

## House Bill 2212

**Chairman Goico, Vice Chairman Osterman, ranking minority member Meier, and Representatives Barker, Bradford, Bridges, Dierks, Edwards, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jones, Seiwert, and Weigel.**

**In the early and mid 2000's, declining membership in Veteran Service Organizations was causing a growing concern as to whether they could continue to have Service Officers to assist veterans file claims and assist them at their hearings when they filed an appeal after the claim had been denied.**

**The leadership of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas contacted the Kansas legislature to see if the legislature could assist the service organizations keep and improve their Service Officer situation.**

**Freshman Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, he had served five years as a Representative, and Representatives Ruff and Tafenelli took the ball and ran. With the assistance of other Senators and Representatives the Veterans Claims Assistance Program was born and went into effect in August of 2006.**

Veteran/Military/Homeland Security Comm.

Date: FEB 19, 2013

Attachment #: 2

Although all veterans service organizations were invited to participate, only the American Legion and the VFW chose to do so. The original bill allowed for \$500,000.00 to be split equally between the two organizations. In July of 2011, the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$467,268.00 to be split between the two service organizations. In the Spring of 2012 it was restored to the original amount. The Legislature appropriated \$576,000.00 for the 2012-13 year. This was divided per the request of each service organization and the VFW was awarded \$276,000.00 and the American Legion was awarded \$300,000.00.

The money appropriated for the VFW is used to pay for four service officers, three office assistants, and one part-time office assistant, plus needed equipment and office supplies necessary to accomplish the task of filing claims for veterans. If the claim is denied and the claimant wishes to appeal, then the service officer assists him and will present his appeal if so desired by the claimant.

**The base salary for a VFW service officer is \$32,500 and the base salary for an office assistant is \$21,500.00. Then, when you factor in \$479.00 per month per person for insurance and \$757.68 for retirement benefits per month; this comes to \$249,576.00 without factoring in the part-time worker. This does not leave much left for equipment and supplies. With the volatility of the economy it is impossible to give raises, so, bonuses are given when the budget allows.**

**The statute does state that the VFW will have two service officers at Wichita, and one each at Topeka and Leavenworth.**

**So far in the first seven months of this fiscal year the VFW Service Officers have helped veteran claimants receive \$10,466,769.00 in back pay and \$1,883,855.00 in monthly compensation.**

**The Veteran Service Organizations did not expect a total handout when they approached the legislature for help; so matching funds were added in the bill. These are a total of cash expended in excess of the amount allotted**

**plus expenditures in kind that could be attributed and verified to assist the vso's in this program. It states that each year the vso's have to meet or beat their individual match from the previous year. The matches are growing at a rapid rate and are causing a growing concern that this will soon, if not already, will become a major financial burden. Spending money just to fulfill a contract is counterproductive to our organizations. A set percentage as is suggested in House Bill 2212 would alleviate most of the anxiety that is now being experienced. As you can see on the back two pages are copies of one of last years amended contract reimbursement form and one of this year's reimbursement forms. If you look at the highlighted areas you will see the amount of that year's matching funds needed. If you look at this year's form, you will see that at this time we are setting in good shape, but that could change rapidly for next year. These are some of the reasons that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Department of Kansas ask that you consider and pass House Bill 2212.**

**I sincerely "Thank You" for your time and would welcome questions if you have them.**

**Prepared and Presented by  
Herb Schwartzkopf  
Department of Kansas VFW  
Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Headquarters phone 785-272-6463**

ATTACHMENT E

PAYMENT REQUEST FORM

GRANTEE: STATE OF KANSAS VFW GRANTEE'S GRANT MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTRACT NUMBER: 1201 Herb Schwartzkopf  
 DATE OF REQUEST: 7/5/2012 PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 12  
 PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 6-1-2012 to 6-30-2012  
 AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ 29,831.29

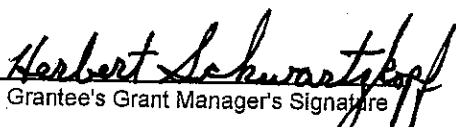
**GRANT EXPENDITURES SUMMARY SECTION**

7/1/2011 thru 6/30/2012  
 (Effective Date of Grant through End-of-Grant Period)

CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT OF THIS CLAIM	TOTAL CUMULATIVE YTD CONTRACT CLAIMS	MATCHING FUNDS CLAIMED	TOTAL CUMULATIVE MATCHING FUNDS
Salaries	\$ 17,006.28	\$ 175,485.56	\$ 1,492.83	\$ 17,913.96
Fringe Benefits	\$ 4,466.96	\$ 56,677.99	\$ 425.00	\$ 5,100.00
Administration	\$ 5,021.75	\$ 5,186.40	\$ -	\$ 4,174.54
Travel	\$ 266.19	\$ 266.19	\$ 3,375.33	\$ 3,644.28
Equipment Purchases	\$ 2,301.68	\$ 3,679.21	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 502.48	\$ 5,261.43	\$ 303.97	\$ 1,521.99
Contractual Services	\$ 65.95	\$ 1,587.33	\$ 688.57	\$ 4,801.93
Other Expenses (postage)	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,217.55	11.35	\$ 938.46
Indirect (office space)	\$ -	\$ -	17,500.00	\$ 35,981.81
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 29,831.29</b>	<b>\$ 250,361.66</b>	<b>\$ 23,797.05</b>	<b>\$ 74,076.97</b>
GRANT BUDGET AMOUNT	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 66,469.00	
Less Total Cumulative Payment	\$ 250,361.66		\$ 74,076.97	
<b>REMAINING BUDGET IN GRANT</b>	<b>\$ (361.66)</b>		<b>\$ (7,607.97)</b>	

**GRANTEE CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that the amount being requested for reimbursement above was for items that were charged to an utilized only for the above cited grant activities.

	_____
Grantee's Grant Manager's Signature	Grantee's Fiscal Agent
Herb Schwartzkopf	_____
Print Name	Print Name
785-272-6463	_____
Telephone Number	Telephone Number

ATTACHMENT E

PAYMENT REQUEST FORM

GRANTEE: STATE OF KANSAS VFW GRANTEE'S GRANT MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTRACT NUMBER: 1301 Herb Schwartzkopf  
 DATE OF REQUEST: 2/1/2013 PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 7  
 AMOUNT PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 01/01 - 01/31/2013  
 REQUESTED: \$ 21,025.92

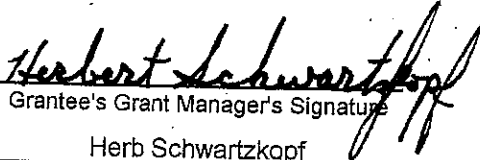
**GRANT EXPENDITURES SUMMARY SECTION**

7/1/2012 thru 6/30/2013  
 (Effective Date of Grant through End-of-Grant Period)

CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT OF THIS CLAIM	TOTAL CUMULATIVE YTD CONTRACT CLAIMS	MATCHING FUNDS CLAIMED	TOTAL CUMULATIVE MATCHING FUNDS
Salaries	\$ 16,286.16	\$ 114,493.10	\$ 1,492.33	\$ 8,953.98
Fringe Benefits	\$ 4,260.35	\$ 29,450.06	\$ 425.00	\$ 2,550.00
Administration	\$ 20.30	\$ 1,839.20	\$ 677.63	\$ 6,096.96
Travel	\$ -	\$ 441.45	\$ -	\$ 4,211.28
Equipment Purchases	\$ -	\$ 2,306.70	\$ -	\$ 5,561.25
Supplies	\$ 483.16	\$ 3,526.83	\$ 7.62	\$ 947.42
Contractual Services	\$ (24.05)	\$ 311.65	\$ 131.29	\$ 2,183.25
Other Expenses (postage)	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 3,505.77
Indirect (office space)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$ 21,025.92</b>	<b>\$ 154,068.99</b>	<b>\$ 5,233.87</b>	<b>\$ 51,509.91</b>
GRANT BUDGET AMOUNT	\$ 276,000.00		\$ 74,077.00	
Less Total Cumulative Payment	\$ 154,068.99		\$ 51,509.91	
<b>REMAINING BUDGET IN GRANT</b>	<b>\$ 121,931.01</b>		<b>\$ 22,567.09</b>	

**GRANTEE CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that the amount being requested for reimbursement above was for items that were charged to an utilized only for the above cited grant activities.

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Grantee's Grant Manager's Signature	Grantee's Fiscal Agent
Herb Schwartzkopf	_____
Print Name	Print Name
785-272-6463	_____
Telephone Number	Telephone Number