

# Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget Highlights and Goals

## Veterans Assistance Commission

### **FY2011 Highlights**

- According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs expenditure figures for 2010, McHenry County now ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the state for VA Disability & Pension dollars. Our goal was to be in the top 10 for Illinois by 2013. When the goal was made by the Commission in 2005 McHenry County ranked 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Veterans Service Officer Trainee has completed the required training and is now fully certified as a Veterans Service Officer for the Veterans Assistance Commission.
- The VAC VA Hospital Transportation Service retired its 2003 11 passenger bus and replaced it for a 13 passenger Pace Champion Bus under the Pace Lease program.
- The VAC received a \$35,000 Veterans Cash grant to provide restorative dental services and eye care services to our low income veterans.
- The VAC received a \$7,229 McHenry County Community Foundation grant to convert our 2008 high top vehicle into a mobile office. This will allow the VAC to have a more visible outreach presence at events and sponsored by agencies and government bodies within the county. More importantly, it will expose veterans and their family members to VA Benefits and services offered by the VAC.

### **FY2012 Goals**

- Send the PT Veterans Service Officer for Advanced Training.
- Exceed \$1,200,000 in new claims.
- Go to the VA Regional Office in Chicago monthly to resolve issues with VA claims that the VAC is actively prosecuting.
- Receive additional training from outside agencies so VAC staff can better understand services and eligibility requirements offered by those outside agencies.
- Develop an active presence on social media such as face book and twitter.
- Establish a regular column in the newspaper, or a blog in order to expose our younger veterans to benefits and services offered by the VA and the VAC.