



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## EMS Committee | FY2024 EMS Equipment Grant Allocations and Application Review

September 19, 2023

10 AM – 11 AM

Zoom

Recording: <https://youtu.be/RWZT6KkJfHE>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT
Courtney Terwilliger, Chair, GTC Member	
Lee Oliver, Vice-Chair, Region Five	
Scott Stephens, Region One	
Jeff Adams, Region Two (via Zoom)	
Pete Quinones, Region Three   GTC Member	
Scott Roberts, Region Four (via Zoom)	
John Smith, Region Six (via Zoom)	
Duane Montgomery, Region Seven (via Zoom)	
Allen Owens, Region Eight (via Zoom)	
Brian Hendrix, Region Nine	
Huey Atkins, Region Ten	
Vic Drawdy, GTC Member (via Zoom)	
Jim Adkins, GTC Member	

OTHERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Elizabeth V. Atkins	Georgia Trauma Commission, Executive Director
Katie Hamilton	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gabriela Saye	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff
Gina Solomon	Georgia Trauma Commission, Staff

Courtney Terwilliger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, with nine out of thirteen committee members present. Jim Adkins, Allen Owen, and Vic Drawdy joined the call shortly after.

### **FY2024 EMS EQUIPMENT GRANT DISCUSSION**

Courtney Terwilliger stated the purpose of this meeting was to come to a consensus regarding current ambulance counts (**ATTACHMENT A**):

#### **1. Criteria for Counting Current Ambulances**

- The focus of the application is 911-zoned trucks. There is a challenge in distinguishing between dedicated trucks, services handling 911 calls, hospital transports, and general transport.
- The Office of EMS and Trauma (OEMST) provides the count of 911-licensed ambulances.

Concerns were raised regarding the unknown number of backup ambulances reported within the counts.

## 2. Peak, Backup, Spare Counts

- There is a need to determine an appropriate number of spare ambulances.
- Suggestions included considering peak staffing and adding a percentage of reserves.

## 3. Zone Provider versus Zone Holder

- Walker County Fire in Region 1 was discussed as an example of uncertainty whether they are a 911 Zone Provider. They still hold the ambulance license, and one truck is available for emergencies, similar to other counties that contract service providers.
- The State previously required the Zone Holder to have an ambulance, but that is no longer true.

The committee debated whether only 911 Zone Providers should be eligible for the grant. Some expressed concerns about county governments claiming the grant instead of service providers. The grant money is intended for vehicle equipment related to 911 services.

### MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-01:

**Motion to fund 911-Zone Providers, not 911-Zone Holders, with the EMS Equipment Grant.**

**MOTION BY:** Huey Atkins

**SECOND BY:** Duane Montgomery

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Jeff Adams, Scott Roberts, John Smith, Duane Montgomery, Allen Owens, Brian Hendrix, Huey Atkins, Vic Drawdy, Jim Adkins

**VOTING AGAINST:** Courtney Terwilliger, Lee Oliver, Scott Stephens

**ABSTAINED:** Pete Quinones

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with 9 in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstained

## 4. Region-by-Region Review

The committee reviewed ambulance counts by region on **ATTACHMENT A** and highlighted agencies that needed further clarification:

- **Region 1**-Walker County Fire: Determine if zone holder.
- **Region 2**-Central EMS: Determine why it is separated into two agencies. It was suggested they may have the same situation as Walker County Fire.
- **Region 3**-Atlanta Fire: There is a need to determine the number of ambulance staff at the airport and their role in supporting Grady.
- **Region 3**-Grady EMS: Confirm they are running 128 ambulances. The number could be pulled from the counties exiting from South Georgia.
- **Region 4**- Meriwether County EMS: Determine the number of spares in the count.
- **Region 5**- Grady EMS: To exit in November 2023. The committee clarified the reimbursement is intended for purchases after the grant has been awarded.
- **Region 10**-Northeast Georgia: Huey to verify if Barrow County is contracting on their behalf.

Katie Hamilton will send the highlighted agency notes, **ATTACHMENT B**, with Kelly Joiner for clarification.

## 5. Ambulance Count Formulas

- A proposal was made to determine the number of trucks based on documented 911 runs in the GEMSIS system. There is a need to collaborate with OEMST to explore the feasibility of this proposal.
- There was a suggestion to ask OEMST for each provider's actual volume of calls. There was uncertainty in the questions asked to providers to obtain the data.
- The committee discussed creating a formula to determine the number of ambulances eligible for the grant. Population serviced, time on task, and peak staffing levels were factors considered for the formula. It was agreed that more information was needed to determine an appropriate formula. It was suggested that each region's council meeting could inquire about peak staffing levels, as agencies would be less likely to exaggerate in a group setting.
- It was suggested the focus should be on peak staffing numbers to determine an equitable distribution. The group can then determine what percentage of funding should be allocated based on peak staffing amounts.

## 6. Upcoming Application Period

- Committee members discussed the upcoming application to include the collection of peak staffing and reserve data. An affidavit would be required to verify these numbers. A suggestion was made to consider a third-party audit to validate equipment placement and ensure accountability for the grant funds.
- The current amount of grant funds for distribution is \$1,123,932. The total amount will be divided by the total number of eligible ambulances.
- Courtney assigned Huey Atkins, Lee Oliver, and Brian Hendrix to work on drafting the wording for the upcoming application.

## **CONCLUSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

- Committee Approved: to fund 911-Zone Providers, not 911-Zone Holders, with the EMS Equipment Grant.
- Katie Hamilton will share region discrepancy concerns (**ATTACHMENT B**) with Kelly Joiner for clarification.
- The upcoming application process will entail:
  1. The application will be submitted with an affidavit, including the number of peak staffing and reserve trucks. Huey Atkins, Lee Oliver, and Brian Hendrix will draft the wording to be included in the application.
  2. After the count submission review, the EMS Committee will determine a formula for grant allotment. EMS agencies will be notified of the award amount and will submit another (second) affidavit, including a list of equipment with proof of purchase for reimbursement.

### **MOTION GTCNC EMS COMMITTEE 2023-09-02:**

#### **Motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION BY:** Jim Adkins

**SECOND BY:** Vic Drawdy

**VOTING:** All members are in favor of the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections nor abstentions

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes by G. Saye