FY 2027-28 Budget Briefing Summary

Military and Veterans Affairs

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs oversees Colorado's Army and Air National Guard and administers programs supporting veterans and their families. The Department's FY 2026-27 appropriation represents approximately 0.3 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 0.1 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

Summary of Request

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2026-27 Appropriation						
HB 26-1410 (Long Bill)	$160,613,489	$17,541,296	$2,181,879	$26,042	$140,864,272	2,415.9
Other legislation	-87,994	-87,994	0	0	0	0.0
Total	$160,525,495	$17,453,302	$2,181,879	$26,042	$140,864,272	2,415.9
FY 2027-28 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2026-27 Appropriation	$160,525,495	$17,453,302	$2,181,879	$26,042	$140,864,272	2,415.9
R1 General Fund Reductions	-246,329	-246,329	0	0	0	0.0
Operating common policies	2,122,034	1,799,012	6,190	102	316,730	0.0
Employee compensation common policies	1,225,309	544,560	23,146	0	657,603	0.0
Provider rate common policy	41,016	41,016	0	0	0	0.0
Impacts driven by other agencies	8,589	8,589	0	0	0	0.0
Prior year actions	-250,000	-250,000	0	0	0	0.0
Total	$163,426,114	$19,350,150	$2,211,215	$26,144	$141,838,605	2,415.9
Increase/-Decrease	$2,900,619	$1,896,848	$29,336	$102	$974,333	0.0
Percentage Change	1.8%	10.9%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%

Changes are assumed to be ongoing unless otherwise noted.

R1 General fund reductions: The request includes a General Fund reduction across various line items in the Executive Director's Office and Division of Veterans Affairs as a budget balancing measure.

Year 1: Reduction of $246,329 General Fund

The proposed reductions would affect several areas within the Department, including operating expenses in the Executive Director's Office, the Army National Guard Cooperative Agreement, Veterans Mental Health Services, the Veterans Assistance Grant Program, and the Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Buckley/Greeley.

Operating common policies: The request includes a net increase of $2.1 million total funds, including $1.8 million General Fund, primarily driven by a $1.7 million increase for risk management and property costs.

Operating common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Risk management & property	$1,654,525	$1,654,525	0	0	0	0.0
Statewide indirect cost adjustment	313,059	0	$6,090	$102	$306,867	0.0
Office of Information Technology service	103,819	103,819	$0	$0	$0	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	22,064	11,032	$0	$0	11,032	0.0
Legal services	21,916	21,916	0	0	0	0.0
Digital trunked radios	12,802	12,802	0	0	0	0.0
PERA direct distribution	8,951	8,851	100	0	0	0.0
State accounting system (CORE)	4,248	4,248	0	0	0	0.0
Capitol Complex leased space	-17,012	-17,012	0	0	0	0.0
Workers' compensation	-2,338	-1,169	0	0	-1,169	0.0
Total	$2,122,034	$1,799,012	$6,190	$102	$316,730	0.0

Employee compensation common policies: The request includes a net increase of $1.2 million total funds, including $544,560 General Fund, primarily for health, life, and dental benefits, salary survey adjustments, and step plan increases. A common policy refers to general policies applied consistently to all departments.

Employee compensation common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Health, life, and dental	$625,704	$310,279	$16,142	$0	$299,283	0.0
Salary survey	286,619	109,618	3,782	0	173,219	0.0
Step plan	241,375	81,858	2,375	0	157,142	0.0
Unfunded liability amortization payments	65,324	40,577	800	0	23,947	0.0
Paid family and medical leave insurance	3,231	1,928	40	0	1,263	0.0
Shift differential	2,553	0	0	0	2,553	0.0
Short-term disability	503	300	7	0	196	0.0
Total	$1,225,309	$544,560	$23,146	$0	$657,603	0.0

Provider rate common policy: The request includes an increase of $41,016 related to common policy provider rate adjustment.

Impacts driven by other agencies: The request includes a net increase of $8,589 General Fund for requests from other state agencies. These are also called "non-prioritized requests." The amount shown in the table below applies only to this department and does not necessarily reflect the total value of the request.

Impacts driven by other agencies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
NP DPA Personnel Board	$4,421	$4,421	$0	$0	$0	0.0
NP Statewide training system	4,168	4,168	$0	$0	$0	0.0
Total	$8,589	$8,589	$0	$0	$0	0.0

Prior Year Actions: The request includes a decrease of $250,000 General Fund for the Veterans Assistance Grant Program, reflecting the out-year impact of prior Committee budget decisions.

Issues Presented

This is a summary of the briefing issues presented to the Joint Budget Committee by their dedicated non-partisan staff.

Recruiting and Retention Outcomes: This issue brief reviews recent state investments in Colorado National Guard recruiting and retention initiatives, including financial incentives and expanded education benefits, and examines trends in personnel strength.

Sustainability of Veterans Grant Programs: This issue brief examines the long-term sustainability of veterans assistance programs administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), focusing on declining revenues, expenditures exceeding annual revenues, and the resulting reduction in the Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund balance and its implications for future grant funding levels.

For More Information

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To read the entire briefing: Go to content.leg.colorado.gov/content/budget#budget-documents-section 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 2026.