

History of Wake County Fire Service Governance (And Other Milestones)

Version 4.7

Last updated April 15, 2026

Change Log

- Added/updated history of bulk purchases, starting in 2005. (April 2026)
- Added infographic + citations about the consolidation of the fire commission and rural fire districts board in 1965, and the fire protection advisory commission created in 1994. (October 2025)
- Added and update annual budget information for 2015 to 2022. Also references to creation of CAM, closure of New Hope Station 1, creation of Northern Wake FD, and merger of Eastern Wake FD. Also, general document clean-up. (January 2023)
- Added the text of the FAQ in the appendix, which previously pointed to a now-defunct web page. (January 2023)

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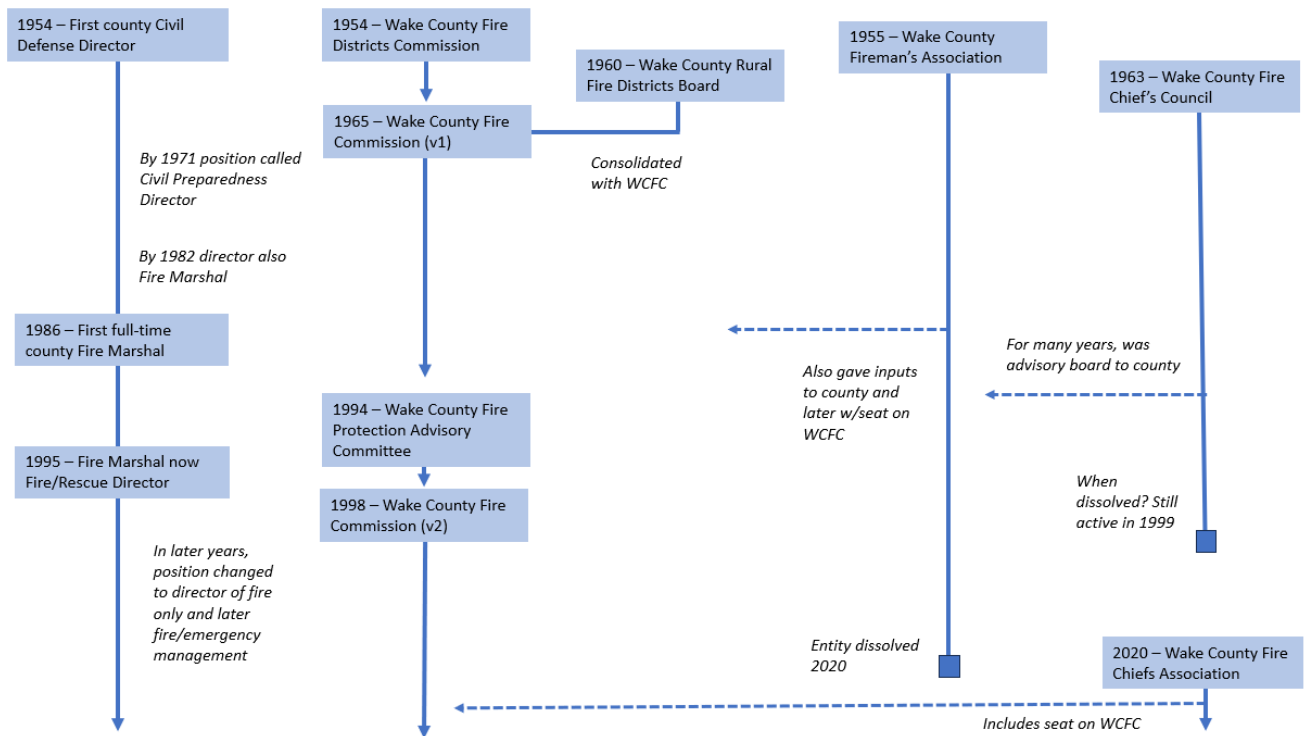
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Introduction

This research document contains historical information originally compiled in 2014 and 2016.

Graphic



Before 1900

The Raleigh Fire Department sent men and equipment to neighboring towns as needed (e.g., very rarely), for

major fires and in later decades, for such other emergencies such as plane crashes and train collisions. Before the era of motor apparatus, fire equipment was transported via railroad.

This practice continued through the decades and evolved into the current practice of mutual aid and automatic aid.

Some history: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/history/writing/essay-mutual-aid.shtml>

1910s and 1920s – Fire Departments Begin Forming

Towns began organizing fire departments. They typically paid for equipment¹, which was operated by citizen volunteers. They also created fire districts.²

In later decades, those volunteers formed private corporations, funded by a combination of property-owner subscriptions, town stipends, county stipends, and finally fire taxes.

The creation of “town” departments continued for decades:

- Wendell in 1910s/20s.³
- Zebulon in 1910s.
- Apex (1927), Cary (1922), Wake Forest (1921)⁴ in 1920s.
- Fuquay-Varina (1938) in 1930s.⁵
- Wake Forest #2 (black community) (1943) in 1940s.
- Garner (1952), Knightdale (1954), Morrisville (1955), Rolesville (1958) in 1950s.
- Holly Springs (1971) in 1970s.
- Source: MJL/WCFD.

1950 to 1959 - Milestones

Milestone 1952 – First rural service started in Apex.

- Started after majority of Apex FD fire calls were located outside the town limits.
- Town officials restricted use of the (lone) fire truck to within one mile of town limits.
- Department members built a pumper with a 550-gallon tank, and with help from Raleigh FD current and former fire chief, and Fayetteville FD.
- See blog post for more: legeros.com/blog/first-rural-truck

1953 – Raleigh FD created two-piece rescue squad (including transport unit).

¹ The most effective of this early equipment was the installation of fire hydrants and a supply of hose, either transported on hand-pulled or motor-pulled reels, or on trucks included pick-up trucks or fire engines.

² These were fire district for insurance purposes, and different from the tax-based fire districts recognized in later decades.

³ How should we define the date that a town’s fire department was formed? (a.) First fire equipment purchased? (b.) first company of people who organized to use the equipment, (c.) first words “fire department” used in context of town operations, (d.) first chartered organization to operate? Yes.

⁴ Believe Wake Forest likely had fire equipment prior to 1921.

⁵ Earlier fire departments or at least equipment existed in both Fuquay Springs and Varina, correct?

- One of two early fire-based rescue services, followed by Cary adding a Civil Defense rescue unit (equipment only, non-transport) in 1955.
- Funeral homes, later private rescue squads, and later Wake County EMS provided the lion's share of the county's emergency ambulance service, as the decades passed.
- Some fire departments provided rescue services in the 1960s and 1970s, notably after the introduction of Hurst tools.
- See www.legeros.com/history/ems for research project on Wake County rescue squad and EMS history.

Milestone 1953 – First “rural fire department” formed, Zebulon Rural.

- Or, more specifically, first rural fire department created as an adjunct to an existing municipal fire department.
- Sponsored by Zebulon Farm Bureau.
- Community organizations also helped sponsor other early rural departments.
 - The Fuquay-Varina Farm Bureau sponsored the Fuquay-Varina Rural Fire Department, organized in 1954.
 - The Junior Order, a men's organization, sponsored a project started in 1956 that becomes the Wake New Hope Fire Department in 1958.
 - First meeting in October 1956.
 - About eighteen months later, and after “several door-to-door solicitations, two turkey shoots and one barbecue”, the fire department was operational.
 - (RT, 4/10/58)
 - **Did such sponsorships pre-date the Wake County Civil Defense rural firefighting program?**
- Rural departments based in towns typically had good working relationships with their municipal counterparts.
 - Some shared personnel and apparatus and facilities and were separate entities only on paper.
 - Others operated more independently and housed their equipment in different facilities.

Milestone 1954 – Wake County hired first paid, full-time Civil Defense Director.⁶

- Colonel David Lydall Hardee.
 - Took oath as Raleigh-Wake County Civil Defense Director on February 15, 1954.
 - Highly decorated combat veteran of both world wars. Also, Bataan Death March survivor and a three-year captive in the Philippines.
 - Charged with “preparing [for civilian defense] one of the state's six targets for nuclear attack.”⁷
 - Office first located in basement of county courthouse.
 - Source: Economics of Emergencies: North Carolina, Civil Defense, and the Cold War, 1940 – 1963, Dissertation by Frank Arthur Blazich, Jr., M.A., Graduate Program in History, The Ohio State University, 2013.
- Served until February 1960.

⁶ Civilian Defense activities in Raleigh/Wake County started as early as World War II. Auxiliary firefighters, air raid wardens, air raid drills in Raleigh.

⁷ One Civil Defense activity involved the Ground Observer Corps, which used a observation post built atop the Apex fire station. Learn more: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=2916>

- Replaced by Colonel John C. Thorne.
- Source: North Carolina Civil Defense history, blog, July 31, 2009.

Other notes:

- Wake County Office of Civil Defense later renamed Civil Preparedness, later renamed Emergency Preparedness, later named Emergency Management.
- Later director in 1970s was Russell Capps.
- Office also later provided monthly stipends to rescue squads, starting (?) in the 1970s.

1954, March 1 – From BOC Minutes:

- Request received to provide \$4,000 for purchase of tank trailer for rural firefighting equipment for use by Cary FD, for answering calls outside the corporate limits. Town of Cary to furnish a tractor. BOC Chairman suggests this be considered for five towns. Legal issues subsequently prevented the county from funding the purchase and pursuing the project.

Milestone 1954, September - Rural Fire Department Program created.

- Administered by Office of Civil Defense.
- Overseen by newly created Wake County Fire Districts Commission.

1954, September 7 – Wake County Fire Districts Commission created by resolution at BOC meeting.

RESOLUTION

September 7, 1954

WHEREAS, by G.S. Section 153.9 (39) the Board of County Commissioners of Wake County is authorized and empowered to provide for the organization, equipment, maintenance and the governing of fire companies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Wake County is of the opinion and have found and determined that it is for the best interest and necessary for the protection of the citizens of said County and their property to encourage and financially aid in the equipment, the maintenance and government of volunteer fire departments in said County for the protection of the public school buildings and farm buildings, and to establish a protective fire fighting organization for the purpose of civil defense; and

WHEREAS, certain fire departments, as specified in the fire districts of Wake County, meet the qualifications and regulations as outlined in this resolution and will, therefore, be established as fire districts under the minimum qualifications as specified by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved for the purpose of carrying out the terms and provisions of this resolution a Commission be and it is hereby created known as the "Wake County Fire Districts Commission" to be composed of three members - one member appointed from the Board of County Commissioners to be known as Fire Commissioner; the Wake County Civil Defense Director or his designated representative; a Fire Chief from the volunteer department serving rural people in Wake County. This Board to be appointed for a period of one (1) year, except member from Board of Commissioners may be appointed to serve until December 1, 1954. The Fire Commissioner shall be Chairman of the said Board, and one of the other members Secretary. The duties and powers of this Board as specified in this resolution; and all reports made to the Wake County Commissioners.

(A) When any volunteer department of a fire district shall make application to the Board of County Commissioners of Wake County to receive financial aid from said county under this resolution, the said Commission shall inspect the said Fire Department, its equipment, personnel, and organization, method of operation, and shall file written report to the said Board of County Commissioners signifying whether or not such volunteer department meets the minimum requirements and specifications therein referred to, which specifications are made a part of this resolution and are taken from the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Insurance Rating Bureau;

(B) The said Commission will make annual inspection to determine if said fire departments are continuing to meet the minimum standards as specified, and shall notify the Board of County Commissioners and the fire Insurance Rating Bureau as outlined here-under; continuing failure, as outlined, will terminate the financial agreement or support of Wake County. Said Commission, shall, from time to time, review the specifications as set out in this resolution, and shall recommend to the Board of County Commissioners any amendments or changes which the said Commission may deem advisable.

Section 1. The County Fire Commissioner shall have supervision over all paid members of the Wake County Fire Departments and will be responsible for the type of equipment, personnel, and, in turn, submitting the yearly budget with substantiating records of the activity of this department. The Board of Commissioners will cooperate with all fire departments in the field of fire prevention.

Section 2. The Wake County Commissioners will appoint or employ a county Fire Chief at any time they deem necessary at a salary to be designated by them and purchase equipment needed in carrying out his duties;

Section 3. The County Commissioners will appoint the Fire Commissioner a trustee of the Wake County Firemen's Relief Fund/as specified by the North Carolina Firemen's Relief Fund. The County Commissioners shall also appoint a second member to the Board of trustees as specified by the North Carolina Firemen's Relief Fund who shall offer general advice and support to this organization. The Wake County Commissioners shall appoint the County Accountant as Treasurer of this fund. The Trustees shall be allowed to carry out their duties as specified in the law creating the North Carolina Firemen's Relief Fund. The Fire Commissioner and members of the Commission shall serve without pay, but the Fire Commissioner will be reimbursed at the rate of seven cents a mile on all trips pertaining to inspection, investigation, prevention and promotion of fire safety up to \$100.00 a year;

Section 4. In view of the Wake County Volunteer Fire Departments carrying out the standards as specified therein, Wake County will, upon compliance with the provisions of this resolution, offer financial aid for the general maintenance and operation of fire departments. No individual volunteer shall receive any remuneration for fire fighting under these benefits. A monthly fee shall be payable on or before the fifth of each month in the sum of \$100.00 to each department complying with the following minimum standards.

