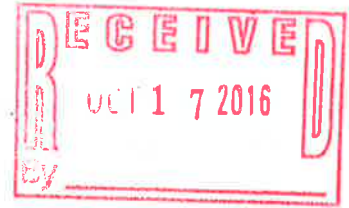


RESOLUTION 44 - 16



VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE CVSO GRANT

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature resolved in 1973 to create a state grant system through which the Counties of Wisconsin could seek fiscal support in providing suitable salary supplements in order to attract and retain sufficient talent as full-time County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) to operate County Veterans Service Offices within their local county government construct. The CVSO Grant payment structure was originally conceived as a block-grant structure and was based upon: employment of a full-time County Veterans Service Officer; the aggregate general population in each county; and divided into four categories: <20K pop. = \$8.5 grant; 20K – 45.499K pop. = \$10K grant; 45.5K – 74.99K pop. = \$11.5K grant; and, >75K pop. = \$13K grant. Counties that employed only a part-time CVSO were allowed a \$500 grant. This payment structure stayed constant and unchanged from its 1973 inception until 2015. Over time, it was allowed by the state for counties to use this grant money for costs other than strictly to supplement CVSO salary, so long as those costs were strictly associated with improving veterans' services. Although there were no specific standards ever established by the state to prescribe authorized uses for the grant monies (or to proscribe unauthorized uses), there was never any reported or published incident of any abuse of the grant money by any CVSO or any county. In the 2015 State Biennium Budget process, language was inserted which reconfigured the CVSO Grant to a reimbursement only payment structure.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Office has operated as a block-grant for CVSO salary supplement since legislative inception in 1973, to attract and retain CVSO talent, and as a means to fund improvements to CVSO veterans services in the county; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Wisconsin Biennium Budget restructured this long-standing CVSO Grant block payment structure to a reimbursement only payment structure, and has resulted in a very cumbersome program that no longer allows salary supplementation, and contains complicated rules of eligible reimbursable costs, which together now create fiscal constraints on Wisconsin counties that benefitted from the previous block grant payment structure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Lafayette joins other counties in the State of Wisconsin, to express their desire to the Wisconsin State Legislature to have the County Veterans Service Office Grant returned to the original 1973 intent to be used strictly for supplementing the salary of County Veterans Service Officers in order to attract and retain talented personnel in those positions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors does hereby request of the State Legislature that the CVSO Grant be structured in a block-grant structure requiring only the signatures of the current CVSO and County