FISCAL SNAPSHOT

MICHIGAN VETERANS' TRUST FUND

Date: February 2026 **Analyst: Aaron A. Meek**

Summary

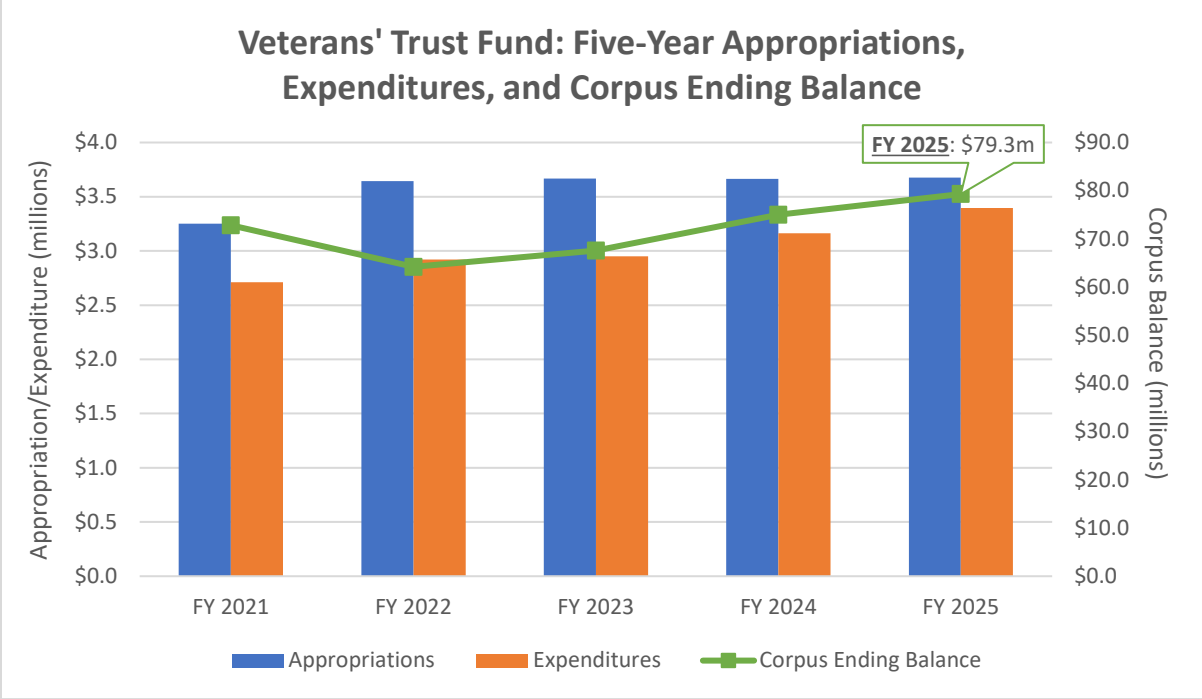
Established in 1946 with $50.0 million in principal, the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund (MVTF) supports the Emergency Grant Program, which provides grants to veterans and their families experiencing short-term or temporary financial emergency or hardship.

Background

The MVTF was created by 1946 PA 9 using $50.0 million in post-World War II reserve funds drawn from state war bond revenues and subsequently brought under the auspices of the Department of Treasury by the state constitution of 1963. Pursuant to Article IX of the state constitution (sections 37 to 39), the MVTF is administered by a seven-member board of trustees appointed by the governor, which is the sole entity authorized to direct expenditures from the fund. In practice, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) oversees the board's administration of the Emergency Grant Program, which uses MVTF investment earnings to provide emergency grants to veterans and their families experiencing temporary, unforeseen financial hardships, including assistance related to housing, utilities, food, medical expenses, and transportation.

Recent Activity

The Emergency Grant Program and expenses incurred by the board of trustees are supported solely by the annual investment earnings of the MVTF, subject to appropriation by the legislature. As part of the FY 2025-26 budget in 2025 PA 22 (Article 12), $2.5 million was appropriated for the grant program and $1.2 million was appropriated for associated administrative expenses, programming costs, and securities and lending fees.

The Bottom Line

In the last five fiscal years, spending by the MVTF has ranged between 80% and 92% of its annual appropriation. Because unexpended investment earnings are deposited into the trust fund at the end of each fiscal year, the MVTF will theoretically continue to grow in perpetuity and yield larger returns each year, subject to favorable market conditions. At the close of FY 2024-25, the corpus balance was approximately $79.3 million.