



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave NW  
Washington DC 20420  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

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

February 10, 2021

Ms. Emma Lewis  
American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act Tracking Number **21-00661-F**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On July 28, 2020, you filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of the Secretary (OSVA) requesting:

- All calendars and calendar entries for the agency officials 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 to include all attachments.

The FOIA Service received this referral on October 29, 2020, tracking number **21-00661-F**. Please refer to this number when communicating with us about your request.

You have been placed in the “news media” category, which means the requester is responsible for the fees associated with duplication, excluding the cost of the first 100 pages, which are free.

While searching for records responsive to your request, OSVA located four (4) pages of documents that originated with, or pertains to VA, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) and referred these records to us for a release determination and direct response to you.

I have determined that two (2) pages are releasable in their entirety, one (1) page is partially releasable, and one (1) page is withheld in full pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5), FOIA Exemptions 5.

FOIA Exemption 5, protects the integrity of the deliberative or policy-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinion, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters.

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](mailto: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 and my 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](mailto: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) who 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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Phone: (202) 741-5770  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: (202) 741-5769

This concludes the FOIA Service's action on your request.

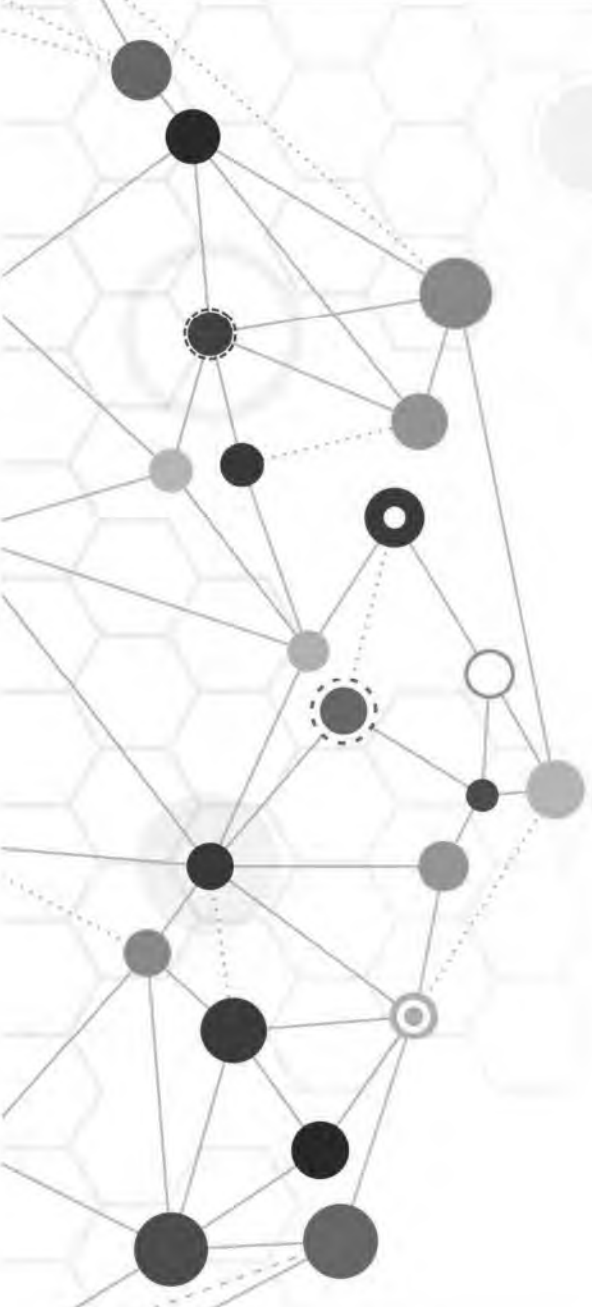
We appreciate your interest in the VA. Customer service is very important to us. If you have questions about this letter, please contact Jacqueline Short of my staff at 202-632-7426.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline M. Short*

For

Mr. James Killens, III  
Acting Director, VACO FOIA Service  
Quality, Performance, and Risk (QPR)  
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)



