

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Lynch (WA), Treasurer

Maintain the integrity of the Compact through accountability, consistency, and best practices. Ensure our revenue and resources support our initiatives; ensure the organization has the tools needed to support the Commission. Continue transparent reporting of the Commission budget and develop opportunities for stakeholders to understand the fiscal operations of the Commission.

Over the past year, the Finance Committee has focused on keeping MIC3 financially stable, transparent, and prepared for the future. The Committee worked on major projects like adjusting member dues, updating budgeting tools, improving compliance support, and upgrading internal systems, while supporting the goals in the strategic plan.

At the Fall 2024 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), the Treasurer and Finance Chair introduced the Commission on long-term budget needs and the Committee's work over the previous year to develop a plan to update the dues formula – only the second increase in nearly 2 decades. He reported on the Committee's discussion on financial trends and agreement that more tools were needed to help explain the proposed dues increase. In January 2025, the national office released the Proposed Dues Increase Toolkit, which included data, templates, and talking points to help Commissioners communicate with their states and payment authorities on the purpose and "why" behind the proposal.

In February, the Committee received legal guidance from General Counsel on how ex-officio, non-voting members can participate in Finance Committee discussions - a concern raised by the Tennessee Commissioner, a member of the Committee. The legal advisory helped clarify any confusion about ex-officio member roles and made sure the Committee was following good governance practices.

By March, the Committee reviewed feedback on the dues proposal and legal memorandum and decided to delay the final vote on dues until May to allow more time for review. At the May meeting, the Committee officially approved the FY2027 dues increase, using updated data from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) provided by the U.S. Department of Defense. Members also reviewed the FY2027 budget forecast, including possible changes in the agreement with the Council of State Governments (CSG), which provides administrative support to the MIC3. While no decisions were made at the time, the Committee agreed it should keep an eye on this and explore other options if needed in the future.

In July 2025, the Committee approved both the proposed FY2027 dues and budget forecast. The group reviewed the draft presentation for the upcoming Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and agreed that it should begin with the Commission's mission to help explain the "why" behind the increase. Instead of hosting a webinar, members decided to post the presentation on the Commissioner portal so states could easily access and share it with stakeholders as needed.

In addition, the Committee approved the purchase Zoho CRM, a new customer relationship management system that had been tested by national office staff earlier in the year. This new tool will help the national office better manage contact information, track compliance, inquiries and requests, as well as improve communication with stakeholders. This initiative was the last action item of the Committee under year 3 of the strategic plan.

August 4, 2025

Looking ahead, the Finance Committee will continue focusing on strong financial planning, open communication, and staying aligned with MIC3's mission. With a new dues structure, updated tools, and a more modern system in place, the Committee is in a solid position to support the work of the Commission and help serve military-connected students across the country.