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Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Requests Emergency Declaration for Sallisaw Veterans Home – Commission Approves

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – The Oklahoma Veterans Commission (OVC) held a Special Meeting Wednesday, March 22, 2023, to address additional funding to complete the Sallisaw Veterans Home. The Commission Meeting was necessitated by an anticipated \$21 million cost increase on a \$77 million project.

ODVA Interim Executive Director Admiral Greg Slavonic requested approval from the Oklahoma Veterans Commission to declare an emergency to prevent endangerment of public health and further damage to state property, and to approve an increase in the cost of construction of up to \$21,726,939. To fund the additional services, Director Slavonic also requested the Commission grant approval to request supplemental funding from the Legislature in the amount of \$10,850,000 for fiscal year 2023 and to amend the fiscal year 2024 budget to add \$10,850,000 to fund completion of the Home.

“Today, at long last, the Oklahoma Veterans Commission received the necessary information for requesting the supplemental funding for the Sallisaw Veterans Home.” said Slavonic. “While the reasons for this delay are not yet clear to the agency, public, or the veterans we hold ourselves accountable to, the fact remains that the construction progress has been impeded for many months, and costs have continued to increase daily at an alarming rate. The Commission and ODVA are committed to working together and will be transparent in this and all future projects, endeavoring to be good stewards of the taxpayers’ dollars.”.

Rob Allen, Oklahoma Veterans Commission Chairman said Monday, “The Commission is grateful to Admiral Slavonic for digging into this distressing situation and providing the information the Commission needs to make this decision. This is a great first step in getting the agency back on track.”

Estimated completion date for the new Sallisaw Veterans Home is October 2024.

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