(A) Each department receiving any funds from Wake County must carry liability insurance on its firemen and equipment, leaving the county free from any responsibility for damages or claims arising out of the maintenance and operation of said fire department;

(A-1) If any Fire Department does not meet the minimum standard as set forth, the monthly payments will be withheld under the following procedure;

(B) In making an inspection, if deficiencies are found, the Fire Commissioner must notify the Fire Chief and at least two (2) members of the corporation of the local department in writing, by registered mail, and a time limit of fifteen (15) days will be allowed to correct such deficiencies;

- (C) A second inspection must be made after a period of fifteen (15) days to determine if these deficiencies have been corrected. If not, the benefits herein provided will be discontinued and the Fire Commissioner will notify the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau as to the conditions that exist in the said community and fire department, for whatever action they may deem necessary in regard to fire insurance or reductions;
- (D) Each Fire Department must have a Fire Chief and other necessary officers and men as needed to properly maintain equipment and fight fires;
- (E) Each department must have a minimum of ten (10) active members; a list of all members with the addresses and telephone numbers must be given to the Fire Commissioner in July of each year;
- (F) All departments are required to carry out an organized training program as approved and attached by the Wake County Volunteer Fire Association, and each Fire Chief shall keep a record on all written examinations of each member in good standing;
- (G) Each department must participate in one drill per month, and the fire truck shall be driven a minimum of ten miles per month;
- (H) Each fire department must be incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina;
- (I) Each department must have a traffic department and at least one captain and three members. These men should be trained in the handling of traffic, and if possible, along with members of the fire department should be given a basic course of Red Cross First Aid;
- (J) No one but members of the fire department shall ride the fire truck when they are on fire call;
- (K) Only drivers approved by the local fire chief shall drive fire trucks. These drivers should be listed with the membership of the department;
- (L) All Fire Chiefs are responsible to keep adequate and accurate records of all calls and all fires. A regulation fire record book will be furnished by the Wake County Fire Commissioner upon request. The Fire Chief will also be responsible for filing with the Fire Commissioner any additional reports which are required either locally or by the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau;
- (M) Fire truck drivers shall drive with caution, keeping the truck under control at all times, and it will be the responsibility of the Fire Chief to stress "Safety" throughout the department, especially the firemen driving their own automobiles to the scene of the fire, and also conduct attending the fires;
- (N) All recognized members of good standing in each department should have some identification such as a card, badge, hat or car plate to identify them that they are "bona fide" firemen. No one other than "bona fide" firemen, in good standing should be allowed these identifications in any community;
- (O) A telephone should be available at all times during the day and night to receive the alarms and notify members of the Fire Department. Each member of the fire department should be furnished with a copy of the names and telephone numbers of all members and all departments within the County;
- (P) It is especially recommended that an electric siren be mounted within the community for the notification of all firemen and preferably installed so that it can be operated from a public place;
- (Q) The Fire Departments shall, by mutual agreement, decide on the area in which they will give basic fire protection, and within which they will solicit funds. Any difference of opinion on area shall be decided by the Directors of the Wake County Volunteer Firemen's Association, with a final appeal to the Fire Commissioner;

(R) Each department shall give full cooperation to other departments in case of fire;

(S) Each department will be expected to respond to the call of the County Fire Chief or Fire Commissioner or members of this Department when and where needed. The Fire Chief in the area where the fire is being fought will be in charge of the members and equipment from other departments responding to calls for assistance. The Fire Chief acting for a local department is the final authority as to the range of its fighting equipment, upon calls from other districts for assistance.

(T) Each Fire Chief, or associate, will make full investigation of each fire to determine, if possible, the cause. If any evidence of arson is suspected, the Wake County Fire Commissioner shall be notified immediately and also other proper authorities.

(U) All carelessly-set grass or brush fires shall be handled in the discretion of the local fire chief;

(V) Each department shall have the following minimum equipment as GRADE A COMMUNITIES, and this equipment shall be kept in good condition at all times and operative at all times, barring accidents or acts of God. Wake county fire commissioner will accept any minor deviations from this equipment which is allowed within the discretion of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau;

- One or more motorized fire trucks equipped with a water tank of 200 to 500 gallons capacity and a pump with a capacity of at least 60 gallons per minute against not less than 100 pounds when taking suction from tank.
- Two reels, each with 200ft. of 3/4-inch rubber hose, kept connected to water tank with suitable nozzle attached.
- Two combination spray (fog type) and straight stream nozzles or one spray (fog type) and one straight stream nozzle. Nozzles should be of the shut-off type and of a size suitable for above mentioned hose.
- One 24 foot extension ladder
- One 12-foot roof ladder
- Four 5-gal. hand pump tanks (knapsack type)
- One 2 1/2 gallon foam extinguisher or the equivalent, suitable for oil fires
- One 10-foot pike pole
- One axe
- Two small extinguishers suitable for electrical fires
- One claw tool
- One crowbar
- 100 feet 5/8-inch manila rope
- Two lanterns
- Four 12-quart buckets
- Two scoop shovels, spades or bell mouth shovels

When a portable pump is used, it should have a capacity of not less than 200 gallons per minute at a pressure suitable to the terrain of the community but not less than 100 pounds per square inch and the following minimum equipment for use in connection with the pump;

- Two 1 1/2-inch combination spray (fog type) and straight stream nozzles or one 1 1/2-inch spray (fog Type) and one straight stream nozzles. Nozzles should be of the shut-off type.
- Two 10-foot sections of suitable hard rubber suction hose with strainer
- 500 feet of 1 1/2-inch cotton, rubber-lined hose.
- Six spanner wrenches.
- Appropriate male and female connectors and reducers for use with other hose and apparatus.

Section 5: It will be necessary for each department qualifying under this resolution as a Wake County Fire District and the volunteer fire department offering service, that a copy of this resolution must be

signed by the President of the Corporation, treasurer of the corporation, and the Fire Chief of the department, and that all other agreements previously made will be concluded and ended as of that date;

Section 6. When and if the said fire departments operating within specified fire districts have been investigated and meet the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau,* each fire district will be so designated as a fire District on the Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners showing date of the establishment of said Fire District.

* Organized fire departments that have obligated themselves to serve a larger area than a radius of three miles will be allowed to do so until sufficient number of fire departments are organized.

New FD(s) 1954, October 4 – From BOC Minutes:

- Four new departments—Apex VFD, Garner VFD, Wake Forest Rural FD, Zebulon Rural FD—qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective October 1, 1954

New FD(s) 1954, November 1- From BOC minutes:

- New Cary Rural FD qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective November 1, 1954.

New FD(s) 1954, December 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Fuquay-Varina Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective January 1, 1955.

Fiscal Year 1954-55 – Total of \$10,000 was budgeted for rural fire protection. (Source: BOC minutes, 12/6/54)

Milestone 1955 – Wake County Fireman’s Association formed.

- Early organizational meeting held at Station 1 in Raleigh on October 17, 1955.
 - Bob Heater named Acting President.
 - Gordon Keith named Acting Secretary.
 - Tentative charter and other actions voted upon.
 - Heater had previously met with attorney Robert Emanuel, to determine desired initial actions for the organization.
 - Present are members of Apex (3), Cary (6), Fuquay Varian (1), Garner (4), Morrisville (2), Raleigh (2), and Wake Forest (2) fire departments.
- First meeting of Incorporators held at the Insurance Building in Raleigh on November 23, 1955.
 - Named as incorporators are Robert B. Heater (Cary), C. S. Schaub (Apex), Win Donat (Fuquay Varina), J. B. Keeter (Raleigh), H. M. Jackson (Garner), Willis Winston (Wake Forest), H. C. Sears Jr. (Morrisville).
 - By Laws are adopted.
 - State charter also dated November 23, 1955.
- Officers and board members elected at meeting at Station 1 in Raleigh on January 3, 1956.

1955, March 21 – From BOC Minutes:

- Approved appropriation of \$2,400 to Civilian Defense program, for Cary FD rescue truck project, and accordingly reduce that fiscal year’s allocation for “County Fire Fighting Department” from \$10,000 to \$7,600.

New FD(s) 1955, June 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Knightdale Rural FD qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective June 1, 1955.

1955, June 28 – Special election held to approve a special tax levy for the Raleigh Suburban Fire District. The levy is approved and the county enters a contract with the city for fire protection, which the city had been providing since January 1, 1955, and with the understanding that if a levy were approved, the city would be compensated for the entirety of the calendar year. Contract adopted April 3, 1956. (Source: BOC minutes, 2/6/56, 3/6/56)

New FD(s) 1955, September 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Morrisville Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective September 1, 1955.

Other history:

- Wake County Commissioners approved a 50 cent per \$100 property value in the newly created Raleigh Suburban Fire District, which was approved by voters in a special election on June 28. The residential areas are located outside the city and the taxes collected by the county pay for contracted fire protection by the city. (November 7, 1955) (Source: N&O, 11/8/55)

New FD(s) 1956, June 4 – From BOC Minutes:

- Wake Forest Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective June 1, 1956.

1956 - First non-municipally affiliated private department forms, Six Forks (1956). Soon followed by Stony Hill (1958), Wake New Hope (1956), Western Boulevard (1957).

- Who were these volunteers? Six Forks Road members in 1958 included a grocer, barber, detective, telephone man, lawyer, schoolteacher, florist, mail carrier, heating contractor, two mechanics, a Civil Defense official, and several State workers. Source: MJL/Arcadia.

Rural departments around towns also forming, operate in cohorts with municipal fire departments that already exist: Fuquay-Varina (1954), Wake Forest (1956), Wendell (1957), Zebulon (1953).

- Once a rural fire department was formed, volunteers and community members built the necessary infrastructure.
- They held fundraisers and gave money, elected directors and established by-laws.
- They donated barns and garages for storing trucks; they built tin sheds and block buildings as the first firehouses.
- They even constructed their own fire apparatus, typically converting surplus vehicles into homebuilt pumps and tankers.
 - The Fairview Fire Department was a typical example.
 - Their first fire engine was built from an ex-weapons carrier.
 - Members added a water tank and pump, mounted two taillights as warning lights, and applied a coat of donated paint in a chicken shack.
 - It was stored in a building whose doors were untied, laid flat, and driven over when they responded to a call.
- Source: MJL/Arcadia.

Towns without fire departments form their first ones, through the help of the rural fire department program: Garner (1952), Knightdale (1954), Morrisville (1955), Rolesville (1958).

Source: MJL/WCFD.

1956, May 7 – From BOC Minutes:

- Boundaries of Garner fire district adopted.

New FD(s) 1956, November 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Six Forks Road Volunteer FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective November 1, 1956.

1957

New FD(s) 1957, March 4 - From BOC minutes:

- Wendell Rural Volunteer FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective March 1, 1957.
- Boundaries of Six Forks fire district adopted.

1957, June 3 - From BOC minutes:

- Resolution to hold special election for residents living on east side of Raleigh, in area of Poole Road, Sunnybrook Road, King Charles Road, Rose Lane, etc., to also comprise the Raleigh Suburban Fire District, for purposes of taxed fire protection.
- Boundaries of rural Cary Fire District adopted.

1957, June 3 – From BOC minutes:

Resolution adopted by Board of Commissions, June 3, 1957, contains a report on “Organizations for Civil Defense” in Raleigh and Wake County. Highlights:

- Progress report for the year 1956 to 1957.
- Rural fire departments have been established in ten locations: Apex, Cary, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Knighdale, Morrisville, Six Forks, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon.
- Other fire departments are in the process of organizing, and some are about ready to purchase equipment.
- These departments have 242 volunteer members and are “rendering the people of the county a service that cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.”
- Summary of calls answered by nine departments:
 - Firefighters have fought 241 fires:
 - 20 – Industrial and business buildings
 - 62 – Dwellings and outhouses
 - 44 – Grass and woods fires
 - 15 – Autos and trucks
 - 65 – Tobacco barns
 - 6 – Other types
 - Property destroyed \$223,010.
 - Value of property saved, that was on fire: \$350,500.
Value of property that would have burned, if preventative measures had not been taken: \$549,200.
 - One life saved.
 - Additionally, a large number of community services performed by the firemen.

1957, June 13 - From BOC minutes:

- Board approved levy of 50 cents as requested by City of Raleigh Fire Department for the “City of Raleigh Outside Fire District Protection.”
- Boundaries of rural Wendell Fire District adopted.

New FD(s) 1957, July 1 - From BOC minutes:

- Western Boulevard Rural Volunteer FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective July 1, 1957.
- Boundaries of Apex Rural Fire District adopted.

