

## Veterans Affairs

## Projects Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2026	2028	2030
MDVA Asset Preservation	1	GO	\$ 41,152	\$ 41,152	\$ 41,152
Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 16 Remodel	2	GO	\$ 17,200	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 6 Exterior	3	GO	\$ 9,250	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veterans Cemeteries Site Irrigation Improvements	4	GO	\$ 4,067	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minneapolis Veterans Home - Security Upgrades	5	GF	\$ 3,500	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veteran Cemeteries - Security Upgrades	6	GF	\$ 1,080	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls - Curb & Gutter	7	GO	\$ 900	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veterans Cemetery Bemidji- Land Acquisition	8	GO	\$ 2,673	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls - Pedestrian Access to the MN Military & Veterans Museum	9	GO	\$ 800	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Veterans Cemeteries - Green Power Improvements	10	GF	\$ 950	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			<b>\$ 81,572</b>	<b>\$ 41,152</b>	<b>\$ 41,152</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			<b>\$ 76,042</b>	<b>\$ 41,152</b>	<b>\$ 41,152</b>
<b>General Fund Cash (GF) Total</b>			<b>\$ 5,530</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

(\$ in thousands)

## MDVA Asset Preservation

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$41,152**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$41.152 million to replace components in the 64 buildings maintained by this agency. This request will address building components that have exceeded their intended useful life of each facility and will ensure facilities used to care for over 700 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 \$453.3 million dollars. This request is for \$41.152 million to replace outdated systems and components in these buildings. Nine of these buildings have 24/7 occupancy. This request will address building systems that have exceeded their intended useful life. This request will also ensure facilities used to care for over 700 residents and the State Veterans Cemeteries are in good condition.

This request would repair and replace 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 public. Examples of projects in this request includes roofs, chillers, boilers, tuck-pointing, elevator repairs, window and door replacement, mechanical and electrical replacements, structural water damage repairs, and major communication system replacements.

The amount identified in this asset preservation request reflects a backlog of asset preservation needs to replace major systems that have exceeded their intended useful life.

**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 replacement of building components eliminates future higher costs.
- Projects are located at the Minnesota Veterans Homes (Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls, Silver Bay) and Cemeteries (Little Falls, Preston, Duluth).

**Project Timeline**

Project timeline will be spread out over 36 months, depending on funding levels, due to project management availability at the state level. MDVA will prioritize projects based on level of need, and we will work with other state agencies and local partners as required to complete all projects within this time frame.

**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, \$9 million in 2018, \$6.3 million in FY20, \$12.3 million in FY23, \$7.5 million in FY25 for Asset Preservation.

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(\$ in thousands)

**Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 16 Remodel****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$17,200**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Project Summary:** The MN Veterans Home– Minneapolis campus is seeking \$17.2M for updates to Building 16– the Domiciliary Program. Building 16 is currently used for Domiciliary care for up to 50 Veterans and is in need of significant updates to improve life safety, clinical service delivery and other environment updates.

**Project Description**

The MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis Building 16 is currently licensed as a Federal VA Domiciliary Program and Boarding Care Home with the MN Department of Health and home to 50 Veteran residents. This facility is needing significant updates to meet the state and federal regulatory requirements for life safety and to improve the care and clinical service delivery for the residents of the program. The agency is requesting a one-time allocation of \$17.2 million to design and remodel Building 16 on the Minneapolis Campus.

**Project Rationale**

Minneapolis Veterans Home, building 16 is a resident building that is occupied 24/7. Pre-Design work is complete , and the funding would enable the agency to move to the next stages of design and construct the remodeling of Building 16 to meet the needs of the residents.

The facility currently has several mechanical system vulnerabilities and cosmetic enhancements are required to meet the resident care needs currently and into the future. The HVAC system has periodic failures and through the discovery process in predesign many other building systems are past their useful lives and need replacement. The remodel of building 16 will ensure the MDVA meets State and Federal building codes, life/safety codes, and Department of Health surveys. And it will enable the MDVA to provide a safe environment for vulnerable adults.

**Project Timeline**

Aug-Nov 2025: Schematic Design and Drawings complete.

