

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2020	2022	2024
Campus Security Upgrades	1	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Asset Preservation	2	GO	\$ 11,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 6 Remodel	3	GO	\$ 12,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Fergus Falls Greenhouse	4	GO	\$ 100	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Project Requests			\$ 28,100	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 28,100	\$ 0	\$ 0

Campus Security Upgrades**AT A GLANCE****2020 Request Amount:** \$5,000**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** This request is for \$5 million to upgrade and enhance physical and electronic security devices at the State Veterans Homes and the State Veterans Cemeteries.**Project Description**

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs occupies 1.2 million square feet in 64 buildings with a replacement value of \$310.7 million dollars. In 2018/2019, MDVA requested a security assessment from the Department of Homeland Security for the Minneapolis, Hastings, and Silver Bay Veterans Homes and campuses. As a result, this request is for \$5 million to install a standardized and centralized security system that will enable local and remote access to security cameras and footage, and ensure secure door locking and limited access for each home and cemetery. In addition to those campuses reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security, this project also includes security updates for the three MDVA Veterans Homes in Little Falls, Preston and Duluth.

Project Rationale

Currently, MDVA Veterans Homes have a variety of systems and several vendors that provide inconsistent support throughout the homes, and various levels of security apparatus, some of which lack the recommended level for securing these facilities; for example, nine of these buildings have 24/7 occupancy and house vulnerable adults. This request will also ensure facilities used to care for the 824 licensed care beds are safe. There has been an increase in the number of incidents at our facilities that have required various levels of staff and local authority intervention, which has raised the alertness of MDVA Senior Management as it relates to the care of our vulnerable adults and safety of our over 1400 employees. This project will provide funding for upgrades and security enhancements at our five Veterans Homes and three Cemeteries, and enable MDVA to provide a safe environment to care for vulnerable adults, employees, and guests.

Project Timeline

The security improvements would be implemented over the course of six to eighteen months after funding is received.

Other Considerations

None

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Agency repair and betterment funds, which are operating dollars, have been used in recent years to address portions of current security systems. This funding will allow future repair and betterment funds to be spent on more routine maintenance and repair projects.

Description of Previous Appropriations

None

Project Contact Person

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(\$ in thousands)

Asset Preservation**AT A GLANCE****2020 Request Amount:** \$11,000**Priority Ranking:** 2

Project Summary: This request is for \$11 million to renovate and upgrade the 64 buildings owned by this agency. This request will address building repair items that go beyond the day-to-day maintenance needs of each facility and will ensure facilities used to care for 900+ residents and the State Veterans Cemeteries are in good condition.

Project Description

The Minnesota Veterans Homes and the State Veterans Cemeteries occupy 1.2 million square feet in 64 buildings with a replacement value of \$310.7 million dollars. This request is for \$11 million to renovate and upgrade these buildings. Nine of these buildings have 24/7 occupancy. This request will address building repair items that go beyond the day-to-day maintenance needs of each facility. This request will also ensure facilities used to care for 900+ residents and the State Veterans Cemeteries are in good condition.

This request would update a variety of resident and cemetery building components. These projects serve to maintain a safe, efficient, and manageable environment for the residents, staff and the general public. Examples of projects in this request include: roofs, chillers, tuck-pointing, mechanical and electrical replacements and repairs, water damage repair, and repairs to high pressure boilers.

The amount identified in this asset preservation request reflects a backlog of asset preservation needs.

Project Rationale

Provides funding for upgrades to 64 buildings statewide

Continues to ensure buildings meet State and Federal building codes, life/safety codes, Department of Health and other licensing code agencies

Enables MDVA to provide a safe environment to care for vulnerable adults

Ensures continued, full use of all physical assets

Timely repair/replacement of building components eliminates future high costs

Projects are located at the Minnesota Veterans Homes (Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls, Silver Bay) and Cemeteries (Little Falls, Preston, Duluth).

Veteran Home projects over \$400,000 qualify for 65 percent federal VA reimbursement-although timely corrective action may be impeded.

Ensures compliance with M.S.16A.11 requiring capital investment of one percent of the replacement cost of buildings for maintenance & repair of state buildings.

Project Timeline

Asset preservation projects can be completed within three years of funding.

Other Considerations

Without necessary Asset Preservation funding, the agency's facilities will continue to deteriorate, increasing repair costs. In the absence of appropriate maintenance funding, failures can occur, forcing the agency to spend operational funds. This can potentially erode the quality of care for our residents, requiring the agency to request additional general fund appropriations for operations.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Agency repair and betterment funds, which are operating dollars, have been used in recent years to address portions of asset preservation projects. This funding will allow future repair and betterment funds to be spent on more routine maintenance and repair projects.

