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Franklin County Board
100 Public Square
Benton, IL 62812

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report (December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024)

Veterans Assistance Commission of Franklin County

Establishment and Overview

The Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of Franklin County was officially stood up on December 1, 2023. The VAC is staffed by one Accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO), who also serves as the Superintendent, Mr. Liam Mungovan. After acquiring accreditation and the necessary Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VAC began filing claims in late February 2024.

The VAC's mission is to provide compassionate support and effective advocacy for Franklin County's veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the benefits and assistance they deserve.

Fiscal Year 2024 Highlights

- **Compensation Secured for Veterans and Families:**
 - Total VA benefits secured: **\$89,014.81**
 - **VA Service-Connected Disability Claims (Initial): 24**
 - **VA Dependency Indemnity Claims: 2**
 - **VA Burial Benefits: 1**
 - **VA Appeals: 32**
 - **Combat-Related Special Compensation: 1**
- **Client Support:**
 - Total forms completed: **830**
 - Total number of clients assisted: **277**

- **Financial Assistance Provided:**

- Total financial aid distributed: **\$18,014.25**
 - **Housing Assistance:** \$7,750 (prevented homelessness for 5 veterans)
 - **Multiple Bills:** \$3,205.44 (6 veterans)
 - **Electric Bills:** \$3,012.52 (5 veterans)
 - **Medical (Dental) Bills:** \$200 (1 veteran)
 - **Water Bills/Repairs:** \$3,092.08 (4 veterans)
 - **Phone Bill:** \$254.21 (1 veteran)
 - **School Supplies:** \$500 (1 veteran)

- **Collaboration and Outreach:**

- Assisted **Marion County** in establishing their VAC.
- Currently aiding **Williamson County** in creating their VAC.

Fiscal Performance

- **Budget:** \$122,675
- **Expenditures:** \$69,323.62
- **Return on Investment (ROI): 28.41%**

The VAC of Franklin County has demonstrated a strong fiscal stewardship, utilizing resources efficiently while achieving a significant impact for local veterans and their families. There will be an increase in local marketing to ensure Franklin County Veterans are more aware of our services and that we anticipate that more financial assistance will be needed this upcoming year. Additionally, we look to bring in more money to the county by securing Veterans the benefits they have earned through federal compensation.

Looking Ahead: Goals for Fiscal Year 2025

1. **Increase Financial Assistance:** Aim to surpass \$200,000 in compensation for veterans and their families.
2. **Expand Assistance:** Serve more veterans through expanded outreach and streamlined services.