July – Sept 2026: DD Drawings Completed, Contracts Reviewed

Sept. - Nov. 2026: RFP – Construction/Engineering

March 2026: Notice to Proceed Contractors

February 2027: Mid-point of construction

Aug 2027: Complete construction Other Considerations

## **Other Considerations**

This proposal to completely renovate and update mechanical systems for Building 16 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". The MDVA Domiciliary program is a unique program that is unlike any other in the country – at times being noted as the "MN Model". It provides a comprehensive program to Veteran residents who are primarily experiencing challenges from mental illness and chemical dependency and seeking a safe and supportive living environment. Ensuring Building 16 is best positioned to meet the current and future needs of this Veteran population is a high priority for the agency and state.

## **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

There is no significant impact on the agency's overall operating budget at this time. There could be a slight decrease in utility costs due to new technologies and updating the systems. This funding would allow future repair and betterment funds to be spent on more routine maintenance and repair projects.

## **Description of Previous Appropriations**

\$65,000 2015 Asset Preservation funds to repair fence.

\$4.8 million 2010 Bond funds to renovate to accommodate 52 residents.

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**Minneapolis Veterans Home - Building 6 Exterior****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$9,250**Priority Ranking:** 3

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$9.25 million to renovate the exterior of Minneapolis Veterans Home Building 6. This request is written considering a phased approach to renovating this prominent historical building, focusing on the exterior of the building to ensure it is maintained for the future.

**Project Description**

Historical Building 6, located on the Minneapolis Veterans Home campus, has stood as a cornerstone of the State of Minnesota's commitment to military veterans since its construction in 1905. This historic building reflects the mission established in the aftermath of the Civil War and the mission to serve military Veterans and their families. Following the completion of the full campus reconstruction in 2018, the building has remained vacant of resident care services and currently houses the fixed dental clinic for the MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis, as well as limited-use storage spaces on the lower level.

This legislative request of \$9.25 million seeks to fully restore and preserve the building's historic exterior and maintaining the buildings systems, ensuring that the architectural integrity and legacy of the campus remain intact. By investing in this structure, the proposal reinforces the continuity of the campus's historical presence and honors the over century-long tradition of service to Minnesota's veterans.

**Project Rationale**

Historical Building 6 is a distinguished three-story – with additional garden level/lower level - 14,000 square foot structure connected to the main skilled nursing campus of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

The Minneapolis Veterans Home campus is our MN Veterans Home flagship campus with the largest number of licensed beds, three different levels of care and a campus that brings extensive history to the mission of the agency. Overlooking the Mississippi River, its striking white pillars, porticos and grand staircases make it the defining visual landmark for both visitors and residents. This building serves as a lasting symbol of Minnesota's commitment to honoring its military veterans. The building is visible in almost all locations on the Minneapolis campus and is the current main visual for residents and those visiting. Ensuring that this landmark is maintained into the future is of the utmost importance and priority for the agency.

A full study was completed in 2019 that included the key maintenance and exterior updates that would need to be made for full preservation. This list is inclusive of all interior systems and preservation of the exterior of the building from further deterioration.

### **Project Timeline**

2019 – Facility Condition Assessment/Study with recommendations from external contracted vendor.

7/1/2026 – Starting Timeline for construction

### **Other Considerations**

Building 6 was vacated in March of 2018 and all 91 residents receiving skilled care were moved to the new 100 bed building (building #22) on the Minneapolis Veterans Home Campus. This completed a multi-year construction project on the Minneapolis campus over the span of ten years to update and rebuild the three hundred skilled nursing beds – with three new buildings (Building 19, 21 and #22). 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 renovate the exterior of historic building 6 supports MDVA’s strategic goals, and most importantly it preserves the history of the campus and ensures that its most recognized building remains intact and without further decline. This building is the most recognized on the campus and remains the prominent location for all visiting or residing.

In 2019, MDVA and the Department of Administration contracted to complete a full study and analysis with recommendations for immediate repair needs, occupying and maintaining at current state, and performing a major renovation. This study provided essential perspective in the future life of the building and needs under three different recommendations/funding plans. Specifically, the analysis provided a full maintenance of existing building option to include updates into major mechanical systems, exterior renovation for preservation and safety improvements and structural updates in alignment with the historic society preservation guidelines.

This proposal seeks to primarily restore the full interior mechanical systems and the exterior of Building 6, aligning with MDVA’s strategic goals and reinforcing the commitment to historical preservation. While a full renovation—including interior restoration—would be ideal, the associated costs are significant. As a pragmatic approach, MDVA is focusing on maintaining the current structure and preserving the exterior, ensuring that this landmark remains a visual cornerstone of the campus for future generations, and is prepared for any future interior renovation that may be considered.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Additional operating funds are minimal to preserve the exterior of the facility.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

\$186,000 in asset preservation funds were used in 2008 on this building.

