



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs

Division of Administrative Services

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February 2, 2022

The Honorable Neal Foster  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Kelly Merrick  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Foster and Representative Merrick,

After the House Finance Committee meeting on Friday, January 28th, Representative Wool communicated additional questions for DMVA. Questions and the corresponding answers are below.

**Representative Wool: I know there was money appropriated years ago. Was there another item that was vetoed? How much is committed to this project and how much of it has actually been expended?**

Funding for the Interior Alaska Veterans Cemetery (IAVC) was line item vetoed in 2009. Funds have been appropriated in prior years, but DMVA has deferred its request to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) due to the inability to demonstrate ownership of suitable land.

Currently, \$8.1 million is committed to the IAVC project and \$840,661.86 has been expended.

DMVA currently has three capital appropriations for the IAVC:

M11C: IAVC Design and Planning

- FED: \$5,000,000 current authority, \$0 encumbered or expended  
Remaining fund balance: \$5,000,000
- GFM: \$750,000 current authority, \$163,730.43 encumbered, \$586,269.57 expended  
Remaining fund balance: \$0
- GF: \$250,000 current authority, \$250,000 expended  
Remaining fund balance: \$0

M13B: IAVC

- FED: \$2,000,000 current authority, \$0 encumbered or expended  
Remaining fund balance: \$2,000,000

M15B: IAVC (Fairbanks Veterans Cemetery – Gold Rush Historic Ditch Mitigation)

- GF: \$100,000 current authority, \$0 encumbered, \$4,392.29 expended  
Remaining fund balance: \$95,607.71

**Representative Wool: It was stated that the operating costs of the cemetery will be \$1 million per year, but Representative Guttenberg remembers this as \$400,000 per year. What has changed?**

The \$400,000 per year figure was based on the cost of using contractors to run the cemetery, but the work will need to be performed primarily by State employees, potentially with some temporary, seasonal, contracted groundskeepers. The average annual cost is \$1,000,000 for like cemeteries located in Washington and Montana, using all state employees and a mix of state employees and contractors respectively. There are currently no cemeteries located this far north, and as a result, there may be additional unforeseen factors that are encountered.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

*Bob Ernisse*

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