### STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2025 Regular Agenda

# **Subject**

Land acquisition by the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners on behalf of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

## **Question Presented**

Shall the Land Board approve the land acquisition on behalf of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

# **Background**

Idaho Code Title 65, Chapters 1 & 2, and Title 66, Chapter 9 supports Idaho Division of Veterans Services (IDVS) operating Idaho State Veterans Cemeteries.

The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise was established in 2004. Since then, approximately 8,000 veterans have been buried or inurned in the cemetery. There has been a recent increase in the number of requests for burial services.

Due to the increased requests of Veteran burial services, the current remaining casket, columbarium wall, in-ground urn burial, and scatter garden memorials are estimated to be full and unavailable to continue burial service in approximately eight years.

IDVS does not have statutory authority to acquire and hold new lands. Therefore, IDVS is requesting that the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) hold title to the real property for IDVS' use as a veterans' cemetery. The property is described and shown in Attachments 1 and 2.

#### **Discussion**

The 2024 Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill S1410, which, in part, allocated Three Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,950,000) for the purchase of additional land for the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

This request for additional land at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise will ensure that Idaho's Veterans and their families continue to have access to their Veteran burial benefits of a dignified and honorable burial site in the state of Idaho. The additional land will provide the necessary burial plots for casket, columbarium, in-ground urns, and scatter garden memorials for approximately another 40 years once developed. If not approved, all available burial plots will

be filled in approximately eight years and Veteran burial operations will cease at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise.

IDVS has been working with representatives of Dry Creek Cemetery, which owns the only land adjacent to the existing cemetery that is available for cemetery expansion. The IDVS and Dry Creek Cemetery have agreed on a purchase price of Three Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,950,000) for an approximately 15.5-acre parcel adjacent to the existing cemetery property.

IDVS has procured and reviewed copies of the survey, environmental site assessment and preliminary title commitment. IDVS has not identified any environmental or title issues affecting the proposed use.

## Recommendation

As land trustee, approve the land acquisition on behalf of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

### **Board Action**

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Property Survey
- 2. Property Location Map