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## State Veterans Cemeteries – Site Irrigation Improvements

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$4,067**Priority Ranking:** 4

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$4.067 million to design and construct irrigation system improvements at the Duluth, Little Falls, and Preston sites. This request will ensure that the Memorial Affairs Division can; optimize water supply sources, guarantee adequate irrigation water throughput while at the same time mitigate perennial & ongoing water quality issues.

**Project Description**

The request for \$4.067 million in state funds to design and construct irrigation system improvements will allow MDVA to ensure the Memorial Affairs Division can accomplish the following across the State Veterans Cemetery System locations at Duluth, Little Falls, and Preston:

1) Optimize water supply sources (retention ponds, rivers, wells, natural springs, and surrounding regional storm water shed systems) to ensure redundant water supply sources can provide adequate irrigation. This may include:

- Expanding existing retention ponds to ensure retention of 100% of water runoff from our road systems, especially at the Little Falls and Preston locations (approx. \$901K and \$984K, respectively).
- The drilling of a new well for irrigation purposes at the Little Falls location (approx. \$300K).
- Provide irrigation backup to areas initially developed with drought tolerant ground cover at the Duluth location (approx. \$96K).

2) Mitigate water quality issues from all water supply sources properly to prevent headstone staining, especially at the Little Falls and Preston locations (approx. \$893K per site). This may include the inclusion of advanced water filtration systems and changes to surrounding regional storm water flow and retention strategies.

3) Guarantee water throughput of our water supply sources to ensure adequate supply to support sustained irrigation during drought conditions.

4) Optimize and implement automation wherever possible to reduce the number of staff hours to manage irrigation systems.

5) Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders (i.e. DNR, BWSR, Watershed Districts, etc.) in the consultation and design process to ensure a holistic approach is taken and all relevant policies and adherence to all permitting requirements.

**Project Rationale**

MDVA will contract with an engineering firm to design and construct irrigation system improvements

at the State Veterans Cemetery sites as required to ensure that the facilities can continue to establish and maintain pristine turf areas that meet the guidelines of the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) as well as the high standards of excellence expected of Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries that honor the memory and sacrifices of those who have served. MDVA will pursue these improvements while mitigating known issues that continue to hinder our operations.

The pristine turf sections of Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries provide the families of loved ones their first impression of how the State of Minnesota honors and takes care of their loved one's final resting place and can establish a lasting impression that they will remember for years. It's important to always demonstrate, through a high standard of excellence, the honor and dignity bestowed on a Veteran's final resting place. Without the proper irrigation improvements which will result in an increased number of quality water supply sources, Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries will continue to experience dormant and dying turf during drought conditions, the promotion of various drought resistant weed species, and the staining of headstones which requires increased staff time and resources to mitigate. It can take multiple years to recover from dead and dormant turf sections depending on when proper irrigation can be restored and the seasonal optimal germination cycles.

In keeping with Minnesota State and MDVA sustainability goals, it is an objective to capture 100% of the water runoff from the roadways within the State Veterans Cemetery System. However, the existing retention pond at the Little Falls location is insufficient to retain 100% of that runoff and some of it flows into the Mississippi River through the overflow outlet structure. Enlarging the retention pond will allow better management of water resources with the least environmental impact.

Likewise, the Preston location continues to have issues with runoff from area watersheds and naturally occurring springs, prompting a need to augment current mitigation processes by creating additional holding ponds in drainage areas, increasing the height of pond edges, and increasing the depth of irrigation ponds. This will assist with increasing the water quality and preventing the staining of the granite headstones.

Furthermore, the Little Falls location has utilized the adjacent Mississippi River for years as the primary water supply source for irrigation. However, this has presented many challenges arising from the need to continually adapt to differing water levels and changes to the pump sled system to respond to variable river water levels. During prolonged drought conditions, the river has proven an unreliable water source and the Little Falls location's watering permit can be suspended at any time when low water levels are observed for extended periods of time. In fact, while the site's watering permit was never suspended during the first 25 years of operation, over the past five (5) years the watering permit has been outright suspended twice, causing significant additional effort on the part of maintenance staff to recover following resumption of irrigation. Regardless of permit status, over the past five (5) years the water in the river is too low four (4) over those years to operate the pumps, which also prevents adequate irrigation. Presently, irrigation wells are used in all the State Veterans Cemeteries, except for the Little Falls location. Adding an irrigation well at that site as an additional water supply source to the location's irrigation system will ensure the ability to maintain a water supply to continue to establish and maintain turf areas. In conjunction with adding a well is the need to mitigate the known water quality issues with groundwater sources in the Little Falls area to prevent the staining of headstones.

