



TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 28, 2026

The Honorable Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Chair

Mr. James Rothfelder

Member

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Judson Scott

Member

Tony Dale

Executive Secretary

Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Commissioner, General Land Office
Chairwoman

James Rothfelder
Board Member



Tony Dale
US Army Veteran
Executive Secretary

Judson Scott
Rear Admiral, US Navy (Retired)
Board Member

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Texas Veterans Land Board will conduct a special called meeting to be held in person on April 28, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. at Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Ave., Room 170, in accordance with the Texas Government Code §551 (Open Meetings Act).

Access to the meeting by members of the public will be published in advance in the Texas Register in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. A link to access the meeting via video will be posted on the Texas General Land Office's website on the morning of the meeting.

Any member of the public who wishes to address the Veterans Land Board on a matter within the authority of the Veterans Land Board should indicate so at the start of the meeting or during any public comment period.

I. CEREMONIAL AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Roll call and quorum established.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.
4. Presentation to the Chaplain of the Day of a flag flown over the Alamo.
5. Adoption and presentation of a resolution honoring the 251st anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army on June 14, 2026.
6. Adoption and presentation of a resolution recognizing Armed Forces Day on May 16, 2026.
7. Adoption and presentation of a resolution recognizing Memorial Day on May 25, 2026.
8. Recognition from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration of the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene, the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery in Mission and the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery in Corpus Christi with the Operational Excellence Award.
9. Recognition of VLB employees.
10. Citizen communication (Two Minutes each. No deliberations with the Board. The Board may respond only with factual statements, recitation of existing policy, and requests for an item to be placed on a future Agenda.)
11. Chair and Board Member Opening Comments.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

All items under the Consent Agenda are heard and acted upon collectively unless opposition is presented by a Board member, in which case the contested item will be considered, discussed, and appropriate action taken separately.

12. Approval of minutes from the special called meeting of February 3, 2026.
13. Consideration and possible action to set aside bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held March 3, 2026, through April 16, 2026, on any tract where the account holder is making an appeal.
14. Consideration and possible action on request to Order for Sale land tracts that may be included in the next Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale and to set the next Quarterly Electronic Forfeited Land Sale bidding period to begin June 2, 2026, through July 16, 2026.

III. REGULAR AGENDA

15. Veterans Land Board Bond Funds Management Division
 - a. Quarterly Veterans Land and Housing Division Update for Fiscal Year 2026 2nd Quarter.
16. Texas General Land Office Construction Services Division
 - a. Report on Construction Services activities in state veteran homes and state veterans cemeteries.
17. Veterans Land Board Land and Housing Division
 - a. Consideration and possible action to accept and award all qualified high bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held March 3, 2026, to April 16, 2026.
 - b. Consideration and possible action on request to forfeit VLB delinquent land accounts and accounts involved in tax suits.
 - c. Consideration and possible action on the reduction of the minimum bid amount for previously forfeited Type II Land Tracts.
 - d. Consideration and possible action on adopting proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 5, Chapter 175, Subchapter B, §175.3 and §175.4, concerning the Veterans Land Program.
18. Texas State Veterans Homes Division
 - a. Report on State Veterans Home Operations.
19. Texas State Veterans Cemetery Division
 - a. Report on Texas State Veterans Cemetery Operations
 - b. Presentation of a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Legislature related to veterans cemeteries.
20. Executive Secretary Report
 - a. Report on Veterans Land Board operations.
21. Chair and Board Member Closing Comments.
22. Adjournment.

An unscheduled Closed Executive Session may be called to discuss any item on this posted agenda provided it is within one of the permitted categories under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

The above agenda schedule represents an estimate of the order for the indicated items and is subject to change at any time. All agenda items are subject to final action by the Board. Separate agenda items may be combined and discussed together at the discretion of the Chair. Any final action, decision, or vote on a matter deliberated in Closed Executive Session shall be made in an open meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Certain information may be presented to and by the Board, under the headings of "Citizen Communications", and "Board Comments" however, by law, the Board shall not discuss, deliberate, or vote upon such matters except that a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, and deliberations concerning the placing of the subject on a subsequent agenda may take place. The General Counsel has approved the Executive Session Items on this agenda.

The Texas Veterans Land Board meeting room is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spots are available. Requests for accommodation or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact (800)998-4456 for further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A" and "D".

ANTHONY W. DALE
Executive Secretary

Chaplain (COL) Shmuel L. Felzenberg

Chaplain Felzenberg was born in Newark, NJ. He graduated from the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown, NJ, with a Bachelor of Religious Studies degree; he earned his Master of Divinity degree and Rabbinic Ordination in Kfar Chabad, Israel. CH Felzenberg commissioned as a U.S. Army officer and chaplain in May 1999. He attended the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS), Fort Jackson, SC.

Chaplain Felzenberg's duty assignments include: Battalion Chaplain, 80th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Lewis, WA; Battalion Chaplain, 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Schofield Barracks, HI; Chaplain Captain Career Course (C4 Distinguished Honor Graduate), USACHCS, Fort Jackson, SC; Battalion Chaplain, 4/159th AVIM BN and 122nd ASB, Fort Bragg, NC; upon selection below zone for promotion to major, Brigade Chaplain, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC; Command and General Staff College resident ILE course, Fort Leavenworth, KS; Installation Jewish Chaplain, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; Instructor/Writer & Staff Group Leader for the Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CH-BOLC), and later Training Directorate Executive Officer, USACHCS, Fort Jackson, SC; Training Management Officer, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, HQDA, Pentagon, Washington D.C. In 2017, Division Chaplain for the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. Upon promotion to COL in 2018, transitioned to Senior Chaplain at FRKS, responsible for both the DIV and USAG. After a year as resident student (AY20) at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA, served as Deputy Commandant at USACHCS, Fort Jackson, SC. From 2022-24, he served as both Corps Chaplain for V Corps and Senior Command Chaplain for Fort Knox, KY. Currently at Fort Eustis, VA, CH Felzenberg initially served for 15 months as the Command Chaplain for TRADOC, and as of October 2025 now serves as the **Command Chaplain for T2COM (Transformation and Training Command)**.

CH Felzenberg's deployments include: Iraq, 2004-2005, Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-2); Afghanistan, 2007-2008, Operation Enduring Freedom VIII (OEF-8); Kuwait, 2013; Afghanistan, 2014, USFOR-A; Germany, 2022, Operation Assure and Deter.

His awards/decorations include: Legion of Merit (1 OLC), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (4), NATO Medal, and Combat Action Badge. Selected as "Chaplain of the Year" (2004) by the Rabbinical Council of America, and "Chaplain of the Year" (2008) by the Military Chaplains Association.

CH Felzenberg is married to the former Dini Teitelbaum of Morristown, NJ; they have six children (two of whom are Service Members in the Army) and eight grandchildren.



Contact Information: 910-273-0767; shmuel.l.felzenberg.mil@army.mil



U.S. ARMY

TRANSFORMATION AND TRAINING COMMAND



MG John M. Cushing

Chief of Staff

Major General John M. Cushing is responsible for the operational effectiveness of the Command by facilitating timely and well-informed decisions, resolving complex issues, synthesizing critical data, and maintaining open communication channels throughout the organization. His work is essential for streamlining processes and cultivating a collaborative atmosphere focused on achieving the Command's mission.

A native of Rochester, Michigan, Major General Cushing was commissioned as an armor officer upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He brings over 30 years of dedicated service to this role, most recently serving as the Commanding General of DEVCOM, where he led a world-class team of science and technology experts focused on equipping American Warfighters with innovative and cutting-edge combat capabilities.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major General Cushing has held key command and staff assignments with the 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 194th Armor Brigade, 1st Armored Division, 1st Recruiting Brigade, Human Resources Command, and United States Recruiting Command. He has served multiple tactical deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve. Additionally, he has shared his expertise as an instructor and assistant professor in the Department of Systems Engineering at West Point.

Major General Cushing holds master's degrees from the University of Virginia and the U.S. Army War College and is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. He continues a proud family tradition of service, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both Army veterans. He is married with three children.



U.S. ARMY

TRANSFORMATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

Kara L. Stetson

Deputy Chief of Staff



Kara Stetson is the Deputy Chief of Staff for the US Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM), the Army's new four-star command, with a mission to recruit, train, educate, modernize, and equip Soldiers so the Army remains the most lethal, adaptive, and resilient land force in the world. T2COM is comprised of over 110,000 Soldiers and Civilians and an annual budget exceeding \$12 billion. In this role, she serves as the principal deputy to the T2COM Chief of Staff (CoS), a two-star General Officer. She advises the CoS and other T2COM senior leaders on management of staff processes, unit readiness, critical support services, and strategic planning.

Previously, Ms. Stetson was the Deputy Chief of Staff and Communication Strategist for Army Futures Command (AFC). As Communication Strategist she guided the Commanding General on internal and external communications, including public affairs and outreach. As the Director of the Commander's Initiatives Group at HQ Joint Munitions Command, she led strategic planning to align command priorities with DoD and Army policies. Her technical expertise in munitions life cycle management influenced Army readiness and modernization efforts.

Recognized as a strategic and transformational leader, Ms. Stetson excels in building high-performing teams and solving complex problems. Her diverse experience includes human resources, logistics, process improvement, and leading organizational change. She has received the Superior Civilian Service Medal, two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service, and three Achievement Medals for Civilian Service.

Ms. Stetson holds a Master's in Organizational Leadership from St. Ambrose University and is a graduate of the DoD Executive Leadership Development Program and the Army Management Staff College Advanced Course. She is also Level III Army Acquisition Corps certified in Facilities Engineering.



RESOLUTION

Honoring the 251st Anniversary of the Establishment of the United States Army

WHEREAS, on June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress established the Continental Army, marking the birth of what is today the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, for 251 years the United States Army has defended the Constitution and the Nation, answering every call to service at home and abroad, and exemplifying the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage; and

WHEREAS, countless Texans have served honorably in the United States Army, and their courage and sacrifice—together with that of their families—reflect the proud military heritage of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Land Board is a state agency charged with serving Texas Veterans, military members, and their families through programs that honor service and enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many employees of the Veterans Land Board, past and present, are United States Army Veterans whose continued public service strengthens the Board's mission and brings Army values to daily work on behalf of Texas Veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Veterans Land Board to formally recognize the United States Army on the occasion of its 251st anniversary and to express the gratitude of the State of Texas for the Army's steadfast service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VETERANS LAND BOARD OF THE STATE OF TEXAS that:

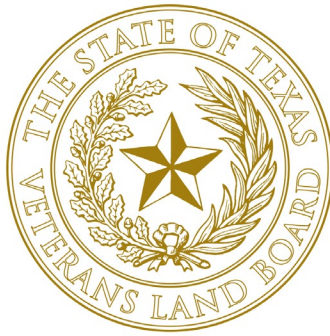
The Board hereby honors the United States Army on the occasion of its 251st anniversary and extends the State of Texas's sincere appreciation to all Soldiers—past and present—and to their families for their faithful service and sacrifice;

The Board recognizes and commends the many Veterans Land Board employees who are United States Army Veterans, past and present, for their continued service to Texas Veterans and their communities;

The Board encourages all Texans to join in appropriate observances on June 14, 2026, in recognition of the United States Army's 251st anniversary;

A copy of this Resolution shall be entered into the Board's permanent records, and a copy shall be printed and displayed at the Veterans Land Board offices in Austin, Texas as a tribute and token of respect.

I, Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution appearing in the minutes of the Veterans Land Board meeting held April 28, 2026.



RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

ON MAY 16, 2026

WHEREAS, Armed Forces Day was established in 1949 to honor the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and, since 2019, the United States Space Force, recognizing the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women who serve in the uniformed services of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Armed Forces Day provides the country with an opportunity to express its gratitude for the bravery, professionalism, and steadfast commitment of those who defend our freedoms, protect our homeland, and safeguard American interests around the world; and

WHEREAS, Texans have a long and distinguished history of military service, and countless Texans currently serve honorably in every branch of the United States Armed Forces, contributing to the strength, readiness, and resilience of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Veterans Land Board is dedicated to serving Veterans, military members, and their families through programs that honor their service and promote their well-being; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Veterans Land Board to formally recognize Armed Forces Day and honor all who serve in the defense of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VETERANS LAND BOARD OF THE STATE OF TEXAS that:

The Board hereby recognizes Armed Forces Day on May 16, 2026, and expresses the gratitude of the State of Texas to all members of the United States Armed Forces for their unwavering service and sacrifice.

I, Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution appearing in the minutes of the Veterans Land Board meeting held April 28, 2026.



RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING THE FALLEN

WHEREAS, Memorial Day is a solemn national day of remembrance dedicated to honoring the members of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in service to our country; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Veterans Land Board is the custodian of the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries in Abilene, Corpus Christi, Killeen, and Mission, and will open a new State Veterans Cemetery in Lubbock in 2026, each serving as hallowed ground for those who served with courage and devotion; and

WHEREAS, these sacred cemeteries are the final resting places for many heroes, including service members who were killed in action, whose sacrifice embodies the highest ideals of duty, honor, and love of country; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated staff of the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries carry out the solemn and sacred duty of caring for the fallen and supporting their families, ensuring that every Veteran is honored with dignity, respect, and enduring remembrance; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Land Board recognizes the profound significance of Memorial Day and affirms its commitment to maintaining these sacred grounds as places of reflection, tribute, and gratitude on behalf of the people of Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VETERANS LAND BOARD OF THE STATE OF TEXAS that:

The Board hereby recognizes Memorial Day 2026 and honors all members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to our Nation, expressing the State of Texas's deep and abiding gratitude for their sacrifice;

The Board commends the staff of the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries—past and present—for their steadfast devotion to the sacred responsibility of caring for the remains of our Nation's heroes and supporting their families;

The Board encourages all Texans to observe Memorial Day 2026 with appropriate ceremonies and acts of remembrance to honor the fallen and reflect upon the cost of freedom;

A copy of this Resolution shall be entered into the Board's permanent records, and a copy shall be displayed at the Veterans Land Board offices in Austin, Texas, as a tribute of respect and remembrance.

I, Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution appearing in the minutes of the Veterans Land Board meeting held April 28, 2026.

SAMUEL B BROWN, MBA UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS WASHINGTON, DC

The Honorable Samuel B Brown was nominated by President Trump, and confirmed by the Senate on July 30, 2025, to serve as the 8th Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In this role he oversees the operation and maintenance of 156 VA national cemeteries and the delivery of memorial products such as headstones, markers, medallions and Presidential Memorial Certificates. He also administers the federal grant program supporting the establishment and expansion of Veterans cemeteries managed by states, territories, and tribal governments. His responsibilities further include programs that

honor and preserve the memory of Veterans through the Veterans Legacy Program and Veterans Legacy Memorial.



Prior to this appointment, Under Secretary Brown served as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Collins supporting strategic initiatives and special projects. Drawing from his military service, personal experience as a recipient of VA health care and benefits, and prior work as a VA contractor, he provides informed counsel across a broad range of departmental issues.

Before joining VA, Mr. Brown led efforts to advocate for a change in national leadership and priorities aimed at benefiting all Americans. Prior to this, and shortly after earning his MBA from Southern Methodist University, he founded and served as CEO of Palisade Strategies. The company supported Veterans by providing urgent and emergency pharmaceutical access and services within local communities on behalf of VA. Under his leadership, Palisade expanded from serving a single VA region to offering services nationwide, including the U.S. Pacific Islands. Mr. Brown sold the company in 2021, enabling its continued impact on behalf of Veterans.

Mr. Brown began his military career in 2006 after commissioning as an Infantry Officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point. An Airborne Ranger-qualified leader, he led soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division in combat operations during Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2008. He was severely wounded during this deployment, resulting in his medical retirement at the rank of Captain. His awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2025 – Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, DC

2025 – 2025 Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC

2021 – 2024 US Senate Candidate, Author Alive Day, Reno, NV

2018 – 2021 CEO, Palisade Strategies, Reno, NV

2015 – 2017 MBA Student, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

EDUCATION:

2017 Master of Business Administration, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

2006 Bachelor of Science in Comparative Politics, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Darren Fitz Gerald, Assistant Executive Secretary

Subject: Agenda Item 9 – Recognition of Employees

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

New Hires

J Been is the new On Site Representative at the Tuskegee Airmen Veterans Home in Fort Worth. Prior to that, he served as the Director of Maintenance for 6 years at Ussery-Roan Veterans Home in Amarillo.

Liz Drummond is a new Quality Nurse in the Texas State Veterans Home Division. Prior to that, she worked for Texas Health and Human Services for 13 years.

Chris Frediani was hired as a Manager IV in VLB Marketing and Outreach, where he serves as our Call Center and Marketing Manager. He is a U.S. Army Veteran.

Damien Silva, Loan Specialist II, serving as a Junior Loan Processor in VLB Land & Housing. He is an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Simon Torres was hired as a Program Specialist (Facilities Maintenance Coordinator) to fill a vacancy within Construction Services. Mr. Torres comes to GLO/VLB as a Protection Chief from Marine Corps Reserve Headquarters in Louisiana.

Promotions

Carolina Garcia, Land & Housing, promoted from Loan Specialist III to Project Manager IV.

Freddie Medina, On Site Rep at the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery, promoted from Program Specialist IV to Program Specialist V.

George Rice, On Site Rep at the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery, promoted from Program Specialist IV to Program Specialist V

Craig Wooten, On Site Rep at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene, all promoted from Program Specialist IV to Program Specialist V

Special Recognition

Ray Minjarez, Deputy Director of GLO Construction Service – for his timely, detailed oriented work and leadership to create a design and cost analysis for the proposed veterans home in Bexar County.

Claire McKinney, Program Specialist in the Veterans Home Division for successfully creating and applying for the Part A VA grant for the Bexar County home that was accepted with no major correction as a first time go by the VA.



TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
1700 Congress Avenue, Room 170, Austin, TX 78701

1. Call to order
 - a. Chairwoman Buckingham called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
 - b. The Chair declared a quorum present.

Members present were:

Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Board Member James Rothfelder

Also present:

Chief Clerk Jennifer Jones
Assistant Chief Clerk Adrian Piloto
Executive Secretary Tony Dale
Assistant Executive Secretary Darren Fitz Gerald
General Counsel Jeff Gordon

2. Invocation was led by Chaplain of the Day Chaplain Richmond Stoglin.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flag.
4. Presentation to the Chaplain of the Day of a flag flown over the Alamo.
5. Presentation of a resolution on behalf of the Veterans Land Board honoring the 7th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Space Force.
6. Presentation of a resolution on behalf of the Veterans Land Board in memory of Veterans Land Board Executive Secretary Bill McLemore.
7. Recognition of VLB Employees.

Unanimous approval of the Consent agenda, items 8-10

8. Approval of minutes from the special called meeting of November 13, 2025
Approval of the minutes from the work session on November 13, 2025
9. Consideration and possible action to set aside bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held December 2, 2025, to January 15, 2026, on any tract where the account holder is making an appeal.

10. Consideration and possible action on request to Order for Sale land tracts that may be included in the next Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale and to set the next Quarterly Electronic Forfeited Land Sale bidding period to begin March 3, 2026, through April 16, 2026.

Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda Continued

11. Citizen Communications. No members of the public testified during citizen communications.
12. Chair and Board Member Opening Comments. General comments made by the board.
13. Veterans Land Board Bond Funds Management
 - a. Quarterly Veterans Land, Housing Division update for Fiscal Year 2026 1st Quarter. This is a non-action item, therefore no action taken.
 - b. Consideration and possible action on increasing the maximum allowable loan amounts in the Veterans' Land Program, and other related matters. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Consideration and possible action on the adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of State of Texas Veterans Bonds, Tax-Exempt Series 2026, in one or more series and installments, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000, and providing for other matters relating to the subject. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Consideration and possible action on the adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of State of Texas Veterans Bonds, Taxable Series 2026, in one or more series and installments, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$250,000,000, and providing for other matters relating to the subject. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Consideration and possible action on the adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of State of Texas Veterans Bonds, Taxable Refunding Series 2026, in one or more series and installments, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$200,000,000, and providing for other matters relating to the subject. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

f. Consideration and possible adoption of resolution authorizing the sale of loans in the Veterans' Land Program and Veterans' Housing Assistance Program, and other matters relating to the subject. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

g. Consideration and possible action on redemption of outstanding bonds. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Consideration and possible adoption of resolution authorizing liquidity facilities relating to bonds issued or to be issued in connection with the Veterans' Land Program or the Veterans' Housing Assistance Program and providing for other matters relating to the subject. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

i. Consideration and possible action on the adoption of a resolution authorizing interest rate swap transactions relating to bonds issued, or to be issued, in connection with the Veterans Land Program or the Veterans Housing Assistance Program and other related matters. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Veterans Land Board Land and Housing

a. Consideration and possible action to accept and award all qualified high bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held December 2, 2025, to January 15, 2026. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and possible action on request to forfeit VLB delinquent land accounts. Motion was made by Mr. Rothfelder and seconded by Mr. Scott, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Consideration and possible action on proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 5, Chapter 175, Subchapter A, Rule §175.3: Land Selection and Rule §175.4: Land Description. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rothfelder, to approve according to staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Texas State Veterans Cemeteries

a. Report on State Veterans Cemetery operations. This is a non-action item, therefore no action taken.

16. Texas State Veterans Homes
 - a. Report on State Veterans Home operations. This is a non-action item, therefore no action taken.
17. Construction Service
 - a. Report on Construction Services activities in state veteran homes and state veteran cemeteries. This is a non-action item, therefore no action taken.

THE BOARD MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 11:09 A.M. TO 11:23 A.M.

11:26 A.M. THE BOARD RECONVENED THE REGULAR AGENDA WITH GENERAL LAND OFFICE CHIEF CLERK JENNIFER JONES SERVING AS THE CHAIR DUE TO THE CHAIRWOMAN BEING CALLED AWAY ON STATE BUSINESS.

18. Executive Secretary Report
 - a. Report on State Veterans Land Board operations. This is a non-action item, therefore no action taken.
19. Chair and Board Member Closing Comments. General comments made by the board.
20. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned in honor of those for which we conducted unaccompanied veteran burials in our cemeteries.

US Army Veterans:

Jeffery Jones
Edward Taylor
David Acosta
John Bowers
Mark Moore

US Navy Veteran:

David Dunn

US Marine Corp Veterans:

Richard Banks
Michael Bucklin

US Air Force Veterans:

Leslie Gunnarson
Joseph Martin

May they Rest in Peace.

ATTEST:

Anthony Dale
Executive Secretary

APPROVED:

James Rothfelder
Board Member



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Raul Gonzales, Director of Land & Housing Division

Subject: Agenda Item 13 - Consideration and possible action to set aside bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held March 3, 2026, through April 16, 2026, on any tract where the account holder is making an appeal.

RECOMMENDATION: There were no appeals submitted; therefore, Agenda Item 13 is a non-action item.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Raul Gonzales, Director of Land & Housing Division

Subject: Agenda Item 14 - Consideration and possible action on request to Order for Sale land tracts that may be included in the next Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale and to set the next Quarterly Electronic Forfeited Land Sale bidding period to begin June 2, 2026, through July 16, 2026.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board approve the Order for Sale of the land tract listed and set the next quarterly land sale period to begin June 2, 2026, through July 16, 2026.

Purpose: For consideration and approval of listing the accounts to be considered for the Order for Sale action today. Staff requests the Board's authority to pull any account that is reinstated prior to the sale date. In addition, staff requests that the Board set the next Quarterly Land Sale bidding period to begin June 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M. with a bidding deadline of July 16, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.

Background: One account is being presented today. Staff continues to work on this loan. However, we have not been able to contact the account holder.

RESOLUTION TO ORDER FOR SALE

WHEREAS, the Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas made and entered into contracts, or approved the transfer thereof, under the provisions of Chapter 318, Acts of the 51st Legislature, 1949, as amended, with the following named contract-holders on the dates indicated:

CONTRACT HOLDER	ACCOUNT NUMBER	COUNTY OF LAND	CONTRACT DATE	LOAN AMOUNT	PRINCIPAL BALANCE
D. SIMS	149950	SCURRY	04/30/1997	\$20,266.00	\$1,467.95

AND WHEREAS, the Veterans Land Board has set a Forfeited Land Sale on April 28, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas that the listed tracts will be advertised for sale in the quarterly electronic Forfeited Land Sale, which bidding period will begin June 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M. and end July 16, 2026, 5:00 P.M.

Anthony W. Dale, Executive Secretary
Texas Veterans Land Board

_____ Legal

Sworn to and subscribed before me by the above party this _____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public in and for Travis County, Texas



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Judson Scott, Member
James Rothfelder, Member

From: John Barton, Director of VLB Bond Funds Management Division

Subject: Agenda Item 15 a - Quarterly Veterans Land and Housing Division Update for Fiscal Year 2026 2nd Quarter.

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

Prior Board Meeting Item Updates

Staff is finalizing the sale of 297 mortgages across three bond series to provide approximate proceeds of \$68.9 million.

Staff is working on the expected \$250 million Series 2026A Housing bond issuance and expects to close in May 2026.

Loan Demand – Housing

In 1983, the Legislature created the VLB Veterans Housing Assistance Program to assist Texas Veterans and Military Members in purchasing a home. Through this program, eligible Texas Veterans and Military Members have an opportunity to purchase a home with a low-interest loan with little or no money down.

Demand for home loans was higher in the second quarter (December 2025 – February 2026) of the state fiscal year compared to the previous year. The Federal Reserve kept rates unchanged in January and March. In March, loan rates were higher than the Q2 period in line with the increase in the 10-year Treasury yield. Demand for FY2026 Q2 averaged \$32.3 million per month and increased 24.28% from FY2025 Q2 versus FY2025 Q2.

	FY2026 Q2	FY2025 Q2	Variance
Housing Loan Value	\$96,841,320	\$77,922,295	\$18,919,025
Housing Loans Closed	237	197	40

Since 2018, VLB loans have been made in 181 of 254 Texas counties.

Loan Demand – Home Improvement

VLB offers qualified veterans or military members loans to help pay for home repairs or upgrades through the Texas Veterans Home Improvement Program (VHIP). This program was introduced

in 1986 and provides the same below-market interest rate as the housing loans. The program demand has been steadily declining over the last four years.

For FY2026 Q2, VLB issued 5 loans under the VHIP totaling \$122,668, which was a 77.46% decrease in loan value from FY 2025 Q2, with an average loan value of \$24,534.

	FY2026 Q2	FY2025 Q2	Variance
Home Improvement Loan Value	\$122,668	\$544,275	(\$421,607)
Home Improvement Loans Closed	5	24	(19)

Housing and Home Improvement Loan Interest Rate Setting Process

VLB’s current weekly rate setting process revolves around setting a "base" rate that is 15-150 basis points (0.15% to 1.50%) below the benchmark. Eligible borrowers with a service-connected disability rating of 30% or higher are then allowed a 50-basis point (0.50%) reduction to the "base" rate. FY2026 Q2 base/discounted rates averaged 5.72%/5.22% while FY2025 Q2 base/discounted rates averaged 6.36%/5.86%.

