

FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND



To the Members of the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

M. Dwayne Garriss

Chairman of the Board
Insurance and Safety Fire
Commissioner's Designee

David J. Bullard

Vice Chairman of the Board
Lieutenant
Columbia County
Fire Rescue
Active Member
Appointed by the Governor

Timothy S. Milligan

Trustee
Chief, City of Marietta
Fire Department
Active Member
Appointed by the Governor

Don T. Floyd

Trustee
Retired Chief
City of Covington
Fire Department
Retired Member
Appointed by the Governor

Cody C. Whitlock

Trustee
Chief Financial Officer
Georgia Department of
Community Health
Governor's Designee
Appointed by the Governor

BOARD COUNSEL

David C. Will, Esq.

Special Assistant
Attorney General
& Board Counsel
Founding Partner:
ROYAL—WILL Law Firms

The Board of Trustees and the Staff are pleased to present you with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Annual Report. Whether you are an active/inactive member, a retiree, or a beneficiary of the Fund, we encourage you to take the time to read this report. This document contains valuable statistical information on the membership of the Fund, the FY 2024 Financial Statement, and a breakout of the Fund's Investment Portfolio as of June 30th. Please note that the FY 2024 numbers provided in this report are unaudited.

Membership - Active membership numbers remained mostly flat during FY 2024, reducing by 0.1% to 13,748 members. The total number of retirees/beneficiaries grew by 3.7% to 7,239. This growth is very much in line 4% to 5% growth the Fund has experienced over the last 15 years. We do not expect that retire growth rate to change much in the next few years. The number of inactive members grew by 8% to 3,462.

Benefits - In FY2024 the Fund paid out to retirees and/or their beneficiaries, over \$68 Million in benefits. This was a 4.6% increase over the prior year. For FY2025, the Fund projects benefit payments to its retired members and their beneficiaries will be north of \$71 Million.

Revenue - Non-investment revenue was up during the year. Monthly dues receipts grew by 1.3% to \$4.18 Million. Insurance Premium Tax Receipts were a bright spot, growing by 9.3% to \$56.38 Million. Our expectations are that this tax revenue will continue to grow, but at a lower growth rate than 2024. We're projecting a growth rate of 5.0% for FY25.

Portfolio - The investment portfolio generated an 11.6% return for the 2024 Fiscal year. This exceeded the Fund's 5.75% assumed annual rate of return by almost 585 basis points.

The U.S. Domestic Stock Equity Markets benchmark (Russel 3000 Index) FY2024 return was 23.1% while the International Equity markets (ACWI ex-U.S. Index) returned just over 12.2%. The Fund itself had a domestic equity return of 16.9% and an international equity return of 14.0%. The Alternative Investments (private equity) in the portfolio generated a 4.5% return in FY2024.

Fixed Income investments in the Fund generated a 5.6% return vs. its benchmark index (Barclays U.S. Agg) return of 2.6%. The Fed did not follow through on anticipated rate cuts, so the Fund's fixed income investments benefited by having shorter duration exposure. Convertible bonds helped as well, generating an 8.5% return. The portfolio had a higher-than-normal cash position throughout the year but earned over 5% on it.

The Fund stayed true to its Investment Policy during 2024. The Board remains focused on exercising their fiduciary duties when it comes to making any decisions affecting the Fund.

Our goal here at the Pension Fund, as always, is to provide our members, retirees and their beneficiaries with excellent customer service and record-keeping, as well as safeguard the assets and invest in a most prudent manner. We thank you all for your service.

Key Statistics (Unaudited)

Members

	<u>06/30/24</u>	<u>06/30/23</u>	<u>06/30/2022</u>	<u>06/30/2021</u>
Active:				
Full-Time	11,094	10,847	10,682	10,721
Volunteer	2,724	2,841	2,842	2,894
Part-Time	72	73	93	76
Total Active	13,890	13,761	13,617	13,691
% Change from prior year	0.9%	1.1%	-0.5%	0.4%
Inactive:				
Total Inactive	3,462	3,199	3,072	2,908
% Change from prior year	8.2%	4.1%	5.6%	4.8%
Retirees:				
Total Retirees	7,254	6,960	6,706	6,420
% Change from prior year	4.2%	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%
Total Fund Membership	24,606	23,920	23,395	23,019
% Change from prior year	2.9%	2.2%	1.6%	2.0%
Full Benefit (No Options - Age 55, 25 years service)	997	987	977	949
Early Retirement (No Options - Age 50, 15 years service)	419	415	410	399
Average Benefit Payment	795	793	782	759