Additionally, the Duluth location developed approximately 50% of the manicured turf along roadways with drought tolerant groundcover, to include the main cemetery entrance, the Avenue of Flags

entrance boulevard, and a significant portion of the site's ring road. This was intentionally instituted in keeping with Minnesota State and MDVA sustainability goals. These areas were intended to thrive with little to no intervention while relying on natural weather cycles for sustainment. However, extreme drought conditions over the past several years undermined this initiative, requiring intervention by Cemetery Staff, with inconsistent results. Installation of irrigation infrastructure in line with the rest of the site will allow for the proper establishment of turfgrass/groundcover in those areas, allow for staff intervention to augment the natural weather cycle as needed to mitigate continued extreme drought conditions, and ensure State Veterans Cemetery -Duluth continues to meet the high standard of appearance required by the NCA.

Yet another irrigation-related concern involves the Little Falls and Preston locations, both of which have known issues with water quality that have a secondary effect of staining the granite headstones. In fact, this was noted during recent NCA formal inspections/evaluations. Upright headstones aligned with precision in perfectly symmetrical columns and rows is a pillar of US Veterans cemeteries world-wide. It is a visualization that resonates in everyone's minds as an example of the honor and dignity afforded to our Veterans in their final resting place. The staff at the Preston location have especially battled water quality issues for years that result in visually obvious headstone staining. While there are labor intensive ways to clean the headstones as well as some irrigation system improvements that have provided an opportunity to more accurately diagnose the problem, the State Veterans Cemeteries are at the juncture where a broad holistic improvement design process needs to be undertaken to address the broader issue which includes (1) the reduction of particulates thru sand filtration, (2) reduction of iron thru increased aeration and large-scale filtration, and (3) reduction of vegetation thru mechanical skimming processes and/or potentially thru biological means.

Lastly, tying these new improvement measures together will be automation where it can be applied to streamline our irrigation system and reduce human error and the need for staff intervention.

### **Project Timeline**

These projects are expected to take approximately one year and could be delayed depending on when the projects break ground, as frost levels are a considering factor, in addition to construction schedules of other projects at these locations. These projects have not undergone any design or engineering phase, although benchmarking irrigation infrastructure design & construction conducted in previous phases of development at various State Veterans Cemetery System sites could be used to shorten this phase.

### **Other Considerations**

N/A

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Irrigation infrastructure improvements will lower annual operations and maintenance costs related to (1) staff efforts dedicated to turf development/recovery (due to drought conditions) and (2) mitigating the staining of headstones (due to water quality issues).

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

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(\$ in thousands)

**Minneapolis Veterans Home - Security Upgrades****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$3,500**Priority Ranking:** 5

**Project Summary:** The MN Veterans Home– Minneapolis campus is seeking \$3.5 million for security upgrades to the 53 acres campus. This is the flagship campus of the MN Department of Veterans Affairs and because of its location has safety and security risks that could be further mitigated with the below articulated enhancements.

**Project Description**

The MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis campus is the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs flagship state Veterans Home campus, built on 53 acres overlooking the Mississippi River near the Minnehaha Falls. The campus contains 16 buildings occupying 300 skill nursing facility licensed beds, 50 boarding care home licensed beds, an adult day healthcare program, and other administrative function buildings for the agency. With over 350 residents in our care each day and over 600 staff, this campus presents great security challenges with its size, scope and number of occupied and unoccupied buildings. The public access presents potential risk and challenges, and it is the recommendation of the agency that additional security upgrades be put in place to further mitigate the concerns.

The current recommendations are structure based and will have limited impact to the homes operational budget moving forward. In the past, some suggestions have been made to include a guard post and gated system for access, however with the requirements that that be in place 24 hours per day/7 days per week, the operational costs are too significant to move forward with that high level of security.