# 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**

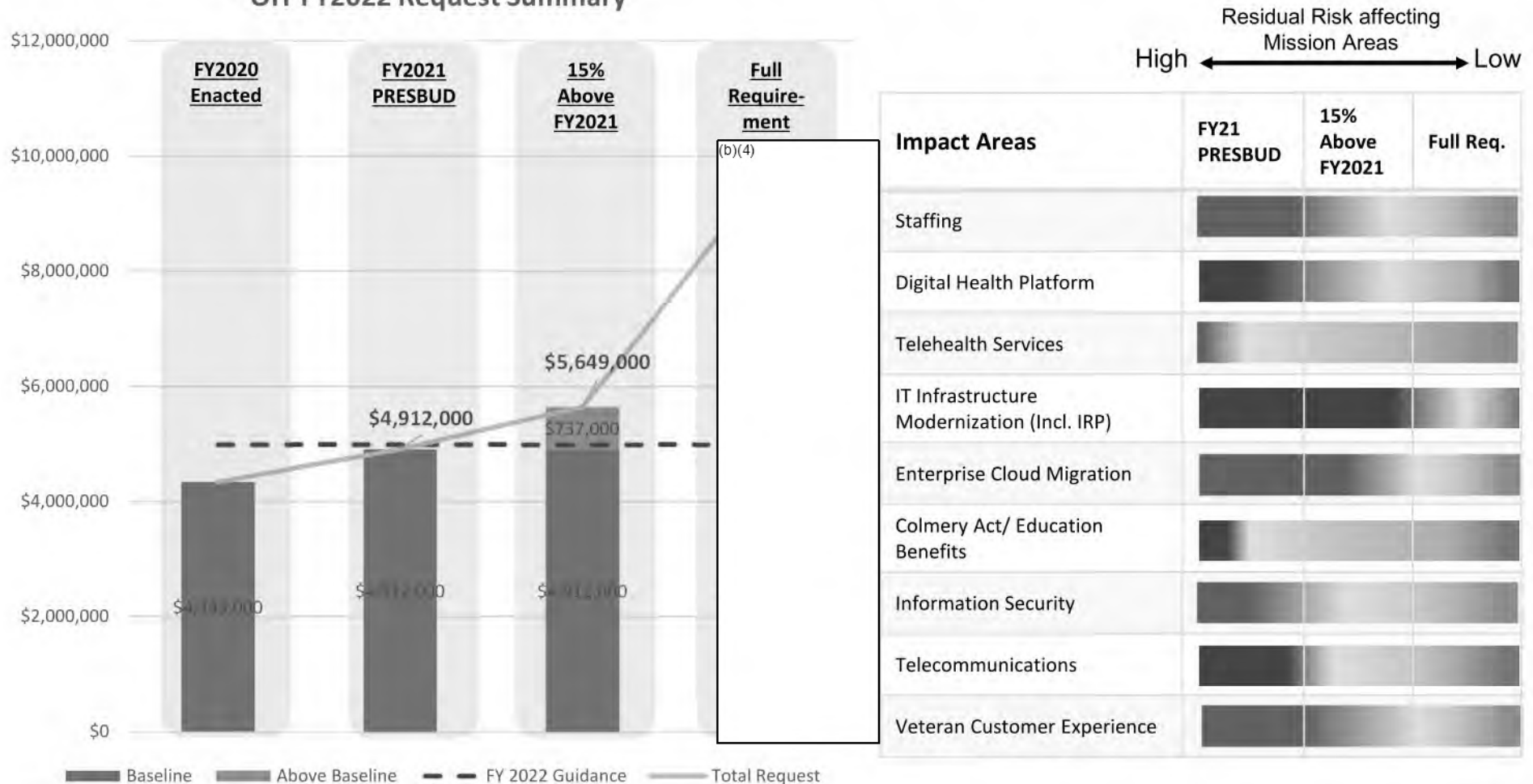


**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Office of Information and Technology

# **OIT FY 2022 Request is \$5.6 billion 15% increase above 2021 (+\$737 million)**

OIT FY2022 Request Summary

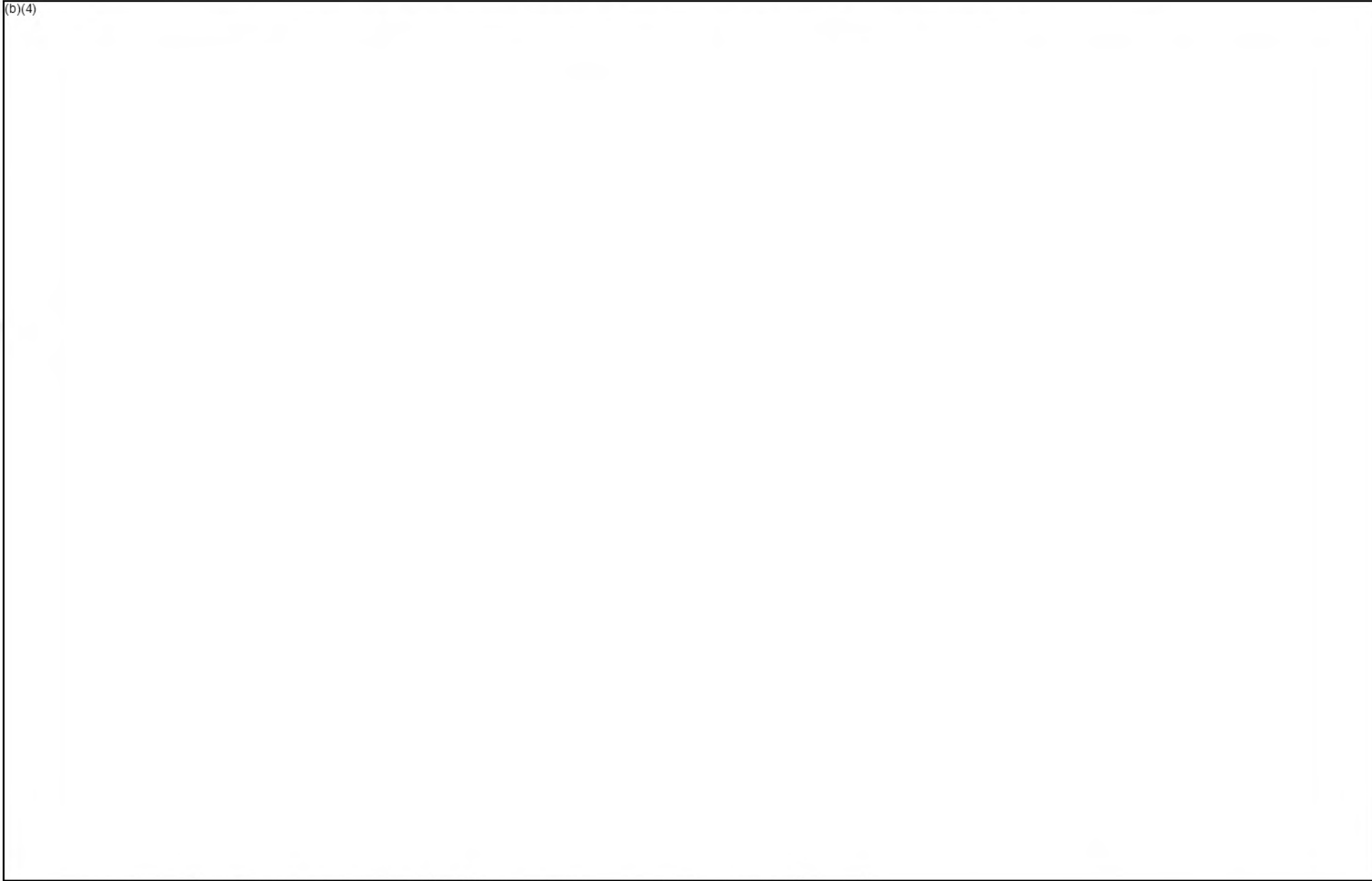


- **FY 2022 OM guidance: \$4.989 billion, (+1.6%) above \$77.1 million FY 2021 President's Budget.**
- **Internal VA request: \$5.649 billion, +\$659.8 million (+14%) above Guidance; \$737 million (15%) above FY 2021 Presidential Budget**

(b)(4)

## 2022 OIT request – Full Requirement

(b)(4)



# 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)