KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

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TO: Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants
Hospital Service Coordinators

FROM: Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: September 10, 2026

SUBJECT: 2027 DAV Transportation Network & Columbia Trust vehicle request application

We're pleased to announce the availability of vehicles in conjunction with the DAV Transportation Network. Attached is the DAV Transportation Network Vehicle Information Summary, which includes a description, total cost and minimum shared expense requirements. The vehicles available for 2027 are listed below:

- Ford Explorer RWD 7-Passenger
- Ford Explorer 4WD 7-Passenger
- Ford Transit Wagon Van (T-350) RWD 12-Passenger
- Ford Transit Wagon Van (T-350) AWD 12-Passenger

The value of this program and the impact it can have on veterans' lives is amazing; however, we must be very thoughtful in determining the best use of these resources when it comes to placing vehicles. As such, there are some very important factors that interested applicants must consider:

1. Do you have a **current** availability of drivers to operate a new, replacement or additional vehicle?

2. Have you verified **with complete confidence** that your Department of Veterans Affairs medical center director will accept a donated vehicle?

3. As you review this document, please note that minimum shared expenses are determined annually based upon fleet pricing received from Ford Motor Co.

4. Departments and chapters are encouraged whenever possible to pay the full cost of the vehicle(s). However, when sufficient financial resources aren't available, the National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust may assist with a grant. Accordingly, an entity applying for a grant must have submitted its current Annual Financial Report (AFR). If the 2025-2026 AFR is not submitted, the grant application will not be reviewed.

Included are the Columbia Trust instructions and guidelines for submitting online grant applications, should departments and chapters wish to receive a vehicle. The application deadline, even if participating departments or chapters are paying the full cost, is 4:30 p.m. Eastern time on **Friday, Oct. 9, 2026.** Each grant request is reviewed individually. The final determination is based upon a demonstrated need and the financial resources available to the respective departments and chapters.

This is a critical program for veterans in need. Please don't apply if you:

- **Can't guarantee the funds for the minimum share requirement**
- **Don't have committed, approved volunteer drivers**
- **Don't have permission from your medical center director**
- **Don't have an immediate need for a vehicle**

The last day to be considered for a grant is Oct. 9, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. Any vehicle request submitted after this date will be subject to availability from Ford, require approval by the voluntary services director, and MUST BE PAID IN FULL.

If your application for DAV Transportation Network vehicles is approved, your department's or chapter's cost share must be received no later than **Friday, Feb. 19, 2027**. Please don't send any payment until you've received your final approval letter. **Checks may be returned if they're received before final approval.**

Please contact the voluntary services supervisor at 859-441-7300, ext. 3235, or at vavs@dav.org if you have any questions concerning the 2027 DAV Transportation Network program.

Questions regarding the Columbia Trust grant/vehicle application can be directed to the National Service Foundation by phone at 859-441-7300, option 6, then press 2, or by email at nsf@dav.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this vital service program.



Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant

BAJ:sld
Attachments

cc: Dr. Matthew Eitutis, Director, VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement
Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Central Office, Washington, D.C.

2027 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLE INFORMATION SUMMARY

The DAV Transportation Network program (DAV TN) provided more than 230,232 rides to veterans at no cost in 2025. As of 2026, 3,963 vehicles have been purchased and donated to the Department of Veterans Affairs and have been used to transport veterans to and from medical centers to access the care they have earned. Since the program's inception, our dedicated volunteer drivers have traveled 770,318,964 miles. The contributions made by departments and chapters to this most worthwhile program have been the major factor in the program's success.

Please remember that before submitting the 2027 DAV TN Vehicle Application, you must verify that senior leadership at your local VA medical center is willing to accept the donation for use in conjunction with the DAV TN conducted at their facility.

Specifications and minimum expense share requirement amounts for each of the vehicles that will be available for purchase in 2027.

Additionally, a limited number of four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles will be available **only** to those departments and chapters that encounter hazardous road conditions while driving DAV TN routes, which necessitate their use. Each request for a four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicle will be carefully reviewed to verify the need. Following this review, we may ask that departments and chapters amend their order, request additional information or provide other feedback.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

DESCRIPTION	FULL COST	DEPARTMENT/CHAPTER MINIMUM SHARE (for 2027 only)
2027 Ford Explorer 7-Passenger	$38,770.00	$21,324.00

<u>2027 Explorer Features:</u>
Engine – 2.3-liter EcoBoost
Transmission – 10-speed automatic with SelectShift® capability
17.9-gallon fuel tank
119-inch wheelbase
Power-heated mirrors
Space Gray unique cloth seats
Rearview camera

DESCRIPTION	FULL COST	DEPARTMENT/CHAPTER MINIMUM SHARE (for 2027 only)
2027 Ford Explorer 4x4 7-Passenger	$40,762.00	$22,419.00

2027 Explorer 4x4 Features:
Engine – 2.3-liter EcoBoost
Transmission – 10-speed automatic with SelectShift® capability
17.9-gallon fuel tank
119-inch wheelbase
Space Gray unique cloth seats
Rearview camera

DESCRIPTION	FULL COST	DEPARTMENT/CHAPTER MINIMUM SHARE (for 2027 only)
2027 Ford Transit (T-350) 12-Passenger	$62,078.00	$34,143.00

2027 Transit (T-350) Features:
Engine – 3.5-liter PFDI V6
Transmission – 10-speed SelectShift® automatic overdrive
25-gallon fuel tank
148-inch long wheelbase
Medium roof
Palazzo Gray cloth seats
Rearview camera
Back-up alarm

DESCRIPTION	FULL COST	DEPARTMENT/CHAPTER MINIMUM SHARE (for 2027 only)
2027 Ford Transit (T-350) AWD 12-Passenger	$68,332.00	$37,583.00

