

MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART

Agency Overview

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Governor Recomm.		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	20	20	20	20	40
Recommended	20	20	25	25	50
Change		0	5	5	10
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					25%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	20	20	25	25	50
Total	20	20	25	25	50
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	20	20	25	25	50
Total	20	20	25	25	50
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Military Order Purple Heart	20	20	25	25	50
Total	20	20	25	25	50

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Change Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>				
	FY2005	Governor's Recomm.		Biennium
		FY2006	FY2007	2006-07
Fund: GENERAL				
FY 2005 Appropriations	20	20	20	40
Subtotal - Forecast Base	20	20	20	40
Change Items				
Veterans Claims Processing	0	5	5	10
Total Governor's Recommendations	20	25	25	50

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Change Item: Veterans Claims Processing

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund				
Expenditures	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Fund				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5

Recommendation

The Governor recommends an additional \$5,000 per year for the Military Order of the Purple to be used to staff and maintain their claims office, bringing the recommended appropriation to \$25,000 per year.

Background

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is made up of combat wounded veterans from all wars. The organization provides assistance to veterans and their dependents, regardless of their military service or records. The Military Order of the Purple Heart brings in \$1.9 million per year to Minnesota veterans and their families.

The recommendation for additional funding will ease budget pressures of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in providing adequate levels of service to veterans.

Relationship to Base Budget

The Governor's recommendation reflects an annual increase of \$5,000, which is a 25% increase in the FY 2006-07 forecast base budget for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Agency Purpose

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA (MOPH) is a congressionally chartered veterans organization authorized to represent veterans, dependents, widows, and orphans with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. The organization is exclusively made up of combat wounded veterans from all wars. Its major objectives are:

- ◆ to provide free assistance to ALL veterans and their dependents, regardless of their military service or records;
- ◆ to identify the needs of the veterans and their dependents; and
- ◆ to obtain all the benefits that they are entitled to through the VA and the state of Minnesota.

At A Glance

In FY 2003-04 the Military Order of the Purple Heart:

- ◆ Represented 868 Minnesota veterans and their dependents.
- ◆ Recovered \$1.9 million in total benefits for veterans in Minnesota.
- ◆ Had 564 claims approved, 24 denied, 84 pending, and 16 claims went to the U.S. Board of Veterans Appeals.
- ◆ Held 279 interviews.

Core Functions

MOPH provides benefits experts for veterans in the state of Minnesota. The office's daily functional goals are to:

- ⇒ Assist with filing of claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation, pension, medical care, education, job training, employment, veterans preference, housing, death, and burial benefits.
- ⇒ Assist in identifying and helping homeless veterans.
- ⇒ Assist with applications for admissions into the Minnesota Veterans Homes and private nursing homes.
- ⇒ Provide quality, professional representation to veterans whose benefits have been denied at the VA regional office.
- ⇒ Provide legal representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Operations

MOPH provides completely free service and assistance through a national service officer, VA hospital representative, and an administrative assistant. The office provides technical support, training, claims development assistance, research development support, informational support, and updating of law and regulations; all of which are necessary to provide professional and dedicated service to the state's veteran population.

Budget

Total annual funding for MOPH in Minnesota is approximately \$82,000, excluding funds raised through local organizations. Seventy-five percent of this is provided by the MOPH National Service Headquarters in Springfield, Virginia for the salaries of a full-time national service officer and a full-time administrative assistant. The other 25% is from a General Fund appropriation grant from the state of Minnesota. In the FY 2004-05 biennium, state funding for this grant is \$20,000 each year and is used to finance the MOPH, Department of Minnesota National Service Office located at the VA Regional Office at Fort Snelling and the agency's Hospital Representative Office located at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Contact

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc. has a website at <http://www.purpleheart.org/>

MOPH, Department of Minnesota can be contacted at 208 Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, (651) 227-4456 or E-mail at moph@qwest.net

MOPH, National Service Office can be contacted at 1 Federal Drive, Room 183A, St. Paul, MN 55111, (612) 970-5667 or E-mail at mopcviat@vba.va.gov

MOPH, Hospital Representative can be contacted at (612) 467-3247.