

Chapter 2.54

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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2.54.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter 2.54, the following words, terms, and phrases shall mean as follows:

A. "Veterans Advisory Committee" and "committee" mean the Veterans Advisory Committee established and operated pursuant to this chapter 2.54.

B. "Veterans Service Officer" means the person appointed by the board of commissioners pursuant to ORS 408.410 to serve as the service officer to give aid and assistance to any veteran, the spouse or dependents of the veteran, in applying for all benefits and aid to which they are entitled by federal, state or local laws, rules and regulations.

C. "Board of Commissioners" and "board" mean the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

D. "Very close relative" means the widow, parent, adult son, and adult daughter of a veteran. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.020 Veterans Advisory Committee Established. The Veterans Advisory Committee is hereby created as an advisory body to assist and advise the Veterans Service Officer and the board of commissioners on matters upon which the Veterans Service Officer and/or the board request counsel, including:

A. To work with the Veterans Service Officer to insure that the needs of the veterans and their dependents and survivors who reside in this county are recognized and addressed in a timely and effective manner.

B. To review current issues affecting veterans and their dependents and survivors who reside in this county and to make recommendations relating to those issues.

C. To review current operations of the office of the Veterans Service Officer and to make recommendations concerning the operation of any part of the office.

D. To make recommendations for the establishment or revision of programs and entitlements for veterans.

E. To make recommendations to the board of commissioners on amendments to this chapter.

F. To review and make recommendations on the annual budget as prepared by the Veterans Service Officer for submission to the board of commissioners and the Douglas County Budget Committee. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.030 Composition.

A. The committee shall be composed of nine members. All members shall be veterans or very close relatives of veterans, provided however that no more than two members at a time may be very close relatives of veterans. The Board of commissioners shall endeavor to appoint committee members that represent military service in as many different wars and conflicts, branches of services, and eras of peacetime service, as possible. (Ord 2010-02-03 dated 3-3-2010)

B. Committee members shall be appointed by the board of commissioners by board order.

C. Committee members shall serve for two year terms and may be reappointed upon expiration of the member's term. Except that in order to create a staggered membership, for the first committee memberships five members shall serve an initial term of two years and four members shall serve an initial term of one year as designated in the board's first appointment order.(Ord 2010-02-03 dated 3-3-2010)

D. Members may be removed by the board of commissioners with or without cause.

E. If a member is removed by the board of commissioners or resigns from the committee, any replacement member shall serve for the remainder of the term of the member being replaced.

F. The committee shall annually select a chairperson and a vice chairperson. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003; Ord 04-2-1 § 1,2004)

2.54.040 Meetings.

A. The committee shall meet at least quarterly and upon the call of the Veterans Service Officer and/or the board.

B. All meetings and minutes of meetings of the committee shall be subject to the Oregon Public Meetings Law, ORS 192.610 to 192.690.

C. All records of the committee shall be subject to the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.410 to 192.505.

D. A quorum of the committee shall consist of five members.

E. The business of the committee shall require an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the quorum. In other words, if five members are present at a meeting, then the voting requirement is three affirmative votes; if six or seven members are present, then four; and if eight or nine are present, then five. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.050 Compensation and Expenses. Committee members shall not be entitled to either compensation or expense reimbursement. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.060 Restrictions on Authority of the Committee. Except as specifically provided in this chapter, the committee shall have no executive or administrative powers. The board of commissioners reserves exclusive authority to approve or enter into contracts on behalf of the county and to delegate contracting authority to county officers and agents. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.070 Tort Claims. Within the limits of, and subject to all of the terms, conditions, and restrictions of, the Oregon Tort Claims Act, ORS 30.260 to 30.300, and the Oregon Constitution, committee members shall be deemed to be agents of the county for tort claims. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)

2.54.080 Government Ethics. Committee members shall be deemed to be public officials for purposes of the Government Standards and Practices Law, ORS chapter 244. (Ord. 03-4-3 § 1, 2003)