

**Veterans Service Officer Recommendations  
Presented to Tyler County Commissioners Court**

Approximately 1,560 Veterans reside in Tyler County (6.9% of county population). The County is currently without a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) due to retirement.

**Recommendations:**

- Move forward with posting the job vacancy/job description on the Tyler County website, with the goal to have a VSO in place by October 1.
- According to S.B. 601, "In appointing an officer, the commissioners court shall give preference to a veteran who qualifies for a veteran's employment preference under Chapter 657. A commissioners court shall adopt and implement a county policy to give preference in appointing officers to veterans." (Gov't. Code Chapter 434, Sec. 434.033, Item b-1)
- Submit an article to the Booster to announce the County's search for a VSO.
- Establish a screening/interview/advisory committee to assist with the selection process and to advise the VSO after appointment (Commissioner Nash, Judge's designee, VFW rep, American Legion rep, and other VSO/TVC rep).
- Maintain the existing office located in the Emergency Operations Center.
- Increase office hours from 20 hours each week (M-F, 8:00 am–noon) to 26 hours each week (add Tu/Th, 1:00-4:00 pm), with the office staffed by the VSO and Administrative Assistant whenever the office is open. Commissioners Court determines the schedule that will meet the needs of its county's veterans.
- Require the VSO to complete certification training within one month of appointment.
- Require the VSO to work at least 1,000 hours per year to be accredited (desired).
- Require the VSO to submit a written monthly report to Commissioners Court that includes numbers of veterans/others seen in the office, van rides provided, claims initiated, claims submitted to TVC, and other relevant information.
- Support an extensive outreach initiative to inform county veterans of benefits, services, discounts, networking opportunities, etc.