1957, August 5 - From BOC minutes:

- Redefined boundaries of Six Forks Fire District adopted, due to “certain errors and irregularities” in the original description provided to the board.
- First Fire Marshal appointed, A. B. Hales. “Mr. Tom Banks, County Attorney, stated to the Board that the law provides that when a county does not have an electrical inspector that the Board of County Commissioners must appoint a Fire Marshal and that Wake County does not have an electrical inspector. Commissioner W. W. Holding moved that A. B. Hales be appointed Fire Marshal and charged with the responsibilities imposed upon such officer pursuant to Chapter 115 of the Session Laws of 1957, and that he be authorized to enter upon the duties of this office after being qualified as required by the provisions of G.S. 160-122 and approved by the Insurance Department of North Carolina. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson with all Commissioners voting aye.”

1957, September 9 – From BOC Minutes:

- Boundaries of Western Boulevard Fire District adopted.

1957, December 2 - From BOC minutes:

- Board received presentation from “Sherman Pickard, Director, Fire Service Training of the State” and “representing the Wake County Fire Association and the Wake County Fire Departments” proposing a “Wake County fire communication system” with the “central control unit” in the Raleigh Fire Department and each of the twelve county fire departments having one local base station, two mobile units, and two monitor receivers. Proposed cost \$32,000, with federal government paying half, county fire departments paying one quarter, and county paying one quarter. Approved with resolution approving appropriation to be taken in January meeting.
- Board approved enlarging the Garner Fire District as well as renaming to St. Mary’s Fire District

Milestone 1958 – County Radio System

County-wide, two-way radio network installed for rural fire departments, and with assistance and funds from local Civil Defense office. Raleigh Fire Department provides call taking and dispatching services, from console at “Central Fire Station.” Their radio call sign becomes “Central.” (MJL/WCFD)

1958, January 6 - From BOC minutes:

- Resolution adopted for the fire communications program approved in the December 2, 1957, meeting, to establish the system, with the “title to which equipment and installation shall vest in the Wake County Civil Defense [office]” and will revert to the county as exclusive owner if the civil defense program ceases to operate.

- Boundaries redefined for Apex Rural Fire District as well as renamed to Hypex [later Hipex] Rural Fire District.
- Boundaries redefined for Fuquay-Varina Fire District and renamed as Furina Fire District.

New FD(s) 1958, February 3 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Wake New Hope Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective February 1, 1958.

1958, March 3 – From BOC Minutes:

- Boundaries adopted for Wakelon Fire District (Zebulon rural).
- Revised boundaries adopted for Wendell Rural Fire District, also renamed Wendell Holmes Fire District
- Boundaries adopted for Morrisville Fire District.

1958, March 17 – From BOC Minutes:

- Boundaries of Alert Fire District (Knightdale) adopted.

1958, June 2 - From BOC minutes:

- Boundaries adopted for Wakette Fire District (Wake Forest rural) and Wake-Hope (New Hope) fire districts.
- Board received a petition from Brentwood Gardens requesting that a Brentwood Fire District be established and made part of the Raleigh Suburban Fire District. Action deferred to next meeting.

1958, June 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- Resolution adopted annexing Brentwood community to Raleigh Suburban Fire District.

1958, June 30 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board received petitions from people living in Wake-Hope Fire District, requesting that the area be established as a fire district with tax levy. County attorney notes that this action is permitted under state law, without a special election, if majority of district members sign a petition. The FD has received 731 signatures, which “far exceeds the 51 percent required by law.” County attorney to contact State Attorney General for a ruling. Fire Commission Chairman requested to “make a special study.”

1958, August 4 – From BOC Minutes:

- Requested fire district with tax levy in Wake-Hope Fire District further discussed. The county attorney read a rule from the State Attorney General. The fire department also appeared, requesting immediate action. Action delayed as the area includes properties already part of another fire tax district, and more information is needed, notably the area that is not presently covered by another fire district—or contracted with the city—and to determine if the majority of those residents have signed the petition.

1958, August 11 – From BOC Minutes:

- Special meeting held to hear from residents who will be affected by the NHVFD petition to create fire district with tax levy. Fire Chief presents a map showing the proposed area, which “takes in parts of two townships” and covers a four-mile radius, though the present NHVFD fire district covers only a three-mile radius. Col. Hardee, Director of Civil Defense, then presents a map prepared by the county, which shows the petitioned area overlaps both the Six Forks Fire District and parts of the Raleigh Suburban Fire District. He notes that the petitioned area cannot legally overlap established fire districts. The Fire Chief

notes that they received “quite a few signatures” from people in the Six Forks area who want protection from both Six Forks and New Hope. Col. Hardee then showed an area on the map that excludes Six Forks, but includes part of the Raleigh suburban district, and but those areas with industries could be included by state law, because they are only contracted. [Believe that’s correct interpretation.] The Fire Chief of Six Forks voiced their objection to the encroachment and expressed that they did not want their area included in the petitioned district. BOC directs the creation of a new map and a canvassing of the residents, to determine if 51 percent or greater have signed the petition.

1958, October 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Hope VFD requested action on June 30 petition. On August 11, BOC held an “adjourned night meeting for the purpose of hearing the petitioners and people in this said district in this matter.” Since that meeting, the Board of Elections has determined that the June 30 petition contained fewer than 51 percent of the residents of the redefined district, and a special election was required by law. BOC requested that the Fire Chief confer with the NHVFD members and report back to the BOC with a recommended date and time for the election.

New FD(s) 1958, October 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- New Hope VFD requested special election held in December. Board approve and special meeting to be called for purpose of adopted necessary resolution.
- Revised boundaries adopted for Hipex Rural Fire District.
- New Rolesville Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective November 1, 1958.

1958, November 3 – From BOC Minutes:

- Special election to be held on December 6, 1958, for residents of the Wake-New Hope Fire District to approve a special tax levy.
- Revised boundaries approved for Cary Rural Fire District as well as name changed to Yrac Rural Fire District.

1958, December 8 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board approved results of special election for New Hope VFD, held December 6, with majority of voters approving creation of fire district with tax levy.

New FD(s) 1959, February 2 – From BOC Minutes:

- Stony Hill Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective February 1, 1959.

1959, March 2 – From BOC Minutes:

- Petition presented by Brookhaven residents in Raleigh, for annexation into Raleigh Suburban Fire District. Adopted.
- Col. Hardee, Director of Civil Defense, reported that under a new law, nearly all city and county expenditures for Civil Defense funded by the federal government must be matched 50-50 by local governments.

1959, April 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- Revised boundaries adopted for Rolesville Rural Fire District.

1959, May 4 – From BOC Minutes:

- Revised boundaries adopted for Western Boulevard Fire District, now a “four-mile limit.”

1959, June 22 – From BOC Minutes:

- Resolution adopted about voter-approved tax levy for New Hope VFD, with the county agreeing to fund \$3,658.94 for the FY59-60 budget needs of NHVFD, which includes \$3,3639.13 of tax revenue. They agree to a contract for the collection/payment/usage of tax monies.

1959, August 3 – From BOC Minutes:

- Revised boundaries adopted for Rolesville Rural Fire District, extended to four-mile limit.

1959, October 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Petition from Worthdale subdivision in Raleigh requesting annexation in the Raleigh Suburban Fire District. Referred to Board of Elections for certification of that a majority of voters have signed petition.
- Boundaries of Stony Hill Rural Fire District adopted.

1959, December 7 – From BOC Minutes:

- Annual appointment of three-member Fire District Commission, serving December 1, 1959, to December 1, 1960:
 - Commissioner Powell re-appointed as Chairman.
 - Col. David Hardee, Director of Civil Defense, re-appointed as Secretary.
 - Clifton Couick of Wendell, newly appointed as Fire Chief

1960s and 1970s – Departments Created, Relocated, Merged

Private departments continue to form, both in county and around Raleigh and Cary. Most are not associated with a municipality.

- Bay Leaf (1961), Durham Highway (1964), Fairgrounds (1961), Fairview (1963), Swift Creek (1960), and Yrac (1961) in 1960s.
- Falls (1970), Holly Springs (1971), Hopkins (1977) in 1970s.

Some departments disband/reform or relocate, as territory is annexed by municipalities.

- Western Boulevard disbands in 1961, and reforms as Fairgrounds in 1961.
- Six Forks relocates farther north on Six Forks Road in 1962.
- Six Forks relocates to Lynn Road in 1974.
- Durham Highway opens Station 2 on Pinecrest Road, 1976.

Some towns (one town?) begin to take control over their private-run/private-contracted fire departments and turn them into town entities.

- Cary in 1960.

Other towns (own town) merge their rural departments into the municipal fire department.

- Fuquay-Varina in 1972.

Both trends will continue into later decades.

Some departments also moved their fire stations into newer, larger facilities:

- Morrisville to permanent building on Morrisville-Carpenter Road, 1960.
- Rolesville to permanent building on Main Street, 1960.
- Wendell into municipal building on Pine Street, 1963.
- Cary from three nearby locations to Academy Street, 1965.⁸
- Yrac from nearby to Durham Road, 1966.
- Bay Leaf from nearby to Norwood Road, 1967.
- Garner to nearby on Main Street, 1970.
- Wake Forest (municipal) to nearby on White Street, 1973.
- Zebulon from town hall to dedicated fire station next door on Vance Street, 1974.
- Fuquay-Varina to nearby on South Fuquay Avenue, 1978.

Other departments expand their facilities:

- Knightdale added two bays on Hester Street, 1959.
- Morrisville added two bays and meeting room on Morrisville Carpenter Road, 1963.
- Knightdale added second story on Hester Street, 1967.
- Fairview added to their station on Ten Ten Road, 1972.
- Rolesville added second story on Main Street, 1960s-1970s.

1960s and 1970s – First Substations

Also, a number of “town” departments began creating “substations”, to provide protection to communities that are a farther distance from the immediate rural fire districts.

- Morrisville FD created substation in Carpenter in 1975.
- Garner FD created substation in Panther Branch in 1976.

1960s to 1980s – Tax Districts

Also, tax districts were created for some fire departments. These were approved by voters through a special election.⁹ Some districts were created at the same time a new department was organized, others were implemented some years (or even decades) later:

- 1958 – Wake New Hope approved for tax levy supported fire district, rate of 10-cent fire tax, approved by overwhelming majority of residents at a special election held December 6, 1958.

⁸ Expansion of the Cary Fire Department past the 1960s isn't covered in this document, beyond notes about their suburban fire contract started in 2010. Same for other municipal expansion, such as Apex, Fuquay-Varina, and Wake Forest, except where county funding is involved, such as Fuquay-Varina Station 3.

⁹ Did any districts hold elections that failed at first? Where residents declined to adopt a tax, until a future year/decade?

- By July 1962, they are the only “entirely volunteer department” in the state that is tax-supported.
- Receives a special recognition as an “outstanding rural volunteer fire department” by the NFPA in the fall of 1961. (RT, 7/14/62)
- Rate drops from eight cents to two cents in 1968.
 - Reduction is possible because department’s fire station building and equipment debt has been paid.
 - Only expenses are maintenance and operation of six fire trucks. (RT, 7/4/68)
- 1964 – Wake Forest Rural supported by fire tax beginning May 4, following special election on November 16, 1963.
- 1964 – Six Forks supported by fire tax beginning May 4, following special election on December 21, 1963.
- 1964 – Yrac, Stony Hill and Rolesville supported by fire tax beginning December 15, following special election on December 12.
 - At Yrac, registrars set up special books for all residents of district, who are twenty-one years old who own personal or real property.
 - Residents vote on authorizing county to add a fire tax to members of the fire district, up to ten cents per \$100 property valuation.
 - One of three fire tax referendums being held that day.
 - At Stony Hill, only about 100 of 500 property owners participated in membership program.
 - Since department was formed, membership numbers had steadily fallen.
 - Annual fee of \$10 reduced to \$5 to increase participation.
 - Department sought tax district to “help spread the burden of financing fire protection for the district.” Currently, only about “half the eligible members are participating in the contribution system.”
 - Specifically, about 300 of 800 property owners are paying \$10 yearly membership fee.
 - Only fundraising activities were resident contributions, and the annual Fireman’s Day celebration.
 - Department had twenty-four volunteers and three trucks. It was operating from a rented building and sought land for a permanent fire station.
 - Other than Six Forks, Wake Forest Rural, and Wake New Hope, all other rural fire departments in county were supported by contributions. (RT, 11/25/64, N&O, 12/5/64)
- 1965 – Tax-support fire district approved for Durham Highway FD.
- 1967 – Special fire tax established within Bay Leaf Fire District.
 - Fire department no longer operated using membership fees.
 - Department also received monthly stipend from county.
 - In 1961, the county commissioners voted to provide \$100 per month to support the department.
 - The membership fees in 1961 were established as \$10.00 per household.
- 1967 – By July 8, 1967, these departments had tax districts:
 - Bay Leaf
 - Durham Highway
 - Rolesville
 - Six Forks
 - Stony Hill
 - Wake-New Hope

- Wake Forest Rural
- Yrac. (N&O 7/8/67)
- 1971 – Swift Creek started receiving support from the tax base of community residents.
 - Five cents from every one hundred dollars within district is budgeted from county to fire department.
- 1971 – Knightdale started accepting tax support from county.
- 1988 - Garner Fire Department started accepting tax money from Wake County.

