



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

October 14, 2025

Commissioners

Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Mike Chappell, District 2
Kurt Doroh, District 3
David DiStefano, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Tina Leary, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 01:00 PM by Randall Peat, Chairman of the Board. Present: Patterson-Gladney, Chappell, Doroh, DiStefano, Peat, Leary and Schincariol.
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **September 23rd, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried
Commissioner DiStefano abstained.
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Presentation**
7. **Administrative Affairs**
 - A. **Re-Appointment Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) - Ontiveros, C.**
Administrator Faul presented the request to reappoint Cathy Ontiveros to the Van Buren Department of Health and Human Services Board for a three-year term.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Cathy Ontiveros to the DHHS Board for a term expiring on 11-1-2028.
Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
 - B. **PA 116 Applications 01-2025 and 02-2025 Drozd Family Grain**
County Clerk Suzie Roehm presented the request to approve two PA 116 Applications from Drozd Family Grain for property located in Bloomingdale Township. The applications

were reviewed and approved by the County Planning Commission and Conservation District.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the PA 116 Applications for Drozd Family Grain for property located in Bloomingdale Township.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Diversion Management Platform - Prosecutors Office

Prosecutor Susan Zuiderveen presented the request to approve a 3-year contract with Advent, a Diversion Management Platform in the amount of \$1,200 per year.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 3-year contract with Advent, a Diversion Management Platform in the amount of \$1,200 per year.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

A. CIP 2025-2026: Purchase of a 3/4 Ton Replacement Truck - B&G

Buildings & Grounds Director John Small presented the request for purchase of a 3/4 ton replacement truck for his department in the amount of \$52,952. This is a CIP approved item.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of a 3/4 ton replacement truck for Buildings & Grounds in the amount of \$52,952.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Use of County Property - Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Village Holiday Celebration

Janice Chittle and Mary Springer provided details on the request for use of County Property on December 12-13 for the Village Holiday Celebration. The property would include the Courthouse Parking Lot, the tree on the front lawn and the County Park.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the use of County Property on December 12-13 for the Village Holiday Celebration.

Motion by Tina Leary, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

9. Finance

A. Travel Expenditures

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly travel expenditures for Commissioners.

Motion to authorize payment of Commissioner travel expenditures as presented.

Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Claims

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented monthly claims in the amount of \$7,688,012.65 for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of

Commissioners, the payment of claims in the amount of \$7,688,012.65.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Monthly Financial Statement

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the Monthly Financial Statement for review.

Motion to accept the Monthly Financial Statement as presented.
Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

D. Equalization - 2025 Apportionment Report

Equalization Director Anthony Meyaard presented the 2025 Apportionment Report for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2025 Apportionment Report as presented.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

E. 2025 Drain and Lake Level Assessments

Drain Commissioner Joe Parman presented the 2025 Drain and Lake Level Assessments for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2025 Drain and Lake Level Assessments to be spread on the various tax rolls of the appropriate Townships, Cities and Villages in Van Buren County.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

F. Purchase of Four New Sheriff's Office Patrol Vehicles

Undersheriff Casey Davis presented the request for the annual budgeted purchase of patrol vehicles. There are four vehicles to be purchased in an amount not to exceed \$260,000.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the purchase of four patrol vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$260,000.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. Position Creation - Digital Communications Coordinator

DID Director Jerry Happel presented the request for the creation of a new full-time position titled Digital Communications Director at a non-union pay grade R26. The position will be funded through a shared cost allocation between Van Buren and St. Joseph Counties.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the creation of a full-time Digital Communications Director position at a non-union pay grade R26.
Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

A. Veteran Services Bi-Monthly Report

Veterans Services Director David Krzycki provided an MVAA update and bi-monthly report.

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:26 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk



VAN BUREN COUNTY BOARD AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

Administration Address
219 E Paw Paw Street - Suite 302, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Website: www.vanburencountymi.gov

Telephone No.
(269) 657-8253
Email: Admin@vanburencountymi.gov

Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. All agenda items initially go on a Committee of the Whole agenda at 1:00 PM. You *must* be in attendance to present your item, Zoom is available. Requests must be submitted no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting date.

Email this form and all attachments to: admin@vanburencountymi.gov

Requester's Name <i>Wendy Springer</i>	Title <i>SSA Coordinator</i>
County Department or Company Name <i>Downtown Development Authority</i>	Telephone No. <i>269-547-0179 - OR - 269-415-0060</i>
Email <i>m.springer@pawpaw.net</i>	COW Meeting Date You are Requesting <i>10-14-25</i>

Please complete ALL fields below as these are the items on the agenda program.

Agenda Item Name <i>Christmas in the village - Parade + Tree lighting</i>
Request (Be direct) <i>Requesting the county park on Dec. 12-14, 2025 * Requesting to use the tree in front of the court house for the tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 12 + (partnership? for person to light tree) Courthouse parking lot on Dec 12 from 6-10 pm.</i>
Background (Give details) <i>The Village (DDA) is changing the Christmas events to include a night parade - stepping off from behind freshwater church and moving west through town to Gremps where the bulk of the parade will continue down Gremps. Santas unit, Grand Marshal will turn left onto St Joseph and go on to court house parking lot where Santa will light the tree and school will participate in singing + celebration</i>
Financial Impact (Please include the General Ledger number that will be associated with the request.) <i>No charge for participation Benefits downtown businesses + restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores. downtown business owners. etc)</i>
Recommendation (what you recommend the board to do) <i>Approve: use of tree in front of courthouse + someone to light tree use of county park</i>

For more information about the Board meetings please visit our website:
<https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes>

John Faul
County Administrator



David Krzycki
Veterans Services Director

VAN BUREN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Phone: (269) 657-8200 Ext 1612
Fax: (269) 415-0250

226 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Email: KrzyckiD@vanburencountymi.gov
Web: www.vanburencountymi.gov

1. This report covers the reporting period from Aug-Sep FY2025.
2. Happy Birthday United States Army US Navy, and US Marine Corps!
3. Statistical information Indicates:
 - Overall, this year we have seen **3325** contacts for FY 2025.. New contacts, **DD-214 Request, Aid and Attendance inquiries, and Relief.** are the main topics during this period. (We have seen an increase in younger veterans and female veterans this reporting period.)
 - The dental program spent **\$54,090.74**, in FY25 with **251** visits.
 - In FY2025 we spent **\$62,645.74** on the FY2025 MVAAG grant.
 - Soldiers and Sailors had **0** a fully developed relief request for consideration in FY2025
 - We had **9** burial relief approved for **\$300.00** in FY2025.
4. Statistics Aug-Sept FY2025
 - **VA Claims/Actions:** We had **92** claims/actions filed in August and **104** in September. This reflects all the various actions related to additional benefits, DIC, Relief, Aid and Attendance, and requests for DD214's.
 - **Appeals:** We had **5** appeals in August and **3** appeals for September for this period.
 - **Health Care:** Veteran services had **6** veterans signed up for VA Health Care in this reporting period.
 - **Home/Event Visits:** **1** home visits in this reporting period.
 - **Assisted Living Visits:** Conducted a total of **0** Assisted Living Visits this reporting period.
 - **Community Events:** Conducted **7** outreach and County Events since our last report.
5. Public transportation gave **16** rides in August and **12** rides in September.

6. End of Fiscal Year Roll up:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. 3325 | Contacts/visits. |
| b. 1069 | Personal actions submitted |
| c. 32 | Claim/Appeals submitted |
| d. 46 | VA Health Care Enrollments |
| e. 6 | Home visits |
| f. 48 | Community Events |
| g. 9 | Burial for \$300.000 |
| h. 208 | Public Transportation Veteran Rides for Appointments |
| i. *251 | Veterans for Dental Program |
| j. *\$54,604.74 | Spent on Dental |
| k. >\$38,000.00 | Relief |
- *** \$9,568,453.47 In Disability Claims for Veterans in FY2025
- *** \$3,901,353.72 In A&A, DIC, Caregivers, Backpay in FY2025
- *** 13,469,807.19 Return benefits for Veterans through VBC Veteran Services in FY2025

7. The following events were conducted during this reporting period FY2025.

- **August 2025**
 - Visit American Legion
 - Visit VFW
 - Pack the Piers (South Haven)
 - Veterans Social (Paw Paw)
- **September 2025**
 - Harvest Wine Festival
 - Closed out FY2025 Grant with MVAA
 - Victims Services Speaking Engagement (Lawerence)
 - Veterans Social (Paw Paw)
- **Upcoming events for Veteran Services:**
 - Decatur VFW Standdown (OCT 10)
 - Tractor Supply (Winterization for Veterans)
 - Halloween (Veterans Services)
 - Veterans Day (11 Nov)
 - Thanksgiving Meals (22 Nov)
 - Christmas Meals (13 Dec)

Notes: Military Branch Birthdays

- Army. June 14, 1775.
- Coast Guard. August 4, 1790
- Air Force. September 18, 1947
- **Navy. October 13, 1775.**
- **Marine Corps. November 10, 1775.**
- National Guard December 13, 1636.
- Space Force, December 20, 2019.

Van Buren County
Veterans' Activity Report

CONTACTS (PHONE CALLS & VISITS)

YR/MM	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
FY2022-23	273	317	211	223	184	237	197	207	184	287	302	279	2901
FY2023-24	259	360	138	241	191	246	211	172	173	310	294	321	2916
FY2024-25	341	294	117	263	163	277	294	263	193	375	397	348	3325

SSRF

YR/MM	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
FY2023-24	\$17,195.07	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,295
Claims	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
FY2024-25	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,700
Claims	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	9

DENTAL

YR/MM	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
FY 2023-24	\$4,121.30	\$5,311.00	\$4,413.20	\$3,547.50	\$3,434.81	\$4,455.11	\$3,919.70	\$6,083.47	\$3,310.90	\$3,858.00	\$4,641.51	\$4,350.23	\$51,446.73
FY 24 # of vets	31	16	40	30	16	23	18	17	11	17	21	19	259
FY 2024-25	\$7,529.81	\$9,044.65	\$8,032.44	\$8,608.02	\$8,156.30	\$3,017.75	\$6,606.73	\$2,406.74	\$688.30	\$514.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,604.74
FY 25 # of vets	38	40	30	29	40	16	16	39	3	0	0	0	251

NOTE:

