  - IT Infrastructure Modernization (incl. IRP) would continue on a modified schedule which impacts the buy-down of technical debt
    - Possible impact EHRM
    - No investment in Legacy Application Modernization
    - Increase in Break/Fix
    - Increase in Help Desk needs
  - Unable to support New Modernization initiatives that are in line with the Federal CIO's push for IT infrastructure Modernization. (Delays the modernization of 200+ legacy applications; Fewer new business capabilities as the budget goes to maintaining legacy)
  - The Activations deficit limits the ability to support VHA historical Activations requirements
  - No funding for enduring COVID advancements – all enhancements previously made in Telehealth Services, Telework, increased IT Support would return to pre-COVID operations
  - VA is out of sync with Industry standards and spending far less in IT than other Agencies
    - At 15% VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 5.03% (still next to last)
    - At Full Request VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 8.6% (bottom 1/3)

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FY2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Presentation for

Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Presented By

James Gfrerer, Assistant Secretary for Office of Information Technology

July 27, 2020

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Information and Technology

(b) (5)

[redacted]

2022 OIT request – Full Requirement

OIT's full requirement of $9.6B (+$4.7B over 2021) provides support for all Mandatory Sustainment and:

- **IT Staffing** – supports demand and growth
- **Digital Health Platform** – development in Audiology and Oncology services
- **Post COVID enduring requirements**
  - Increases in Telehealth (24,000 video encounters to 30,000)
  - Increase in Telework users (45,000 to 125,000)
  - Increased Telecommunication (support remote telework and telehealth)
  - Additional 225,000 laptops (up from 60,000)
  - Growth in Enterprise Licenses
- **IT Infrastructure Modernization**
  - Infrastructure Readiness – refresh and modernization of aging/outdated infrastructure assets
  - Support Major VA's strategic Business Initiatives (EHRM, FMBT, Cost Center Modernization, DMLSS, Memorials Benefits Management System (MBMS), etc.).
  - Software Applications – modernization of outdated/legacy platforms
  - Cloud Migration (VAEC is an essential, foundational, enabling element of the VA IT Modernization Strategy)
  - Modernization/Enhancement of tools for Veteran Facing Services
    - VA.Gov platform
    - Modernizing VAMC websites
    - Improve access to Veteran Healthcare information
- **Legislative Initiatives**
  - Colmery, BWN, Community Care, OMB's Cloud First Strategy
- **Information Security** – protection for increased network users
- **Activations (historically underfunded/supports VHA Activations and Leases growth)**

2022 OIT request – 15% Increase

OIT'S request of $5.6B ($737M over 2021) provides support for some Major Focus Areas, limiting IT's ability to respond to increased demand and growth of the Administrations, but doesn't support modernization and new business capabilities.

- **Major Focus Areas**
    - Infrastructure Readiness Program (IRP) - $275M (+25M over 2021)
    - Activations - $54M (+5M over 2021)
    - VA Enterprise Cloud migration – $60M (+920K over 2021)
    - Workforce Recruitment – $1.5B ($273M over 2021)
    - Maintaining Infrastructure Operations – ($218M over 2021)

- **Risks/What can't be done?**
    - IT Infrastructure Modernization (incl. IRP) would continue on a modified schedule which impacts the buy-down of technical debt
        - Possible impact EHRM
        - No investment in Legacy Application Modernization
        - Increase in Break/Fix
        - Increase in Help Desk needs
    - Unable to support New Modernization initiatives that are in line with the Federal CIO's push for IT infrastructure Modernization. (Delays the modernization of 200+ legacy applications; Fewer new business capabilities as the budget goes to maintaining legacy)
    - The Activations deficit limits the ability to support VHA historical Activations requirements
    - No funding for enduring COVID advancements – all enhancements previously made in Telehealth Services, Telework, increased IT Support would return to pre-COVID operations
    - VA is out of sync with Industry standards and spending far less in IT than other Agencies
        - At 15% VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 5.03% (still next to last)
        - At Full Request VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 8.6% (bottom 1/3)

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FY2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Presentation for

Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Presented By

James Gfrerer, Assistant Secretary for Office of Information Technology

July 27, 2020

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Information and Technology

(b) (5)

[redacted]

2022 OIT request – Full Requirement

OIT's full requirement of $9.6B (+$4.7B over 2021) provides support for all Mandatory Sustainment and:

- **IT Staffing** – supports demand and growth
- **Digital Health Platform** – development in Audiology and Oncology services
- **Post COVID enduring requirements**
  - Increases in Telehealth (24,000 video encounters to 30,000)
  - Increase in Telework users (45,000 to 125,000)
  - Increased Telecommunication (support remote telework and telehealth)
  - Additional 225,000 laptops (up from 60,000)
  - Growth in Enterprise Licenses
- **IT Infrastructure Modernization**
  - Infrastructure Readiness – refresh and modernization of aging/outdated infrastructure assets
  - Support Major VA's strategic Business Initiatives (EHRM, FMBT, Cost Center Modernization, DMLSS, Memorials Benefits Management System (MBMS), etc.).
  - Software Applications – modernization of outdated/legacy platforms
  - Cloud Migration (VAEC is an essential, foundational, enabling element of the VA IT Modernization Strategy)
  - Modernization/Enhancement of tools for Veteran Facing Services
    - VA.Gov platform
    - Modernizing VAMC websites
    - Improve access to Veteran Healthcare information
- **Legislative Initiatives**
  - Colmery, BWN, Community Care, OMB's Cloud First Strategy
- **Information Security** – protection for increased network users
- **Activations (historically underfunded/supports VHA Activations and Leases growth)**

2022 OIT request – 15% Increase

OIT'S request of $5.6B ($737M over 2021) provides support for some Major Focus Areas, limiting IT's ability to respond to increased demand and growth of the Administrations, but doesn't support modernization and new business capabilities.

- **Major Focus Areas**
  - Infrastructure Readiness Program (IRP) - $275M (+25M over 2021)
  - Activations - $54M (+5M over 2021)
  - VA Enterprise Cloud migration – $60M (+920K over 2021)
  - Workforce Recruitment – $1.5B ($273M over 2021)
  - Maintaining Infrastructure Operations – ($218M over 2021)

- **Risks/What can't be done?**
  - IT Infrastructure Modernization (incl. IRP) would continue on a modified schedule which impacts the buy-down of technical debt
    - Possible impact EHRM
    - No investment in Legacy Application Modernization
    - Increase in Break/Fix
    - Increase in Help Desk needs
  - Unable to support New Modernization initiatives that are in line with the Federal CIO's push for IT infrastructure Modernization. (Delays the modernization of 200+ legacy applications; Fewer new business capabilities as the budget goes to maintaining legacy)
  - The Activations deficit limits the ability to support VHA historical Activations requirements
  - No funding for enduring COVID advancements – all enhancements previously made in Telehealth Services, Telework, increased IT Support would return to pre-COVID operations
  - VA is out of sync with Industry standards and spending far less in IT than other Agencies
    - At 15% VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 5.03% (still next to last)
    - At Full Request VA IT Spend as portion of appropriations compared to other Federal Agencies = 8.6% (bottom 1/3)