1960 to 1969 - Milestones

1960

- City annexed five “residential fringe areas,” which impacted the rural fire districts of Six Forks, Wake New Hope, and Western Boulevard fire departments.
 - Western Boulevard lost 500 of 700 subscribers.¹⁰
 - Effort planned to move the department outside the city limits and add enough territory to their district to “make it worthwhile to operate.”
 - Cost wasn’t initially known and was just one of “many problems that will have to be worked out.”
 - None of the expenses will be borne by the city.
 - Wake New Hope lost part of their district.
 - Department had special 10-cent tax levy, in its district.
 - Facing lost revenues, department will have to “rework its budget and pare it to fit remaining revenue sources or get more subscriptions to take up the slack.”
 - District “wasn’t hit too hard” by the annexation.
 - Six Forks lost a “good slice” of its district.
- Wake County Commissioners named special committee on July 21, 1960, to “cope with the problems created.”
- Rural Fire Districts Board created, with Commissioner J. Dewey Powell as chairman. Members are Wake County Fireman’s Association President Clifton Couick, Apex Rural FD member Carter Schuab, Western Boulevard FD member Dr. I. O. Schaub, Six Forks FD member William T. Howell, Wake New Hope FD member J. A. Thebault, and Wake County Civil Defense Director David L. Hardee, who is also secretary of the Wake County Rural Fire Districts Commission.
- Duties of the new board were to assist Six Forks and Western Boulevard fire departments in matters “pertaining to their dissolution, reorganization, or removal to adjacent localities.”
- The board would “also help make an inventory of property of these fire departments, determine their costs and market value and assist in the reallocation of government surplus property, the disposition of government matching funds or property and equipment purchased with such funds.”
 - Most government surplus property amounts to radio equipment, provided through the Civil Defense program.
 - That equipment would have to be transferred to another fire department, or returned to the government, if a department dissolved.

¹⁰ There was at least one legal challenge to Raleigh’s annexation, as the News & Observer on February 1, 1961, reported that Western Boulevard directors were awaiting word from the State Supreme Court before deciding on disbanding. On January 20, “word came from the court that the March 31, 1960, annexation was constitutional.”

- The board would also recommend to the commissioners when “county aid is to be discontinued or on what rate and basis such county aid is to be made.”
- City had contracted with Western Boulevard and Six Forks, to “rent their facilities until such time as new city fire departments can be built in those areas.”
 - True? Station 8 opened the morning of the annexation, with the second engine from Station 1 relocated to rented house on Method Road.
 - Was Six Forks FD perhaps contracted to continue coverage, until Station 9 was built in 1963? Don’t believe that engine was placed in service ahead of the city facility completed.
- Source: News & Observer, July 22, 1960

Milestone 1960, July – Rural Fire District Board established.

1960, July 21 – From BOC Minutes:

- Rural Fire Districts Board established.

Mr. J. Dewey Powell, Chairman of the Wake County Fire Districts Commission, and Col. David L. Hardee, Secretary of the Wake County Fire Districts Commission, appeared before the Board requesting and recommending that the Board of Commissioners appoint a Rural Fire Districts Board. Chairman Haigh read the recommendation of the Wake County Fire Districts Commission to the Board as follows:

Since enlarging the corporate limits of the City of Raleigh is taking away portions of rural fire districts, and special taxes to support others are creating problems for rural fire districts receiving county aid, a Rural Fire Districts Board be hereby appointed, to meet at the call of the president, to assist in matters pertaining to the Six Forks Rural Fire Department, Inc., and the Western Boulevard Rural Fire Department, Inc., in matters pertaining to their dissolution, reorganization, or removal to adjacent localities.

The board will inventory the property of these fire departments, determine its cost and market value, will assist the departments in its disposition when and if dissolution is apparent, or recommend relocation to adjacent areas if practicable, reallocate surplus property and government matching funds property to other authorized purposes and will assist these departments in any way possible, and make reports to the county commissioners. They will recommend when county aid is to be discontinued, and if continued on what rate and basis.

In view of the special tax district for the Wake-Hope Rural Fire Department, the board will also make recommendations as to the continuance, discontinuance or reduction of county aid granted this department.

Members will serve on a voluntary basis and without pay, and the following personnel are recommended to serve as this Board:

- J. Dewey Powell, Board of County Commissioners, Chairman
- Clifton Couick, Pres., Wake County Fireman's Assoc., Vice Chairman
- Carter Schaub, Apex Rural Fire Department, Member
- Dr. I. O. Schaub, Western Blvd. Rural Fire Department, Member
- William T. Howell, Six Forks Road Rural Fire Dept., Member
- J. A. Thebault, Wake-Hope Rural Fire Department, Member

- David L. Hardee, Sec. Wake County Rural Fire Districts Commission, Recorder

Commissioner Holding moved that the recommendation of Commissioner Powell and Col. David L. Hardee be accepted and that the Rural Fire Districts Board be created and the men as recommended by Col. Hardee and Commissioner Powell be appointed as members of this Board to serve for two year terms beginning July 21, 1960, and ending July 21, 1962. Commissioner Robertson seconded this motion with all members present voting aye. The Board instructed Mr. Hall, Clerk to the Board, to notify Col. Hardee of this action taken.

1960, May 2 – From BOC Minutes:

- Revised boundaries adopted for Furina Fire District (Fuquay-Varina Rural), extended to four-mile limit.
- Revised boundaries adopted for Alert Fire District (Knightdale).

1960, September 6 – From BOC Minutes:

Proceedings presented of Rural Fire District Board meeting on August 19:

- Recommended that New Hope VFD continue to receive county aid, since under the terms of their special tax act they cannot levy over ten cents.
- Recommended that county aid to Six Forks VFD be reduced to \$50 per month, effective September 30, 1960, since SFVFD is receiving \$350 per month from city.
- Recommended that Western Boulevard VFD continue to receive county aid, as they are rendering service to 600 to 800 homes outside the city limits [despite recent annexation of area by city], and until the situation is changed.
- Recommended that the Raleigh-Wake Civil Air Patrol squadron be reinstated with \$50 per month funding of Rural Fire Protection Aid.
- Recommended purchase of “emergency generators, etc.” for the “Wake County Civil Defense Fire Communications Net”, for amount not to exceed \$7,500.

1960, July 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Resolution passed funding New Hope VFD for FY 60-61 from monies including taxes collected.

1960, October 3 – From BOC Minutes:

- Discussion of emergency generator purchase and contingency of having one installed before future federal funds can be procured, and how Stony Hill has not been equipped with any radio equipment, and several other departments are eager to purchase additional radio equipment. No action taken, as board “could not find any place they could get funds for this purchase” as the county budget is “particularly tight.”

1960, November 7 – From BOC Minutes:

- Further discussion of emergency generator purchase and other radio needs contingent on that equipment. Board approves action, with \$3,800 to be appropriated, with the rural fire departments agreeing to raise the required matching amount of money.

1961, February 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- Approved discontinuing payments to Western Boulevard VFD effective February 1, 1961, as the VFD is liquidating its assets and “will discontinue fighting fire at that time.”

1961, February 20 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board read letter from airport authority, asking for help acquiring fire equipment. They have “one pickup truck equipped with a dry chemical unit and one small foam truck” and are seeking to acquire “heavy fire-crash equipment” but are without funds. Referred to the Director of Civil Defense.

1961, March 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board hears Director of Civil Defense about request from airport authority for assistance with procuring additional firefighting equipment. They are informed that new fire equipment cannot be procured through civil defense on a government matching funds basis, and their only option is to procure equipment through the Surplus Property Depot, which has been issuing some fire equipment for the county’s rural departments. The Office of Civil Defense will pursue the matter.

New FD(s) 1961, April 10

- Fairgrounds Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective May 1, 1961.
- Swift Creek Rural FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective May 1, 1961.
- Boundaries adopted for Swift Creek Fire District.

1961, May 1 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board heard letter dated April 26 from Mayor of Cary, informing them that the town adopted on April 20 an ordinance stating that no other fire departments than the Town of Cary FD “will be connected with the Town of Cary”. The BOC thus orders all payments terminated to the Cary Rural Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

1961, June 5 - From BOC minutes:

- Resolution passed funding New Hope VFD for FY 61-62 from monies including taxes collected.

1961, June 30 – Col. David L. Hardee resignation effective as Civil Defense Director of Raleigh and Wake County, reported at BOC meeting on September 5.

1961, July 5 – From BOC Minutes:

Status of Cary Rural Fire Department Inc. discussed. Among the discussion points:

- Mayor of Cary explains the April 20 adoption of a town ordinance, which noted the single Cary FD would serve the Yrac Fire District, as “one administrative department with two separate operations for fire protection.”
- Mayor said that CRFD is requesting the \$100 monthly appropriation be continued until October 31, or such time as CFD can contract with the county for this protection, “there being a vote of the people in the district for a special levy of taxes.”
- County Attorney cites state law about contracting with a municipal FD for fire protection and authorization for levying a special tax therein, and that the people within the district must submit a petition to the BOC requesting that tax.
- Mayor notes that the \$100 appropriation would only be used for operation of the rural FD.
- County Attorney notes that before a rural FD is eligible to receive county aid, it must be certified by the county.
- Representative from the NC Fire Insurance Rating Bureau states many counties in the state are adopting fire district resolutions establishing fire districts, so the county may contract with a municipality or fire department for protection.

- Mayor is directed to have CFD circulate and present a petition to the BOC requesting the tax levy in the Yrac Fire District.
- Wake County Fire Districts Commission directed to investigate the operational status of CRFD and make a recommendation regarding continuing their \$100 monthly payment.
- The commission is further directed to review resolution adopted on September 7, 1954, about establishing fire districts, to see if amendments should be made.

1961, July 20 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board received findings of Rural Fire District Board meeting on July 12, about the states of the Cary Rural FD and recommended boundary changes of the Yrac Fire District. The department’s services do qualify for counting funding, and they recommend reinstating the \$100 per month payment, plus past payments paid in full. They also adopted the Revised boundaries of the Yrac Fire District, changed to accommodate the new Swift Creek and Fairgrounds fire departments.
- Approved receiving bids for emergency generators for the “Wake County Civil Defense Fire Communications Net”, and funds are allocated after learning that federal matching funds cannot be obtained until after the generators have been purchased and paid for.

New FD(s) 1961, September 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Col. John C. Throne, current Training Officer and Acting Director of Civil Defense, appointed as Director.
- Revised boundaries adopted for Stony Hill Volunteer Fire District, to accommodate newly organized Bay Leaf FD.
- Bay Leaf Volunteer FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, effective October 1, 1961.
- Boundaries adopted for Bay Leaf Fire District.
- Revised boundaries adopted for Wakette Rural Fire District.

1961, November 6 – From BOC Minutes:

- Boundaries adopted for Fairgrounds Rural Fire District.
- Revised boundaries adopted for Bay Leaf Fire District.

1962, March 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Raleigh Fire Chief Jack Keeter asked the board to consider selling to the city land on Noble Road beside the Wake County Home, for a fire station site. The neighborhood has been recommended as a station site by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The matter had been previously discussed with Chief Keeter, with a proviso that an addition be added on the back of the fire station for storage of voting machines, and the county would give the land to the city. Committee of three appointed to study matter and report back.

1962, May 11 – From BOC Minutes:

- Board informed that two Civil Defense rescue units are receiving monthly monies, for two in Raleigh and one in Cary. The Civil Defense Director notes that the Cary unit has not been active during the past year, has a surplus of funds on hand, and recommends discontinuing the \$25 monthly payment. Approved.
- Rural fire district budget request for FY62-63 is \$25,900, covering “maintenance and operational support for sixteen” FDs, maintenance and repair of the radio system, and new radio equipment. Also requested is a Training Officer position.

1961, May 28 - From BOC minutes:

- Resolution passed funding New Hope VFD for FY 62-63 from monies including taxes collected.

1962, July 2 – From BOC Minutes:

- Approved money for contracted repair and maintenance of the county fire communications equipment, which “is urgently needed to insure dependable operation of the equipment.”
- Revised boundaries of Yrac Fire District approved.
- Revised boundaries of Stony Hill Rural Fire District approved.

1962, November 5 - From BOC minutes:

- Revised boundaries of Six Forks Fire District, in response to the relocation of the station farther north, and in response to annexation of their current district.

Milestone 1963 – Wake County Fire Chiefs Council created.

- Officers named at organizational meeting on Friday before March 11, 1963.
 - Ed Rosenberger (Wake New Hope) – Chairman.
 - Stan Mizelle (Swift Creek) - Vice Chairman.
 - John Harris (Six Forks) - Secretary.
- Group’s objective is “to provide mutual aid whereby volunteer fire companies in the county will assist each other in providing protection.”
 - When “all of the equipment of one company is at the scene of a fire and a second alarm comes in for the same district, the firefighter equipment from the neighboring station would be dispatched to the second fire.”
- Also plans to “establish a central training ground for the use of all county and city companies.”
- And plans to meet periodically through the year on a regular basis.
- Source: News & Observer, March 11, 1963.

