

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JOEY STRICKLAND
SECRETARY

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

July 26, 2018

The Honorable Thomas G. Eschete
Mayor
City of Thibodaux
P.O. Box 5418
Thibodaux, LA 70302

Dear Mayor Eschete,

On behalf of the veterans in Lafourche Parish, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of your local Veterans' Service Offices. Without the contributions from your municipality, we would be unable to assist the 4,077 veterans and their families living in your community with accessing the benefits they have earned by their selfless service to our country.

As the new Deputy Assistant Secretary of Benefits for LDVA, I am working hard to improve our Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) program. Starting this year, we are aligning the periods of service in the CEAs with the variety of fiscal years of the municipalities we serve, and we anticipate sending out future agreements in time for them to be incorporated in your budget decision process. We thank you for your patience during this complex transition, and ask that you continue your current level of support until this CEA takes effect on January 1, 2019.

Not only do our Veterans' Assistance Counselors (VACs) dramatically change the lives of their clients, but they also have a profound impact on the economies of the communities they serve. For instance, in Fiscal Year 2016, your local service offices helped to bring \$15,281,000 in VA Compensation and Pension payments to Lafourche Parish, contributing to a state-wide total of \$1.35 billion. That represents an average return on investment of \$1,120 for every dollar contributed by Louisiana's local governments!

We look forward to continuing this beneficial collaboration in the new fiscal year starting January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. Enclosed, please find an updated CEA for your review and signature. In addition, we have included an explanation of how the contribution amount was determined. Once you have signed both copies of the agreement, please return one of the originals to us.

Once again, LDVA thanks you for your continuing commitment to Louisiana's veterans, and we look forward to working with you to serve those who have done so much for us!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Vanessa J. Melancon in blue ink.

Vanessa J. Melancon
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Benefits



COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE CITY OF THIBODAUX
AND
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

THIS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT is made and entered into on August 15, 2018, by and between the CITY OF THIBODAUX, hereafter referred to as Parish/Municipality, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana represented by Thomas G. Eschete, Mayor, and the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (hereafter referred to as LDVA), a state agency within the Executive Branch of the State of Louisiana represented by its Secretary, Joey Strickland.

ARTICLE I

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes, including but not limited to La R.S. 29:260-262, as amended and reenacted, specifically provides enabling legislation for LDVA to estimate and recover part of the operations cost of parish Veterans' Service Offices. Specifically, La. R.S. 29:260-262 provides that LDVA shall not contribute more than seventy-five percent (75%) for the operation and maintenance of such parish Veterans' Service Offices; that police juries and municipal governing authorities may make appropriations out of funds for the purpose of providing or assisting in providing for the maintenance and operation of Veterans' Service Offices established by LDVA; that police juries and municipal governing authorities shall provide office space for the operation of Veterans' Service Offices established by LDVA pursuant to law; and the cost of providing such office space shall not be considered as any payment or contribution required toward the expense of operation and maintenance of such Veterans' Service Office space.

ARTICLE II

WHEREAS, Parish/Municipality desires to support local veterans and improve their access to benefits and services by providing for both the cost to maintain and operate Veterans' Service Offices and space to house such service offices as provided by law.

ARTICLE III

WHEREAS, LDVA, whose physical office is located at 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70802, and whose official mailing address is P.O. Box 94095, Capitol Station, Baton

Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9095, received funds in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to provide such services to veterans in Parish/Municipality.

ARTICLE IV

WHEREAS both LDVA and Parish/Municipality desire to memorialize their respective fiscal, operational and maintenance obligations relative to the establishment of Veterans' Service Offices in Parish/Municipality,

NOW THEREFORE, LDVA and Parish/Municipality, each having authority to do so, agree as follows:

I. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES.

A. Obligations of LDVA

1. LDVA shall provide information to veterans residing in or near Parish/Municipality and their dependents through various outlets including but not limited to the news media, internet, reading materials and personal consultation about benefits to which they are entitled, including medical services, compensation, pension programs, education, home loans, employment, benefits of patients in a nursing home, insurance benefits, referrals to housing and mental health providers and last interment benefits.
2. LDVA shall provide a highly-trained Veterans Assistance Counselor at said service offices.
3. LDVA shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Parish Veterans' Service Offices are staffed, excluding applicable holidays, training periods, inclement weather closures, etc., as follows:
 - a. Thibodaux: three (3) day(s) per week on the following day(s), to wit: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and
 - b. Mathews: two (2) day(s) per week on the following day(s), to wit: Tuesday and Thursday.
4. LDVA will notify Parish/Municipality of closures as soon as the determination to close the affected office is made.
5. LDVA shall designate a contract monitor to ensure that the parties meet their obligations described herein and identify said person, along with their mailing address, email address and phone number to Parish/Municipality.