Since FY 2018 nearly 89% of VLB Home Loan borrowers qualified for the discounted interest rate and 46% of borrowers were first time homebuyers. Through FY 2026 Q2, 95% of borrowers qualified for the discounted rate and 48% of all borrowers were first time homebuyers.

Loan Demand – Land

The VLB Veterans Land Loan Program is the only one of its kind in the nation. It provides Texas Veterans and Military Members with the opportunity to borrow money to purchase land at favorable interest rates and terms while only requiring a minimum 5% down payment.

Demand for land loans is lower than a year ago but remains consistent with historical program levels.

	FY2026 Q2	FY2025 Q2	Variance
Land Loan Value	\$13,469,474	\$16,137,507	(\$2,668,034)
Land Loans Closed	122	147	(25)

The current loan rate for the land program is 7.25%.

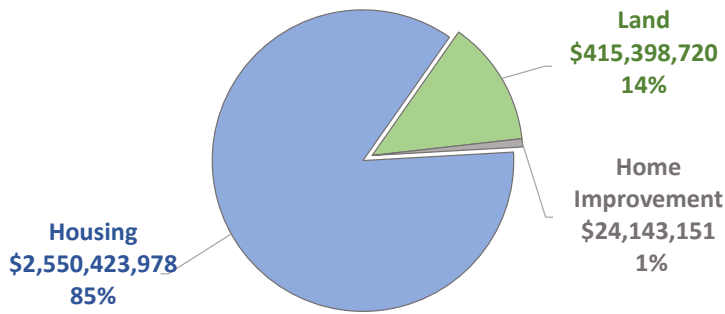
Qualified Veterans can borrow up to \$200,000 to purchase land.

Qualified dual military and dual Veterans spouses can borrow up to \$275,000.

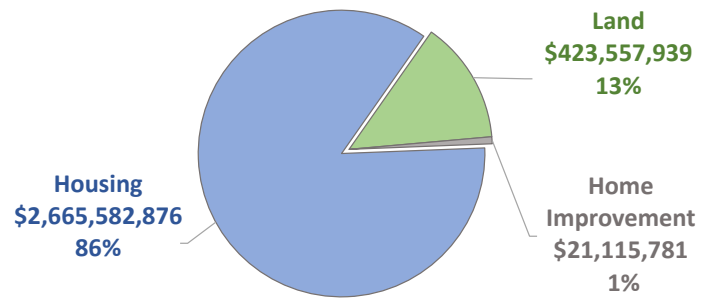
Fiscal Year 2026 Q2 - Loan Summary Report



LOAN PORTFOLIO- FY 2025 Q2

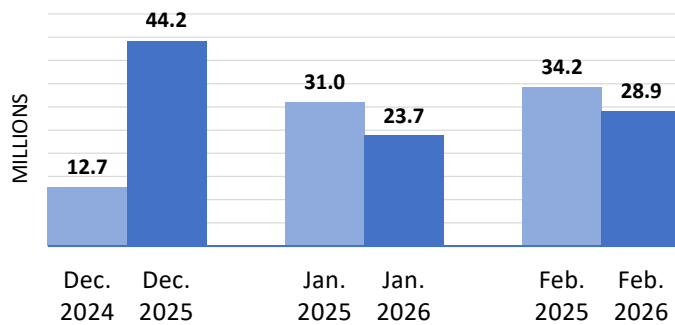


LOAN PORTFOLIO- FY 2026 Q2

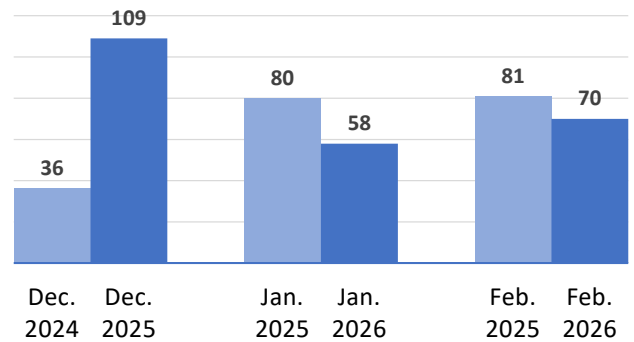


Housing Loans

Housing Loans Purchased (\$)



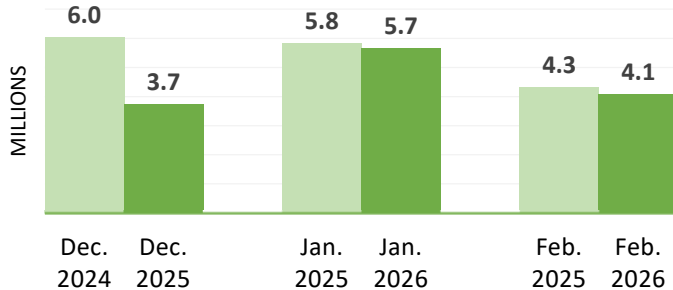
Number of Housing Loans



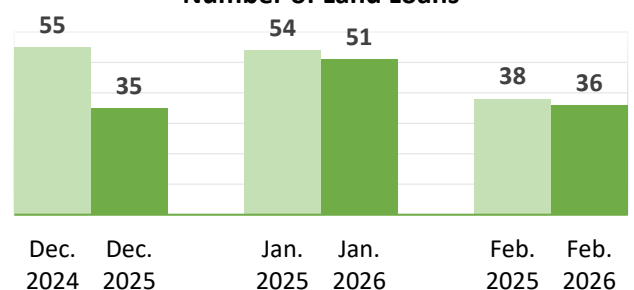
- \$96.8 million in Housing Loans
- \$408,613 Average Housing Loan
- 5.22% Average Discounted Interest Rate

Land Loans

Land Loans (\$)



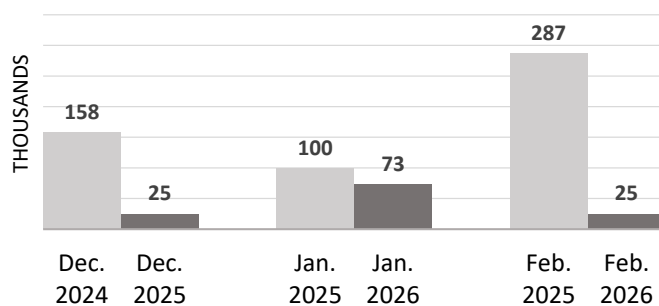
Number of Land Loans



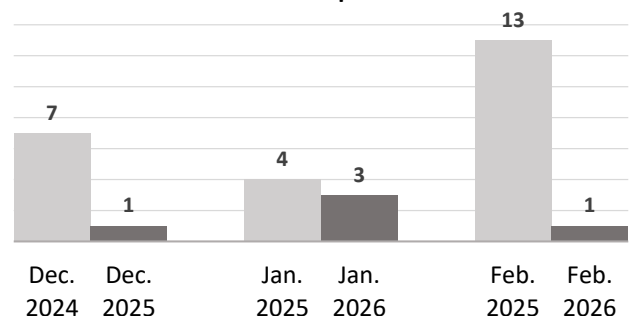
- \$13.5 million in Land Loans
- \$110,406 Average Land Loan
- 122 Total Land Loans

Home Improvement Loans

Home Improvement Loans (\$)



Number of Home Improvement Loans

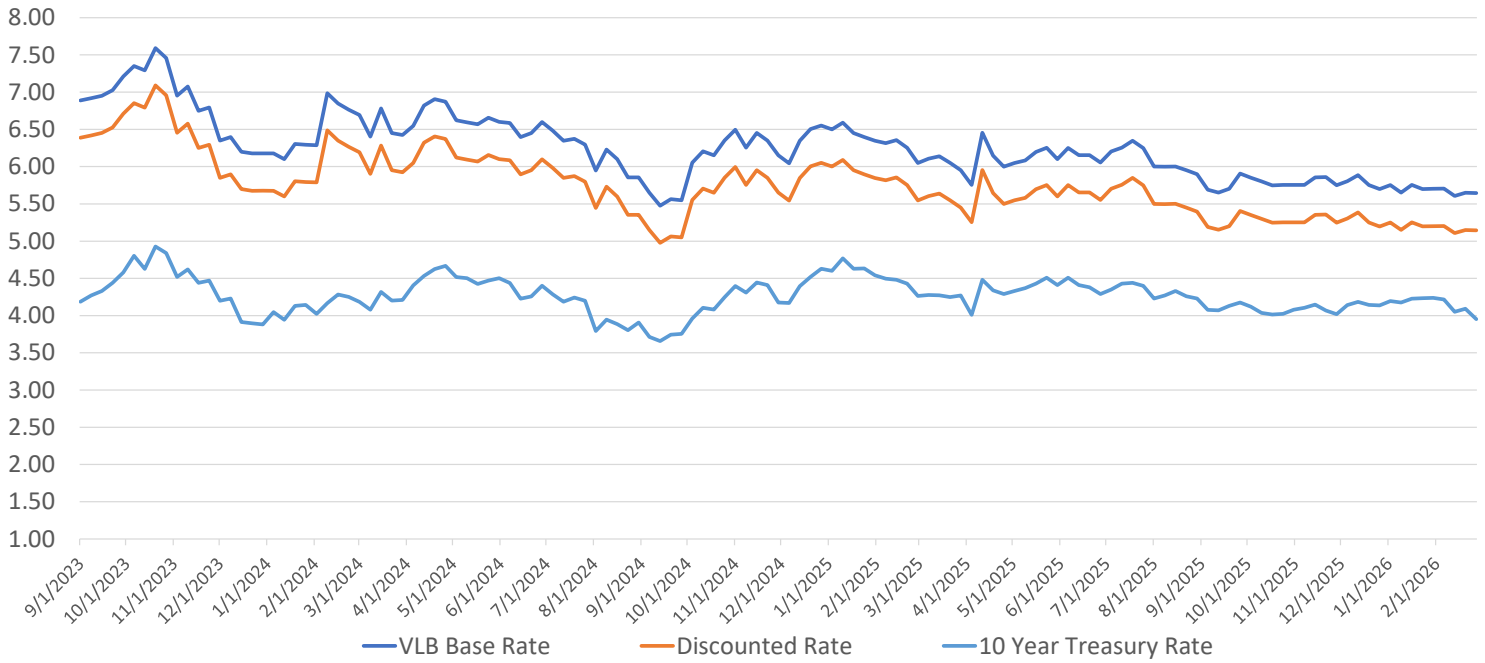


- \$122,668 in Home Improvement Loans
- \$24,533 Average Home Improvement Loan Amount

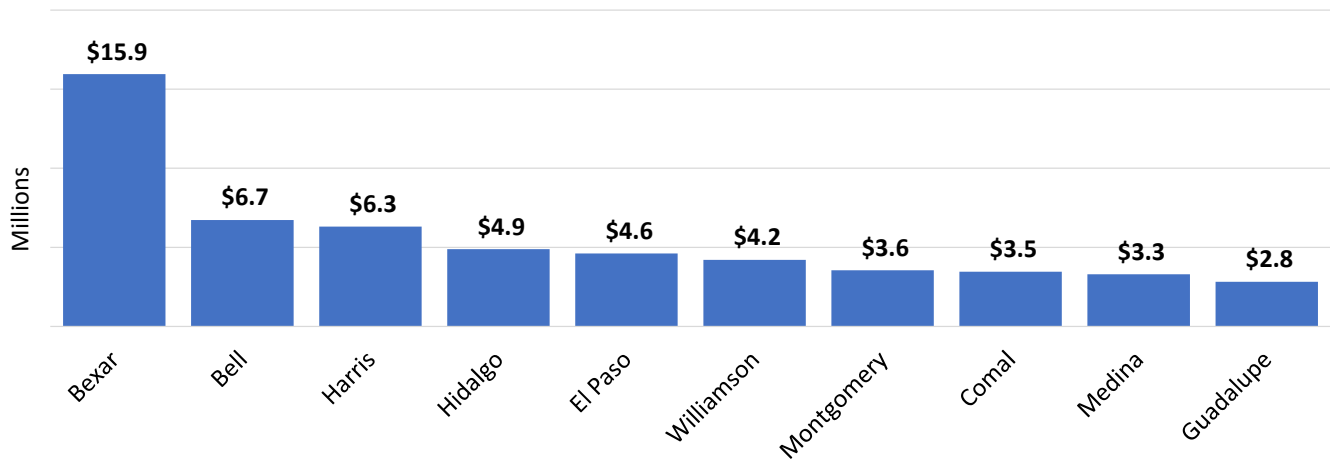
Fiscal Year 2026 Q2 Report



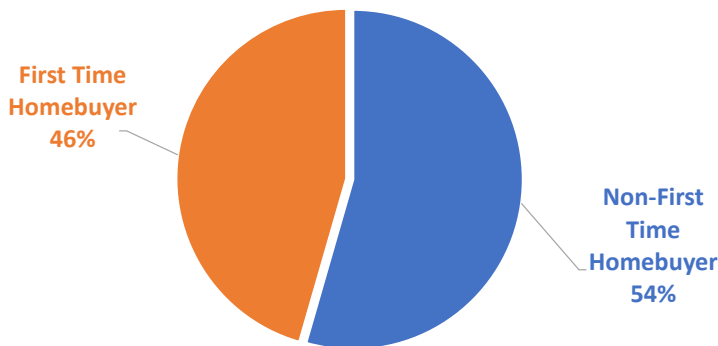
VLB Interest Rate FY2024 through February 28, 2026



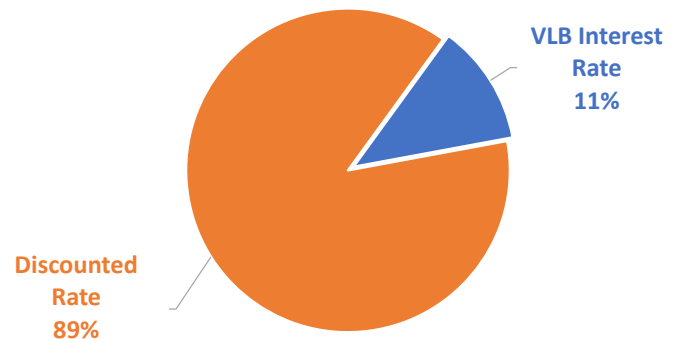
Fiscal Year 2026 Q2 Housing Loan Volume - Top 10 Counties



First Time Homebuyer 2018 - Current



Veterans Mortgage Rate Options 2018 - Current



- 94% of loans have a home loan guaranty back by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for FY 2026



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Judson Scott, Member
James Rothfelder, Member

From: Ray Minjarez, Deputy Director for General Land Office Construction Services Division

Subject: Agenda Item 16 a – Report on Construction Activities in state veterans homes and state veterans cemeteries.

