VA 2011 Budget Fast Facts

Major Appropriation Issues

Transformation

- Provides resources to support the transformation of VA into a 21st Century organization to ensure Veterans are cared for over a life time, from the day the oath is taken to the day they are laid to rest.

Medical Care

- Secures timely, sufficient, and predictable funding for health care through 2012 with advance appropriations
- Continues gradual expansion of healthcare eligibility; providing access to more than 500,000 previously ineligible veterans by 2013
- $5.2 billion (up $410 million) to expand inpatient, residential, and outpatient mental health programs
- $799 million (up $265 million) to implement VA's comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness. This includes $218 million for the Homeless Grants and Per Diem program and liaisons to assist community organizations
- $250 million to improve access to care in rural and highly rural areas
- $6.8 billion (up $859 million) to expand institutional and non-institutional long term care services. Of this amount, $163 million (up $42 million) is for home tele-health to improve access to care.
- $218 million (up $19 million) to meet the needs of women Veterans
- $2.6 billion (up $597 million) for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to meet the needs of over 439,000 Veterans

Claims Processing

- $2.149 billion, (up $460 million, or 27 percent) to support improved benefits processing through a combination of additional staff, improved business practices, and expanded technology.
- Supports the completion of more than 1.2 million disability compensation and pension claims, a 16 percent increase over 2010.
- Provides funding to meet increased education claims workload resulting from new Post-9/11 GI Bill
- $13.4 billion in an FY 2010 supplemental for new presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure

National Cemetery Administration

- $251 million for operations and maintenance to ensure VA's cemeteries are maintained as national shrines.
- The budget also provides effective stewardship of the environment through green and renewable energy projects.

Information Technology

- More than $3.3 billion to support a reliable and accessible IT infrastructure, a high-performing workforce, and modernized information systems
- $347 million for development and implementation of HealtheVet (electronic health record)
- $145 million for paperless claims processing system

Construction

- Supports three medical facility projects already underway, and begins two new medical facility projects.
- Provides funding to begin new burial policies that will provide a burial option to an additional 500,000 Veterans and eligible family members.

Entitlement Benefits

- $64.7 billion for mandatory benefits including compensation for new Agent Orange presumptive conditions and Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits.

FY 2011 VA Budget Breakout

VA's Historical Perspective

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
DISC.	25.1	28	31.1	34.2	36.4	40.5	46	50.6	56.1	60.3
ENT.	28	32.4	31.2	36.8	36.8	41.3	44.9	47.1	58.0	64.7
Total VA	53.1	60.4	62.3	71.0	73.2	81.8	90.9	97.7	114.0	125.0

Discretionary Funding by Appropriation

($ in millions)

Medical Care	51,538
Medical and Prosthetic Research	590
Veterans Benefits Administration	2,149
National Cemetery Administration	251
General Administration	463
Information Technology	3,307
Construction/Grants	1,750
Office of Inspector General	109
Loan Administration Funds	165
Total Discretionary	**60,321**

High Priority Performance Goals

The VA develops a 5-year strategic plan, as well as an annual performance plan and annual report on our progress. As part of developing the 2011 Budget and performance plan, the VA has also identified a limited number of high priority performance goals that will be a particular focus over the next 2 years.

- In conjunction with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, reduce the homeless Veteran population to 59,000 by June 2012 on the way to eliminating Veteran homelessness.

- Implement a 21st Century paperless claims processing system by 2012 to ultimately reduce the average disability claims processing time to 125 days.

- Build and deploy an automated GI Bill benefits system to speed tuition and housing payments for all eligible veterans by December 2010.
  - By the end of 2011, reduce the average number of days to complete original Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit claims to 18 days.

- Create the next generation of electronic record system – Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) by 2012. This interagency initiative will create a more effective means for electronically sharing health and benefits data of service members and Veterans.
  - By the end of 2011, at least three sites will be capable of bi-directional information exchange between VA, the Department of Defense, and the private sector.
  - The prototyping and pilot phases will be completed by 2012.

- Improve the quality, access, and value of mental health care provided to Veterans by December 2011.
  - By the end of 2011, 96 percent of mental health patients will receive a mental health evaluation within 15 days following their first mental health encounter.
  - By the end of FY 2011, 97 percent of eligible patients will be screened at required intervals for PTSD
  - By the end of FY 2010, 97 percent of all eligible patients will be screened at required intervals for alcohol misuse and 96 percent will be screened for depression

- Deploy a Veterans Relationship Management (VRM) Program to improve access for all Veterans to the full range of VA services and benefits by June 2011
  - By the end of 2010, implement call recording, national queue, transfer of calls and directed voice and self help.
  - By the end of 2010, enhance transfers of calls among all VBA lines of business with capability to simultaneously transfer callers' data.
  - By the end of 2010, pilot the Unified Desktop within Veteran Benefits Administration lines of businesses to improve call center efficiency.