Previous studies and analysis reports have been provided that articulate the following recommended security upgrades:

- Perimeter Fencing – decorative iron material to match the aesthetic of the facility (not chain link)
- Updated electronic access control systems to all ingress/egress, critical infrastructure areas, med rooms, IT rooms and maintenance areas
- Improved exterior lighting
- Hardening of the centralized pharmacy
- Door prop alarms and mitigation systems – with 16 exterior doors
- Defenselite Pro Glazing

Currently, MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis has a variety of systems and several vendors that provide inconsistent support, and various levels of security apparatus, some of which lack the recommended level for securing the large campus. This request will ensure the campus, which is home to 350 licensed beds and a 35 licensed adult day healthcare program are safe. There has been an increase in the number of incidents at this campus 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 600 employees. This project will provide funding for upgrades and security enhancements at our MN Veterans Home - Minneapolis and enable MDVA to provide a safe environment to care for vulnerable adults, employees, and guests.

### **Project Rationale**

Currently, MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis has a variety of systems and several vendors that provide inconsistent support, and various levels of security apparatus, some of which lack the recommended level for securing the large campus. This request will ensure the campus, which is home to 350 licensed beds and a 35 licensed adult day healthcare program are safe. There has been an increase in the number of incidents at this campus 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 600 employees. This project will provide funding for upgrades and security enhancements at our MN Veterans Home - Minneapolis and enable MDVA to provide a safe environment to care for vulnerable adults, employees, and guests.

### **Project Timeline**

2019 – Homeland Security Report complete

April 2022 – IMEG Contracted Study with recommendations

### **Other Considerations**

In recent year, the MN Veterans Home – Minneapolis campus has experienced various security incidents that present risk to current operations. Specifically, we have experienced car thefts from outside parties, foot traffic on the campus with the opening of the historic Truss bridge and other unusual incidents. To mitigate concerns, the agency has invested increased contracted security detail to ensure that 24/7 coverage is present and available to residents, visitors and staff.

### **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**

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(\$ in thousands)

## State Veteran Cemeteries - Security Upgrades

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$1,080**Priority Ranking:** 6

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$1.080 million to design, construct, and equip security improvements at the Duluth, Little Falls, Preston, and Redwood Falls sites. This request will allow that the Memorial Affairs Division to improve security for cemetery facilities, agency staff members and the public plus improve controlled access to private and public spaces at Veterans cemetery locations.

**Project Description**

The request for \$1.080 million in state funds to design, construct, and equip security improvements will allow MDVA to upgrade the physical security elements and systems to ensure the Memorial Affairs Division has full implementation of an integrated physical security system across the State Veterans Cemetery System locations at Duluth, Little Falls, Preston, and Redwood Falls including:

- 1) Installation of key card access systems for controlled entry to facilities
- 2) Retro fitting all interior/exterior doors with powered door locks to eliminate the need for physical keys to lock/unlock doors
- 3) Deployment of interior and exterior security cameras for comprehensive video surveillance
- 4) Installation of powered sliding gates at maintenance facilities to control and monitor vehicle access
- 5) Placement of license plate capture cameras at each main cemetery entrance to enhance vehicle identification and tracking

All components will be centrally managed through the Genetec Security Center application, enabling unified access control and real-time video monitoring.

**Project Rationale**

This project is designed to strengthen site security, enhance employee and visitor safety, deter and prevent vandalism, and ensure the continued safety and respectful environment of Minnesota's State Veterans Cemeteries. As such, this request leverages the recommendations resulting from the 2019



security assessment conducted by the US Department of Homeland Security at the Minneapolis, Hastings, and Silver Bay Veterans Homes and campuses. While the four (4) State Veterans Cemeteries constitute a different operating environment, the number of incidents at MDVA facilities state-wide has raised the alertness of MDVA Senior Management as it relates to the safety of the Agency's employees and promoted the extension of many of the observations and recommendations from the 2019 security assessment to the State Veterans Cemetery System. Additionally, this project incorporates many of the same provisions included in the Capitol Complex – Physical Security Upgrades project contained in the 2025 Special Session Capital Investment bill, passed by the MN Legislature, citing: upgrades that include but are not limited to the installation of door access controls, surveillance systems, lighting system upgrades, locking devices, and traffic control devices.

### **Project Timeline**

Approximately 14 months to address items identified. Progress could be delayed depending on when the projects break ground, as frost levels are a considering factor, in addition to construction schedules of other projects at these locations. These projects have not undergone any design or engineering phase, although benchmarking the physical security improvement design & construction efforts conducted at the State Veterans Home sites could be used to shorten this phase. Engaging contractors/bidding is the next step in this process.