1963, June 24 – From BOC Minutes:

- Annual contract with City of Raleigh renewed, for protection of the Raleigh Suburban Fire District.

1963, August 5 – From BOC Minutes:

- Approved Revised Morrisville Rural Fire District boundaries, expanding to four-mile radius.

1963, October 7 – From BOC Minutes:

- Resolution to hold special election on November 16, 1963, to levy a special tax to residents of the Wakette Fire District (Wake Forest). The election results in a majority of residents voting for a tax levy.

1963, December 21 – From BOC Minutes:

- On May 4, 1964, special election held for residents of Six Forks Road Fire District. Majority voted for tax levy.

1964 – Countywide fire department to be studied.

- Suggested by county Tax Supervisor J. M. Brothers to county commissioners at meeting on Monday before October 6, 1964.
- Study is suggested, after two petitions were received, calling for an election to “authorize levy of special taxes to support rural fire departments.”
- Acting on an early petition, the commissioners authorized a special election to be held December 12 in the Stony Hill district.

- Three fire departments (Six Forks, Wake New Hope, and Wake Forest Rural) currently have special tax levies that won't exceed ten cents per \$100 of property value.
- Three more departments (Cary Rural, Rolesville, Stony Hill) are seeking the special levy.
- Brothers says the special tax districts are "creating problems" for the county tax department, such as "locating personal property owners within the districts."
- With nearly half of the seventeen rural fire departments having tax levies (if the additional three are approved), Brothers think that a county-wide fire department should be studied.
 - Notes the county Civil Defense Director Col. John Thorne, the seventeen rural fire departments cover 70 to 80 percent of the county.
 - Since a rural fire district cannot exceed four miles from the fire station "to get reduced insurance rates," a county wide levy would "require fire [stations] throughout the county."
- Departments without tax levies are supported by "contributions and fundraising campaigns by the firemen and members of the community."
- Source: News & Observer, October 6, 1964.

1964, April 6 - BOC meeting:

- New Fairview FD approved to receive the same financial assistance as other rural FDs, and adoption of the defined boundaries of the Ten-Ten Rural Fire District.
- Revised boundaries of Bay Leaf Rural Fire District adopted.

1964, May 4 - BOC meeting:

- Contracts adopted between county and Wake Forest Rural, Six Forks Road, and Wake New Hope fire departments, for FY64-65.

1964, June 8 - BOC meeting:

- Budgets adopted for Wake Forest Rural (\$2,915.50), Six Forks Road (\$6,450), and Wake New Hope FD (\$12,597), for FY64-65.

1964, October 5 – BOC meeting:

- Revised boundaries adopted between Hipex and Yrac fire districts.
- Boundaries adopted for Durham Highway Rural Fire District.
- Resolution passed for special election for tax levy for Stony Hill Rural Fire District on December 12.

1964, December 9 – From BOC Minutes:

- From BOC Minutes
- Resolution passed authorizing ten-cent tax levy for Durham Highway fire district, after special election on December 7, residents with 93 residents voting 88 for and five against.

1964, December 15

- Resolution passed authorizing tax levy for Yrac, Stony Hill, and Rolesville fire districts, after special election on December 12. Voting totals of 103 for Yrac (102 for, one against), 111 for Stony Hill (95 for, 16 against), and 190 for Rolesville (153 for, 36 against)
- Resolution passed authorizing appropriation of \$5,690 to New Hope VFD for new pumper which is arriving any time.

1965, April 23 - From BOC Minutes:

- Amended boundaries approved for Durham Highway fire district.

1965, June 7

- Revised boundaries approved for Wendell rural fire district, expanded to four-mile district limit.
- Revision of original 1954 resolution that established the Wake County Fire Commission and provided for financial assistance of certain county FDs. Changes include:
 - Commission now comprised of five members, including one BOC member, three active volunteer FFs, and one citizen member-at-large.
 - Regular inspections, at least one annually, required of each FD receiving county subsidy.
 - Updated criteria, for departments to be certified by the county, to receive monies:
 - (a) A rural volunteer fire department shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina. A municipal fire department shall be organized under an ordinance of the governing body of the incorporated city or town.
 - (b) Each Fire Department organization and membership must be maintained in accordance with the standard requirements of the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau to be eligible for reduced Fire District insurance rates. Each department must have a minimum of ten (10) active members to be eligible for County financial assistance. A list of all members will be furnished to the Fire Commissioner annually upon request.
 - (c) All active members of a fire department in good standing shall have some identification such as a card, badge, hat, or car plate to identify them as "bona fide firemen". No one other than an active member of the department in good standing shall be allowed to have this identification in his possession.
 - (d) Each fire department shall have as minimum equipment that equipment specified by the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau as necessary for Grade 9-A Communities. This equipment shall be kept in good condition and operative at all times. The Fire Commission shall have authority to accept minor deviations from the specified equipment, when such minor deviations will not affect the ability of the department to fight fires.
 - (e) Each department shall carry liability insurance on its firemen and equipment, leaving the county free from any responsibility for damages or claims resulting from the activities of its firemen or from the operation of its equipment. Each department shall also carry workmen's compensation insurance on its active members, in order to provide these members with the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act.
 - (f) Each fire department shall carry out an organized training program, which shall be specified by the Fire Commission. The training program shall include the training and qualifying of fire truck drivers. Each department shall participate in a minimum of one drill each month, and each fire truck shall be operated at least once each week.
 - (g) The fire chief of each department is responsible for stressing "safety" throughout the department and throughout all phases of the department's activities. Emphasis shall be placed on the safe driving of the firemen's own automobiles to the scene of the fire, as well as on safe practices while fighting a fire. Only qualified drivers shall drive a fire truck, and the names of qualified drivers shall be posted at the fire station and furnished to the membership of the department. Drivers shall drive with caution at all times, and

they shall allow no one but active members of the fire department to ride a truck when it is on call to a fire or to other emergency.

- (h) A properly manned telephone shall be available at all times during the day and night to receive fire alarms and notify members of the fire department in the event of fire or other emergency. The Chief of each Wake County Rural Fire Department will maintain a current listing of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all other Wake County Rural Fire Department Chiefs, and Assistant Chiefs. An electric siren or air horn shall be mounted within the community for the adequate notification of all firemen, and it shall be installed so that it can be operated from a public place and so that it will be audible to a majority of the active members of the department.
- (i) Each fire department shall respond to the call of the Fire Commissioner. It shall be the duty of the Fire Commissioner or his delegated representative to take such steps as are necessary to make sure, in the event of such a call, that the district of a department answering a call shall not be left unprotected.
- (j) The fire chief within whose area the fire is being fought will be the final authority at the scene of the fire, or where a fire occurs in an area outside of the area of any organized department, the fire chief of the department first arriving at the scene of the fire shall be the final authority. A fire chief, otherwise responsible, may grant permission to another person more qualified to assume the direction of fighting the fire, or dealing with emergency, if such other person is willing to accept the responsibility. In such cases, other persons working under the direction of the fire chief shall be immediately informed of the change of authority.
- (k) The fire chief, or the senior officer of the department having responsibility present at the scene, shall make a full investigation of each fire to determine, if possible, the cause of the fire. If any evidence of arson develops, the Fire Commissioner, and other local and state authorities, shall be notified.
- (l) All fire chiefs are responsible for keeping adequate and accurate records of all fire calls, as well as other records and reports that may be required. A regulation fire record book shall be maintained by each department. The fire chief will also be responsible for filing with the Fire Commission any additional reports which are required by the Fire Commission or by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.
- (m) Each department shall designate a traffic section, composed of at least one captain, and three members, who shall be trained in the proper handling of traffic.

1965, June 29

- Seven rural fire contracts renewed for FY65-66: Rolesville, Six Forks, Stony Hill, Wake Forest Rural, Wake New Hope, Yrac, along with contract with City of Raleigh.

Milestone 1965, December 6 – Wake County Fire Commission and Rural Fire Districts Board consolidated into single entity, the Wake County Fire Commission. From BOC minutes:

- Upon the recommendation of Col. John C. Thorne, Secretary of the Wake County Fire Commission, the "Wake County Fire Commission" and the "Rural Fire Districts Board" was consolidated into one Board, the "Wake County Fire Commission" and the following members appointed to serve a two-year term from December 1, 1965 to December 1, 1967, by motion of Commissioner Shearon, seconded by Commissioner Judd. All members- of the Board present and voting aye.
Billy K. Hopkins, Chairman

Rufus E. Keith, Member
Charles A. Baucom, Member
George D. Norwood, Member
Colonel John C. Thorne, Member

1965, December 7 – Special election held and tax levy approved for Durham Highway fire district.

1966, June 10 – From BOC minutes:

- Budgets approved for FY66-67, for Yrac, Wake New Hope, Wakette, Stony Hill, Six Forks, Rolesville, and Durham Highway fire district departments.
- Contracts renewed for eight rural FDs, plus City of Raleigh.

1966, October 3 – From BOC minutes:

- Board received comments on the subject of a county fire marshal from Commissioner Billy K. Hopkins: “Commissioner Hopkins reported that he had talked to several people involved and no definite conclusions have been reached. Chairman Trentman expressed the opinion that, of all volunteer organizations, the Volunteer Fire Department of Wake County is the most enthusiastic. He feels that, if a fire marshal is employed, it might adversely affect the enthusiastic spirit of the Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Booth agreed with Mr. Trentman. Mr. Booth stated that the Board does not want to create a situation where the Volunteer Fire Department might be dictated to. Commissioner Hopkins stated that this subject will be discussed at the meeting of the Fire Association in November. Board action on this matter was deferred for further consideration after the Association meeting.

1967

February 6, 1967 – From BOC minutes:

- Commissioner Hopkins gave the following report on Wake County rural fire services organizations. He stated that a study had been made to determine the need and consensus of opinion regarding the employment of a County Fire Marshal.
- I. General
 - Approximately 70 percent of the Wake County rural areas are included in eighteen designated rural fire districts served by eighteen incorporated rural fire departments. These departments are organized and operating in accordance with Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Wake County providing for the establishment of the Wake County Fire Commission and providing for financial assistance to certain fire departments of the County. The Resolution was adopted September 7, 1954, and revised June 7, 1965. All departments also meet the requirements of the State Fire Insurance Rating Bureau as to personnel, facilities, and firefighting equipment and apparatus. See large County map with sketched in fire districts.
 - a. Each district boundary is limited to a four mile radius from the respective fire station for the purpose of reduced fire insurance rates. Service, however, is rendered areas outside established districts to the extent practical. There is a possibility of establishing another department during the current year in the Willow Springs-Mt. Pleasant community.

- b. Total County rural fire departments 1 rolling equipment consists of fifty-five truck pumpers and tankers and eleven other service vehicles, totaling sixty-six units. Current fire department active membership is 540 volunteer firemen or an average of thirty members per department. See attached enclosure #1.
- c. The eighteen departments and personnel and equipment is bound together by the Wake County Fire Services Radio Net, with the Raleigh Fire Department Dispatcher 1 s Office at 220 South Dawson Street, Raleigh, acting as the central control station. Two dispatchers are on duty there at all times to receive fire calls and dispatch vehicles as the need arises. The radio net affords them the capability of activating sirens and immediate two-way voice contact with all rural stations via any or all of the eighteen base stations and sixty mobile units and fifty-seven monitor receivers located in the fire districts. There is not a box alarm system of automatically dispatching fire companies on high hazard fires, but the fire radio net affords practically the same service.
- d. Wake County volunteer firemen are trained in fire fighting and prevention by:
 - (1) Experienced department veteran firemen.
 - (2) A twelve hour annual fire and rescue service school conducted in Raleigh each year by the Fire and Rescue Division of the State Department of Insurance assisted by the Raleigh Fire Department.
 - (3) W. W Holding Technical Institute instructors, as requested and subject to availability and conducts courses at individual fire stations.
 - Fire Services “Instructor Training Courses” are available at North Carolina State University periodically.
- 2. Wake County Fire Marshal
 - In order to determine the views of our fire department officials and firemen regarding the need and desirability of employing a County Fire Marshal, an announcement was made at the Wake County Firemen’s Association on November 8, 1966, requesting that each department send the Fire Commissioner a letter giving the views of their department personnel on the subject. During the following five weeks only two replies were received, one for and one generally against the idea.
 - b. On December 15, 1966, a letter was forwarded to all departments, again soliciting their views and opinions, furnishing a form letter for their reply and a stamped, return addressed envelope. As of this date, a total of thirteen departments have responded. Seven departments indicated the need for a Fire Marshal and would like for the idea to be pursued further. Six departments indicated that they wanted to reserve their thoughts and opinions until a later date or were opposed to the idea of having a Fire Marshal at this time. The other five departments have not responded as of this date, and it must be assumed that they are not very enthusiastic about it.
 - c. The matter has been discussed with individual firemen and others. Based upon these conversations as well as results from written inquiries, it appears that the majority of the fire services personnel are afraid employment of a full-time County Fire Marshal might eventually result in some local loss of operational control and prestige of their departments .
- 3. Considerations and Comments
 - a. As a volunteer group, our rural firemen are proud of their accomplishments and want to insure that their organization remains a community project, independent of undue outside influence. They do however understand and highly approve of the County Mutual Aid concept. It appears that there is a need for more County assistance in training, technical equipment tests, and general organization and coordination.
 - b. The employment of a County Fire Marshal, to render full time assistance to our fire services in promoting and coordinating training, performing technical equipment tests, and other activities is considered desirable, but not essential. This need not infringe on the control and prestige of

individual departments, but tend to improve their firefighting potential. It is questionable, however, whether or not the improvements would be commensurate with the cost.

