

RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 VETERAN SERVICES COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, This being the date set for the public hearing on the proposed 2026 appropriations to the Ashtabula County Veteran Services Commission in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5901.11; and

WHEREAS, the Veteran Services Commission submitted their proposed budget for consideration and discussion; and

WHEREAS, persons in attendance included: Ben Schwartfigure, Director and board members: Anna Allshouse, Roger Lynch, Ed Somppi, Rick Arndt, Mark Baker; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Appropriation request of the Veterans Services Commission was discussed and reviewed. Ben Schwartfigure reported on increased pay rates, estimated funds returned to the county, and noted the VFW will see an increase in January. Two new positions are planned for 2025, including a Community Engagement Specialist; one office position remains vacant. The department projects a \$470,000 increase and has implemented new vacation and comp time policies. Travel expenses rose due to added staff, and capital projects have carryover funds. A new scholarship line for veterans' children was introduced, funded by donations. Contract services and transportation costs increased slightly, mainly from fuel and repairs. Relief funds were shifted to advertising and marketing for food voucher programs, which attract about 20 new veterans each time. Ben also discussed the ongoing \$100,000 annual reimbursement to the county, totaling \$500,000 to date. Utilities are higher, equipment costs lower, and supplies include flag boxes. He noted Ashtabula County has more veterans than 64 other counties and more staff than Trumbull, Lake, and Geauga. He reviewed services, operational goals, outreach efforts, facility improvements, and the holiday voucher program.

WHEREAS, there being no further comments or questions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the hearing on the proposed 2026 budget for the Veteran Services Commission is adjourned.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2025-454

October 16, 2025

**RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 VETERAN SERVICES
COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST**

Upon the motion of Casey R. Kozlowski, seconded by Casey R. Kozlowski.

VOTE:

J.P. Ducro IV

Aye

Casey R. Kozlowski

Aye

Kathryn L. Whittington

Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio