LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Reviewing the Kansas Office of Veterans Services' Implementation of Past Audit Recommendations

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Senator Caryn Tyson.

BACKGROUND

In March 2025, LPA released an audit reviewing the Veterans' Claims Assistance Program's (VCAP's) matching requirements. The VCAP exists to provide claims assistance to Kansas veterans through veteran service organizations like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The program is administered by the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVS). The audit found that KOVS did not give clear guidance or strong oversight to the veteran service organizations. As a result, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars used very different methods to report the matching support required by law. Some of the organizations' reported costs were not clearly connected to helping veterans file claims through VCAP as state law requires. Further, both organizations relied on estimates and incomplete records that could not always be verified.

To address the audit findings, LPA made four recommendations to KOVS management. The recommendations included clearer written guidance, better tracking of expenses, and stronger oversight to make sure the program follows state law and uses funds properly. Per LPAC Rule 3-4, LPA staff followed up with KOVS management several months after the audit was complete and asked them to self-report their progress on each recommendation. As of November 2025, KOVS management self-reported they had taken actions to fully implement all four recommendations.

This follow-up audit would aim to confirm the agency's self-reported actions to address the audit recommendations.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objective listed below is the question we would answer through our audit work. The steps listed for the objective convey the type of work we would do. These may change as we learn more about the audit issues.

Objective 1: To what extent has the Kansas Office of Veterans Services implemented the recommendations from LPA's March 2025 performance audit? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Review materials provided by agency officials as part of the follow-up process to determine the reported status of each recommendation.

- Interview agency officials, review agency documents, and conduct other work as needed to verify the actual status of each recommendation.

- For any recommendations that do not appear to have been implemented as reported, follow up with agency officials to determine why not.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.