



# JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF FY 2024-25 BUDGET BRIEFING SUMMARY

Colorado General Assembly  
Joint Budget Committee

*Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is responsible for training and maintaining Colorado’s Army and Air National Guard to protect the safety and health of Colorado’s residents and serve as a reserve force for the U.S. Armed Forces. The Department also administers state programs that assist U.S. military veterans. The Department’s FY 2023-24 appropriation represents approximately 0.4 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 0.1 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

## FY 2023-24 APPROPRIATION AND FY 2024-25 REQUEST

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
<b>FY 2023-24 APPROPRIATION:</b>						
SB23-214 (Long Bill)	148,582,765	14,553,944	1,961,125	65,557	132,002,139	2,490.0
Other legislation	692,645	642,645	50,000	0	0	1.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$149,275,410</b>	<b>\$15,196,589</b>	<b>\$2,011,125</b>	<b>\$65,557</b>	<b>\$132,002,139</b>	<b>2,491.6</b>
<b>FY 2024-25 REQUESTED APPROPRIATION:</b>						
FY 2023-24 Appropriation	\$149,275,410	15,196,589	\$2,011,125	\$65,557	\$132,002,139	2,491.6
R1 CONG recruiting & retention	500,000	500,000	0	0	0	0.0
R2 Construction and facilities operating	195,000	195,000	0	0	0	0.0
R3 EDO training specialist	73,098	73,098	0	0	0	0.9
R4 VTF expanded spending authority	250,000	0	250,000	0	0	0.0
R5 Civil Air Patrol / JROTC program	193,400	193,400	0	0	0	0.9
Centrally appropriated line items	2,596,097	1,734,351	1,919	0	859,827	0.0
Non -prioritized request	244,230	244,230	0	0	0	0.0
Annualize prior year budget actions	114,896	114,896	0	0	0	0.9
Annualize prior year legislation	17,498	17,498	0	0	0	0.4
Indirect cost assessment	(994)	0	7,523	(14,386)	5,869	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$153,458,635</b>	<b>\$18,269,062</b>	<b>\$2,270,567</b>	<b>\$51,171</b>	<b>\$132,867,835</b>	<b>2,494.7</b>
<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE)</b>	<b>\$4,183,225</b>	<b>\$3,072,473</b>	<b>\$259,442</b>	<b>(\$14,386)</b>	<b>\$865,696</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Percentage Change	2.8%	20.2%	12.9%	(21.9%)	0.7%	0.1%

**R1 CONG RECRUITING & RETENTION:** The request includes a \$500,000 General Fund increase beginning in FY 2024-25 and ongoing to support recruiting and retention efforts for the Colorado National Guard (CONG). The CONG is currently facing recruiting and retention setbacks, with a current end strength below its target. End strength affects the state’s ability to utilize the National Guard as an asset, as the lack of personnel can inhibit its ability to respond effectively. Additionally, federal force structure investments to the state of Colorado are based on end strength numbers. This request aims to address this shortfall by offering recruiting and retention incentives to CONG service members.

**R2 CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES OPERATING:** The request includes an increase of \$195,000 General Fund to the Army National Guard Cooperative Agreement in FY 2024-25 and ongoing. This request intends to cover the increased costs associated with repairs and maintenance at the Colorado National Guard facilities. The average age of COARNG facilities is thirty-two years, and seven facilities are over sixty years old. This request would allow the Department to invest in repairing, maintaining, and modernizing its facilities and assist in meeting rising utility and maintenance costs.

**R3 EDO TRAINING SPECIALIST:** The request includes \$73,098 General Fund and 0.9 FTE within the Executive Director’s Office (EDO) in FY 2024-25 for a dedicated training specialist. This request annualizes to \$73,360 General Fund and 1.0 FTE in FY 2025-26. This request aims to address the comprehensive training requirements for the DMVA, which according to the Department have historically been inadequate.

**R4 VTF EXPANDED SPENDING AUTHORITY:** The request is for a \$250,000 increase in cash fund spending authority from the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) in FY 2024-25 and ongoing. The VTF currently has a fund balance in excess of \$4.0 million. The increased spending authority would allow the Department to utilize these funds to support Colorado Veterans through various initiatives, including funding for veteran community living centers, state veteran cemeteries, veteran programs operated by nonprofit veteran organizations, mental health services, family counseling services, job training, employment, and housing for homeless veterans.

