

## **Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Brigade Budget Summary**

### **Historical Summary**

In March of 2024, a group of individuals came together to engage in conversation around a dream that Alisoin Michaels shared with those present - to restore and renovate the military graves in Oakwood Cemetery. Oakwood is included on Iowa's Registry of Historical sites and has over time, fallen into a state of disrepair. The shared goal of the group was to repair, restore the grave stones of military personnel, as well as other residents of the community and surrounding area. There are over 8,000 burials in the cemetery, but not all have markers.

The group was fortunate to have Lisa Lang, a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, as a local resource to assist in learning to clean the grave stones. Alison and several other members of the group attended a workshop sponsored by Atlas Preservation, sharing what they learned, as well as connecting with a resource for cleaning products and preservation knowledge.

As a volunteer group, funding and raising the money needed to support the work became one of the roles of the group.

### **Initial Fundraising**

Between April 2024 and January 2025, funds were generated through the raffle of a commemorative rifle , a chili cook-off and silent raffle, and the donations of persons interested in the project. Between April 2024 and January 2025, the group raised a total of \$12,213.97 .

### **Total Assets on Hand - \$12, 213.97**

<u>Calendar Year 2024-2025</u> Raffle of Commemorative Rifle, Donations	\$7,252.84
<u>Calendar Year 2025 to July 3, 2025</u> Chili Cook-off, silent auction, donations	\$4,961.13

Total number of Volunteers associated with the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Brigade: 30

Total number of stones cleaned, repaired to date: 177

Total number of stones restored: 36

**Expenditures to date:**

*NOTE: all expenses have been paid from the Parks and Rec account. Funds will be transferred from the Oakwood account to the Park and Rec account internally.*

Cement (repair, replace bases for headstones) 2 pallets @ \$350.00 each	\$700.00
D2 Biological Cleaner (for marble and granite headstones)  5 Gal. Bucket \$299.99 each x 2 1 Gal. Container \$49.99 each x 2	\$419.00 \$ 49.98
Epoxy Repair Kit (resetting broken stones, bases)  5 Kits ordered in bundle	\$ 23.40
Stone Cleaning Kits: Including bucket, brushes (2), plastic scraper, paint stick, garden pressure sprayer, gloves)  Donated. Approximate value each: \$40.00 x 6	\$240.00
Tuck pointing Grout (1 bag)	\$ 35.00
Lead, Contractor putty and grouting	\$380.00
Gravel (Leveling and stabilizing stones, uniform base prior to pouring new base)	Donated
Tripod with chain fall (Lumber and hardware donated by members of the group, assembled by group. Note - new, -commercially built - \$1200 and up.)	\$375.00
Commemorative Raffle for raffle	\$1,200.00
Professional Repair - 2 Stones (Beyond skills of group at time they were repaired)	\$1,350.00

**Total Expenses to date (July 1, 2025)****\$4772.38**

### **Approximate Cost of Repairs**

*Note: Cost is based on materials used and does not include the cost of labor. All labor is volunteer. Cost is based on evaluation of stone for needed repair.*

Base repaired or replaced, depending on size, scale of base	\$12 - \$15 per stone
Cleaning only	\$35 and up, depending on size/dimension of stone, age
Cleaning monument joints: repair, replace, tuck-pointing	\$35 - \$75 per stone, depending on size, dimension and damage to stone

Each stone is assessed for damage, and cost to repair is based on the combination of repairs needed. All work is volunteer, so there is no cost assessed to the Park and Rec Department or the family of the deceased.

The VA is contacted and markers for veterans whose military markers are missing are replaced.

Approximate value of all repairs to date (based on basic cleaning, leveling stone and minor repairs)  $\$95.00 - \$100.00 \times 177 = \$17,700$

Approximate value of restoration on 36 stones  $\times \$50$  (average) = \$1,800

Total value of all work completed by the Restoration Brigade - \$19,500.

Total value of restoration work - actual cost of materials and supplies = \$14, 727.62 saved through efforts of the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Brigade.

### **In-Kind Donations**

All labor related to cleaning and repair of stones, bases and cemetery grounds

Lumber for forms

Cleaning kits - made by volunteers prior to the availability of the materials donated by area businesses to begin cleaning

D2 cleaner - several volunteers purchased D2 in spray bottles (quarts) prior to availability of funds to purchase as group

Multiple businesses donated approximately \$4000 valuation of prizes for silent auction

Chili for cook-off, dessert, set-up and serving for chili cook-off

Tree removal donated by the City of Independence and Indy-tel

Eagles service organization donated profit from concession at the Cemetery Ghost walk hosted by the historical society.

Buchanan County Genealogical Society for information related to plots and history of Oakwood.