RECOMMENDATION: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

Construction Update

West Texas (Lubbock) State veterans Cemetery:

Construction Substantial Completion was delayed from 12/2025 due to unforeseen domestic water flow issues. A Change Order was issued to address unforeseen conditions and re-establish a new Substantial Completion date of 4/30/2026. City of Lubbock Reclaimed Water permit has been amended to include WTSVC.

Mission Roof Replacement:

Construction in progress. Due to construction scheduling issues the contractor missed their scheduled substantial completion date of 3/29/2026 and are accruing liquidated damages. Contractor has initiated and executed mitigation measures with anticipated project completion early May 2026.

Killeen Crypt and Columbaria Expansion:

Construction approximately 25% complete. Partial early turnover scheduled for 6/6/26, and 8/5/26 are on schedule which will accommodate cemetery operations and burial site availability. Project substantial completion scheduled for 7/11/27.

Tuskegee Airmen Texas State Veterans Home, Fort Worth:

Request for Proposals (RFP) solicited for Tuskegee Art Package with proposals due 4/23/26.

HVAC upgrades at Veteran Homes:

Replacement and upgrades of HVAC filtration system at nine existing homes is 98% complete. Pending closeout documents at eight homes. Letter of Liquidated Damages issued to Contractor for Ussery-Roan (Amarillo) TSVH due to lack of performance in executing scope of work. Contractor has provided the GLO/VLB with formal notice disputing lack of performance claim. Project scheduled to reach substantial completion at the end of June 2026.

Prospective New TSVH, Bexar County:

Part A grant application for new Texas State Veterans Home successfully submitted in advance of 4/15/26 due date. Initial application is under VA Legal review. Draft Phase 1 ESA submitted to GLO/VLB pending review comments and correction to title commitment. Land donation agreement is being drafted. Part B grant application submittal milestone scheduled for September 2026.



West Texas (Lubbock) State Veterans Cemetery



Rio Grande Valley (Mission) State Veterans Cemetery - Assembly Area



Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery - Killeen



Bexar County (San Antonio) Texas State Veterans Home - rendering



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Raul Gonzales, Director of Land & Housing Division

Subject: Agenda Item 17 a - Consideration and possible action to accept and award all qualified high bids received from the Online Bidding Forfeited Land Sale held March 3, 2026, to April 16, 2026.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board award all high bids that meet qualifications for the land program.

Background: There were three tracts offered during the Veteran's Land Sale online bidding period from March 3, 2026, through April 16, 2026. A total of 17 bids were received for the tracts listed resulting in 3 high bids totaling \$513,000.00.

April 16, 2026
Veterans Land Sale
Awarded Tracts Pending Review Of Bidder Qualifications

COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER	AMOUNT OF BID	NAME
Medina	14851	\$155,000.00	Azam Salman
Somervell	14975	\$123,000.00	Daijen Smith
Cameron	14976	\$235,000.00	Carlos Gonzalez
Total Count	3	\$513,000.00	

**April 16, 2026
Veterans Land Sale
Summary of All Bids**

TRACT NUMBER	AMOUNT OF BID	MINIMUM BID	BID PREFERENCE	NAME	COUNTY
14851	\$155,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	AZAM SALMAN	Medina
	\$155,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	LYNDON BSDFORD	Medina
	\$155,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	PASCAL POUOKAMWABODEFO	Medina
	\$150,100.00	\$145,000.00	1	JOSE ESCOBAR	Medina
	\$147,995.00	\$145,000.00	1	DANIEL QUINTERO	Medina
	\$146,159.00	\$145,000.00	1	IVEY BRYANT	Medina
	\$145,200.00	\$145,000.00	1	ROGELIO RAYOS	Medina
	\$145,151.00	\$145,000.00	1	PAUL PANTOJA	Medina
	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	MARK DOCKEN	Medina
	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	DUSTIN SANCHEZ	Medina
	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	2	CARLOS GONZALEZ	Medina
	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	STEPHEN ECKART	Medina
	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	1	DAVID MENDOZA	Medina
14975	\$123,000.00	\$122,000.00	1	DAIJEN SMITH	Somervell
	\$122,500.00	\$122,000.00	1	LAVINCENT HARRIS	Somervell
	\$122,000.00	\$122,000.00	3	CARLOS GONZALEZ	Somervell
14976	\$235,000.00	\$234,500.00	1	CARLOS GONZALEZ	Cameron
Total	\$2,527,105.00			17	



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Raul Gonzales, Director of Land & Housing Division

Subject: Agenda Item 17 b - Consideration and possible action on request to forfeit VLB delinquent land accounts and accounts involved in tax suits.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board take forfeiture action on the Resolution before you, except on accounts where sufficient funds are received to avoid that action.

Purpose: For consideration and approval of forfeiture on the accounts that are being presented for forfeiture action today. The accounts are recommended for forfeiture due to non-payment of principal and interest.

Background: Four accounts being presented today. On two of the accounts the veterans are deceased, and we are attempting to work with the heirs on a resolution. On the remaining two accounts, we continue our efforts in attempting to contact the account holders to work out a payment plan.

RESOLUTION OF FORFEITURE MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas made and entered into contracts, or approved the transfer thereof, under the provisions of Chapter 318, Acts of the 51st Legislature, 1949, as amended, with the following named contract-holders on the dates indicated:

CONTRACT HOLDER	ACCOUNT NUMBER	COUNTY OF LAND	SALE DATE	DELINQ AMOUNT	PAYMENTS DELINQ	LOAN AMOUNT	PRINCIPAL BALANCE
R. VALCHAR	160752	ATASCOSA	04/01/2005	\$1696.00	8	\$38,000.00	\$15,658.33
W. JONES	162738	WISE	3/16/2007	\$2464.00	4	\$96,000.00	\$39,879.41
R. PHILLIPS	163025	ARCHER	8/2/2007	\$1464.00	4	\$60,000.00	\$35,108.08

WHEREAS, these contract-holders have failed and refused to make payments of principal and interest due on such contracts,

AND WHEREAS, in compliance with the Statutes in such case made and provided, notice of such delinquency and/or default and impending forfeiture has been given to each of these contract-holders at his/her last-known address at least thirty days previous to this date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas that the Chair be and is hereby directed to endorse upon the wrappers containing the papers of each of the above-referenced sales or upon each purchase contract filed in the office of the Veterans Land Board the word 'Forfeited', with the date of this action, and to sign the same officially, effective April 28, 2026.

I, Anthony W. Dale, Executive Secretary of the Texas Veterans Land Board, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution appearing in the minutes of the Veterans Land Board meeting held April 28, 2026.

Anthony W. Dale, Executive Secretary
Texas Veterans Land Board

_____ Legal

Sworn to and subscribed before me by the above party this _____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public in and for Travis County, Texas



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Raul Gonzales, Director of Land & Housing Division

Subject: Agenda Item 17 c – Consideration and possible action on the reduction of the minimum bid amount for previously forfeited Type II Land Tracts

Recommendation

Staff recommends granting the Executive Secretary authority to contract with local real estate agents on Type II tracts, and/or reducing the minimum bid and minimum downpayment requirements for the forfeited tracts listed below to align with each tract's most recent appraised value. Staff further recommends offering these tracts with reduced downpayment options to support timely resale and reduce long-term inventory.

Background

Once a tract is foreclosed, it becomes a Type I tract. Type I tracts are initially offered for sale online exclusively to qualified veterans. If a Type I tract does not sell during the initial offering, it is reclassified as a Type II tract and becomes available for purchase by both veterans and nonveterans. Type II tracts are sold online on a first-come, first served basis to buyers meeting or exceeding the established minimum price.

The following Type II tracts have remained in inventory for extended periods since their forfeiture date. Under Section 161.319 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, forfeited tracts may be resold to the highest bidder under terms prescribed by the Board. In addition, 40 TAC §175.18 authorizes the Board to set minimum acceptable offers for Type I and Type II tracts, and 40 TAC §175.6(b) outlines downpayment requirements, with exceptions available for forfeited land sales.

TRACT #	COUNTY	DATE OF FORFEITURE	DATE LISTED AS TYPE II	MIN BID	FORFEITED BALANCE
14899	Burnet	10/12/2023	09/12/2025	\$162,000	\$148,063.37
14907	Walker	01/25/2024	02/21/2024	\$112,000	\$76,601.21
14914	Walker	04/18/2024	10/22/2024	\$93,500	\$75,782.64
14925	Nueces	07/18/2024	09/17/2024	\$130,000	\$74,097.71
14929	Medina	10/17/2024	05/29/2025	\$143,000	\$98,517.48
14931	Walker	10/17/2024	01/21/2025	\$160,000	\$127,782.50
14935	Palo Pinto	01/16/2025	05/29/2025	\$115,000	\$95,804.09
14944	Navarro	04/17/2025	07/31/2025	\$291,000	\$156,079.04
14941	Burnet	04/17/2025	05/29/2025	\$127,000	\$86,601.40
14956	Walker	07/17/2025	08/7/2025	\$142,500	\$138,703.76
14954	Medina	07/17/2025	12/16/2025	\$85,000	\$87,855.14
14963	Comal	10/16/2025	11/13/2025	\$100,000	\$114,968.33
14968	Eastland	10/16/2025	10/28/2025	\$196,000	\$160,600.90
14965	Walker	10/16/2025	10/28/2025	\$138,000	\$90,817.57
14966	Montague	10/16/2025	10/28/2025	\$150,000	\$122,055.12
14972	Somervell	01/15/2026	02/03/2026	\$170,000	\$157,488.34
14949	Walker	01/07/2025	01/21/2026	\$92,000	\$91,985.57
14953	Walker	02/02/2025	09/15/2025	\$95,000	\$53,095.81
14974	Fannin	07/24/2025	03/24/2026	\$66,000	\$60,119.61

Table 1: Type II tracts in inventory for extended periods since forfeiture

To facilitate sales of long-standing inventory, staff is proposing the following pricing and down payment reductions:

Discount Rate Adjustments

- Unsold 6 to <12 months: 10% reduction of original minimum bid amount
- Unsold 12 to <24 months: 15% reduction of original minimum bid amount
- Unsold 24 months or longer: 25% reduction of original minimum bid amount

Minimum Down-Payment Adjustments:

- After 12 months unsold: may be reduced to 0% for qualified veterans.
- After 18 months unsold: Down payment may be reduced to 0% for both veterans and non-veterans.

These recommended adjustments align with existing rule authority and are intended to improve marketability and expedite the disposition of aging Type II inventory.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
Judson Scott, Member
James Rothfelder, Member

From: Morris Karam, Attorney, General Land Office

Subject: Agenda Item 17 d - Consideration and possible action on adopting proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 5, Chapter 175, Subchapter B, §175.3 and §175.4, concerning the Veterans Land Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board adopt the proposed amendments to update requirements for land selection, land description, and surveys tied to transactions through the Veterans Land Program.

Summary

At its February 3, 2026, special called meeting and pursuant to its authority under Chapter 161 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, the Board unanimously approved Staff's recommendation to conduct rulemaking related to proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 5, Chapter 175, Subchapter B, §175.3 and §175.4. These rules outline land selection and surveying criteria to purchase property under the Board's Veterans Land Program ("Program"). The proposed amendments aim to facilitate these transactions for veterans.

The following explanation of the proposed amendments is from the related memorandum for the Board's February 3, 2026, meeting:

Rule §175.3

Rule §175.3 contains requirements for veterans when selecting land for purchase or financing. Primarily, the proposed amendments moderate and clarify requirements for access easements not abutting publicly maintained roads that would expedite land transactions: they i) specify that these easements can be either public or private, and in addition to the Board, can also be conveyed to the veteran borrowers; ii) remove the general warranty deed requirement for these easements to allow for their conveyance by other instruments; and iii) allow easement width requirements to be waived.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

In addition, the proposed amendments i) clarify usability requirements during inclement weather; ii) add requirements should a veteran want to purchase a flagpole tract; and, for documentation purposes, iii) add a requirement that copies of instruments dedicating easements to public or subdivision owners be provided to the Board. The proposed amendments also remove unnecessary language and update language to improve the rule's readability.

Rule §175.4

Rule §175.4 contains requirements for land descriptions in surveys tied to proposed tracts. The proposed amendments remove unnecessary requirements that i) survey documentation contain the surveyor's seal and signature, ii) proposed tracts to be marked by monuments, and iii) certain roadways and easements be described sufficiently. These amendments repeat standard requirements of surveyors in the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Practice Acts and Rules. The proposed amendments remove further unnecessary requirements that the Board examine property descriptions and subdivision plats of proposed tracts for closure and sufficiency. Those are the responsibility of the surveyor.

The proposed amendments to Rule §175.4 also remove requirements that a surveyor provide a license to copy and use field notes and survey plats for a proposed tract. Those requirements allow for future transactions without updated surveys. Currently, any proposed tract's survey without these requirements must meet them, causing transaction delays and additional expenses to would-be veteran purchasers.