**R5 CAP / JROTC CAPACITY BUILDING:** The request includes an increase of \$193,400 General Fund and 0.9 FTE in FY 2024-25 for operational support to coordinate statewide efforts for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). According to the Department, this would annualize to 1.0 FTE and \$193,400 General Fund in FY 2025-26.

This request aims to increase awareness and drive additional participation in CAP and JROTC programs through direct engagement with K-12 schools across Colorado. The Department aims to achieve this through:

- Increasing the scope of responsibility and funding for the existing CAP Administrator;
- Creating a new FTE to serve as the State JROTC coordinator, which will provide education and workforce resources to students in marginalized communities who currently do not have access to these opportunities; and
- Increasing the operational funds to perform outreach across the State of Colorado.

**CENTRALLY APPROPRIATED LINE ITEMS:** The request includes an increase of \$2.6 million total funds for centrally appropriated line items, summarized in the table below.

CENTRALLY APPROPRIATED LINE ITEMS							
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE	
Salary survey	\$980,683	\$382,997	\$8,379	\$0	\$589,307	0.0	
Risk management & property adjustment	414,028	414,028	0	0	0	0.0	
Health, life, and dental	396,972	257,033	(15,673)	0	155,612	0.0	
Payments to OIT	268,902	268,902	0	0	0	0.0	
PERA Direct Distribution	220,574	216,705	3,869	0	0	0.0	
AED	83,452	58,494	2,142	0	22,816	0.0	
SAED	83,452	58,494	2,142	0	22,816	0.0	
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance	58,019	26,603	985	0	30,431	0.0	
Common policy provider rate adjustment	40,211	40,211	0	0	0	0.0	
Workers’ compensation	35,965	14,386	0	0	21,579	0.0	
Legal services	17,528	17,528	0	0	0	0.0	
Shift differential	16,085	0	0	0	16,085	0.0	
Capitol Complex leased space	11,181	11,181	0	0	0	0.0	

CENTRALLY APPROPRIATED LINE ITEMS						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
Short-term disability	3,328	2,072	75	0	1,181	0.0
CORE adjustment	(34,283)	(34,283)	0	0	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,596,097</b>	<b>\$1,734,351</b>	<b>\$1,919</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$859,827</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**NON-PRIORITIZED ITEMS:** The request includes four non-prioritized items summarized in the table below, aggregating to an increase of \$244,230 General Fund.

	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
Central Services Omnibus Request	\$239,755	\$239,755	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
Core operating resources	2,933	2,933	0	0	0	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	879	879	0	0	0	0.0
DPS Digital trunk radio	663	663	0	0	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$244,230</b>	<b>\$244,230</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**ANNUALIZE PRIOR-YEAR BUDGET ACTION:** The request includes an increase of \$114,896 total funds for the annualization of prior-year budget actions.

ANNUALIZE PRIOR YEAR BUDGET ACTIONS						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
FY 2023-24 R3 Senior executive staff additions	\$55,671	\$55,671	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.2
FY 2023-24 BA1 Performance audit resources	32,018	32,018	0	0	0	0.5
FY 2023-24 R2 Veterans cemetery staff	27,207	27,207	0	0	0	0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,896</b>	<b>\$114,896</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.9</b>

**ANNUALIZE PRIOR-YEAR LEGISLATION:** The request includes an increase of \$17,498 General Fund for the annualization of H.B. 23-1088 (Veterans Mental Health Session Reimbursement Program).

**INDIRECT COST ASSESSMENT:** The request includes a net decrease of \$994 total funds for the indirect cost assessment adjustment.

## SUMMARY OF ISSUE PRESENTED TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

**R1 COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITING & RETENTION:** The Department request \$500,000 General Fund in FY 2024-25 and ongoing to support recruiting and retention efforts for the Colorado National Guard. This issue brief provides background information regarding the Colorado National Guard’s end strength numbers, the challenges it currently faces in meeting its recruiting and retention goals, and the incentive plan it proposes to aid in meeting its objectives.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**TO READ THE ENTIRE BRIEFING:** Go to <http://leg.colorado.gov/content/budget/budget-documents> to use the budget document search tool. Select this department's name under *Department/Topic*, "Briefing" under *Type*, and select a *Start date* and *End date* to show documents released in November and December of 2023.