B. Obligations of Parish/Municipality

1. Parish/Municipality shall provide office spaces for the Veterans' Service Offices that offer a safe location for LDVA employees and clients, space for private client interviews, secure storage of client files, and accessibility

for disabled visitors. Said spaces shall be located at the following addresses:

- a. 303 West 3rd Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301
 - b. 4879 Highway 1, Mathews, Louisiana 70375
2. Parish/Municipality shall provide for all utilities, as well as 34.73% of phone and Internet service costs, as part of its obligation to provide space for the Veterans' Service Offices.
 3. Parish/Municipality shall provide funding to LDVA in the amount described herein to support the cost to operate and maintain the Veterans' Service Offices.

II. FUNDING AND REPORTING

A. Compensation and Disbursement

1. Parish/Municipality shall contribute to the support of the Veterans' Service Offices for the term defined in Paragraph III of Article IV in this Agreement by paying LDVA a total of \$9,538.60 in minimum monthly payments of \$794.88.
2. Parish/Municipality shall make payments by check or electronic means only, payable to LDVA. Prior to making the first payment, Parish/Municipality shall select its preferred method and communicate the choice to LDVA as provided in Paragraph IX of Article IV in this Agreement.

B. Invoicing

1. LDVA shall submit to Parish/Municipality an invoice for the minimum payment described herein no later than the 15th of each month.
2. Parish/Municipality shall remit payment to LDVA no later than 30 days after receipt of this invoice.

C. Reporting

1. LDVA shall provide Parish/Municipality a quarterly operations report on the number of veteran contacts and claims processed that period.
2. LDVA shall also include within that quarterly report any additional information that might assist in communicating and demonstrating the positive impact to the community of the services provided by LDVA.

III. TERM

A. This Cooperative Endeavor Agreement shall be in effect from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019.

IV. TERMINATION

A. Parish/Municipality may terminate this Agreement at any time during the term of the Agreement by giving the Contractor written notice of its intention to terminate at least thirty (30) days before the intended date of termination. The Parish/Municipality must provide the reason for termination and reason why it cannot comply with the Louisiana Revised Statutes referenced above. Upon termination by the Parish/Municipality or the failure of Parish/Municipality to meet its obligations defined herein, LDVA may close the Veterans' Service Offices operated in Parish/Municipality.

V. CONTROLLING LAW

A. The validity, interpretation, and performance of this Agreement shall be controlled by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana.

VI. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

A. LDVA and Parish/Municipality shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including, specifically, but without limitation, the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (R.S. 42:1101, *et seq.*), in carrying out the provisions of this Agreement.

VII. PUBLIC LIABILITY/INDEMNIFICATION

A. Each party shall indemnify and save harmless the other party, its officers, agents, employees, contractors and assigns against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, demands, suits, causes of action, damages, and judgments of any sums of money to any party accruing against the other party, its officers, agents, employees, contractors and assigns, growing out of, resulting from, or by reason of any act or omission of the indemnifying party, its officers, or employees while engaged in, upon or about, or in connection with the discharge or performance of the terms of this Agreement or the operation, maintenance and use of the Veterans' Service Offices.

B. Nothing herein is intended, nor shall be deemed to create a third-party beneficiary to or for any obligation by any party hereto or to authorize any third person to have any action against any party hereto arising out of this Agreement.

VIII. SEVERABILITY

A. If any term, covenant, condition, or provisions of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall, at any time or to any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement, or the application of such term, covenant, condition or provision to persons or

circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each term, covenant, condition, and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and be enforced to the fullest extent of the law.

IX. NOTICES

A. Legal notices to the parties shall be mailed to the following person and addresses via certified United States mail, to wit:

1. LDVA:

Homer F. Rodgers
Undersecretary
Louisiana Department Veterans Affairs
P. O. BOX 94095 Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

2. CITY OF THIBODAUX:

Thomas G. Eschete
Mayor
P.O. Box 5418
Thibodaux, LA 70302

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Cooperative Agreement on the day, month and year first written above.

SIGNATURES

CITY OF THIBODAUX

BY: _____

Thomas G. Eschete, Mayor

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

BY:  _____

Homer F. Rodgers, Undersecretary



City of Thibodaux Cooperative Agreement Summary, 2018-2019

	Veterans' Service Offices Yearly Expenses	Municipality Contribution (0.27%)
Salaries & Benefits:	\$3,138,556.00	\$8,626.77
Travel	\$93,685.00	\$248.87
Supplies	\$54,500.00	\$144.77
Postage, Equip. Maintenance	\$25,658.00	\$68.16
Telephone & Internet	\$96,453.00	\$120.72
IT Support/Software	\$40,628.00	\$107.92
Acquisitions	\$83,340.00	\$221.39
Total:	\$3,532,820.00	\$9,538.60

Economic Impact of Lafourche Parish Veterans' Service Offices:

\$15,281,000 in Compensation and Pension benefits for a veteran population of **4,077**.

(According to US Department of Veterans Affairs FY16 Summary of Expenditures)