### **Other Considerations**

#### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Completion of this project should have no appreciable impact on the Agency's operating budget.

#### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

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(\$ in thousands)

**State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls - Curb & Gutter****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$900**Priority Ranking:** 7**Project Summary:** This request is for \$900 thousand to design and construct curb and gutter repair measures at the Little Falls site.**Project Description**

The request for \$900 thousand in state funds will allow MDVA to implement design and construction of curb and gutter repair/replacement measures at the State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls. This effort will include removing and replacing all curb and gutter sections and associated storm water catch basins within the system of roadways at the cemetery. Due to likely damage to the asphalt roadway during the curb & gutter removal process, the roadways will also require removal and resurfacing.

**Project Rationale**

The existing nearly two (2) linear miles of curb and gutter sections are 20+ years old and were negatively impacted by a 2017 roadway mill and overlay project. Some of this residual damage was subsequently repaired but the overall effect reduced the normal life expectancy of the location's water management system and roadway components. Water pooling at intersections has further degraded the water management system/roadway components. Overall, the degradation of the location's curbs & gutters has accelerated the functional failure timeline of the site's road network.

**Project Timeline**

This project is expected to take approximately one season and could be delayed depending on when the project breaks ground, as frost levels are a considering factor, in addition to construction schedules of other projects at this location. Additionally, State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls is coordinating with the National Cemetery Administration on expanding the site's burial infrastructure and with the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, adjacent to our property, on new sidewalks and access points. As this project moves forward construction could be delayed/extended up to ten (10) months depending on the level of coordination required.

Jul 2026: RFP Design Contracts

Aug-Dec 2026: Design and Engineering

Jan 2027: Go out for Bid

Mar 2027: Award Contracts

April 2027: Notice to Proceed on Projects

Nov 2027: Complete construction

**Other Considerations**

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Completion of this project should have no appreciable impact on the Agency's operating budget.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

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**State Veterans Cemetery Bemidji - Land Acquisition****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$2,673**Priority Ranking:** 8**Project Summary:** This request is for \$2.673 million in state funds for the State Veterans Cemetery System to conduct predesign, design, and land acquisition actions for a projected State Veterans Cemetery - Bemidji.**Project Description**

The request for \$2.673 million in state funds will allow the MN State Veterans Cemetery network to conduct predesign and land acquisition actions for State Veterans Cemetery - Bemidji, which will enable the state to compete for federal funds to construct the new cemetery.

Specifically, this request is to initiate predesign, design, and land acquisition actions for a future 60-120 acre fifth State Veterans Cemetery in-line with the currently established State Veterans Cemetery and US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) guidelines. This project will include the predesign, design, and land acquisition costs, but does not constitute the full funding for state construction cost share or equipping. This legislative appropriation is a required prerequisite to MDVA submission of a conforming pre-application for construction funding to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) for federal funding opportunity consideration.

**Project Rationale**

This project aligns Minnesota with the NCA strategic goal of providing 95% of Veterans nation-wide with a burial option within 75 miles of their home. In addition to the NCA-managed Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, the State of Minnesota currently operates four State Veterans Cemeteries (SVC) in Little Falls, Preston, Duluth and Redwood Falls, which leaves an area that is unserved in Northwestern Minnesota. This project will impact an estimated 12,000 Veterans and their families who reside within 75 miles of the Bemidji area and an additional 3,000 Veterans and their families residing in the remaining “unserved” region of northwestern MN. Veterans in this northwestern region of Minnesota are currently served by two Veterans cemetery locations: the MN State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls and the Fargo National Cemetery (a small NCA Rural National Cemetery). Both locations require Veterans in the Bemidji area to travel more than 125 miles for burial in one of these cemeteries. Without legislative support to add an additional location in the Bemidji area, Minnesota will have a gap for Veterans in northwestern Minnesota that doesn’t exist in other regions of the State. This request will allow MDVA to acquire the land and proceed with predesign and design efforts that will qualify the location for “conforming” pre-application eligibility within the Veterans Cemetery Grant Program (VCGP) process in the summer of 2026. Note: this subsequent federal funding approval will result in reimbursement of predesign and design funding back to the State.