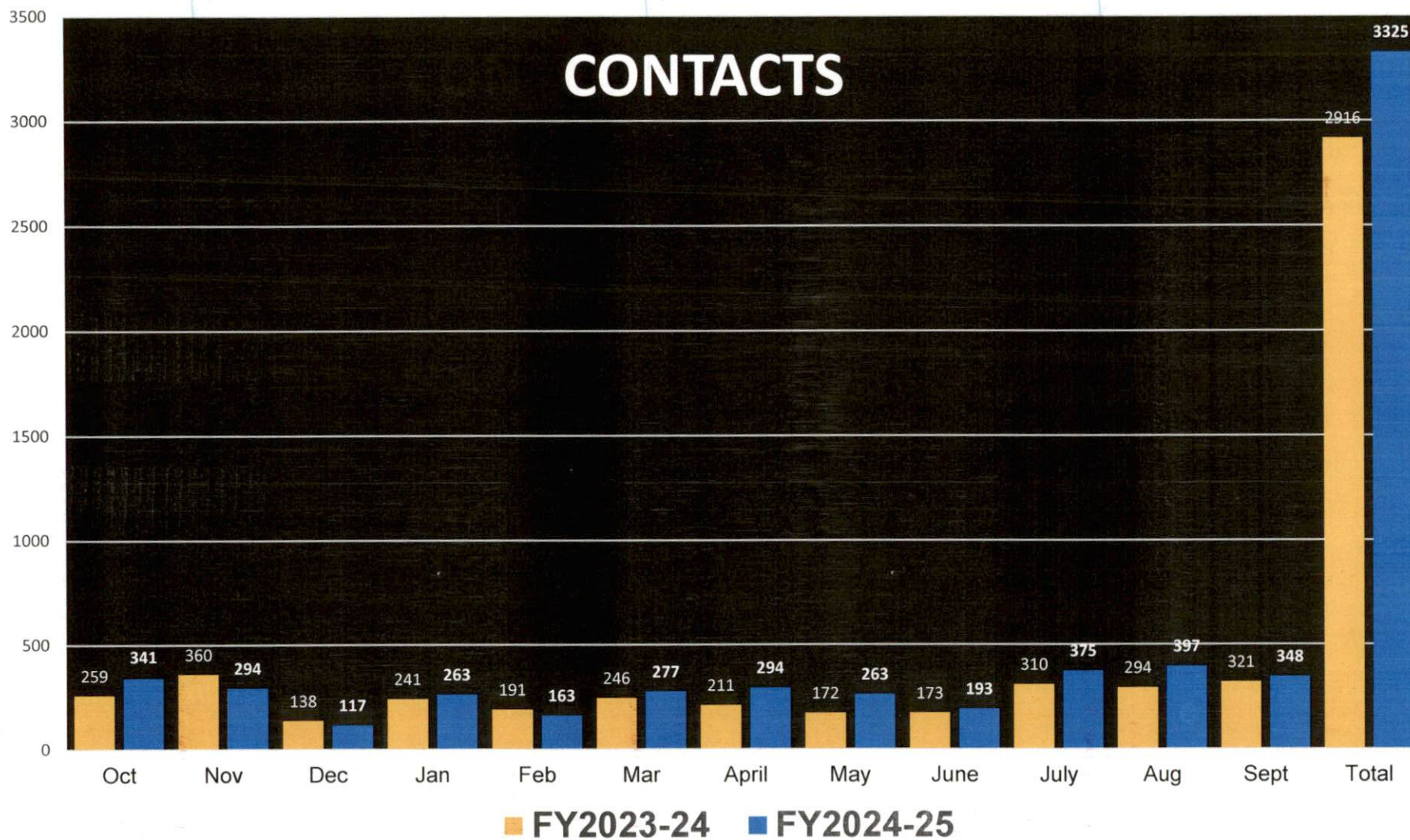
2024 MVAA Grant	Budget	Spent	Remaining
Dental Program	\$55,000.00	\$54,604.74	\$395.26
Gen AdvertisePromotion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emotional Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Relief	\$8,565.00	\$8,041.00	\$524.00
Total	\$63,565.00	\$62,645.74	\$919.26

