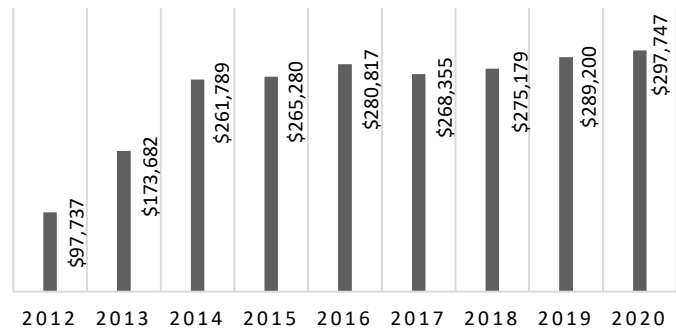


VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU 6510

6510 - COUNTY SHARE



MISSION STATEMENT

To assist county Veterans and their families in obtaining any county, state, or federal benefits that they are entitled to for their service in the military.

WHO WE SERVE

All Veterans who have received a favorable (other than dishonorable) discharge from the service and their spouses.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

Veterans Service Bureau provides many services and resources to the Veterans of Albany County to include:

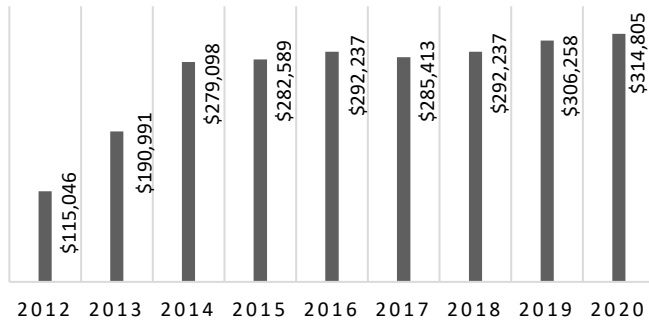
- Initiate, develop, and advance claims for county, state, and federal Veteran benefits.
- Guide Veterans as they enroll in the VA Health Care System.
- Counsel and assist with burial and death benefits for Veterans' survivors.
- Coordinate emergency assistance from appropriate agencies.
- Refer Veterans and their families to other appropriate programs for assistance.
- Obtaining Military records.
- Employment referrals.
- Assistance in obtaining temporary housing and necessities for homeless Veterans.
- Coordinate and maintain the Return the FAVOR discount program.
- Honoring outstanding deceased and living Veterans.
- Provide outreach to organizations and institutions that service Veterans

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

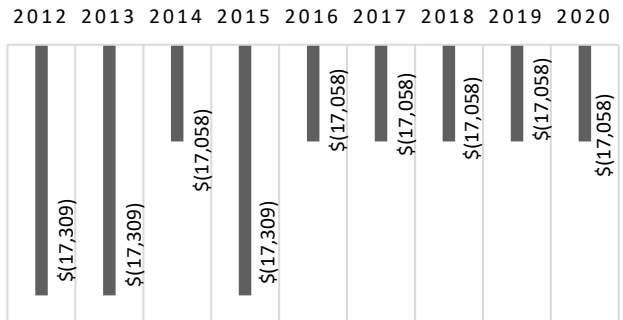
- Honored twelve deceased Veterans through the Honor A Veteran Program.
- Honored six living distinguished county Veterans.
- Assisted Veterans and spouses in submitting claims for compensation, pensions, aid and attendance, and burials.
- Work and coordinate with over 100 organizations within the county that are Veteran organizations or provide services to Veterans.
- Increased individual and organization membership with many Veteran organizations.
- Expanded the Return the FAVOR Veteran discount program (issuing of cards and enrolling new merchants).
- Made major updates to department web page.
- Developed a bi-monthly newsletter and a calendar of Veteran events.
- Continued weekly remote services to Berne and expanded to Westerlo.

VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU – 6510

6510 - APPROPRIATIONS



6510 - REVENUE



2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Develop an event to bring awareness to the high Veteran suicide rate.

Continue aggressive outreach efforts in order to reach more organizations and Veterans to assist with obtaining eligible benefits.

Participate in more Veteran events and coordinate with County Executive's staff for his attendance at major events.

Work with the Joint Veterans Committee to improve communication, events, and efforts of the Veteran organizations in the county and the Veterans Service Bureau.

Convince an agency (Soldier On, Albany Housing Coalition, or any other) to commit to establishing homeless housing for female Veterans within the county.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

This budget increase will account for inflation, cost increases, and lack of adjustment over the last few years. It will help bring the department budget closer to what should be needed to provide adequate services to the Veterans of the county.

By expanding our outreach to Westerlo, we are able to connect and provide services with Veterans that are elderly, incapacitated, or do not have the means to get into the city of Albany. We are able to work with the Veterans to get much needed services and benefits from the VA and Department of Social Services to improve their quality of life.