

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Claiborne County Veterans Service Office
PO Box 584
Tazewell, TN 37879

August 4, 2026

Memo For: County Mayor

SUBJECT: Significant Actions Report July 2026

In July 2026, I worked 14 of 14 scheduled days. I had 56 veterans (and/or family members) in the office. Some of these veterans had claims that had been submitted and were approved while other veterans were assisted in getting a Service Connection increase in their disability. I also offered the veterans other information on the additional benefits that may have become available to them because of their age or other benefits that may be available to them as their Service-Connected disability percentage was increased, which put them in line for other benefits. I also add or remove dependents.

In most cases, the veterans' healthcare and pharmacy benefits are changed if they are put in a higher priority group in VA Healthcare if their disability changes, or their disability percentage is increased. Sometimes as their declining health conditions worsen with age there are other benefits that may become available. Some veterans were in the office to file a completely new claim for disabilities and others made applications for VA healthcare. I had several veterans report that their claim had been approved or they had received an increase in their benefits. This is the most rewarding part of my position. I had several veterans call or come in to tell me that they were approved for 100% service-connected pay increase. This opens the door for dental care and dependents healthcare through Champ VA Healthcare which the dependents can keep until up to age 21 and the spouse can keep this healthcare the rest of their life.

I helped with another 31-veteran request with telephone calls or emails, including fax correspondence with information/planning etc. This office served 43 veterans (and families) with service-connected disabilities ranging from 10%- 100% along with healthcare, DIC and pension claims. Issues with these veterans are varied and sometimes complex because the VA changes or updates policies and procedures.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins, announced in July that backlogs of veteran claims had been reduced to 11.6% that was older than 125 days. Five years ago, that same backlog stood at 70%

On July 13 I received training in dealing with the ageing population of veteran claims. Suicide rates are higher with older veterans. Also covered was Medicaid and serving veterans in rural areas and the stigma sometimes attached to mental health issues of veterans.


Gary Hansard
VSO Claiborne County

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

JULY 2026

JULY 1 Cleaned Courthouse and Mayor's Office, sprayed doorknobs, handrails, and benches with disinfectant spray. Collected trash at the courthouse. Put lights around the columns on the front of the courthouse. Stocked supply closet and took a case of paper from Mayor's Office to Clerk & Master's Office.

JULY 2 Cleaned Courthouse and Mayor's Office. Sprayed doorknobs, handrails, and benches with disinfectant spray. Used lawn blower to remove grass around the Courthouse. Took a case of paper from the Mayor's Office to County Clerk's Office. Collected trash at the Courthouse, 4H Office, Chamber of Commerce, Library, Finance Office, Election Office and Family Justice Center.

JULY 3 Independence Day Observed

JULY 6 Cleaned Courthouse and County Mayor's Office. Sprayed doorknobs, handrails, and benches with disinfectant spray. Collected trash at the courthouse, as well as, picked up trash around the courthouse grounds left from the weekend celebration. Washed out 5 trash cans, and retrieved lights, blocks, and extension cords off of ledge.

JULY 7 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse. Mowed and trimmed at Election Office, Courthouse, Homeland Security, and Family Justice Center. Collected trash at Finance and hauled to the Convenience Center.

JULY 8 Cleaned and Sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse and collected trash there. Ran errand to Walmart for office supplies and ran errands back and forth to the Finance Office. Prepared mop and water for Register of Deeds and took supplies to the Finance Office.

JULY 9 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse. Changed light bulb in Courthouse Foyer. Collected trash at the Courthouse. Moved boxes for Election office from upstairs to downstairs. Took supplies to County Clerk's Office Restroom. Took tables from Finance to Family Justice Center & took trash to Convenience Center.

JULY 10 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse. Collected trash at the courthouse and 4H office building. Took trash 3 times to Convenience Center. Took 2 tables and chairs from Family Justice Center to Old Hunger Ministry building. Collected trash at Library, Family Justice Center, Chamber of Commerce, 4H Office, Election Building, and Finance Office.

JULY 13 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor. Swept and mopped second floor. Collected trash at the courthouse. Took books for Register of Deeds to third floor for storage. Stocked utility closet and hauled off microwave to the Convenience Center for the Driver's License Office.

JULY 14 Cleaned, mopped, and buffed the floors of the Courthouse. Took supplies to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Set up canopy at the Library and changed two light bulbs for them. Mowed at the Election Office Building, Courthouse, Homeland Security, and the Family Justice Center. Collected trash at the Finance Office. Took down the canopy at the Library. Made two trips to the Convenience Center. Moved three filing cabinets at the Finance Office.

JULY 15 Cleaned the Courthouse and sanitized. Checked and changed the AC unit. Assembled 6 tables for the Family Justice Center. Hauled trash off from the Family Justice Center and the Chamber of Commerce to the Convenience Center.

JULY 16 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the courthouse. Collected trash at the Courthouse. Put out Early Vote Signs at South Claiborne Fire Dept., the Election office, and Harrogate City Hall. Collected trash at the 4H office.

JULY 17 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the courthouse. Replaced 4 light bulbs at Chancery Court Clerk's Office. Picked up supplies for the Election Office. Took black trash bags to the 4H office. Collected trash at courthouse, 4H office, Family Justice

Center, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Finance Dept, and took two loads to the Convenience Center.

July 20 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse. Replaced two light bulbs at the Finance Department. Worked on HVAC in Trooper Building. Took trash to the Convenience Center.

JULY 21 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor. Collected trash at the Courthouse, Election Office Finance Office and took it to the Convenience Center. Stocked Supply Closet and replaced soap in Men's restroom.

JULY 22 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor, and moped all the bathrooms of the Courthouse. Took trash to the Convenience Center, and took files in seven totes from Finance to storage.

JULY 23 Cleaned and Sanitized first and second floor. Collected trash at Courthouse, mowed around Election office, Courthouse, and Homeland Security, and used the weed eater also. Set up Juror Room for Jury trial. Collected trash bags for Register of Deeds Office. Went and got gasoline for the lawnmowers.

JULY 24 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the Courthouse. Mowed Family Justice Center. Weed eat and blew off everything at Election Office, Courthouse, Homeland Security, and Family Justice Center. Collected trash at Family Justice Center, Library, Change Claiborne, Chamber of Commerce, 4H, Election Office, and Finance. Took two loads of trash to the Convenience Center and took supplies to Finance.

JULY 27 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor of the courthouse. Collected trash at the courthouse. Worked on electrical problem at the Election office. Worked on HVAC Unit for Maintenance Office, and took trash to the Convenience Center.

JULY 28 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor. Swept both staircases. Collected trash at the Courthouse, Election Office and Finance Office. Took supplies to Clerk & Master's Office, and stocked supply closet. Got supplies from A-Z and put out stock. Took trash to Convenience Center.

JULY 29 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor. Hung door on the 3rd floor. Took supplies to the Election Office. Collected trash at the Courthouse and the Chamber of Commerce. Worked on HVAC unit in Circuit Court Judge's Office and took trash to the Convenience Center.

JULY 30 Cleaned and sanitized first and second floor. Mowed and used the weedeater at the Courthouse, Election Office, Family Justice Center, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Finance Office, and took the trash to the Convenience Center.

JULY 31 Courthouse closed for funeral services of Mayor Joe Brooks.