- c. The current fiscal year budget for Wake County Fire Services is approximately \$37,000, including fire radio net maintenance. About \$30,000 is paid from the General Fund, the remainder from the County part of the Civil Defense budget. This amount is small compared with the services it supports, however, almost half of our fire districts now have a fire tax levy that helps support their fire department operations.
 - d. It is understood that the salary of a qualified Fire Marshal would be about \$10,000. He would need an office and perhaps a clerk typist and telephone, plus a car or travel account, etc. Overall cost of the position would be about \$15,000, bringing total direct County contributions for fire services to over \$50,000 per annum.
 - e. The required County level fire services administration, i.e., budgeting, reporting, inspections, equipment purchasing, supervision of the Fire Radio Net Maintenance Contract, etc., is being accomplished by the County Civil Defense Office under the general supervision of the Fire Commissioner. A Fire Marshal could take over these duties, leaving that office with more needed time for Civil Defense activities, however fire services is one of the most important phases of County Civil Defense plans and preparations for emergency operations. The Federal Government finances 50 percent of the regular salaries, office supplies, and travel of Civil Defense employees.
 - f. If current Civil Defense office staffing is not sufficient and properly qualified to render desired County level assistance to rural fire departments, it would appear that the best and most economical approach would be to add a qualified person to the Civil Defense staff who is or could qualify through training for rendering the proper assistance.
- 4. Recommendations
 - a. That no action be taken at this time to employ a Wake County Fire Marshal.
 - b. That the Wake County Civil Defense Director be instructed to provide increased training, coordination, and technical assistance to Wake County rural fire department organizations as requested by departments and determined appropriate by the Wake County Fire Commission. This to be accomplished by an employee with special fire services training and technical equipment qualifications.

Upon motion of Commissioner Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Bryan, the Board accepted the above recommendation. All members present voting aye.

1967, February 6 – From BOC minutes:

- Reported that Fairview has made application to Fire Insurance Rating Bureau to expand district from three- to four-mile radius. Board voted favorably on the application.

1967, June 26 – From BOC minutes:

- Budgets approved for eight fire districts.
- Contracts renewed with eight fire departments, plus city of Raleigh, for protection of tax levy-funded fire districts.

July 8, 1967 – *News & Observer* reports on “Rural Fire Units Have Financial Struggle”. Highlights:

- More than 500 men are volunteer firemen in county.

- Estimated \$500,000 worth of equipment, owned by all departments.
- Eighteen rural fire departments answer almost 1,000 calls a year.
- They have about seventy “firefighting vehicles” and each has at least one “radio unit.”
- They sometimes spend as much as twenty hours a week “answering alarms and maintaining equipment.”
- Plus, more hours for “money making schemes to pay for the services which they perform for the public at no charge.”
- Their departments have “sponsored everything from gospel ‘sings’ to antique sales.”
- “Barbecue, chicken, and pork suppers and fish fries” are their “standard methods of raising money.”
- They’ve also used “auctions, door-to-door soap sales, talent shows, junk sales, Firemen’s Day celebrations, and personal appeals for financial help.”
- Some firemen reach into their own pockets to pay their department’s bills.
- Each of eighteen rural fire departments receives \$1,500 per year from the county.
- Eight areas have a tax levy of ten cents on each \$100 of property valuation: Bay Leaf, Durham Highway, Rolesville, Six Forks, Stony Hill, Wake Forest Rural, Wake New Hope, and Yrac.
- Rural districts cover about seventy-five percent of unincorporated areas in the county.
- Some departments are “authorized to respond” within a four-mile radius of their stations, while others are limited to three-mile responses.
- Homeowners who live within rural districts can receive reduced fire insurance rates.

1969, April 8 – From BOC minutes:

- Redefined boundaries approved for Wakelon (Zebulon Rural) Fire District.
- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Wakelon Fire District on May 17.

1969, May 5 – From BOC minutes:

- Redefined boundaries approved for Morrisville Fire District.
- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Morrisville Fire District on June 10.
- Contracts approved for eight rural fire districts.

1970 to 1979 - Milestones

New FD(s) 1970, October 5 – From BOC minutes:

- Falls Rural Volunteer FD is qualified to receive county aid, \$100 per month, beginning November 1, 1970.
- Boundaries approved for Falls Fire District.

1971, October 4 – From BOC minutes:

- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Ten Ten (Fairview) Fire District on December 4.
- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Alert (Knightdale) Fire District on December 4.

Milestone 1971 – New fire station and equipment identification system created by Wake County Firemen’s Association:

DRAFT

4/30/71

Wake County Firemen’s Association

FIRE STATION & EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT	STATION #	(1-4) EQUIP #	(5-6) SPECIAL UNITS (TANKERS, VANS, UTILITY, ETC)	(7-9) TANKER #	(9) BUS #
✓ APEX	4	41, 42, 43 FOAM 44		47, 48	49
✓ BAY LEAF	15 25	251, 252		257, 258	259
✓ CARY	5	51, 52, 53, 54	TRUCK 56		59
Durham Highway #1	16	161	Squad 16	167	
Durham Highway #2	17	171	Squad 17	177	
✓ FAIRGROUNDS	19	191, 192, 194	Squad 19	197, 198, 196	
FAIRVIEW	20	201, 204		207, 208	
FALLS	21	211, 212		217	219
FUQUAY-VAENNA	7	71, 72, 73, 74		77, 78	79
GARNER #1	8	81, 82, 83	Squad 8	87, 88	
GARNER #2	18	181	Squad 18	187, 188	189
HOLLY SPRINGS	14	141		147, 148	149
HOPKINS	22	221, 224	Squad 22	227	229
KNIGHTDALE	13	131, 132	Squad 13	137, 138	139
✓ MOREHEADVILLE #1	23	231	Squad 23	237	239
✓ MOREHEADVILLE #2	24	241	Squad 24	247	249
✓ ROLESVILLE	25 15	251, 252, 154	25	257, 258	259
✓ SIX FORKS	12	121, 122	Squad 12 25	127	129
✓ STONEY HILL	26	261, 264, 263		267, 268	269
SWIFT CREEK	27	271, 272		277, 278	279
✓ WAKE FOREST	6	61, 62, 63, 64	Squad 6	67	69
WAKE NEW HOPE	28	281, 282	Squad 28	287, 288	289
WENDELL	11	111, 112		117	
✓ TRAC	29	291, 292		297	299
ZEBULON	9	91, 92, 93		97, 98	99

Milestone 1972 – County and city fire department dispatching transferred to new Raleigh / Wake County Emergency Communications Center in the spring of 1972. The telephone number 829-1911 is designated as county-wide emergency number, in anticipation of 911 availability in later decade.

- Most (all?) towns also have their own dispatchers, for police calls and other emergencies.
- Wake Forest and Wendell also operated Gamewell alarm boxes, in prior years/decades.
- Cary creates their own emergency communications center.
- By 2000s, Raleigh/Wake, Cary, Apex, and Holly Springs are operating their own communication centers, though with some integrations for fire and EMS dispatching.

New FD(s) 1972, February 7 – From BOC minutes:

- New Holly Springs Rural Volunteer FD recognized and approved to begin receiving financial assistance on the first day of the month following certification of their qualifications by the fire commission.
- Boundaries approved for Holly Springs Fire District.
- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Holly Springs Rural Fire District on March 18.

1972, March 6 – From BOC minutes:

- Resolution passed authorizing ten-cent tax levy for Furnia (Fuquay-Varina Rural) fire district, after special election on February 12, with 76 of 76 voting residents voting in favor.

1972, November 6 – From BOC minutes:

- Notice of special election for purpose of approving tax levy for Wendell-Holmes) Fire District on December 9.

1973

July 1, 1973

Budget notes (72-73):

- Rural fire departments receive \$1,500 yearly allotment.
- Raleigh Fire Department receives \$1,500 annually for “radio service for dispatching.”
- Other budget expenses include \$6,216 for capital outlay of equipment, and \$2,682 for maintenance and repair of equipment.

1974

1974, June 3 – From BOC minutes:

- Redefined boundaries approved for Six Forks FD, resulting from annexation and their moving of the fire station from Six Forks Road to Lynn Road. Board also presented with petition from 82 property owners, authorizing their taxation.

1974, August 19 – From BOC minutes

- Revised wording approved for fire district boundaries of Six Forks, Bay Leaf, Wake New Hope, Durham Highway, and Fairgrounds fire districts. Word change recommended by North Carolina Fire Insurance Ratings Bureau, after document reviews during the Six Forks district realignment.

1974, November 4 –From BOC minutes:

- Contract approved with Zebulon Rural FD, starting October 30, 1974, and for term of twenty years.

1975

July 1, 1975

Staff:

- Three positions.

Budget notes (74-75):

- Capital outlay for equipment of \$12,164, for new communication equipment.
- Maintenance of fire radio network also budgeted as \$13,466.
 - Costs associated with new Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Communications Center?
 - Both costs continue over subsequent budget years through 1977-78 (at least), and somewhat higher amounts.
- Raleigh-Wake County Civil Preparedness department has three employees:
 - Director Russell Capps.
 - Trainee Nolan Ramage.
 - Stenographer II Pauline Wood.

1978

July 28, 1978 – *News & Observer* profile of Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Preparedness Agency. Story notes:

- Coordinator is Russell Capps.
- Commission J. T. Knott chairs both the Wake County Fire Districts Commission and the Wake County Rescue Squads Commission.
- He's the county's liaison for emergency services.
- All county emergency services are coordinated by the EPA.
- The department also "develops emergency plans and warning systems."
- County provides monthly subsidies to [rural] fire [departments] and rescue squads.
- Twenty-first volunteer department being organized, in Morrisville-Carpenter.
- The departments are "linked" by the Wake County Firemen's Association.
- Major project of EPA in past year has been "preparation of emergency plans for all the public schools in Raleigh and Wake County."
 - Engineers surveyed each school to "determine the safest areas during tornadoes and other emergencies."
 - Plans were drawn and presented at the schools.
 - The schools began exercises to "familiarize the students with the procedures."
- County has added new equipment, which has expanded "county's capability to handle disasters."
- About \$20,000 worth of radio equipment added to county's fire and rescue squad radio networks.
 - Half was funded by county.
- Eight radio pagers for Zebulon Rescue Squad, five two-way radios for Wendell Rescue Squad, five two-way radios for Wake Forest Rescue Squad, a two-way radio for Garner-St. Mary's Rescue Squad, and a base station radio for Rex Hospital.
 - The radio will allow "communications with all ambulances and rescue squads and with other hospitals."
- EPA plans to convert a "large crash truck" into a "mobile field communications vehicle."

Milestone 1979, circa – Wake County Firemen's Association proposed fire station and equipment identification system.

- Unit numbers based on county station numbers.
- Engines are 1 – 4.
- Special units (small trucks, utility vans, etc.) are 5 – 6.
- Tankers are 7 – 8.
- Brush units are 9.
- Examples:
 - Garner Station 1
 - County Station 8
 - Engine 81, 82, 83
 - Squad 8
 - Tanker 87, 88

1980s – Mergers

- **Milestone** 1983 – Wake Forest municipal departments (WFFD and WFFD #2) and rural department merge.
 - Wake Forest Fire Department Incorporated is chartered.
 - Town became first municipality in state to contract fire protection to another agency.
 - Contract rate is \$0.05 cents per \$100 valuation, and department receives \$24,000 for 1983-84 fiscal year under \$0.86 tax rate for town.
 - Merger was discussed as early as September 1981.
 - See web page for detailed history.
- **Milestone** 1985 – Wendell municipal fire department merged into Wendell Rural.
 - They had been operating as combined department since early 1980s. Department signed fire protection contract with town.

1980s and 1990s – New Stations

Rural fire departments (and municipal departments with rural districts) add additional stations to address growth:

- 1988 - Wake New Hope opens Station 2 at Wake Crossroads.
- 1988 - Wendell opens Station 2 off Rolesville Road.
- 1990 - Fairview opens Station 2 near Lake Wheeler Road.
- 1991 - Fuquay-Varina opens Station 2 on Hilltop Road.
- 1992 - Durham Highway opens Station 3 on Norwood Road.
- 1993 - Bay Leaf opens Station 2 on Norwood Road.
- 1996 - Knightdale opens Station 2 off Poole Road.
- 1997 - Apex opens Station 2 in New Hill.
- 1997 - Stony Hill opens Station 2 on New Light Road.
- 1999 - Garner opens Station 3 on Timber Drive.

