

The Warrenton Rural Voluntary Fire Association, Inc., does business as the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department, Fire/First Responder Station #3 in Warrenton, Warren County, North Carolina. It serves a primary response area of 70 square miles known as the Central Warren Fire District and the Town of Warrenton. In addition, automatic mutual aid is given to seven departments requiring response to an additional 143 square miles.

Located at 236 South Main Street, the current fire station is situated well to serve its mission of providing emergency services to the community as has been evidenced by the Department's long history of commitment to volunteer service.

The Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department is recognized as an important civic asset in this community. The ISO rating for the Town of Warrenton is a Class 4. The rating for the Central Warren Fire District is 6/9S.

A private, non-profit Section 501(c)(3) corporation, the Warrenton Rural Voluntary Fire Association, Inc. owns and maintains the property and building in addition to managing emergency operations and the delivery of emergency services in accordance with county and state regulations and laws and standards set by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Fire and Rescue Division. There are currently 27 active volunteer members of the Department who respond to calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With the anticipated completion of construction of the new station, the former station was sold in July, 2005 to Full Gospel Faith Ministries, Inc. They renovated the station into a church. The Department operated first from the former Boyd's Warehouse, then from this current location at the

corner of Main and Plummer Street until the condition of the building forced its move to our most recent former location at the corner of Front and College Streets in 1964 until September 23, 2006. At which time we moved into this new facility. A “homecoming” you might say.

### **History of the Department**

The Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1956 by local volunteers. As this was the only department in the county dedicated to responding to emergencies outside of a municipality’s corporate limits, members came from all over Warren County. The department initially responded to emergencies throughout the county and assisted the municipal departments of Warrenton and Norlina. Early apparatus were built by the volunteers on used truck chassis; the first truck actually being a converted school bus.

Over the next thirty years, the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department was responsible for the establishment and equipping of volunteer stations throughout the County. Working with citizens in their respective communities, fire stations were established in Arcola, Drewry, Inez, Afton-Elberon, Wise (Hawtree), and Macon in addition to Warrenton. Chief officers remained members of Warrenton Rural while local volunteers manned their community’s station. The first new, factory built apparatus was purchased in 1963. A total of ten apparatus had been built by local volunteers up to that point. Several more were built after that purchase, one being still in service at the Drewry Volunteer Fire Department today. As fire districts recognized by the North Carolina Department of Insurance were established, each community’s department separated from the Warrenton

Rural family and began their own operation. Effective July 1, 2004, the Town of Warrenton decided to cease its operation of the Warrenton Fire Department and requested Warrenton Rural VFD to take over fire suppression activities within the town's limits. A smooth consolidation of the two departments occurred. Today, the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department serves the Town of Warrenton and the Central Warren Fire District on a first-call basis.

Funding of the department's operations have moved from dependence on total donations from the public and fund raisers in its formative years, to today's contractual payments from Warren County, the Town of Warrenton, and the tax payers of the Central Warren Fire District which complement continued donations and fund raising activities.

With deep pride and enthusiasm, and an extraordinary commitment to volunteer service, the Department has operated continuously for 63 years. Over that time, the Department has responded to thousands of emergency calls for fire, rescue and emergency medical service to the residents of Warrenton and the surrounding region. In addition to emergency operations, the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department has given countless time to helping their community in other ways, including major fire prevention outreach programs, special events and other means of support. All of the Department's major programs and events are developed, organized and staffed by volunteers.

## Fire Station

After considerable research, evaluation and consideration, a building design program was established by the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire

Department. This design program began in 2001. Ground breaking was held in July, 2005 with a September, 2006 completion date. The new 13,500 sq. ft. facility should provide for the necessary needs of the department and community for the next fifty years at a cost of approximately \$1,800,000.

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