

D55P
Department of Veterans Affairs – Capital

Capital Budget Summary

State-owned Capital Improvement Program
(\$ in Millions)

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2015 Request</i>	<i>2016 Est.</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery Burial Expansion	\$0.414	\$2.980	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery Burial Expansion	0.000	0.400	2.850	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.414	\$3.380	\$2.850	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

<i>Fund Source</i>	<i>Prior Auth.</i>	<i>2015 Request</i>	<i>2016 Est.</i>	<i>2017 Est.</i>	<i>2018 Est.</i>	<i>2019 Est.</i>	<i>Beyond CIP</i>
PAYGO GF	\$0.414	\$0.400	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
PAYGO FF	0.000	2.980	2.850	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	\$0.414	\$3.380	\$2.850	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

CIP: Capital Improvement Program

Summary of Recommended PAYGO Actions

1. Cemetery Program – Capital Appropriation

Concur with Governor’s allowance for Eastern Shore and Rocky Gap Veterans Cemeteries burial expansions.

For further information contact: Richard H. Harris

Phone: (410) 946-5530

Budget Overview

Maryland operates five veterans cemeteries throughout the State to provide interment to eligible veterans and their dependents. The cemeteries are located in Crownsville (Crownsville Veterans Cemetery), Cheltenham (Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery), Owings Mills (Garrison Forrest Veterans Cemetery), Hurlock (Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery), and Rocky Gap (Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery). Through grants from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), the State has been able to expand and update its State veterans cemeteries. MDVA has identified needs for all five of its cemeteries over the next 5 to 20 years, mainly consisting of the development of new grave sites and columbaria installations.

The *Capital Improvement Program* includes funding for projects at both Eastern Shore and Rocky Gap Veterans Cemeteries totaling \$3.0 million in federal funds for construction and \$0.4 million in general funds for design. State outlays for veterans cemeteries are reimbursed by the federal government when the grants are approved by USDVA.

States request grant funds from USDVA for expansion of veterans cemeteries. All requested projects are then ranked on a number of factors, and the inclusion of State funds for design helps to increase the priority ranking and makes it more likely to be funded. MDVA has indicated that federal funds are available for both projects.

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

The Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery opened in 1976 and sits on 51 acres. The site has 5,800 developed grave sites, 5,093 of which have been used. The remaining 676 will not be able to accommodate the estimated 1,400 burials through fiscal 2022. The fiscal 2010 budget included \$35,000 in general funds to design a federally funded expansion of the cemetery's columbaria. However, the project and funds were cancelled after USDVA decided to no longer fund columbaria projects separately from gravesite expansions, which are generally in greater demand at veterans cemeteries.

When design funds were approved in the 2013 session, it was expected that design would begin in June 2013. The current project schedule indicates that design started January 2014, a six-month delay. The current project schedule has construction starting August 2015 and completion a year later, though these dates could be pushed further back if delays continue.

Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery

The Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery opened in 1981 in Rocky Gap State Park and currently sits on 43 acres. There are 4,108 developed gravesites, 3,618 of which are used, leaving a capacity of 490 remaining. It is expected that demand will exceed capacity in fiscal 2019.

The fiscal 2015 allowance includes \$0.4 million in general funds for design at the Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery. The timeline for the Rocky Gap cemetery project has design starting June 2014, with construction to begin August 2015 and lasting one year.

Operating Budget Impact Statement

Executive’s Operating Budget Impact Statement (\$ in Millions)

	<i>FY 2015</i>	<i>FY 2016</i>	<i>FY 2017</i>	<i>FY 2018</i>	<i>FY 2019</i>
Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery Burial Expansion					
Estimated Operating Cost	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.026	\$0.027	\$0.028
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery Burial Expansion					
Estimated Operating Cost	0.000	0.004	0.008	0.008	0.008
Total Operating Impact					
Estimated Operating Cost	\$0.000	\$0.004	\$0.034	\$0.035	\$0.036

The two projects are expected to have minimal impact on the State’s operating budget. Modest personnel, grounds management, and maintenance costs are expected to add \$4,000 to MDVA’s budget in fiscal 2016 and \$34,000 in fiscal 2017. Costs grow by \$1,000 annually in fiscal 2018 and 2019. No additional personnel are expected as a result of these projects.

PAYGO Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance for Eastern Shore and Rocky Gap Veterans Cemeteries.