## Project Timeline

Timing is contingent upon completion of the search for potential sites for State Veterans Cemetery – Bemidji, which could take upwards of a year or more to properly identify a parcel(s) that will have (1) sufficient acreage for continued operations well into the future, (2) is representative of the geographical region in which it serves, and (3) provides easy access to those it serves. Beyond that, it is expected to take less than a year to execute acquisition and predesign actions. However, delays may arise due to the necessary negotiations with the current owners of the real estate over price and timing of availability for sale.

Apr 2026: Certification of State funding availability

May 2026: Conforming pre-application Grant ready for submission to VCGP

Oct 2026: VCGP pre-application Grant inclusion on the conforming list for federal funding opportunities. If approved, RFP Design Contracts issued

Nov 2026 – May 2027: Design and Engineering

June 2027: Project Bids

Sep 2027: Federal Funding Approval

## Other Considerations

This proposal is one of two complementary Veterans Cemetery projects in the western/northwestern region to address unserved/underserved MN Veterans. The other project involves improvements to the Fargo National Cemetery (details below).

- While the Fargo National Cemetery is already established, the status of this facility as a small NCA Rural National Cemetery means it has little supporting infrastructure. This situation prompted local organizations to develop a “Memorial Building” project involving a \$3M North Dakota state-sponsored “line of credit” approval for construction of a chapel/gathering hall/admin building and associated parking lot. The Federal VA will assume annual O&M costs for these new facilities upon completion of construction.

- Completion of this project will improve the provision of Veteran/eligible dependent burial benefits to over 7,000 MN Veterans within the 75-mile radius “catchment area” of the Fargo National Cemetery

- Additionally, during the 2025 Legislative Session Sen Kupec introduced SF2550, a blank FY26 appropriation “from the general fund to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for a grant to [North Dakota] to support their project related to the Veterans National Cemetery in North Dakota.” As there was no House companion bill, SF2550 was ultimately not included in the Veterans and Military Affairs Omnibus. However, this initiative may be refreshed during the 2026 Legislative Session to leverage the momentum of the ongoing design/construction process.

- Given limited MN budgetary resources, MDVA advocates that establishment of a new State Veterans Cemetery in NW MN providing Veteran/eligible dependent burial benefits to 12,000-15,000 currently unserved/underserved Veterans in northwestern MN serves a greater number of Veterans and best aligns Minnesota with the NCA nation-wide strategic goal.

Additionally, as stated above, this request will allow MDVA to acquire the land and proceed with predesign and design efforts that will qualify the location for “conforming” pre-application eligibility

within the Veterans Cemetery Grant Program (VCGP) process in the summer of 2026. Upon federal approval of grant funding for construction of this cemetery, funding appropriated for predesign and design (approximately \$1.870M of the \$2.673M requested) will be reimbursed back to the State.

#### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Beyond limited cost outlays related to site selection activities, eventual addition of a projected fifth State Veterans Cemetery will drive an eventual increase to the operating budgets required to maintain the sites. However, the fact of acquiring the real estate for the proposed site does not provide a significant impact to our agency's overall operating budget with this project at this time.

#### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

#### **Project Contact Person**

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(\$ in thousands)

**State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls - Pedestrian Access to the MN Military & Veterans Museum****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$800**Priority Ranking:** 9**Project Summary:** This request is for \$800 thousand to design, construct, and equip a new security/pedestrian access point connecting to the future Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, which is currently under construction.**Project Description**

The request for \$800 thousand in state funds will allow MDVA to establish a new security/pedestrian access point directly connecting State Veterans Cemetery Little Falls to the future Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum as well as providing utility tie-in access to co-located utility provisioning to the museum complex. The outside security access point component will include sidewalks, landscaping, security lighting, and an improved perimeter security fence between the facilities, to include an entry gate to serve as a pedestrian access point/security gate connecting the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum to the eastern perimeter of the Little Falls location. This access point will match the architectural details/motif of the site's main entry, in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) standards and will connect to a sidewalk and crosswalk leading to the future museum. The separate museum project scope includes the adjacent crosswalk and sidewalk, which is not part of this project.

**Project Rationale**

This secure pedestrian access point will provide key integration with the adjacent Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum while simultaneously maintaining site security standards. Additionally, development of this access point promotes safe pedestrian transit between the two adjacent facilities, as they would otherwise be forced to walk along County Road 76 and Trunk Highway 115 to access the main cemetery entrance. The State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls will enhance the public's experience at the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum by affording visitors the chance to visit and pay respects to those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum will enhance the State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls by allowing the public who are visiting their loved one's final resting place an opportunity to learn about their sacrifices and experiences in the military. It will also act as a support facility for our large public events such as Memorial Day by providing increased parking and ancillary event space as MDVA further develops the annual Memorial Day programs at the cemetery.

