

Virginia Military Institute Improve and Enhance UMA Facilities

Description:

VMI requests one-time Unique Military Activities (UMA) State general funds of \$750,000 in FY 2026 to fund improvements and enhancements to UMA facilities including (1) purchase of new laundry equipment, (2) Modification of space in the Infirmary to modify a female ward to expand capabilities, and (3) purchase new band instruments for the VMI Regimental Band.

The VMI Laundry processes over 13,000 pounds of laundry weekly when the Corps is in residence. All but two of the existing 13 dryers were manufactured in the 1950s and are well beyond their useful life. These are steam powered dryers and parts to repair them must be specially manufactured, or we must use other methods to repair the dryers. The Institute needs to replace these dryers with 7 large (70-to-80-pound capacity) and 6 small double stack dryers (30–40-pound capacity each). The estimated cost for purchase and installation of the new dryers is approximately \$150,000.

The VMI Infirmary currently has two wards for male cadets, one for cadets with contagious illnesses (Flu, COVID, etc.) and one for male cadets with non-contagious conditions (sprains, etc.) who need to remain in the Infirmary for observation. The Infirmary has only one ward for female cadets so currently there is no capability to segregate contagious female cadets from non-contagious female cadets who need to remain in the Infirmary for observation. This funding would be used to construct a second ward for female cadets within the existing footprint of the Infirmary facility.

Many of the band instruments utilized by the VMI Regimental Band are well beyond their useful life both in functionality and appearance. The Regimental Band performs throughout the year both on-Post and off-Post and serves as ambassadors for VMI and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Performances include weekly parades at VMI and off-Post events such as Gubernatorial and Presidential Inaugurals.

Consequences of not funding/Justification:

If not funded, VMI must pass these costs along to cadets and/or re-allocate funds from other programs resulting in degradation to those programs.

Alternatives considered (must list at least one):

There are no other alternatives to consider outside of continuing to operate the Laundry with obsolete equipment, continuing to house non-contagious female cadets with contagious female cadets, and requiring the band to perform with old and in some cases marginally functioning instruments.

Explanations and Methodologies:

Costs are based on actual and estimated purchase/construction costs.