as of 18/03/2024

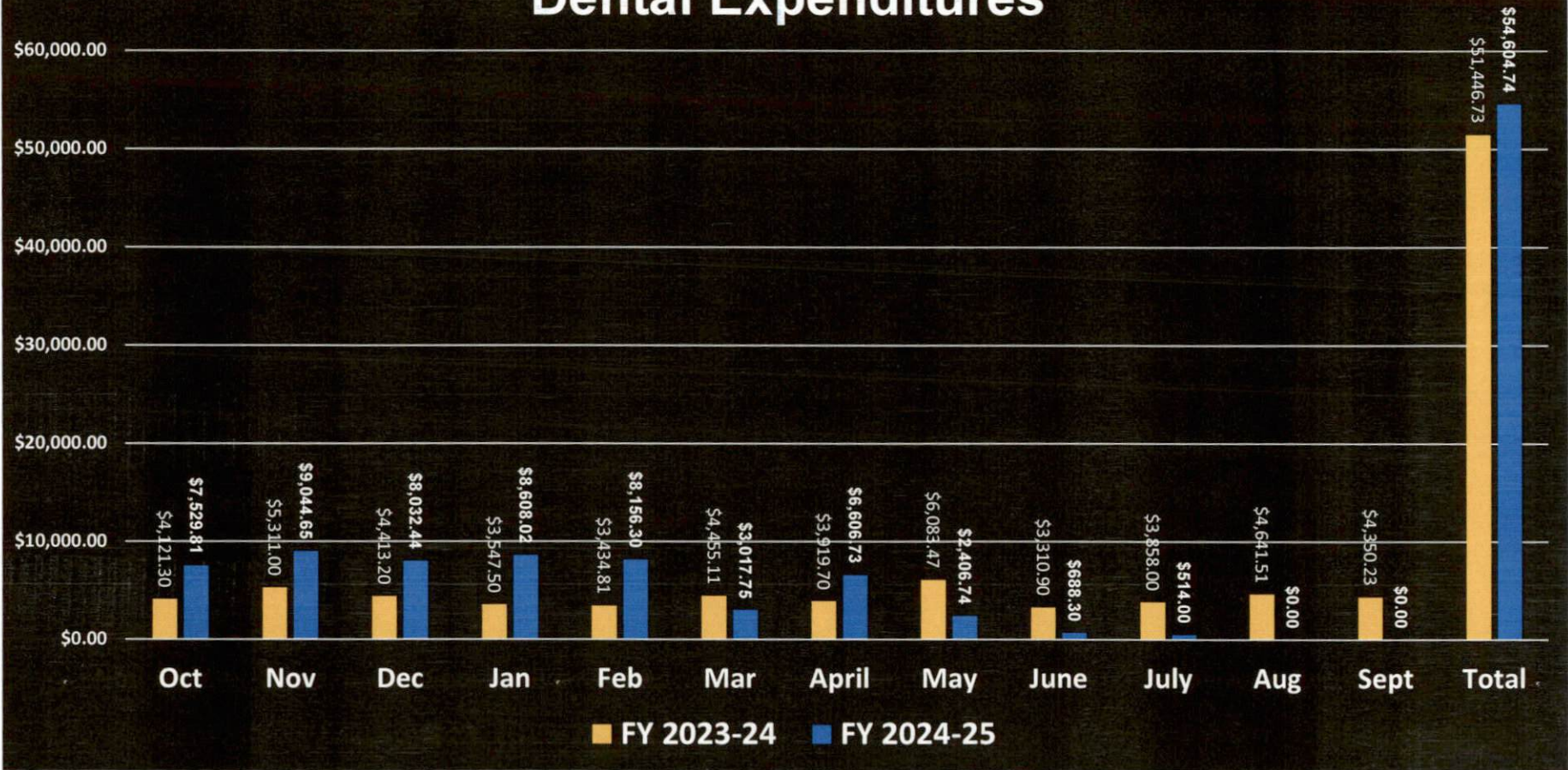
FY 2025	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	FY25
PHONE CALLS/OFFICE VISITS	341	294	117	263	163	277	294	263	193	375	397	348	3325
VA CLAIMS FILED/Actions	97	92	72	87	101	93	63	110	88	70	92	104	1069
CLAIM APPEALS	2	3	2	1	0	5	3	3	4	1	5	3	32
VA HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT:	9	11	4	2	1	6	3	2	1	1	2	4	46
HOME VISITS:	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	6
ASSISTED LIVING VISITS:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS/VISITS	12	6	6	1	2	1	4	6	0	3	3	4	48

EMERGENCY RELIEF/SOLDIER'S AND SAILORS APPS													
BURIAL OF \$300	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	7
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	14	18	10	18	14	12	26	28	22	18	16	12	208

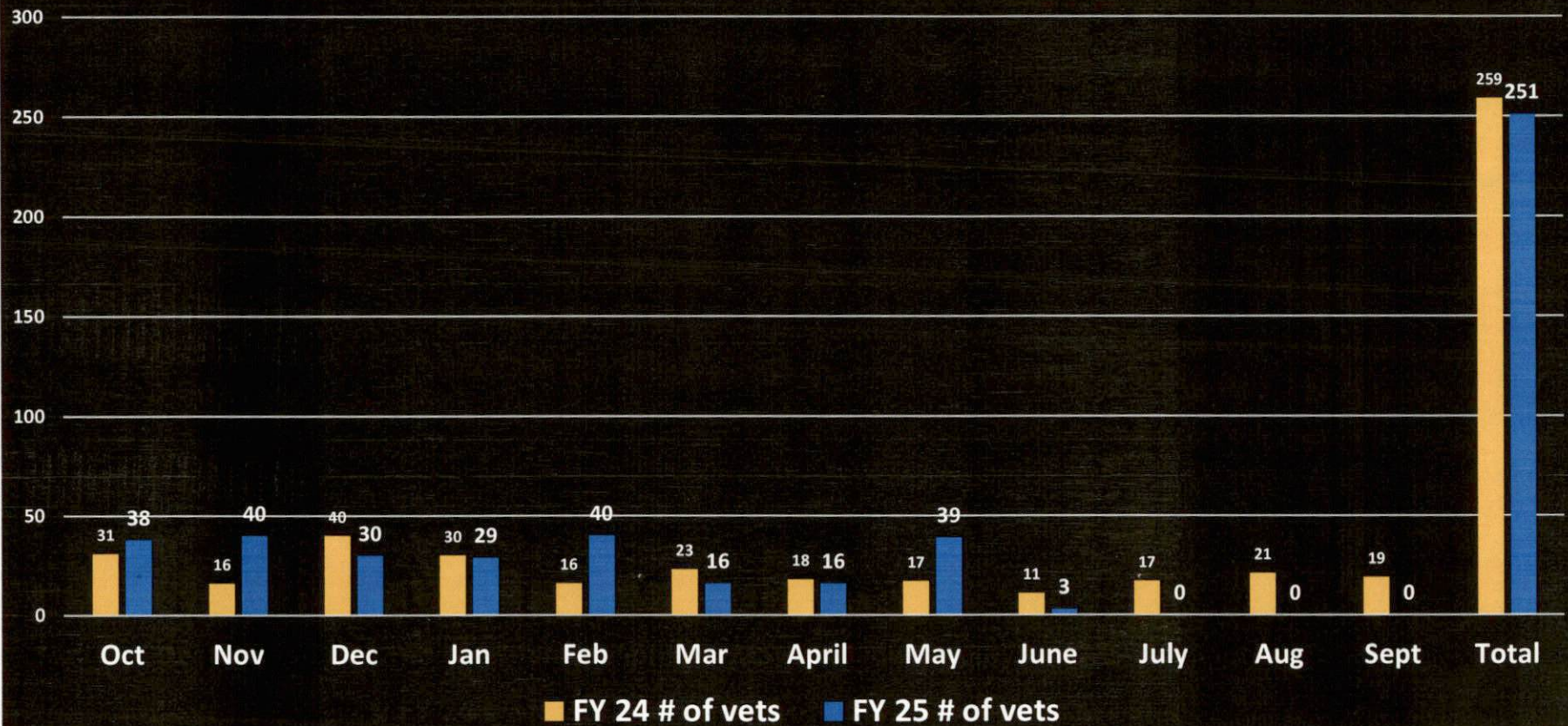
CONTACTS



Dental Expenditures



Dental Visits



TOTAL WORK LOAD

ACTIONS

600
500
400
300
200
100
0

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP
■ ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS/VISITS	12	6	6	1	2	1	4	6	0	3	3	4
■ ASSISTED LIVING VISITS:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
■ HOME VISITS:	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
■ VA HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT:	9	11	4	2	1	6	3	2	1	1	2	4
■ CLAIM APPEALS	2	3	2	1	0	5	3	3	4	1	5	3
■ VA CLAIMS FILED/Actions	97	92	72	87	101	93	63	110	88	70	92	104
■ PHONE CALLS/OFFICE VISITS	341	294	117	263	163	277	294	263	193	375	397	348

AXIS TITLE

- PHONE CALLS/OFFICE VISITS
- CLAIM APPEALS
- HOME VISITS:
- ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS/VISITS

- VA CLAIMS FILED/Actions
- VA HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT:
- ASSISTED LIVING VISITS: