

**APPROVED**  
**06.15.26**



# GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

## Georgia Trauma Commission Finance & Budget Committee

April 20, 2026

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting Documents Link](#)

Zoom Meeting

| COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT                      | COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT                      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Dennis Ashley, GTC Chair                   | Pete Quinones, Chair, GTC Secretary/Treasurer |
| Dr. James Dunne, GTC Member                    |                                               |
| Courtney Terwilliger, GTC Member               |                                               |
| Jesse Gibson, Northeast Georgia Medical Center |                                               |

| OTHERS PRESENT   | REPRESENTING                                 |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Atkins | GTC, Executive Director                      |
| Gina Solomon     | GTC, GQIP Director                           |
| Crystal Shelnutt | GTC, Regional Trauma Systems Development Mgr |
| Katie Vaughan    | GTC, Finance Operations Officer              |
| Gabriela Saye    | GTC, Business Operations Mgr                 |

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting commenced at 3:30 p.m. on April 20, 2026, with four committee members present, establishing a quorum. Katie Vaughan advised the Committee that the review of finance reference documents would be deferred and moved to the next agenda item.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Presented by Katie Vaughan*

Katie requested a motion to approve the March 16, 2026, meeting minutes.

**MOTION GTCNC FINANCE COMMITTEE 2026-04-01:**

**Motion to approve the March 16, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted**

**MOTION BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND BY:** Dr. James Dunne

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

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

### **FY2026 FINAL REALLOCATION PLAN**

*Presented by Katie Vaughan*

Katie reviewed the final reallocation plan (**ATTACHMENT A**) for approval, outlining the sources of unspent funds for reallocation, including operations, system development, EMS, and trauma center. It was clarified that unspent funds within the trauma center and EMS remain within their respective program areas. It was noted that the EMS Committee has voted on their reallocation plan, and trauma center funds are redistributed to trauma centers within the current fiscal year as additional readiness funding. Katie clarified that unspent funds are not rolled over indefinitely. Courtney Terwilliger added that the EMS Committee voted

to redirect unspent EMS funds to the established AVLS program, which will help offset the FY2027 budget.

Committee members asked for clarification on the calculations and distribution formulas, particularly the 80/20 split between trauma centers and EMS. Katie explained that unspent funds in the trauma center and EMS budgets remain and are distributed within their budget. Unspent funds within operations and system development, as well as fireworks revenue, are subject to the 80/20 split between trauma centers and EMS.

**MOTION GTCNC FINANCE COMMITTEE 2026-04-02:**

**Motion to approve the EMS portion of the FY2026 final reallocation plan**

**MOTION BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND BY:** James Dunne

Liz Atkins recommended approving the full final reallocation plan. Courtney Terwilliger amended his motion.

**AMENDED MOTION GTCNC FINANCE COMMITTEE 2026-04-02:**

**Motion to approve the FY2026 final reallocation plan**

**MOTION BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

**SECOND BY:** James Dunne

**DISCUSSION:** Dr. Dunne asked how the additional readiness funds would be distributed to the trauma centers. Katie confirmed they would be distributed based on the established distribution formulas. The discussion included concerns about equitable distribution to lower-level trauma centers, with an agreement to revisit the formula at a future meeting.

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

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections or abstentions

**FY2027 PROPOSED BUDGET**

*Presented by Katie Vaughan*

Katie presented the proposed FY2027 budget (**ATTACHMENT B**), with a detailed breakdown between the FY 2026 approved budget and the proposed FY2027 budget (**ATTACHMENT C**).

Key changes include:

- **Operations:** Reductions in administrative costs in DPH employer contributions to employee benefits. Modest increases in software expenses were noted based on historical trends.
- **System Development:** Most maintained at prior-year levels, including funding for the Rural Interactive Trauma Simulation (RITS).
- **EMS:** The budget has been approved by the EMS Committee, with programs that were delayed in FY2026 reintroduced in FY2027.
- **Trauma Center:** The budget breakdown will be available during the May Commission upon final budget approval.

Katie briefly displayed the following proposed budgets during the meeting:

- GQIP (**ATTACHMENT D**)
- Gina clarified Georgia Quality Improvement Program (GQIP) staffing, maintaining funding for two medical directors, and allowing flexibility for future hiring for the vacant Trauma Medical Director position.
- Georgia Trauma Foundation (**ATTACHMENT E**)
- Office of EMS and Trauma (**ATTACHMENT F**)

Dr. Dunne asked which agency the Georgia Trauma Commission would report to, given the new study committee exploring potential changes to the reporting structure. Liz Atkins explained that the study

committee's focus is on the Office of EMS and Trauma, not the Georgia Trauma Commission. Dr. Ashley added that the Georgia Trauma Commission is administratively attached to the Georgia Department of Public Health and reports directly to the legislature.

With no further discussion, a motion to approve the proposed budget was requested.

**MOTION GTCNC FINANCE COMMITTEE 2026-04-03:**

**Motion to accept the proposed FY2027 budget**

**MOTION BY:** Dr. James Dunne

**SECOND BY:** Jesse Gibson

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

**ACTION:** The motion **PASSED** with no objections or abstentions

**FY2026 RESIDUAL FUNDS**

Presented by Katie Vaughan

Katie opened a discussion on how to handle residual funds that may remain at the end of the fiscal year. She estimated the remaining amount will be under \$10,000 and proposed allocating it to the Stop the Bleed Program, allowing for timely encumbrance without requiring an additional meeting.

**MOTION GTCNC FINANCE COMMITTEE 2026-04-04:**

**Motion to allocate FY2026 residual funds to the Stop the Bleed Program**

**MOTION BY:** Dr. James Dunne

**SECOND BY:** Courtney Terwilliger

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

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

With no further business raised, the meeting adjourned.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT**

- The committee reviewed and approved the FY2026 final reallocation plan (**ATTACHMENT A**)
- The committee agreed to revisit the trauma center distribution formulas at a future meeting to ensure equitable distribution to Level III/IV centers.
- The committee reviewed and approved the FY2027 proposed budget (**ATTACHMENT B & C**)
  - Katie briefly displayed the following proposed budgets during the meeting:
    - GQIP (**ATTACHMENT D**)
    - Georgia Trauma Foundation (**ATTACHMENT E**)
    - Office of EMS and Trauma (**ATTACHMENT F**)
- The committee approved allocating FY2026 residual funds to the Stop the Bleed Program.

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Gabriela Saye*