Removing the surveyor's licensure requirement for field notes and survey plats may lead to additional expenses for veteran purchasers and the Board: veterans seeking to refinance or sell a property may need to pay for a new survey and a Board foreclosure on a property may require a new survey for resale. Staff contends that the benefits of the proposed amendments would outstrip these expenses. In terms of Board foreclosures, those occur only on approximately one percent of Program properties, and Staff has ample resources to perform any surveys on them.

Pursuant to Section 2001.023 of the Texas Government Code, the proposed amendments were published in the March 3, 2026, issue of the Texas Register as notice for public comment. The required 30-day period has passed; to date Staff has not received public comment.

If this agenda item is approved, Staff will file a notice of adoption of the rules' changes with the Secretary of State, and concurrently, publish a notice of adoption in the Texas Register. Pursuant to Section 2001.036 of the Texas Government Code, the amended versions of the rules will take effect 20 days post-filing.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

For reference, versions of the rules showing would-be adopted changes follow:

Rule §175.3 Land Selection

(a) Land selected by a veteran for purchase or financing through the program must:

(1) be situated entirely in Texas;

(2) contain at least one (1) net acre (excluding, as determined ~~defined~~ by the board, inundated or submerged land, or otherwise unusable land);

(3) have insurable title under conditions acceptable to the board;

(4) if more than one tract of land is selected the tracts must be contiguous ~~as defined by the board~~; or, if not contiguous, then one tract must meet the minimum acreage requirement, and the use, location, and value of the tracts would permit the board, in its sole discretion, to consider the combination of the tracts as one tract; ~~and~~

(5) have direct access to a publicly maintained ~~public~~ road. If the tract does not directly abut a publicly maintained ~~public~~ road:

(i) access may be provided by way of a public or private perpetual access easement and either conveyed to the borrower or board or dedicated to the public or subdivision owners;

(ii) all roadway easements must be at least 60 feet wide or meet the county's minimum width requirement for a publicly maintained road, whichever is greater. The width requirement may be waived by the chairman, but in no event can an easement be less than 30 feet in width;

(iii) easements being conveyed to the borrower or board must be described by metes and bounds. The description must contain specific tie calls to both the tract and publicly maintained road;

(iv) if the easement is dedicated to the public or subdivision owners, it must refer to the recording information of the subdivision plat or other dedication instrument and a copy of the instrument must be provided to the board; and

(v) easement and roads must be usable by two (2)-wheel drive automobiles during inclement weather, including snow, rain, and freezing temperatures.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

(6) in the case of flagpole tracts, or tracts with a similar configuration, where the pole portion of the tract provides access to the main body (flag portion) of the tract, the pole portion of the tract must meet the width and drivability requirements for an access easement, and the main body of the tract must meet the requirement of one (1) net acre, as determined by the board.

~~[, a perpetual access easement appurtenant must be conveyed to the board, or other board approved access must be provided. This easement must meet the county width requirement for publicly maintained roads and, in any event, must be at least 60 feet wide. The easement must be conveyed to the board by general warranty deed or dedicated to the public or subdivision owners. If the easement is conveyed to the board by deed, it must be described by metes and bounds. This description must contain specific tie calls to both the tract and a public road. If the easement is dedicated, the deed to the board must refer to the recording information of the subdivision plat or other dedication instrument. If the board finances the transaction the tract must have similar easement rights. Easements and roads must be usable by standard automobiles during inclement weather.]~~

(b) The board will not purchase or finance a tract of land that was wholly owned by the veteran or his spouse, separately or jointly, within three (3) ~~[3]~~ years of the date of application.

(c) If the veteran or his or her spouse owns an undivided interest in the land that he or she has selected, the board may approve the application after the tract has been partitioned, and a copy of the recorded partition deed is furnished to the board. The board may purchase only that interest not owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse. If the land is not partitioned because the applicant is purchasing the remaining undivided interest not currently owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse, the board may nonetheless approve the purchase or financing of the tract. In such cases, the purchase price or loan amount will be limited to the value of the interest not previously owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse. Whether or not the land is partitioned, however, title to the entire tract must be conveyed to the board, or the board must be in a first lien position as to the entire tract.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the board will not purchase or finance land in which the seller or any prior owner is to retain any interest, other than a mineral interest or an access or utility easement.

(e) The board will not approve any application that will result in a refinancing of a prior purchase by a veteran or his or her spouse.

(f) A tract must be free and clear of all liens when the board takes title or perfects its lien.

(g) The board reserves the right to refuse to purchase or finance any tract for any reason.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Rule §175.4

Land Description

(a) Land selected to be purchased by the board must be described by a legally sufficient metes and bounds description. The property description must:

(1) contain a general description of the land, specifying the acreage contained, the original survey(s) or grant(s) with abstract number(s), survey number(s) and block designation, if applicable, and the county in which the tract is located. If the tract is divided by a county line, the appropriate abstract numbers and acreage on each side of the county line will be shown. The general description shall also contain the deed reference to the parent tract including grantor, grantee, date of instrument, and ~~[volume and page of]~~ recording [information](#). Additional references to other instruments in the chain of title may be referred to if appropriate;

(2) contain a specific description of the land, defining each side of the tract by course and distance or appropriate and complete curve data, identifying and describing monuments at each corner, and further identifying the land by calls for other natural and artificial objects on and along the boundaries and by calls for and reference to adjoining properties where appropriate;

(3) be tied to a corner of an original grant or survey if such corner is locatable and if the tie is not impractical to obtain. If it is impossible or impractical to tie to a corner of an original grant or survey the tract should tie to a locatable corner of the parent tract or any of the adjoinders; and

(4) include a description, either by metes and bounds or center line, of the access easement from the tract to an existing public road of all tracts which do not abut a public road.

(b) If the tract selected is in a subdivision, a lot and block description of the tract may be substituted for the metes and bounds description. If a lot and block description is to be used, the board must be furnished a copy of the recorded subdivision plat. This plat must show the recording information and the required signatures of the governmental entity authorized to accept such subdivision plat. Easements as necessary for access to a public road from all tracts must be clearly shown on the subdivision plat together with appropriate language dedicating such easement to the public or to the owners of tracts in the subdivision. All the data required in subsection (a) of this section should be shown on the face of the plat, including courses and distances for all lot lines and areas for each lot. All plats accepted subsequent to the adoption of this section shall identify the size and type of monument set at each corner of every lot. If a lot is part of a subdivision already of record where monumentation is not shown, a survey plat shall be furnished indicating monuments set or found at all corners of the tract together with sufficient ties to locate the lot within the subdivision.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

~~[(c) All metes and bounds descriptions and survey plats shall bear the seal and signature of the surveyor preparing the same. Any field notes or survey plat prepared for and used in any board transaction includes a license from the surveyor to the board and the veteran purchaser to copy and use the field notes in that transaction and in any future transactions involving the surveyed property.]~~

~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ Metes and bounds descriptions must be prepared from a survey of the property made on the ground. The survey should be made in such manner to be generally acceptable to title companies in the State of Texas for the purpose of deleting the survey exception clause.

~~[(e) Each corner of the tract of land shall be marked by concrete or metal monuments or other durable monuments generally used in the area. A description of each monument set or found and its location, with witnesses as available, shall be incorporated into the metes and bounds description of the property.]~~

~~[(f) When a roadway or easement crosses a tract, it shall be described sufficiently to enable its location throughout the tract and its area to be determined.]~~

~~(d)~~~~(g)~~ Property descriptions and subdivision plats will be examined by the board for access and acreage, and may be examined by the board for closure and sufficiency ~~[acreage, closure, and sufficiency]~~. The board's determination of these items will control.

~~(e)~~~~(h)~~ The surveyor should be instructed to do a proper boundary survey of the land to be conveyed according to the record boundaries of the tracts involved. Any encroachments by existing perimeter fences into the subject tract or into adjacent tracts should be shown together with the area of any lands lying between the record boundaries and the existing occupation. Any occupation on the ground not conforming to the record boundaries should be shown on a plat of survey and fully explained in an accompanying surveyor's report.

~~(f)~~~~(i)~~ The chairman may waive any of the foregoing requirements and accept a survey deemed sufficient by the title company to permit deletion of the survey exception clause.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Bobby Breeden, Director Texas State Veterans Homes Division

Subject: Agenda Item 18 a – Report on State Veterans Home Operations

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

VLB Home Team

All communities now have an on-site representative with the addition of J. Been in Fort Worth. Susan Culp has completed her assignment in Fort Worth and returned to El Paso as the on-site representative. The VLB nurse team filled a vacancy with Liz Drummond, allowing territories to be divided more evenly and enabling more frequent community visits and compliance audits.

Proposed Bexar County State Veterans Home

The 120-bed community grant application was submitted to the Veterans Administration on March 3, 2026. Weekly coordination meetings with PRDG Architect Company, the GLO, and VLB are ongoing. The application has completed Level 1 VA review and continues through the approval process.

STGI – Temple

STGI is working to strengthen local leadership, stabilize operations, and transition from agency staffing to full-time employees. The VLB issued a compliance letter due to administrative challenges, and STGI had not completed all corrective actions as of early April. VLB staff continue to work with STGI to achieve full compliance and will keep the Board informed.

Touchstone – McAllen, Big Spring, Floresville

Touchstone continues strong performance across all communities, maintaining census and compliance during Health and Human Services visits.

HMR-VSI – Houston, Fort Worth, Tyler, Bonham, Amarillo, El Paso

HMR continues to be at or above a 95% Census throughout the communities that they operate. Fort Worth has reached 100% as of April 7, 2026.

Tuskegee Airmen Day at the Tuskegee Airmen Texas State Veterans Home – Fort Worth

On March 26, 2026, the Fort Worth Texas State Veterans Home hosted the Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day event honoring more than 16,000 men and women who served as part of the renowned World War II unit. Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham delivered the keynote address, recognizing their historic contributions.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Dr. John Kelley, Director, Texas State Veterans Cemetery Division

Subject: Agenda item 19 a - Report on Texas State Veteran Cemetery operations

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA) Developments:

- A National Cemetery Administration triennial inspection was conducted at the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery on 23-24 February, followed by an inspection at the Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery on 25-26 February with both cemeteries receiving a National Operational Excellence award. Killeen received an Operational Excellence Award during their last inspection in FY 24. Currently, all four State Veterans Cemeteries hold this distinction, one reserved for 10% of the 125 state veterans cemeteries nationwide. We congratulate the staff at the cemeteries in Corpus Christi and in Mission. Pictures of the summary scorecards are available below.

VLB Initiatives:

- The online donations capability for the Veterans Homes and Cemeteries has completed the User Testing and Acceptance phase. Initial capability is now active from the VLB webpage with additional enhancements in development in the near future.
- The donation of land by a private citizen for the purpose of constructing a Texas State Veterans Cemetery in east Texas is nearing the completion of a lengthy legal process. Once completed, the landowner will attend a VLB Board meeting to be recognized by this body.
- 2026 Memorial Day will feature the events as previous years with the cemeteries open 24 hours a day all weekend, flags flying and lit, and the headstones of those Killed in Action (KIA) and Missing in Action (MIA) also lit. On Monday, 25 May, there will be ceremonies at cemeteries featuring Roll Call, where the names of the KIAs and MIAs are read aloud three times. Due to construction at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, the 25 May service will be held at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center at 10:00 A.M.
- With the daylight hours getting longer, on 1 April, we adjusted the closing hours from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. to allow families more time to commune with their loved ones.

Other Items of Interest:

- We currently receive no plot allowance for family member interments at the cemeteries as briefed at the last Board meeting. Engagement on this issue continues through all means available and is an issue nationwide now.
- In an analysis of FY 24 burial rates, the cemetery in Killeen conducted 1,159 burials and is busier than 116 national cemeteries and the 4th busiest state veteran cemetery nationwide behind New Jersey, Nevada and Virginia.

CATEGORY	PRIORITY LEVEL								
	Critical			High			Medium		
	Met	Did Not Meet	NA	Met	Did Not Meet	NA	Met	Did Not Meet	NA
1. Customer Satisfaction	3	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0
2. Equipment Maintenance				1	0	0	2	0	0
3. Facilities Maintenance	1	0	1	5	0	1	7	0	1
4. Gravesite Assessment Review				5	0	1	2	0	0
5. Grounds Maintenance				4	1	0	14	0	3
6. Headstone, Marker, Niche Cover	1	0	0	9	2	0	2	0	3
7. Interment Operations	2	0	0	2	1	0	7	0	1
8. Safety				6	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	0	1	37	4	2	36	0	8
TOTAL PERCENT EFFECTIVE	100%			90%			100%		
TARGET	100%			90-100%			85-100%		

Summary scorecard for Mission Compliance Review Inspection 23-24 Feb 26

CATEGORY	PRIORITY LEVEL								
	Critical			High			Medium		
	Met	Did Not Meet	NA	Met	Did Not Meet	NA	Met	Did Not Meet	NA
1. Customer Satisfaction	3	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0
2. Equipment Maintenance				1	0	0	2	0	0
3. Facilities Maintenance	1	0	1	5	0	1	8	0	0
4. Gravesite Assessment Review				5	0	1	1	0	1
5. Grounds Maintenance				3	1	1	13	0	4
6. Headstone, Marker, Niche Cover	1	0	0	9	2	0	3	0	2
7. Interment Operations	2	0	0	3	0	0	7	0	1
8. Safety				5	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	0	1	36	4	3	36	0	8
TOTAL PERCENT EFFECTIVE	100%			90%			100%		
TARGET	100%			90-100%			85-100%		

Summary scorecard for Corpus Compliance Review Inspection 25-26 Feb 26



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Dr. John Kelley, Director, Texas State Veterans Cemetery Division

Subject: Agenda item 19 b - Presentation of a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Legislature related to veterans cemeteries.