**Project Timeline**

This project is expected to take approximately one year and could be delayed depending on when the project breaks ground, as frost levels are a considering factor, in addition to construction schedules of other projects at this location. Additionally, State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls is coordinating with

the National Cemetery Administration on expanding the site's burial infrastructure and with the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, adjacent to our property, on new sidewalks and access points. As this project moves forward construction could be delayed/extended up to ten (10) months depending on the level of coordination required.

Jul 2026: RFP Design Contracts

Aug-Dec 2026: Design and Engineering

Jan 2027: Go out for Bid

Mar 2027: Award Contracts

April 2027: Notice to Proceed on Projects

Jun 2028: Complete construction

**Other Considerations**

N/A

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Completion of this project should have no appreciable impact on the Agency's operating budget.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

**Project Contact Person**

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## State Veterans Cemeteries - Green Power Improvements

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$950**Priority Ranking:** 10

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$950 thousand to design, construct, and equip Green Design power infrastructure/backup improvements at the Duluth and Preston locations. Neither of these locations currently have backup power capability.

**Project Description**

The request for \$950 thousand in state funds will allow MDVA to establish Green Power infrastructure and power backup improvements at any one or more of the State Veterans Cemetery locations:

The design and construction of green design power infrastructure and backup improvements will ensure that MDVA can accomplish the following at the State Veterans Cemetery sites in Duluth and Preston (approx. \$475,000 per site):

- 1) Installation of a 40kW solar array and a power backup system to optimize electricity supply sources to significantly reduce the negative impact of the site on the environment and to mitigate the impact of power loss during inclement weather conditions.
- 2) The optimization and implementation of automation wherever possible to reduce the necessity of staff to be on-site to manage/maintain the systems and effect power transfer operations in the case of local/regional power loss.
- 3) Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders (i.e., DNR, etc.) in the design process to ensure a holistic approach is taken and adherence to all relevant policies and permitting requirements.

**Project Rationale**

MDVA will contract with an engineering firm to design and construct 40kW solar arrays and backup power infrastructure at State Veterans Cemetery sites in alignment with the Agency's environmental sustainability initiatives of reducing energy use, fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. These sustainability initiatives were established in compliance with Governor Walz's Executive Order 19-27 and will ensure that the facilities can continue to reduce environmental impacts and costs while meeting the guidelines of the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration as well as the high standards of excellence expected of Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries that honor the memory and sacrifices of those who have served.

The design and construction of green design power infrastructure and backup improvements for the State Veterans Cemeteries at Duluth and Preston will follow the model established in the design and establishment of sustainability features at the new State Veterans Cemetery at Redwood Falls, which already includes a solar array and will soon incorporate a backup system. Inclusion of green design

power infrastructure at Duluth and Preston will:

- 1) Standardize energy efficiency and resource conservation measures across all sites within the State Veterans Cemetery System. This not only reduces the cost of electricity, but also decreases power supply volatility by hedging current electricity use, provides price certainty through warranted solar PV production, and maximizes savings through coincident solar production and daily load peaking.
- 2) Optimize electricity supply sources to significantly reduce the negative impact of the site on the environment.
- 3) Mitigate impact of power loss during inclement weather conditions.
- 4) Implement automation to reduce the necessity of staff to be on-site to manage/maintain the systems and effect seamless power transfer operations in the case of local/regional power loss.

### **Project Timeline**

This project is expected to take approximately one year and could be delayed depending on when the project breaks ground, as frost levels are a considering factor, in addition to construction schedules of other projects. As those projects move forward construction could be delayed/extended up to ten (10) months depending on the level of coordination required. This project has not undergone any design or engineering phase, although benchmarking solar array planning conducted for the Redwood Falls location could be used to shorten this phase.

Jul 2026: RFP Design Contracts

Aug-Dec 2026: Design and Engineering

Jan 2027: Go out for Bid

Mar 2027: Award Contracts

April 2027: Notice to Proceed on Projects

Jun 2027: Complete construction

### **Other Considerations**

N/A

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Overall, implementation of green design power will reduce overall utility costs across the State Veterans Cemetery System.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

### **Project Contact Person**

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