Some departments move stations to larger facilities:

- Bay Leaf moves nearby on Six Forks Road, 1983.
- Swift Creek moves nearby on Holly Springs Road, 1983-84.
- Wendell moves from town hall to Wendell Boulevard (present street name), 1984.
- Wake Forest moves from two buildings on White Street to Elm Street, 1986.
- Fairgrounds moves nearby to District Drive, 1992.

Some departments renovate or further expand their stations:

- Morrisville adds three bays on Morrisville-Carpenter Road, 1984.
- Knightdale adds two bays and living areas on Hester Street, 1985.
- Rolesville expands their station on Young Street, 1986.
- Morrisville completely renovates station on Morrisville-Carpenter Road, 1992.
- Fairview renovates/rebuilds their station on Ten Ten Road, 1999.

Some departments also close some stations, due to annexation:

- Durham Highway closes station on Davis Drive off Highway 70, circa 1992.

1980 to 1989 – Milestones

1980

County has breathing air compressor housed at EMS Station 1 on West Martin Street, also office of Emergency Management Director/Fire Marshal (?). Discussions in June 1980 to move to a Raleigh fire station located near the Beltline, possibly Station 11 or Station 14. (WCFCC)

1981

Code 3 policy being developed, involving different radio codes based on fire conditions on arrival. Reported at KVFD member meeting on September 17, 1981.

Northern Wake County departments have elected to begin automatic mutual aid, reported at KVFD member meeting on September 5, 1981.

911 phone number activated on January 26, as reported at KVFD member meeting on January 21, 1981.

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County breathing air compressor moved to Raleigh Station 11, by February 2, 1981. Procedure is to call Central and have them contact station when you are minutes out. Chiefs are recommended to carry bottles upright and secure when under pressure. (WCFCC)

Sites being examined for county fire training center. Fire Marshal Russell Capps reports that airport area land might be available, at February 10, 1981, meeting of Wake County Fire Chief's Council. (WCFCC)

From October 26, 1981, minutes of Wake County Fire Chief's Council. Several people travel to Rocky Mount to view Rocky Mount Fire Department training center. Many [of the] current [or] best sites [sit] in glide path [of airport]. RDU owns best site, west of airport, at SR 1642. Some industries are interested in supporting project. (WCFCC)

July 1, 1981

Staff:

- Three positions.

Tax rates, from Annual Budget (80-81):

<u>FIRE DISTRICT</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
Bayleaf	\$ 48,000,000	.05	\$24,000
Cary (YRAC)	61,000,000	.05	30,500
Durham Highway	94,000,000	.05	47,000
Fairgrounds	56,000,000	.05	28,000
Fairview (Ten-Ten)	23,000,000	.05	11,500
Falls	13,000,000	.05	6,500
Fuquay-Varina (Furina)	38,000,000	.05	19,000
Holly Springs	6,500,000	.05	3,250
Hopkins	10,000,000	.05	5,000
Knightdale (Alert)	57,000,000	.05	28,500
Morrisville	33,000,000	.05	16,500
Rolesville	26,000,000	.05	13,000
Six Forks	71,000,000	.05	35,500
Stoney Hill	9,000,000	.05	4,500
Swift Creek	41,000,000	.05	20,500
Wake Forest (Wakette)	46,000,000	.05	23,000
Wake-New Hope	180,000,000	.02	36,000
Wendell (Wendell Holmes)	21,000,000	.05	10,500
Zebulon (Wakelon)	24,000,000	.05	12,000
Raleigh	400,000	.20	800

Source: WCAB.

1981-82

Between July 1, 1981, and June 30, 1982 - Three new fire tax districts created:

- Durham Highway – Dillard Road.
- Rolesville – Wake Crossroad.
- Wake-New Hope – Perry Creek.

1982

Five potential training sites discussed at Wake County Fire Chief's Council meeting, February 1, 1982. (WCFCC).

Milestone First responder program implemented in March 1982 at Fairview FD, first county FD to implement.

- Details from *Raleigh Times*, March 11, 1982:
 - Program includes participation (administration?) by Wake County EMS, and their Training Coordinator Joseph Zalkin.

- Twenty-six firefighters undergo about forty hours of basic life support training.
- Chosen due to location between four rescue districts: Apex, Cary, Garner, and Fuquay-Varina.
- Ambulance to the Fairview district takes as much as eight to fifteen minutes to arrive.
- Departments serving Bay Leaf, Holly Springs, Hopkins, Morrisville and Stony Hill may soon join program.
- Rural districts where ambulance response time averages eight to fifteen will be given priority status to implement the program.
- Others fire departments add service over subsequent years and decades, such as:
 - Wake-New Hope FD begins first responder between 1982 and 1985.
 - Swift Creek FD begins first responder in fall 1993.
 - Zebulon Rural FD begins first responder in 1999.
 - Wake Forest FD begins first responder for county calls in 2000.
- The EMT-D program began in Raleigh in 1993.
 - Based on the success, Wake and Orange counties proposed a First Responder-D program in 1995.
 - The North Carolina Medical Board approved same in 1996 as a local county option.
 - Apex FD was first agency to provide service.
 - Hopkins FD performed first patient defibrillation.
 - (WCEMS web page, <http://www.wakegov.com/ems/system/Pages/firstresponder.aspx>)
- Effective July 1, 1999, every county fire department must provide fire responder services.
 - At least two firefighters to respond to every life-threatening emergency.
 - (N&O, 6/25/99)
- Some fire departments are providing extrication services. Others look to rescue squads for this service.
 - By late 1990s, most rescue squads will have ceased those services.
 - Only Garner Rescue Squad will continue through late 2000s.

July 1, 1982

Staff:

- Three positions.

November 4, 1982 – New mutual aid agreement has been signed by all chiefs in county, reported at KVFD member meeting.

1983

July 1, 1983

Staff:

- Three positions.

Budget notes (82-83):

- Fire Marshal position is held concurrently by Emergency Management Director.

- This official performs fire inspections in schools and public buildings in unincorporated areas of the county, and functions as coordinator for staff support and training services for the fire departments.
- Emergency Management Division has three full-time positions.
- Source: WCAB.

1984

July 1, 1984:

Staff:

- Three positions.

July 5, 1984 – County cascade system will be housed at Swift Creek FD, reported at KVFD member meeting.

1985

Milestone Training center:

- Wake County Fire Training Center constructed/completed on land adjoining the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant in New Hill.
- Cost \$700,000.
- Facility is only minimally used during the first couple years, until a county fire training program started in 1988.
- Source: WCFS.

May 1985, circa - Wake New Hope installs air bottle refilling system.

- From May 6, 1985, minutes of Wake County Fire Chief's Council: New Hope has purchased and installed an Eagle Air Compressor System. Has 5,000 PSI storage tanks available for fire departments in Wake County. Cost \$12,458.02, paid in full at time of delivery, and funded by the county with agreement fire department will provide housing, availability, and service to all fire departments on full-time basis. (WCFCC)

June 1985 – Wake County now has an arson team, reported at Knightdale VFD member meeting, June 6, 1985.

July 1, 1985

Staff:

- No positions. [Prior fiscal years' three positions now assigned to new Emergency Management division.]

November 7, 1985 – Wake County “arson squad” is now ready to respond, reported at KVFD member meeting.

1986

Wake County Fire Chief's Council meeting highlights:

- Meeting and meal planned for all fire chiefs to meet the new Fire Marshal, February 3, 1986.
- Discussion of resignation of Russell Capps, April 3, 1986.

- Wake County Fire Chief's Council votes to support request for county to purchase cascade system to be located in Fuquay-Varina, May 13, 1986.
- Special meeting called to discuss background of board of commissioner's decision to hire full-time county fire marshal, June 3, 1986.
- Radio procedures adopted, August 1986.
 - Use Code 1, Code 2, and Condition Red or Blue, with a short description of fire scene on arrival.
 - Procedures for receiving an alarm, answering an alarm, en route to fire scene, arrival, fire scene, etc.
- Source: WCFCC

Milestone First full-time fire marshal hired.

- Frederick P. "Rick" Hall IV, 34, starts working on February 10, 1986.
- Formerly assistant chief with Guilford College FD.
- His salary is \$29,304.
- As fire marshal, he's responsible for inspecting public facilities located outside municipalities, such as schools and nursing homes.
- He also coordinates activities at the county's new fire training center and works with the volunteer fire departments.
- Was the county's first choice from more than 70 applicants.
- Position was previously held by J. Russell Capps, who is also the director of the county's Emergency Management office.
- In July 1985, the board of commissioners decided that the growing number of structures in the county, the opening of the new fire training center, and planning opening of the nuclear power plant, were "more than one small office could handle." Capps was relieved of the role.
- After leaving Wake County (in 1988?), Hall was hired as the first full-time fire chief for Summerfield FD in Guilford County.
- Source: N&O/RT, Jan. 28, 1986, and oral histories.

July 1, 1986

Staff:

- One position.

Budget highlights (85-86):

- To improve service delivery of the rural fire departments, and coordinate training at the Fire Training Facility, the following full-time position and one radio equipped vehicle are authorized: Fire Marshal, Salary Grade 74, range \$22,536 - \$34,500. (WCAB)

1987

Milestone First aerial apparatus added outside Raleigh, 1987.

- Grumman aerial platform in Zebulon.

- Followed by 1988 Pierce in Cary.
- Later early aerials include:
 - 1989 Simon-Duplex/LTI aerial ladder in Apex (bought used?)
 - 1991 E-One aerial ladder in Knightdale (sold 1993),
 - 1978 Mack aerial ladder in Knightdale (bought used),
 - 1979 Mack/1958 American LaFrance tiller in Wendell (bought used in 1999/2000).

July 1, 1987

Staff:

- Two positions.

Budget highlights (86-87):

- **Milestone** Full-time Fire Inspector/Trainer added, to [help] facilitate use of the Fire Training Facility and conduct required fire inspections of day care centers, nursing homes and foster care homes. (WCAB)

October 5, 1987 – *News & Observer* reports that county commissioners have tentatively approved a new fire district named East Wake, as part of a plan to provide closer service to 6,300 people in “no man’s land” between Knightdale and Rolesville. They recommend creating a new district after the existing departments failed during the summer to agree upon a coverage plan. Then what happened? The fire departments quickly came back to the table after this proposal and agreed to divide coverage of the area between Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell, and Wake-New Hope fire department districts. Additionally, two substations would be built by Wake-New Hope and Wendell. Source: Legeros Fire Blog.

December 1987 – From BOC minutes, 8/19/96:

- Consultant report received from Sachs/Freeman Associations. They were employed in February 1987 at the request of the Raleigh/Wake Emergency Communications Policy Board to recommend a radio communications design that would correct deficiencies and improve the existing emergency communications system.
- Since 1984, substantial research and experience had been compiled through emergency incidents, exercises, and by consulting engineers which addressed the need for major improvements in the county-wide emergency communications system. The emergency communications system supports Emergency Medical and Rescue services, Law Enforcement, and Fire Services along with many other responders associated with emergency incidents.
- The 1987 study recommends that 800 MHz trunked radio technology be employed to correct short- and long-term communication problems in Wake County.

1988

Milestone Edward L. Schmelzer appointed Fire Marshal effective February 15, 1988.

- Wake County resident who had been involved with the volunteer fire service in the county for a number of years.
- Certified in 1967 as a fire instructor and had actively taught a number of fire service courses across the county.

- Previously employed as Fire/Safety Manager at the Harris nuclear power plant from August 1978 to August 1984, and then as a Fire Technical Aide at the power plant, as a technical adviser to the Senior Fire Protection Specialist. (WCFCC)

Milestone First ongoing countywide training program started operation.

- Until now, departments outside Raleigh and Cary “held their own in-house training sessions, sent their firefighters to seminars and encouraged them to take college courses.”
- Five-story training tower scheduled for completion at training center that year.
- Training grounds also have “three burn pits, a two-story smoke house and burn house combination, and a simulated liquid propane gas burn unit.”
- Dewey Poole hired as county’s first fire trainer. Part of his task is “marketing” the training facility, which was only being used about twice a year.
- Source: N&O/RT, June 23, 1988.

July 1, 1988

Staff:

- Four positions.

Budget highlights (87-88):

- Full-time Fire Inspector added.
- Fire Services has four positions.
- Source: WCAB.

Milestone Training tower due to be completed in August. (WCFCC)

1989

Milestone Wake New Hope places dive team in operation on July 14, 1989. Available countywide. (WCFCC).

- Dive team separated from fire department in May [1990]. (Double-check)
- Board of Directors decided to stop supporting the service in April 1991.
- Only two of the team’s twelve to fifteen recovery calls had been in the department’s district.
- The team provided their services countywide and at no cost.
- Group formed Wake Underwater Search and Recovery, a private non-profit group in August 1991.
- Team had thirty male and female members, mostly law enforcement officers, firefighters, or paramedics.
- (N&O, 9/5/91)

July 1, 1989

Staff:

- Seven positions.