2027 Transit (T-350) AWD Features:
Engine – 3.5-liter EcoBoost
Transmission – 10-speed SelectShift® automatic overdrive
25-gallon fuel tank
148-inch long wheelbase
Medium roof
Palazzo Gray cloth seats
Rearview camera
Back-up alarm

THE COLUMBIA TRUST
DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLE APPLICATION

Instructions for Application

If you're a first-time user, please review the below instructions to access the online grant/vehicle request system:

1. Navigate to dav.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp.
2. DAV department leaders (adjutants and commanders) must select "Request Password" to receive credentials and enter the email address used for your membership record.
3. Once the password request is submitted, you will receive a "Forgot Password Notification" email containing the link to reset your password.
4. Follow the instructions outlined in the "Forgot Password Notification" email. Please retain the password for future use.
5. Upon creating the password, if it doesn't automatically log you in, navigate to the SmartSimple login page and sign in using your email address as your username and entering your new password.
6. Once logged in, select "Funding Opportunities" and proceed accordingly.
7. Once you start an application, select "In Progress" to continue your in-progress application. Do **not** start a new application by selecting "Funding Opportunities."

Guidelines to navigate the grant application:

- Use the NEXT button in the bottom right corner of the screen to advance to the next tab.
- Use the Save button to save your answers.
- Some of the information is copied directly from your organization and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed isn't current, contact us at nsf@dav.org to update your organization and user profiles before completing and submitting the form.
- If you wish to communicate with staff regarding your application, use the Notes tab located in the left-side menu.
- You can view your responses by clicking on the Application Summary button.
- Please note that only one person can be in the application at a time. If you access the application and another user is currently active, you will see a "record is locked" note at the bottom of the page.
- Multiple vehicle requests can be included within one application under the department's record.

Contact Information

Verify the name and telephone number of the authorized contact person to exchange information regarding the grant/vehicle request. If it's a different name, answer "No" to update the information.

Check the box to verify that the vehicle(s) will be donated to one or more Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in accordance with the DAV Transportation Network program and confirm that each center director agrees to accept the vehicle(s).

Ensure that a current Annual Financial Report (AFR) is on file at DAV National Headquarters in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the National Bylaws. Please note that applications for a Columbia Trust grant can't be considered until the AFR has been filed and approved by national headquarters. If a department is applying on behalf of its chapter(s), both AFRs are required if financial assistance is requested. Multiple documents can be uploaded in the online grant system.

Project Information
Please note that separate entries must be completed based on the vehicle type and VA medical center location.

Instructions to complete the Project Information tab:

1. Under the Vehicle Request, select the plus sign to add each vehicle request.
2. Select the vehicle type and enter the quantity requested.
3. Select the VA facility—a drop-down of VA facilities will be displayed, but the list can be narrowed down after typing the first letter of the facility.
4. Check the box to verify the vehicle(s) will be parked at the VA medical center. If not, provide the parking location information.
5. Select the department's name and check the box to indicate whether the department is applying on behalf of its chapter.
    - Department leaders are required to apply on behalf of the department's chapter(s) but can request collaborators, specifically chapter leaders, to assist through the Invitations tab within the application. This process allows department leaders to control who can access the application(s) while also not being responsible for filling out the vehicle requests for the chapter(s).
    - Use the Invitations tab on the left to request individuals to collaborate on the application.
    - The collaborators will receive an email invitation from the system once the collaboration role is initiated. The collaborator can then log in to assist with the application but will be unable to submit the application. Only the primary contact (department leader) can submit the application.
6. Select the Enter Share Amount button and indicate the amounts that are being contributed toward the purchase of the vehicle(s). The amounts should be the maximum each source can contribute based upon financial availability.
7. When filling out the Proposed Share Amount(s) section, refer to the Minimum Share referenced in the vehicle description.

    For your reference:

    - 2027 Minimum Share Amounts
        - Ford Explorer RWD 7-Passenger: $21,324
        - Ford Explorer 4WD 7-Passenger: $22,419
        - Ford Transit Wagon Van (T-350) RWD 12-Passenger: $34,143
        - Ford Transit Wagon Van (T-350) AWD 12-Passenger: $37,583
    - If more than one chapter is involved with purchasing the vehicle(s), itemize each chapter's contribution individually.
    - In the last column of the Proposed Share Amount(s) section, itemize any funds being provided from other sources, such as Auxiliary units or community sources.
    - Select the Save button and then the Close button.
8. Select the Request button. Select X (upper right corner) and repeat the process for additional vehicle requests, as needed.
9. Check the box to confirm the funds will be available for the requested vehicles.

Application Certification
Guidelines to complete the Application Certification tab:

- Each individual chapter applying for or requesting a transportation vehicle through its respective department must complete and upload its own Certification Form with the proper signatures.
- If applying on behalf of a chapter, the chapter's current commander and adjutant must certify by signing on the appropriate lines.
- If the application is being submitted on behalf of a department, the department's commander and adjutant must certify by signing on the appropriate lines.
- Confirm that all forms are signed accordingly. Unsigned forms will be returned to the applicant, resulting in a processing delay.

Submission
Maintain a copy of all documents for your records by selecting the Application Summary button and downloading a copy of the application.

Please don't submit the application until **all** vehicle requests on behalf of the department and associated chapters have been requested. **Submit the completed application before 4:30 p.m. Eastern time on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026.**

As a reminder, only the primary contact can submit the application. The primary contact will receive an email confirming the submission, along with an attachment of the application. Please note that the Application Summary/Preview contains the information as requested and doesn't represent the final share amount(s). To reference the final share amount(s), you must review the award notification letter distributed by Voluntary Services.