Financial

	<u>06/30/24</u>	<u>06/30/23</u>	<u>06/30/22</u>	<u>06/30/21</u>
Market Value of Portfolio	1,258,677,001	1,143,135,660	1,057,879,810	1,204,299,800
% Change from Prior Year	10.1%	8.1%	-12.2%	30.1%
Portfolio Allocation:				
Equity (Includes Private Equity)	66%	66%	68%	70%
Fixed Income	29%	29%	29%	27%
Cash	6%	5%	3%	3%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Current Yr. Insurance Premium Tax Receipts	57,697,376	51,580,644	46,258,216	42,971,860
% Change from Prior Year	11.9%	11.5%	7.6%	6.4%
Membership Receipts	4,181,166	4,124,614	4,154,253	4,064,666
% Change from Prior Year	1.4%	-0.7%	2.2%	-1.9%
Total Benefits Paid	68,097,789	65,090,233	61,458,268	56,928,934
% Change from Prior Year	4.6%	5.9%	8.0%	5.8%
Dues & Taxes Received less Benefits Paid	(6,219,247)	(9,384,975)	(11,045,799)	(9,892,408)

Portfolio Allocation & Statistics

June 30, 2024

<u>Domestic Equity Managers</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>% of Portfolio</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>Return</u>	<u>Inception Date</u>
Cooke & Bieler	74,167,602	5.9%	9.9%	May 2004
*Northern Trust Russell 1000 Value Index Fund	35,372,417	2.8%	-2.1%	April 2024
Loomis Large Cap Growth	53,126,183	4.2%	29.3%	March 2020
T. Rowe Price Large Cap	62,441,534	5.0%	37.3%	April 2020
Burgundy Asset Management	85,971,478	6.8%	16.6%	March 2004
Cornerstone Investment Partners DSCC	42,317,764	3.4%	14.8%	January 2020
T. Rowe Price Global Natural Resources	51,351,217	4.1%	10.8%	January 2018
Cohen & Steers Real Estate Trust	54,086,569	4.3%	7.7%	June 2023
Total - Domestic Equity Managers	458,834,764	36.5%	16.9%	
International Equity Managers				
Artisan International Growth	90,339,087	7.2%	13.7%	October 2015
Northern Trust EAFE Fund	76,014,151	6.0%	11.7%	May 2022
Fidelity Select Emerging Markets	49,265,553	3.9%	13.5%	December 2021
William Blair Emerging Markets	48,461,957	3.9%	19.3%	January 2022
Total - International Equity Managers	264,080,748	21.0%	14.0%	
*since inception return				
<hr/>				
TOTAL COMBINED EQUITY	722,915,512	57.5%	15.9%	
<hr/>				
Fixed Income Managers				
DoubleLine Capital	102,305,458	8.1%	5.9%	December 2007
Voya	42,253,874	3.4%	4.0%	October 2003
Loomis Sayles	69,936,941	5.6%	6.4%	March 2017
Sage	62,290,155	4.9%	3.0%	March 2009
Victory Capital	63,126,293	5.0%	8.5%	May 2004
Northern Trust 1-10 Yer TIPS Index	21,822,591	1.7%	4.3%	April 2021
TOTAL FIXED INCOME	361,735,312	28.7%	5.6%	
<hr/>				
Total Invested in Private Equity				
Fund of Funds	104,548,369	8.3%	4.5%	June 2011
<hr/>				
Cash				
Northern Trust Money Market	69,477,808	5.5%	6.3%	N/A
TOTAL CASH	69,477,808	5.5%	6.3%	
<hr/>				
TOTAL PORTFOLIO	1,258,677,001	100%	11.6%	

Income Statement

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

(Unaudited)

Fund Income

Membership Receipts	4,181,166
Other Member Income	825,907
Insurance Premium Tax (includes prior years recv'd. late)	57,923,870
Other Income	50,345
Total Fund Receipts	62,981,288

Member Expenses

Benefit Payments to Members	68,097,789
Other Member Expenses*	1,503,861
*(consists of Member Withdrawals, Volunteer Lost Credit, Member Returns and Dues in refund-available status)	
Total Member Expenses	69,601,650

Fund Expenses

Personnel	1,249,771
Travel, Training, and Development	63,109
Supplies	13,177
Printing and Postage	12,488
Utilities	34,048
Maintenance & Repairs	59,625
Fees and Contracts	162,934
IT Special Projects	13,000
IT Equipment	461
Benefit Payment Services and Actuary Fees	130,948
Miscellaneous	15,166
Depreciation	67,987
Total Fund Expenses	1,822,714

Net Operating Income **(8,443,076)**

Investment Income

Total Realized Investment Income	64,829,756
----------------------------------	------------

Investment Expenses

Custodial Services	116,153
Asset Management Fees	4,276,869
Consulting Services	156,250
Total Investment Expenses	4,549,272

Net Realized Investment Income **60,280,484**

NET OF OPERATIONS & REALIZED INVESTMENTS **51,837,408**

Balance Sheet**June 30, 2024**

(Unaudited)

Operating Cash	538,922	
Accounts Receivable	<u>0</u>	
Total Current Assets		<u>538,922</u>
Land	84,882	
Building & Improvements	1,534,994	
Other Gross Fixed Assets & Supplies	304,465	
less: (accumulated depreciation)	<u>(988,918)</u>	
Net Fixed Assets & Supplies		<u>935,423</u>
Gross Portfolio @ cost	1,107,666,276	
Dividend/Interest/Tax Reclaim Receivable	3,069,719	
less: (net trades payable)	<u>(3,034,004)</u>	
Net Portfolio (at cost)		<u>1,107,701,991</u>
Unrealized Investment Gains	147,802,724	147,802,724
Total Assets		<u>1,256,979,060</u>
Employee Payables	76,919	
Member Payables	2,248,610	
Operating Accounts Payable	4,465	
Investment/Actuary Fees Payable	<u>1,176,562</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>3,506,556</u>
Surplus - Net Assets/Equity	1,142,881,316	
Change in Market Value	<u>110,591,188</u>	
Total Capital		<u>1,253,472,504</u>
Total Net Equity		<u>1,256,979,060</u>

GFPF ANNUAL REPORT

2171 East View Parkway
Conyers, Georgia
30013-5756

770-388-5757
678-413-4227 Fax
866-374-0788 Toll Free

© 2019, GFPF



*Visit us on our
website at
www.gfpf.org*

Reminder for Members and Retirees

- You must notify the Pension Fund Office of any address changes, contact information updates, department transfers and beneficiary changes. If your mail is being returned and we are unable to reach you; your membership or benefit payments may be suspended.
- If you are a retired Firefighter and drawing benefits under the Joint and Survivor option, and your spouse is deceased or you have become divorced; you must notify the Pension Fund Office to obtain the necessary forms to convert your benefits to Regular Retirement. Once the completed forms are received, processed, and approved by the Board; the conversion will go into effect the following month. Note: Conversions are not retroactive.
- All Direct Deposits are deposited on the **LAST** day of the month. If the last day of the month falls on a weekend or a holiday; the deposits will be posted the last business day prior to the end of the month. All checks are mailed approximately 4-5 days prior to the end of the month.

The GFPF ANNUAL REPORT is an official publication of the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund, published annually for GFPF participants and retirees. This publication shall accept no advertisement for commercial services or products.



GFPF CONTACTS

Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund

2171 East View Parkway, Conyers, GA 30013-5756

Phone: 770-388-5757 Toll Free: 866-374-0788 Fax: 678-413-4227

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m., Monday — Friday

C. Morgan Wurst
Executive Director
morgan@gfpf.org

Vickie Long
Executive Assistant
vickie@gfpf.org

Tracy Wells-Ransom
Deputy Director
tracy@gfpf.org

P. Heath McGuire
Director—Member Services
heath@gfpf.org

Cindy Cannon
Retirement Specialist
cindy@gfpf.org

Leanna Johnson
Member Records Specialist
leanna@gfpf.org

Bryan Owens
Field Representative
bryan@gfpf.org

David W. Luther
Field Representative
luther@gfpf.org

Lisa Petty
Dues & Revenue Specialist
lisa@gfpf.org

Tammy Davis
Communications Specialist
tammy@gfpf.org

www.gfpf.org

ANNUAL REPORT



Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund
2171 East View Parkway
Conyers, Georgia 30013-5756