



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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WINTER 2024
ISSUE A

The Retirement Register

Summary Report of Plan Operations/Expenses

How much does it cost to manage the General Retirement System? For the period 07/01/23 — 06/30/24, it cost the Retirement System approximately \$2.4 million. Most of this amount (\$1,693,691) was for investment manager fees. The balance of the expenses, \$724,251, paid for asset custody, auditors, actuaries, attorneys, independent medical evaluations, office rent, staff salaries and training. The costs to run the plan are approximately 0.53% (53 basis points) of the market value of assets. All fees and expenses are paid in cash, as the Plan does not employ soft dollar arrangements. Audits, annual accountings, and actuarial valuations may be reviewed at the Retirement Systems Office.

Funded Status

<u>Actuarial Accrued Liabilities</u>	<u>Applied Assets</u>	<u>% Funded</u>
\$594,474,512	\$460,552,945	77.5%

What Happens to a Member's Contributions if he/she Leaves Before Becoming Eligible to Retire?

Terminated employees may withdraw their accumulated contributions (i.e. - their member contributions together with 3% annual interest credits, as provided by City Code). Those leaving System-covered employment after the completion of 8 years of credited service are eligible for a deferred monthly benefit if their accumulated member contributions and interest earned on deposit are not withdrawn from the Retirement System.

For payment of a deferred allowance to begin, the member may make application to the Board of Trustees just prior to reaching age 62, but no later than attainment of age 75. Benefits begin on the first day of the month following application. The amount is computed the same way as an age and service benefit using credited service, final average salary and the multiplier in effect at the time City employment was terminated. Failure to make application during the above time frame will result in forfeiture of the retirement benefit. Should a deferred member die before reaching age 62, his/her designated beneficiary has the option to immediately apply to receive a Joint-100% deferred pension benefit subject to an actuarial reduction based upon the age the former member would have attained at the time of application. If, at the time City employment was terminated, the member completed 10 or more years of credited service, once he/she attains age 55, he/she will annually be afforded the opportunity to elect receiving an early allowance, by making written application to the Board, beginning on the first day of the month following the month in which employment was terminated.

New Retirees

The Trustees and staff of the General Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

Dannie Owens	(Police)**	1/3/2024	Paul Kuklewski	(EP-WWTP)	9/4/2024
Wanda Yancy	(61st District Court)	8/2/2024	Daniel Wiseman	(Water-Field Ops)	9/10/2024
Christian Carron*	(Museum)	9/1/2024	Colleen Mox	(61st District Court)	9/20/2024
Scott Wheaton*	(Neighborhood Improvement)	9/1/2024	Ronnie Thurkettle	(Refuse)	11/16/2024
Sue Dykman	(Facilities Management)	9/4/2024			

*Deferred Member

**Correction from Summer 2024 Newsletter

2025 Pre-Retirement Planning Session for Active Employees

The Retirement Systems Office will offer evening presentations for small groups of 5-6 active employees, and their beneficiaries, to discuss retirement issues. The presentations are geared for those employees who are contemplating retiring within the next couple of years. Information on the 457-deferred compensation plan will be distributed to participants, and there will also be a representative from Insurance Services to speak about retiree healthcare provisions.

The presentations for 2025 are scheduled for March 26, July 23, and November 5. The meetings will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems Office, 233 Fulton Street East, Suite 216. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please contact Lisa Balkema at (616) 365-5015 to register.

In Memory of Departed Friends

Joyce Latreille**	4/22/2024	Patricia Zuidema*	7/12/2024	Donald Miller	8/27/2024
Michael Wilson	6/23/2024	Karen Barnes*	7/30/2024	William Hooker	8/29/2024
Alverson Jackson*	6/24/2024	Cesther Hopewell*	8/13/2024	Plonia Swets*	9/1/2024
Jack Keller*	6/27/2024	Helga Radick	8/13/2024	Richard Imhoff	9/4/2024
Janice VanderWerff	7/1/2024	Rosalie Barnum*	8/16/2024	Diane Lange	10/1/2024
Barbara Brown	7/4/2024	Carol Brenot	8/24/2024	Veronica McKeever	10/8/2024

*Denotes Beneficiary

**Was retiree and beneficiary

What is Final Average Salary?

“Final Average Salary” is the average of a member’s highest annual compensation rates as provided by salary ordinance during each of the 3 calendar years of employment when such compensation rates were highest, provided all such rates of salary occur before the end of the year in which 40 years of credited service is completed, or provided no such salary rates occur after the date the member reaches his/her allowance cap. For most members, “final average salary” will be the average of the highest salary rates during the last 3 years of employment. Members of the Crime Scene Technicians Unit and Emergency Communications Operator I, II and III Unit have an additional sum (gross-up) added to their final average salary, which is actuarially determined based upon the appropriate unit’s average of additional compensation items.

“Credited Service” means the time of full-time employment as a member of the System while permanently employed by the City other than as a Police Officer or Firefighter, to a maximum of 40 years, or when the member has reached his/her allowance cap. Credited service is measured in years and months. Unpaid leaves of absence will be deducted from credited service.