Description of Previous Appropriations

The Department of Veterans Affairs received \$4 million in 2008, \$4 million in 2010, \$3 million in 2012, \$2 million in 2014, \$5 million in FY17, and \$9 million in 2018 for Asset Preservation.

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Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 6 Remodel

AT A GLANCE

2020 Request Amount: \$12,000

Priority Ranking: 3

Project Summary: This request is for \$12 million to remodel historic building 6 to accommodate 36 additional skilled nursing beds at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

Project Description

Historical building 6 on the Minneapolis campus is currently sitting vacant. This \$12 million request would completely upgrade this building to meet current senior living practices, codes, rules, and business practices to accommodate 36 new skilled nursing beds. This \$12 million reflects the 35% State share of the overall project which is projected to have mid-point of construction in 2024.

Project Rationale

MDVA has a total of 1,058 federal authorized beds in the state of MN. The current breakdown of those beds are:

- Minneapolis Veterans Home – 300 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Minneapolis Veterans Home – 50 Domiciliary Nursing Beds
- Hastings Veterans Home – 145 Domiciliary Nursing Beds; Federal VA currently recognize 200 Domiciliary Beds which can be adjusted to 145
- Silver Bay Veterans Home – 83 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Fergus Falls Veterans Home – 106 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Luverne Veterans Home – 85 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Proposed Bemidji Veterans Home – 72 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Proposed Montevideo Veterans Home – 72 Skilled Nursing Beds
- Proposed Preston Veterans Home – 54 Skilled Nursing Beds

MDVA has 36 beds left of the 1,058 Federal authorized beds for Minnesota. By funding this project MDVA would be able to maximize Federal beds authorized as well as utilize a historic building on the Minneapolis campus in the same capacity as intended but upgrading the interior to meet current skilled nursing standards.

Project Timeline

Anticipated pre-design in 2022 with federal funding anticipated in State fiscal year 2023-midpoint of construction in 2024.

Other Considerations

Building 6 was vacated in March of 2017 and all 91 residents receiving skilled care were moved to the new 100 bed building (building #22) on the Minneapolis Veterans Home Campus. Building 6 is over 120 years old and is on the state historic registry as part of the historic Minneapolis Veterans Home Campus. Building 6 continues to deteriorate both inside and out, and the agency continues to incur significant costs to heat, cool, and provide regular maintenance on the building and its systems, while

receiving little benefit or use of the building. This proposal to completely renovate historic building 6 supports MDVA's Strategic Goal to "Ensure a seamless continuum of support through collaborative relationships at the federal, state and community level that addresses the evolving needs of Veterans and their families." This facility will assist in reducing the current eight month backlog of Veterans on the waiting list for placement at the Minneapolis State Veterans Home.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Additional operating funds will be needed to support these new skilled nursing beds.

Description of Previous Appropriations

\$186 thousand in asset preservation funds were used in 2008 on this building.

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Fergus Falls Greenhouse**AT A GLANCE****2020 Request Amount:** \$100**Priority Ranking:** 4**Project Summary:** \$100 thousand in state funds is requested to design, construct, and equip a new greenhouse at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls.**Project Description**

The proposed greenhouse will be a detached, freestanding structure, include electrical and plumbing systems to operate the greenhouse, and will be approximately 750 square feet in size. A greenhouse has been a wish of many of the Veterans at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home, and to date, the home and residents have raised about \$70,000 in contributions dedicated to building a new greenhouse.

Project Rationale

This greenhouse will provide a safe and comfortable place for the Veterans living at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home to plant, grow, and harvest vegetables. Many of the Veterans grew up in rural Minnesota and still have a passion for farming, but are no longer able to garden on their own or have the space to do so. Veterans have been working toward a greenhouse on this campus for a few years. The local community and veterans service organizations have provided financial support to help build a greenhouse, these donations currently total around \$70,000 and will contribute to the total cost of the project.

Furthermore, research has shown that exposure to gardening can have a positive impact for the elderly. Specifically, indoor gardening has been reported to improve sleep, reduce agitation, and assist with cognition for those suffering from dementia. Gardening can help to reduce stress, increase feelings of being calm or relaxed, and can help to improve self-esteem. All of this will have a positive impact on the Veteran population at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home.

Project Timeline

Pre-design is complete. If funded, design and construction can be completed in FY 2020.

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

There will be minimal impact on the agency's operating budget and no additional operating funds are needed.

Description of Previous Appropriations

None.

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