Milestone Wake County Arson Response Team in service (?), effective September 1, 1989. (WCFCC)

October 28, 1989 – First annual firefighter competition field day held at the county training center. The all-day event included five separate areas of competition:

- Tug of war
- Water ball
- Water to fire
- Air pack rescue
- Ladder and hose exercise.

Prior to the event, a practice day was held on September 16, 1989. Source: WCPS memo, 8/21/89.

1990s – 2000s

More town-based rural departments begin merging with their municipal counterparts:

- Apex Rural into AFD in 2002.
- Zebulon Rural into Zebulon FD in 2000.

Other towns take over their private-run fire departments:

- Holly Springs Rural into town in 1995.
- Morrisville Rural into town in 1995.

Some smaller departments execute mergers.

- Fairgrounds and Yrac merged in 1998 to create Western Wake.
 - First merger in county since the 1994 study recommended some consolidations of departments.
 - Was initiated by both departments.
- Six Forks merged with Bay Leaf in 2002.
 - Merger was suggested/requested by the county.
 - Source: Wake County Fire Commission meeting minutes, March 16, 1999.

Other departments change, due to service area changes due to municipal withdrawal:

- Knightdale renamed/reorganized as Eastern Wake in 2002.
- Town of Knightdale created own fire department in the same year.

Source: MJL/WCFD

1990 to 1999 - More Milestones

1990

Milestone New radio channel plan implemented January 1, 1990. (WCFCC)

May 1990 – From County BOC minutes, 8/19/96:

- Report received from Communications Technology Associates on county-wide emergency radio system.
- They were hired in September 1989 to make recommendations on the adequacy of the existing emergency communications equipment, improvements for the emergency communications system, relocation of

communications facilities to the new Public Safety Center and the proposed upgrade of the Emergency Operations Center.

- Study recommended that the 800 MHz trunked radio technology be utilized to address short- and long-term problems which had been identified along with other alternatives and considerations.
- Also in October 1989, preliminary design and schematic drawings were completed by the architectural firm of O'Brien/Atkins for the emergency operations center and the associated communications center to be located in the lower level of the Courthouse.
- These drawings were revised in 1991, and preliminary planning explored the possibility of the center being located in a basement level of the new public safety center. Due to the high water table discovered during subsurface drilling, the basement level was omitted from the final plans.

July 1, 1990

Staff:

- Seven positions.
- Listed as 6.0 full-time and 0.7 part-time in FY90 document.
- Listed as 8 full-time in FY91 document.

Budget highlights (89-90):

- Fire Services has seven positions.
- Three positions approved by BOC in January 1989.
- Source: WCAB.

1991

Wake County Fire Chief's Council voted to recommend to the county that a mobile air compressor be purchased for Wake Forest, January 22, 1991. (WCFCC)

July 1, 1991

Staff:

- 8 positions (listed in FY91 document).

Budget highlights (90-91):

- Full-time Fire Inspector added, to more effectively inspect premises for fire code violations and carry out new responsibilities required by state law.
- Fire Services has eight positions.
- Source: WCAB.

1992

Milestone New fireground sectors adopted, as recommended by Wake County Fire Chief's Council. Effective by January 30, 1992. (WCFCC)

May 16, 1992 – *News & Observer* reports on “Wake, firefighters differ on taxes – Volunteers seek more money.”
Story notes:

- Property reassessment completed in Wake County last year.
- This increased property values an average of forty-three percent.
- Homeowners poised to be hit with increased bill for fire tax, unless reductions are made.
- Fire departments will see higher annual revenues, some as much as sixty percent higher.
- Fire Chiefs see “opportunity to improve service and upgrade equipment without raising taxes.”
- For years, the BOC have “approved firefighters’ budgets without much question.”
- This year, County Manager has been directed by BOC to “hold down taxes.”
- He’s recommended fire district rates be reduced, to offset increase in property tax values.
- Fire Chief have thus looked to re-examine their proposed budgets, based on County Manager’s recommendation.
- What happened? See Appendix for chart of fire tax rates. Many districts were reduced.

July 1, 1992

Staff:

- 11.5 positions

Budget highlights:

- Goes here

1993

February 15, 1993 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved interlocal agreement between the county, the Raleigh FD and the Wendell FD, to respond to haz-mat incidents in the county and the eleven municipalities. The agreement establishes a five-year plan for “response, mitigation, funding, and cost recovery in support of the program.” It is effective July 1, 1993.
- The agreement was the result of three years of work by Wake County Emergency Management, in cooperation with the municipalities, to develop a strategy for responding to haz-mat incidents.
- They determined that the nature and size of the haz-mat response effort is neither cost-effective nor within the available resources of each government unit to respond solely within their jurisdiction. Thus, using pooled resources is more effective.

June 21, 1993 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved new contract for service, developed by Public Safety Committee of Board of Commissioners, after meeting with representatives of the volunteer fire departments.

Snapshot of rural fire districts from Fiscal Year 1993-94 budget document, published prior to July 1, 1993:

- Apex – Serves southwestern portion of county, including town. One station. Volunteers and paid staff. Tax rate 8.5 cents. Budget and \$197,173.
- Bay Leaf – Serves county area between Raleigh northern borders and Falls Lake. Two stations at either end of district. Volunteers and paid staff. Tax rate 5.5 cents, with request for increase denied, to fund new pumper truck. Budget \$448,150.
- Cary (Yrac) – Serves areas in and around Cary that haven’t been annexed, from one station in center of town. All volunteer. Tax rate 8 cents, raised from 7.5 cents to offset shrinking tax base. Budget \$113,834.

- Durham Highway – Northwestern corner of county adjacent to Highway 70, west of city limits, from two stations. Volunteers and paid personnel. Tax rate 6 cents, raised from 4 cents to honor debt obligations incurred with construction of second station and purchase of new apparatus. Budget \$350,403.
- Fairgrounds – District includes area west of city boundaries. All volunteer. Tax rate 9 centers, raised from 6.5 cents, to offset annexation losses. Budget \$119,675.
- Fairview – District composed largely of farmland and some rural subdivisions lying approximately halfway between Raleigh and Fuquay-Varina. Two stations at either end of district. All volunteer but converting to some paid staff. Tax rate 6.5 percent, raised from 4 cents, for staffing. \$209,353.
- Falls – Serves area northeast of city, generally east of Falls Lake dam. District gradually shrinking due to annexation. One station. Volunteer and paid staff. Tax rate 9.5 centers, increased from 7.5 cents to offset losses due to annexation. Budget \$89,762.
- Fuquay-Varina – Serves southern reaches of county and town. Two stations. All volunteer. Tax rate 8.5 cents, increased from 7.5 cents, to fund first influx of paid staff. Budget \$302,558.
- Garner – Serves southeastern portion of county and town. Two fire stations. Combination of volunteers and paid personnel. Tax rate 6 cents. Budget \$329,853.
- Holly Springs – Serves far southwestern portion of county, including town and Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. Serves as backup to plant’s fire brigade. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 9.5 cents, raised from 6 centers, for new equipment needs and rising costs. Budget \$41,103.
- Hopkins – Serves rural area along county’s northeastern border, between Rolesville and Zebulon. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 7.5 cents, raised from 5 centers, primarily to allow purchase of new pumper. Budget \$54,266.
- Knightdale – Serves area east of Knightdale, including town. One station. Paid and volunteer. Tax rate 7 cents, raised from 6 cents, to fund payments on a ladder truck, and set aside funds for a future replacement station. Budget \$229,600.
- Morrisville – Serves area west of Cary, reaching county’s western border, and including town of Morrisville. Two stations. Paid and volunteer staff. Tax rate 10 cents, raised from 5 centers, to support growing operating costs. Budget \$83,648.
- Raleigh – Not a fire department, but payment to county by portion of taxpayers not in any town or city limits or fire district. Tax rate 9.5 cents. Budget \$1,366.
- Rolesville – Serves area in northeastern portion of county, including town. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 6.5 cents. Budget \$150,903.
- Six Forks – Serves area adjacent to northwestern border of city. One station operated in unison with Six Forks Rescue Squad. Paid and volunteer personnel. Tax rate 6 cents, raised from 5.5, due to natural increases in operating costs, most notably insurance payments. \$154,543.
- Stony Hill – Serves far northern reaches of county, including most of land north of Falls Lake. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 9.5 cents, raised from 7 cents, to raise money for new fire apparatus and eventually purchase land for replacement of aging station. Budget \$78,331.
- Swift Creek – Located in area southwest of city and southeast of Cary. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 4.5 cents, raised from 4 cents, over rising insurance costs. Budget \$151,416.

- Wake-New Hope – Serves combined urban and rural area east of city. Two stations. Paid and volunteer members. Tax rate 7.5 cents, raised from 6.5 cents, due to district recently losing a large amount of property value, though only a small amount of land, due to recent annexations. Budget \$466,855.
- Wake Forest – Serves northeastern corner of county, including town. One station. Volunteer plus first paid staff, added this year in response to inability to provide adequate staff at scene of daytime incidents. Tax rate of 6.5 cents, raised from 5 cents, for staffing. Budget \$79,234.
- Wendell – Serves large rural area in eastern portion of county, including town. Two stations. Volunteer and paid staff. Also operates haz-mat response program on contract basis with county. Tax rate 8 cents, raised from 7 cents, to meet general rise in operating costs. Budget \$141,847.
- Zebulon – Serves far eastern portion of county, particularly the region surrounding the town, which has its own fire department. One station. All volunteer. Tax rate 7.5 cents, raised from 6.5 cents, driven by general operating costs, such as small equipment. Budget \$78,786.

July 1, 1993

Staff:

- 11.5 positions

Budget highlights (92-93):

- Fire Services has 11.5 positions.
- Public Safety Committee of BOC develops performance standards for operations of volunteer fire departments, in areas of response time, manpower on scene at a fire, automatic mutual aid, water supply agreements, training, contingencies and reserve accounts, fire education, fire investigations, and in other areas. These performance standards are to be written directly in the contracts for service between the fire departments and Wake County. (WCAB)

August 16, 1993 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved purchase of fire equipment for Rolesville FD, a 1993 Class A pumper to replace a 1958 pumper, as required for process of securing a federal tax-exempt loan by the department.

September 20, 1993 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved purchase of fire equipment for Stony Hill FD, a 1993 KME pumper/tanker to replace a 1980 FMC pumper, as required for process of securing a federal tax-exempt loan by the department.

October 1993 – New policy started for Fire Marshal Staff Duty Officer to automatically respond to confirmed “condition red, code two” structure fires. This was an initiative to improve response times to conduct fire origin and cause investigations.

November 15, 1993 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved employment of two additional paid firefighters, under direction of Fire Marshal’s office, and as funded by the special fire tax district. The staffing is needed “due to increasing requirements for emergency assistance.”

1994

February 28, 1994 – Automatic dispatch of fire marshal staff duty officers for “condition red, code two” structure fires was discontinued, after evaluation of the policy. Any department that needed their assistance was directed to notify Central. Staff were available 24/7.

Categories of incidents for notifying the FM SDO:

1. Incidents involving fires with Wake County owned equipment or property, including all public schools.
2. For assistance with fire investigation, or activation of Wake Arson Response Team.
3. Any incident involving a death as a result of fire in the county.
4. Any incident involving Wake County Search and Rescue (missing person).
5. Any incident with a response from Raleigh or Wendell haz-mat teams, for response outside Raleigh or Cary.
6. Any incident involving a confirmed plane crash.
7. Any incident at the Harris nuclear power plant, where fire departments are dispatched.
8. Multi-alarm fires, where three or more fire departments are involved.
9. At the request of any chief office of any county fire department.
10. At the request of Wake County Emergency Services [Management?].
11. Severe weather announcements issued by the National Weather Service, or when the Emergency Broadcast System is activated.
12. Incidents involving high-occupancy properties, educational institutions, child/adult day care facilities, and government institutions.
13. Incidents involving confined-space rescue.

Also, WC-1 was newly designated call sign for the Fire Marshal Staff Duty Officer. Source: WCPS memo, 2/21/94.

May 16, 1994 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved amended Garner fire district five-mile boundary description for fire insurance purposes.
- Approved addition of a Firefighter I position for daytime staffing, effective May 30, 1994, funded by Fairview FD. Pay grade 17, annual cost \$25,000.

June 13, 1994 – Summary of Fire Marshal Office staff:

- County Fire Marshal – Gregory H. Greyson – FM100
- Deputy Chief – Raymond L. Echevarria – FM101
- Assistant Chief – Dewey Poole – FM102
- Captain – Christopher C. Perry – FM201
- Captain – Ricky L. Dorsey – FM202
- Fire/Electrical Inspector – E. P. Wilson – FM203
- Fire/Electrical Inspector – Michael S. Chambers – FM204
- Lieutenant – S. Cliff Freeman – FM302
- Lieutenant – Vacant – FM301
- Senior Secretary – Becky Smith
- Clerical Assistant – Mary Mangum
- Firefighter II – Mickey J. Buffaloe – FM401 – Driver/operator and daytime supervisor Fairview FD
- Firefighter I – William Heath – FM402 – