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would be eligible for appropriation next year. Now that is eligible, Senator, not a requirement, it would be eligible for appropriation next year.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would like to ask, I may have missed it in the opening, is there an established need? Is this like a national cemetery only on a state level and is there an established need for a state cemetery in Nebraska?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Our national veterans, we have one national veterans cemetery and it is rapidly filling. That is at Fort McPherson. And at Fort McPherson is not a completely convenient location for many veterans in the state. You know, we're geographically very large, and having a veterans cemetery available in the Panhandle and having an enhanced veterans cemetery available at Grand Island I think is a valid service that the state can render to veterans, especially when...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...the federal government will reimburse us in full for the construction costs. I realize there is still an issue about operations costs, but at Grand Island, we have a limited veterans cemetery. It's only...it's only available to you if you have resided in the Veterans Home there. So what's envisioned for Grand Island is an expansion of the existing facility.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And I would...right now then, it is available at McPherson for anyone and this, I assume veteran, and this would be another alternative for state veterans if we would have a state, but I was...what is the perceived cost of operation in the future? What kind of expenses might we be looking at for operations? Do you have any feel of that?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I really don't want to speculate on that. That depends on the size of the facility and the volume of activity at the facility. Those are two major variables, but in Box Butte County, for example, the city of Alliance...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Senator Wickersham, your light is next.