Recommendation: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

Background: HB 1875 was signed by the Governor on 9 June 2025. The bill tasked the General Land Office, in coordination with the Texas Veterans Commission, to study:

- (1) obstacles veterans in this state face in accessing a burial plot in a veterans cemetery in this state; and
- (2) opportunities to address the operational needs of veterans cemeteries in this state, including locations, maintenance, and other operational needs of veterans cemeteries.

The study was to be provided by 1 April 2026 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and Chairs of the House and Senate committees with primary jurisdiction over veterans affairs. A full copy of the study is included in your briefing books.

Execution: The study was executed by the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries Division over a period of five months with an additional month for staffing. The study was outlined in the same format as the House Bill as the best format to address the issues.

Obstacles: There were a total of 15 obstacles identified and provided along with information about what was being done to overcome each obstacle. Highlights include:

- Lack of awareness of burial benefits
- Difficulty obtaining discharge documentation such as DD-214
- Misconceptions about eligibility
- Geographic barriers to families in remote areas
- Limited access to information in rural communities

Operational Needs:

- Future Location Selection: Prioritize Longview, Amarillo, Midland, Beaumont, and Carrizo Springs.
- Eligibility: Align with National Cemetery Administration standards; include Texas Military Forces killed on state active duty.
- Funding: Rising costs in local government contracts strain VLB resources; General Revenue funding could alleviate pressure.

Recommendations: The study recommended several areas to continue to work to improve services:

- Continue pursuing VA grants for expansion and establishing new cemeteries.
- Secure land donations in targeted areas.
- Increase outreach to improve awareness of burial benefits and enlist elected officials to amplify the effort to spread knowledge of the burial benefit.
- Explore alternative funding sources, such as General Revenue, to sustain operations and growth.



SERVING TEXAS VETERANS



VETERANS LAND BOARD

CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Texas Veterans Land Board

HB 1875 Report

Obstacles Veterans Face in Accessing
Burial Plots in State Veterans Cemeteries

Executive Summary

House Bill 1875 (89th Legislature, 2025) directs the Texas General Land Office (GLO), in coordination with the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), to evaluate barriers Texas veterans face when accessing burial plots in State Veterans Cemeteries and identify opportunities to strengthen cemetery operations.

Texas currently operates four State Veterans Cemeteries, with a fifth under construction in Lubbock. These cemeteries complement national cemetery coverage and help meet the

National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) goal of providing 95 percent of veterans reasonable access to a burial option within 75 miles of their residence.

This report identifies challenges related to awareness, eligibility, documentation, geographic access, and funding. It also provides policy considerations and recommendations that support efficient statewide operations, sustainability, and expanded service to unserved veteran populations.



Introduction and Background

Texas provides burial options for eligible veterans through national and state-operated cemeteries. The NCA manages national cemeteries in Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. The GLO and Veterans Land Board (VLB) manage State Veterans Cemeteries with support from the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program.

Construction of new cemeteries frequently exceeds \$16 million, and expansions typically range from \$9 million to \$16.5 million. Establishing a new State Veterans Cemetery requires a land donation—typically 50 acres or more—under Texas law. The City of Lubbock’s 2022 land donation enabled construction of a new cemetery scheduled to open in 2026.

The VLB relies on funds generated through loan repayments, not general revenue appropriations, to support operations and maintenance. These funds grow slowly and face increasing cost pressures. The VA reimburses the

State for veteran burials through a plot allowance; however, no reimbursement is provided for family members, despite equal service costs. The VLB continues to advocate for expanded reimbursement authority from the federal government.

State Veterans Cemeteries operate to NCA standards, providing high-quality committal services and perpetual care. As veteran populations shift across Texas, demand has increased in east Texas, Amarillo, Midland, Beaumont, Laredo, and Del Rio. Future expansion depends on land donations, federal grant opportunities, and approval from the Texas Cemetery Committee and the NCA.



Key Obstacles to Access



1 Awareness and Understanding of Burial Benefits

Limited Awareness

Many veterans and families do not fully understand available burial benefits or how to access them. Misunderstandings persist regarding eligibility requirements, application processes, and the differences between state and national cemeteries.

The VLB Outreach and Marketing teams participate in statewide events and benefits fairs, partner with the TVC, operate a statewide call center, and use digital platforms to improve awareness. Despite these efforts, gaps remain, particularly in rural communities.

Eligibility Misconceptions

Eligibility for burial in a State Veterans Cemetery follows NCA criteria, with the addition of Texas Military Forces personnel killed on State Active Duty. Misconceptions—such as the belief that only combat veterans qualify—prevent some families from seeking eligible benefits.

Access to Information

Veterans without reliable internet access or familiarity with federal systems may struggle to navigate resources. County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs), VLB outreach staff, and call center personnel play a vital role in providing accessible guidance and printed materials.

Family Awareness

When veterans do not communicate their wishes or maintain essential documents, families may be unaware of available benefits. Cemetery staff, CVSOs, and the VLB Call Center frequently assist families following a veteran's death.

Loss of Contact with VA

Veterans who have not interacted with the VA for years may not have updated contact info or may feel disconnected from the system, complicating outreach or applications. CVSOs are the best local point of contact with re-establishing a relationship with the VA. The VLB Call Center and Outreach team can assist Veterans in reconnecting with the VA and provide guidance to ensure their information is updated correctly.

Surviving Family Members May Not Seek Assistance

Families that do not work with a funeral home for the cemetery services may be on their own to contact the military to obtain military honors and to obtain the U.S. burial flag. CVSOs can assist in obtaining military honors, burial flags, and VA headstones for services in public and private cemeteries. Texas State Veterans Cemeteries can assist families in obtaining these for services at our cemeteries. The VLB Call Center and Outreach team can guide family members on how to obtain military honors, burial flags, and VA headstones for interments at Texas State Veterans Cemeteries.

2 Documentation Challenges and Bureaucratic Complexity

Difficulty Obtaining DD 214 Forms

The Department of Defense Form 214 (DD 214 – Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is essential for eligibility determination. Lost, incomplete, or delayed records can complicate burial arrangements. VLB and TVC teams assist veterans and families in retrieving records through the National Archives and VA.gov.

Process Delays

While State Veterans Cemetery staff can review eligibility within minutes, some families encounter delays while navigating other VA systems for related benefits.

Incomplete or Inaccurate Documentation

Errors in military records—such as missing rank or dates—can delay interments or headstone orders. Staff work closely with families to resolve documentation issues.

Discharge Status Issues

Veterans with less than honorable discharges may be ineligible without a successful discharge upgrade. Once an upgrade is granted, State Veterans Cemeteries honor the new characterization.

Health or Mental Health Barriers

Veterans facing health or mental health challenges may find benefit applications overwhelming. VLB staff provide patient, individualized support to assist with documentation and processes.

Preregistration Gaps

Veterans and eligible family members can preregister for interment in State Veterans Cemeteries. Families often struggle when veterans have not preregistered or documented their eligibility. Readily available DD 214s and basic family documentation greatly shorten determination times.

Personal Financial Barriers

Burial benefits at State Veterans Cemeteries are free, however, related costs (e.g., funeral services, transportation of remains, etc.) may not be fully covered, and veterans or families might struggle to afford. Some partial VA reimbursement is available to veteran families. CVSOs can assist the family in applying for benefits.

3 Geographic and Logistical Barriers

Distance to Cemeteries

Some Texas regions fall outside NCA's 75 mile service radius, leaving veterans in Amarillo, Midland, Beaumont, northeast Texas, and parts of the Rio Grande Valley unserved. Some veterans' nearest eligible cemetery is in another state.

The Texas Cemetery Committee evaluates and selects future cemetery locations according to statute and NCA criteria. Although the Legislature has removed the cap on the number of State Veterans Cemeteries, the land donation requirement continues to limit expansion.

Recommended Approach

- Prioritize Longview, Amarillo, Midland, Beaumont, and Carrizo Springs as future cemetery locations.
- Pursue land donations in all unserved areas.
- Continue applying for federal establishment and expansion grants.



4 Funding Constraints

Veterans Land Board Generated Funds

The Veterans Land Board generates revenue to support the operations and management of State Veterans Cemeteries via the sale of land and home loans to veterans. These funds are subject to fluctuations in the real estate market and in the last several years have seen a reduction in loans issued due to high interest rates. Revenue generation is limited to the amount of loans that can be sold. With limited exception, the VLB does not receive general revenue funds to support cemetery operations.

Rising Operational Costs

The VLB contracts with county or city governments to provide staff and daily operating supplies at each cemetery. Rising personnel and supply costs increase the pressure on VLB funds, which pay the majority of these expenses. Shifting contract funding to General Revenue would reduce pressure on VLB operations and allow reinvestment in modernization, maintenance, and program growth.

Limited Federal Grant Availability

Federal grants support new cemetery construction and expansion. Texas has been successful in obtaining these grants, but the process is competitive, requires precise documentation, and depends on land donations, NCA priority criteria and federal appropriations.

Recommendations for Legislative Consideration



HB 1875 Report



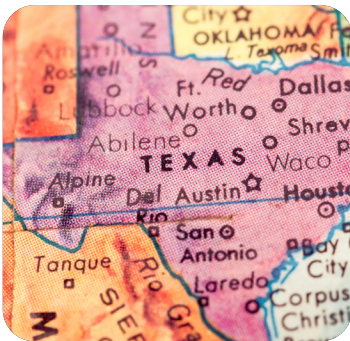
Strengthen Awareness and Outreach

- Expand coordinated outreach in underserved regions.
- Standardize preregistration messaging across agencies.
- Enhance partnerships with CVSOs for documentation and benefit assistance.



Improve Eligibility and Documentation Processes

- Support modernization of federal record retrieval systems.
- Promote statewide preregistration and advance planning.
- Increase communication efforts that clarify eligibility requirements.



Expand Geographic Coverage

- Prioritize site development in Longview, Amarillo, Midland, Beaumont, and Carrizo Springs.
- Actively pursue land donations to meet federal grant prerequisites.
- Coordinate with NCA to align site selection with national service area standards.



Strengthen Long Term Funding

- Consider General Revenue appropriations for local government operational contracts.
- Reinforce advocacy for expanded federal burial allowances.
- Support budget initiatives tied to program expansion and infrastructure modernization.

Appendix





Appendix A

Veterans by County in Texas

Appendix B

State Veteran And National Cemeteries In Texas

Appendix C

Major Unserved Veteran Populations

Appendix D

75-Mile Service Areas Statewide For Existing And Proposed Cemeteries

Appendix E

Driving Distances To The Nearest State Or National Veteran Cemeteries

Appendix F

Texas State Veterans Cemeteries Local Government Contract Budgets 2024 To 2026



Appendix A:

Veterans by County in Texas

County	9/30/2023	9/30/2024	9/30/2025	9/30/2026	9/30/2027	9/30/2028
Anderson	3,119	3,091	3,062	3,034	3,012	2,985
Andrews	617	618	617	616	611	610
Angelina	4,794	4,718	4,654	4,598	4,531	4,463
Aransas	2,277	2,240	2,201	2,172	2,138	2,103
Archer	609	602	588	577	563	553
Armstrong	145	147	140	142	138	137
Atascosa	3,175	3,167	3,157	3,155	3,155	3,160
Austin	1,314	1,272	1,235	1,200	1,166	1,134
Bailey	172	171	166	158	153	148
Bandera	2,555	2,506	2,469	2,432	2,392	2,355
Bastrop	6,473	6,445	6,439	6,427	6,415	6,401
Baylor	222	223	222	216	210	204
Bee	1,700	1,704	1,711	1,718	1,736	1,750
Bell	65,006	64,920	64,850	64,726	64,544	64,364
Bexar	173,220	172,344	171,611	170,783	169,887	169,038
Blanco	791	781	768	756	742	729
Borden	30	39	38	38	38	37
Bosque	1,333	1,312	1,286	1,262	1,240	1,220
Bowie	6,906	6,807	6,730	6,645	6,564	6,493
Brazoria	18,898	18,636	18,377	18,115	17,866	17,614
Brazos	9,327	9,277	9,215	9,136	9,081	9,000
Brewster	680	652	624	594	569	545
Briscoe	90	93	94	91	90	88
Brooks	326	324	320	316	310	307
Brown	2,676	2,608	2,545	2,489	2,436	2,387
Burleson	1,026	1,000	978	957	937	919
Burnet	3,672	3,640	3,600	3,576	3,557	3,526
Caldwell	2,406	2,408	2,412	2,407	2,410	2,414
Calhoun	1,317	1,299	1,289	1,283	1,272	1,260
Callahan	1,009	991	969	949	929	913
Cameron	14,669	14,447	14,241	14,028	13,805	13,590
Camp	780	760	741	724	703	688
Carson	377	371	363	358	351	345
Cass	2,548	2,505	2,456	2,409	2,372	2,329
Castro	233	234	226	219	209	203
Chambers	2,418	2,436	2,459	2,475	2,496	2,509

Veterans by County in Texas

HB 1875 Report

Cherokee	2,773	2,723	2,676	2,639	2,599	2,562
Childress	262	259	252	245	240	234
Clay	807	794	782	772	758	747
Cochran	88	91	90	91	89	87
Coke	250	250	249	246	246	244
Coleman	661	648	629	615	598	583
Collin	42,745	42,942	43,127	43,369	43,595	43,757
Collingsworth	155	156	154	148	144	140
Colorado	1,188	1,165	1,138	1,116	1,091	1,060
Comal	17,375	17,616	17,884	18,137	18,377	18,628
Comanche	903	885	871	859	849	834
Concho	201	205	203	199	196	192
Cooke	2,323	2,278	2,232	2,191	2,154	2,114
Coryell	16,449	16,349	16,248	16,126	16,021	15,912
Cottle	47	53	52	49	48	48
Crane	159	166	164	164	165	164
Crockett	141	145	147	148	150	152
Crosby	231	231	226	223	218	213
Culberson	133	134	130	126	123	120
Dallam	290	291	289	283	280	280
Dallas	87,058	85,540	84,054	82,513	80,950	79,384
Dawson	381	380	378	373	368	366
Deaf Smith	491	485	473	461	450	438
Delta	366	361	353	343	337	331
Denton	40,440	40,527	40,567	40,600	40,598	40,560
De Witt	980	966	945	920	899	879
Dickens	112	111	108	104	100	97
Dimmit	359	359	358	358	355	350
Donley	199	195	188	180	171	167
Duval	381	374	368	362	356	351
Eastland	1,252	1,231	1,213	1,196	1,180	1,164
Ector	5,488	5,404	5,325	5,243	5,156	5,076
Edwards	82	86	83	81	78	75
Ellis	12,136	12,126	12,111	12,129	12,143	12,174
El Paso	61,827	61,415	60,992	60,497	59,966	59,458
Erath	1,864	1,861	1,848	1,826	1,810	1,796
Falls	1,080	1,048	1,019	985	954	925
Fannin	2,781	2,714	2,656	2,601	2,547	2,504
Fayette	1,431	1,399	1,369	1,342	1,309	1,279
Fisher	215	216	212	208	208	206
Floyd	253	251	246	240	236	230
Foard	55	60	60	57	54	51
Fort Bend	27,301	27,528	27,749	27,989	28,226	28,421
Franklin	616	602	585	570	554	540
Freestone	1,172	1,156	1,133	1,116	1,094	1,073
Frio	643	659	666	679	689	702

Veterans by County in Texas

HB 1875 Report

Gaines	416	413	407	403	398	394
Galveston	19,218	19,112	19,010	18,889	18,754	18,628
Garza	214	214	208	207	210	205
Gillespie	2,030	2,020	2,018	2,011	2,005	1,997
Glasscock	20	29	29	30	30	30
Goliad	473	463	450	440	432	421
Gonzales	940	917	897	873	849	829
Gray	1,063	1,038	1,012	989	967	947
Grayson	8,864	8,697	8,545	8,411	8,268	8,122
Gregg	6,785	6,679	6,575	6,465	6,358	6,251
Grimes	1,761	1,752	1,746	1,739	1,734	1,729
Guadalupe	20,965	21,087	21,231	21,352	21,482	21,606
Hale	1,145	1,120	1,101	1,080	1,059	1,040
Hall	151	150	144	141	138	135
Hamilton	553	537	521	505	489	474
Hansford	143	147	144	139	135	132
Hardeman	171	167	161	155	148	140
Hardin	3,547	3,529	3,512	3,482	3,457	3,439
Harris	168,970	166,996	164,969	162,837	160,676	158,418
Harrison	4,097	4,017	3,936	3,859	3,781	3,708
Hartley	189	188	183	181	178	175
Haskell	246	246	243	238	235	231
Hays	12,315	12,407	12,494	12,566	12,615	12,647
Hemphill	118	122	117	113	109	105
Henderson	5,827	5,704	5,586	5,469	5,375	5,280
Hidalgo	22,992	22,865	22,715	22,550	22,403	22,247
Hill	2,367	2,318	2,270	2,224	2,181	2,146
Hockley	873	869	866	862	851	842
Hood	5,540	5,495	5,479	5,443	5,407	5,385
Hopkins	2,047	1,987	1,933	1,879	1,827	1,773
Houston	1,589	1,574	1,556	1,538	1,526	1,510
Howard	1,979	1,957	1,935	1,911	1,883	1,860
Hudspeth	161	161	159	157	155	154
Hunt	7,266	7,243	7,234	7,205	7,191	7,191
Hutchinson	1,295	1,280	1,270	1,256	1,242	1,224
Irion	65	69	67	65	64	64
Jack	396	391	386	379	373	368
Jackson	797	779	762	748	730	712
Jasper	2,141	2,092	2,046	2,001	1,959	1,914
Jeff Davis	148	145	141	136	131	125
Jefferson	13,033	12,854	12,692	12,538	12,404	12,280
Jim Hogg	115	116	114	110	108	105
Jim Wells	1,719	1,683	1,650	1,629	1,608	1,588
Johnson	11,008	10,877	10,767	10,646	10,528	10,408
Jones	1,027	1,010	990	974	957	942
Karnes	686	676	668	659	650	642

Veterans by County in Texas

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Kaufman	8,467	8,465	8,473	8,477	8,479	8,476
Kendall	3,602	3,617	3,649	3,671	3,696	3,724
Kenedy	8	19	19	20	20	20
Kent	36	42	41	41	42	41
Kerr	5,053	4,975	4,902	4,810	4,736	4,654
Kimble	288	279	271	264	261	256
King	14	25	25	27	28	27
Kinney	315	310	306	304	300	297
Kleberg	2,102	2,099	2,088	2,077	2,070	2,070
Knox	145	146	141	137	132	127
Lamar	3,204	3,152	3,111	3,068	3,016	2,967
Lamb	614	606	596	587	580	573
Lampasas	3,507	3,478	3,446	3,419	3,396	3,371
La Salle	356	360	356	361	364	367
Lavaca	1,050	1,041	1,028	1,011	996	978
Lee	931	915	894	871	852	833
Leon	1,162	1,144	1,122	1,100	1,080	1,054
Liberty	4,504	4,494	4,473	4,471	4,469	4,464
Limestone	1,464	1,449	1,440	1,427	1,420	1,415
Lipscomb	117	118	116	116	113	113
Live Oak	652	630	611	589	569	549
Llano	2,048	2,007	1,965	1,921	1,876	1,834
Loving	9	13	13	13	13	16
Lubbock	14,701	14,515	14,351	14,198	14,061	13,955
Lynn	208	207	203	200	197	195
McCulloch	524	511	499	489	478	465
McLennan	16,734	16,526	16,298	16,101	15,929	15,777
McMullen	39	47	46	45	45	45
Madison	671	662	653	647	636	636
Marion	918	897	872	848	825	801
Martin	137	138	134	131	128	125
Mason	271	262	253	246	237	229
Matagorda	1,939	1,906	1,868	1,829	1,785	1,746
Maverick	1,093	1,072	1,051	1,032	1,015	999
Medina	5,055	5,068	5,093	5,116	5,144	5,177
Menard	178	176	171	166	163	159
Midland	6,366	6,388	6,412	6,433	6,459	6,488
Milam	1,437	1,392	1,356	1,321	1,281	1,246
Mills	334	331	326	320	314	305
Mitchell	311	308	301	294	287	281
Montague	1,453	1,433	1,409	1,389	1,365	1,346
Montgomery	34,319	34,700	35,082	35,481	35,907	36,294
Moore	663	659	647	635	625	622
Morris	863	841	821	798	776	755
Motley	92	95	95	95	93	91
Nacogdoches	3,279	3,227	3,165	3,099	3,041	2,983

Veterans by County in Texas

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Navarro	2,715	2,655	2,596	2,545	2,494	2,452
Newton	842	819	790	766	740	716
Nolan	801	787	771	759	746	733
Nueces	24,676	24,399	24,140	23,883	23,640	23,410
Ochiltree	291	297	292	287	282	283
Oldham	107	108	106	105	105	105
Orange	4,923	4,835	4,749	4,667	4,580	4,498
Palo Pinto	1,992	1,949	1,905	1,865	1,827	1,789
Panola	1,499	1,488	1,486	1,481	1,473	1,463
Parker	12,889	12,912	12,964	13,018	13,103	13,175
Parmer	222	219	214	207	202	195
Pecos	491	485	476	467	459	452
Polk	4,125	4,124	4,124	4,125	4,124	4,126
Potter	5,561	5,470	5,376	5,282	5,193	5,116
Presidio	166	166	160	156	153	149
Rains	1,126	1,121	1,120	1,112	1,104	1,101
Randall	8,132	8,158	8,186	8,205	8,216	8,240
Reagan	78	83	81	80	81	81
Real	224	218	213	208	199	194
Red River	835	817	797	772	755	737
Reeves	420	424	423	425	423	419
Refugio	485	479	466	457	450	441
Roberts	24	32	32	32	31	32
Robertson	892	889	882	878	876	874
Rockwall	6,416	6,543	6,671	6,805	6,947	7,081
Runnels	613	593	579	565	551	533
Rusk	2,893	2,855	2,819	2,788	2,761	2,717
Sabine	1,084	1,059	1,020	993	968	941
San Augustine	589	576	556	540	524	510
San Jacinto	2,013	1,986	1,976	1,969	1,956	1,937
San Patricio	4,917	4,867	4,827	4,784	4,739	4,701
San Saba	342	333	323	314	309	303
Schleicher	140	144	145	146	144	144
Scurry	717	715	717	716	715	716
Shackelford	173	176	176	175	171	172
Shelby	1,157	1,132	1,105	1,074	1,047	1,020
Sherman	77	81	80	78	78	75
Smith	13,158	12,906	12,672	12,445	12,194	11,958
Somervell	560	548	535	521	507	496
Starr	740	740	732	721	715	708
Stephens	461	454	442	434	426	416
Sterling	37	46	46	45	45	45
Stonewall	66	71	69	69	66	65
Sutton	146	147	143	141	138	135
Swisher	260	257	251	244	237	232
Tarrant	110,779	110,308	109,810	109,278	108,693	108,023

Veterans by County in Texas

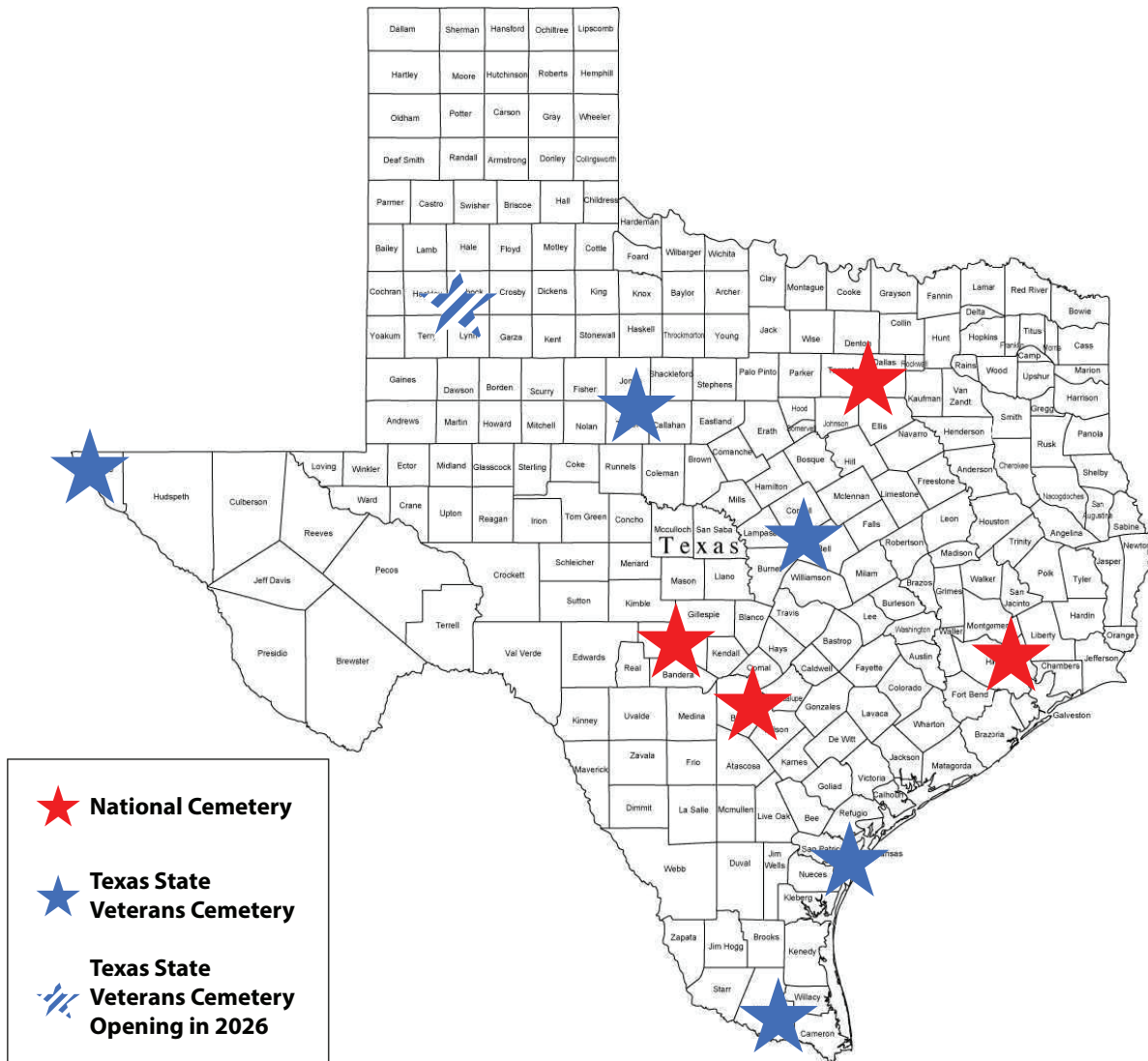
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Taylor	11,869	11,735	11,606	11,493	11,399	11,335
Terrell	43	48	47	46	44	43
Terry	371	370	367	359	354	350
Throckmorton	102	106	105	102	98	93
Titus	1,493	1,464	1,437	1,406	1,384	1,364
Tom Green	9,327	9,193	9,062	8,923	8,786	8,676
Travis	49,796	49,368	48,983	48,577	48,123	47,632
Trinity	1,144	1,116	1,086	1,064	1,036	1,011
Tyler	1,471	1,434	1,403	1,375	1,341	1,315
Upshur	2,968	2,961	2,964	2,951	2,947	2,936
Upton	140	140	136	133	131	129
Uvalde	1,233	1,222	1,215	1,206	1,201	1,191
Val Verde	3,059	3,035	3,014	2,989	2,968	2,949
Van Zandt	3,941	3,909	3,896	3,874	3,860	3,839
Victoria	4,815	4,710	4,614	4,515	4,423	4,341
Walker	3,988	3,902	3,804	3,709	3,621	3,526
Waller	2,506	2,509	2,513	2,511	2,521	2,533
Ward	493	486	477	469	461	450
Washington	1,753	1,731	1,720	1,706	1,687	1,660
Webb	5,510	5,428	5,351	5,276	5,205	5,139
Wharton	1,773	1,754	1,732	1,703	1,674	1,648
Wheeler	272	270	266	260	257	251
Wichita	13,887	13,806	13,762	13,710	13,700	13,721
Wilbarger	659	644	632	620	611	602
Willacy	719	721	718	720	716	719
Williamson	37,098	37,651	38,213	38,847	39,421	39,980
Wilson	5,039	5,081	5,125	5,176	5,221	5,280
Winkler	238	238	233	230	226	223
Wise	4,707	4,645	4,580	4,517	4,463	4,406
Wood	3,653	3,611	3,572	3,540	3,510	3,478
Yoakum	163	162	155	151	145	141
Young	961	944	926	906	888	869
Zapata	347	344	339	333	325	322
Zavala	279	285	284	284	283	281
	1,538,426	1,528,652	1,518,967	1,508,987	1,498,929	1,488,837

Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Appendix B: State Veteran and National Cemeteries in Texas

Division Overview



Appendix C:

Major Unserved Veteran Populations

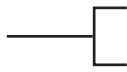
Rank	Cemetery	FY 24 Veteran Population
1	Grayling, MI	50,283
2	Utica, NY	45,811
3	Toledo, OH	42,048
4	Huntsville, AL	41,270
5	San Luis Obispo, CA	40,832
6	Prosser, WA	40,377
7	Erie, PA	37,528
8	Panama City, FL	35,647
9	Bellingham, WA	32,599
10	Longview, TX	32,207
10	New Boston, TX	31,592
10	Tyler, TX	30,731
11	Naples, FL	29,639
12	Holidaysburg, PA	27,521
13	Evansville, IN	27,421
14	Elba, AL	25,950
15	Wenatchee, WA	21,980
16	Scranton, PA	21,770
17	Lubbock, TX	21,214
18	Amarillo, TX	20,235
19	Yuma, AZ	19,746
20	Midland, TX	18,574
21	Bend, OR	17,959
22	Lancaster, OH	15,750
23	Waterloo, IA	15,239
24	Decatur, AL	14,322
25	Beaumont, TX	13,542
26	Aztek, NM	13,435
27	Souix City, IA	13,214

Longview @ 32,307

Major Unserved Veteran Populations (continued)

Rank	Cemetery	FY 24 Veteran Population
28	Grand Isle, NE	12,262
29	Marquette, MI	12,590
30	Fairbanks, AK	12,448
31	Kalispell, MT	11,649
32	Redway, CA	11,374
33	Shawnee, OK	10,228
34	Lancaster, WI	10,043
35	Burlington, ND	8,705
36	Tifton, GA	8,581
37	Bozeman, MT	8,560
38	Clovis, NM	7,983
39	Bemidji, MN	7,678
40	Laredo, TX	7,215
41	Del Rio, TX	6,143

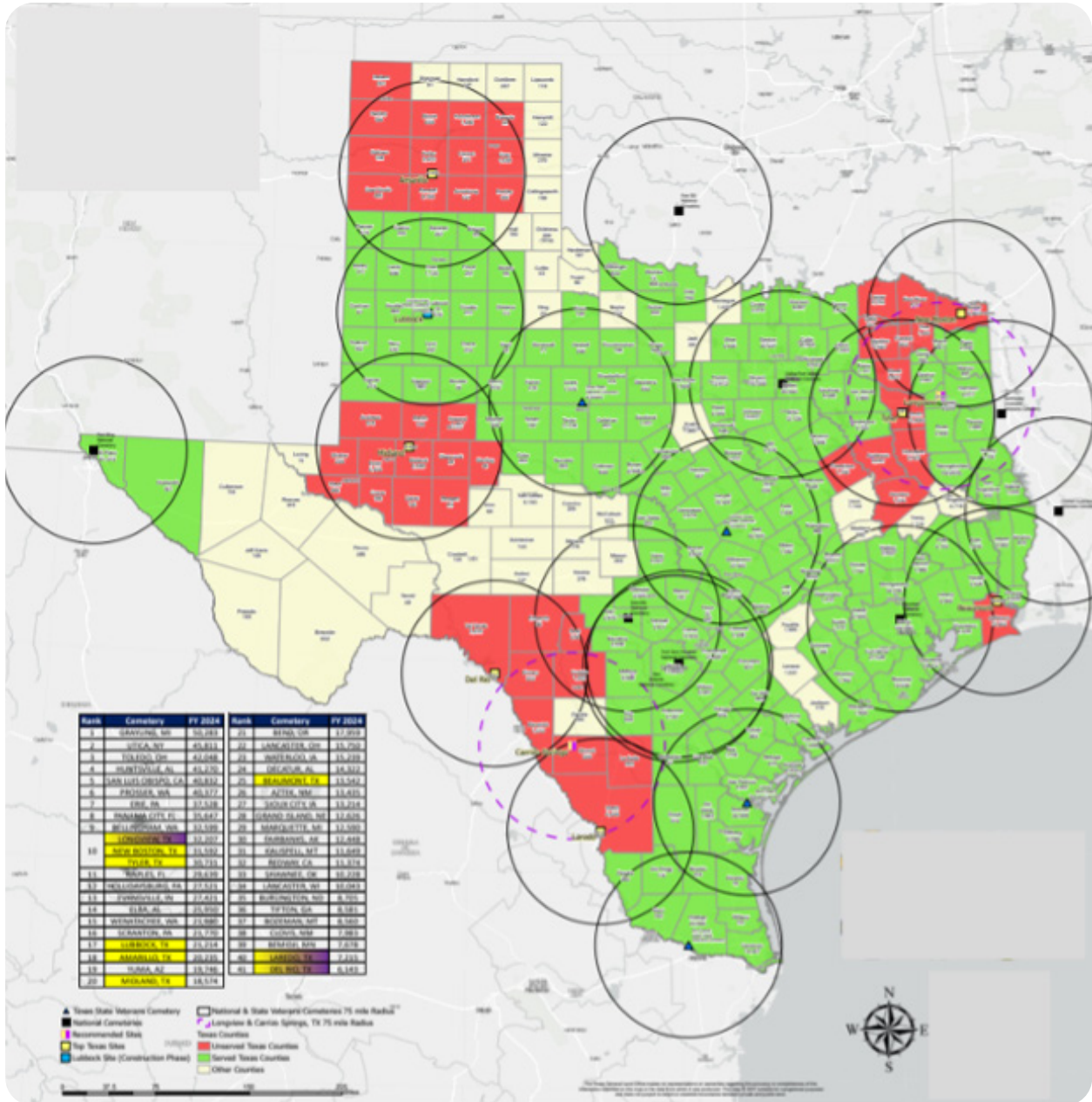
Carrizo Springs @ 13,358



Major unserved Veteran populations nationwide from the Veterans Cemetery Grant Program Director, 2024.



Appendix D: 75-Mile Service Areas Statewide For Existing And Proposed Cemeteries



75-mile service areas statewide for existing and proposed cemeteries. Green indicates a veteran who lives in an area served by a state or national cemetery. Red indicates a veteran who lives greater than 75 miles from a state or national cemetery. (Note: Lubbock is green due to its impending opening in 2026.)

Appendix E: Driving Distance to Nearest State or National Cemetery



Driving Distances (One Way)

Longview → Dallas National Cemetery

120 miles

Amarillo → Abilene State Veterans Cemetery

280 miles

Lubbock → Abilene State Veterans Cemetery

160 miles

Midland → Abilene State Veterans Cemetery

140 miles

Baumont → Houston National Cemetery

92 miles

Del Rio → Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery

300 miles (160 miles to San Antonio)

Laredo → Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery

130 miles (160 miles to San Antonio)

Driving distances to the nearest State Veteran or National Cemeteries for unserved communities.

Appendix F:

Texas State Veterans Cemeteries Local Government Contract Budgets 24-26

State Veteran Cemetery Local Government Contracts by Funding Source	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
Central Texas SVC in Killeen VLB Funded	\$1,433,875.87	\$1,187,877.58	\$1,217,805.92
Central Texas SVC in Killeen Federally Funded	\$770,000.00	\$785,000.00	\$764,000.00
Total local government contract fees for Killeen	\$2,203,875.87	\$1,972,877.58	\$1,981,805.92
Texas SVC in Abilene VLB Funded	\$620,200.11	\$600,000.00	\$632,834.01
Texas SVC in Abilene VLB Federally Funded	\$198,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$210,000.00
Total local government contract fees for Abilene	\$818,200.11	\$800,000.00	\$842,834.01
Rio Grande Valley SVC in Mission VLB Funded	\$475,556.00	\$575,853.34	\$600,361.13
Rio Grande Valley SVC in Mission Federally Funded	\$276,000.00	\$225,000.00	\$222,000.00
Total local government contract fees for Mission	\$751,556.00	\$800,853.34	\$822,361.13
Coastal Bend SVC in Corpus Christi VLB Funded	\$513,000.00	\$540,000.00	\$611,250.00
Coastal Bend SVC in Corpus Christi Federally Funded	\$387,000.00	\$360,000.00	\$330,000.00
Total local government contract fees for Nueces County	\$900,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$941,250.00
Total VLB Funded	\$3,042,631.98	\$2,903,730.92	\$3,062,251.06
Total Federal Funded	\$1,631,000.00	\$1,570,000.00	\$1,526,000.00
Total funding for local government contracts	\$4,673,631.98	\$4,473,730.92	\$4,588,251.06

Note 1: These contract fees are supplemented by Federal government plot allowance reimbursements, hence the term "Federally Funded."

Note 2: The cemetery in Lubbock is fully General revenue funded through FY 26. Beginning in FY 27, contract funding for Lubbock will mirror that of the rest of the SVCs.

Glossary of Acronyms

CVSO

County Veterans Service Officer

DD 214

Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

GLO

Texas General Land Office

HB

House Bill

NCA

National Cemetery Administration

SVC

State Veterans Cemetery

TVC

Texas Veterans Commission

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VLB

Veterans Land Board





Texas Veterans Land Board
Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



MEMORANDUM

TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD • CHAIRWOMAN DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Date: April 28, 2026

To: Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Chairwoman
James Rothfelder, Member
Judson Scott, Member

From: Darren Fitz Gerald, Assistant Executive Secretary

Subject: Agenda Item 20 a - Report on Veterans Land Board Operations.

RECOMMENDATION: This agenda item requires no action from the Board.

Vendor Pharmacy (Omnicare) Update

On September 22, 2025, Omnicare filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. This was to resolve issues related to litigation involving the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Our representatives at Omnicare have been in constant contact with VLB Staff regarding the filing and have made good on their assurance there will be no negative impact to the contracted services they provide. In the first week of April, GenieRX Holdings made an initial bid in Omnicare's court-supervised sale process. Other qualified bidders have until April 30, 2026, to make higher or better offers. If qualified bids are received an auction is expected on May 5, 2026. We will keep the board informed as more information becomes available.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program, which set Maximum Fair Prices (MFP) for 10 commonly prescribed drugs starting in CY 2026, with 15 additional drugs to be included in the program for CY 2027. Under the program, drug manufacturers are required to offer these drugs at a lower, negotiated price to Medicare. The follow-on effects for Omnicare, our vendor pharmacy, are that their drug suppliers offered those lower prices across the board, not just to Medicare. Those lower prices were passed on to our Veterans Homes, resulting in a savings of \$168,938 in the first two months of CY 2026 (compared to CY 2025 pricing).

Information Systems Modernization

VLB staff and GLO Information Technology Services (ITS) staff are in collaboration on multiple information system modernization projects. These efforts will improve customer service, enhance financial decision making, reduce time spent on tasks that can be reliably automated and will improve accuracy in contract compliance. They include:

- Creating the ability to accept on-line donations for VLB Homes and Cemeteries
- Improvements to Bond Funds Management data analysis and data visualization
- Improvements to the Pharmacy Audit process and supporting software
- Improvements to the Call Center support software
- Improvements to the online land loan origination system

Upcoming Dates of Importance:

May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day - ceremonies at all homes and cemeteries

July 28, 2026 - Special Called meeting of the Texas Veterans Land Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, 10:00 A.M.

August 31, 2026 – Last day of Texas Fiscal Year (FY 26)

October 27, 2026 - Special Called meeting of the Texas Veterans Land Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, 10:00 A.M.

November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day - ceremonies at all homes and cemeteries

December 29, 2026 – Member Jud Scott’s current term expires.

January 12, 2027 – First day of 90th Legislative Session

January 26, 2027- Special Called meeting of the Texas Veterans Land Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, 10:00 A.M.

May 4, 2027 - Special Called meeting of the Texas Veterans Land Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, 10:00 A.M.

August 3, 2027 - Special Called meeting of the Texas Veterans Land Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, 10:00 A.M.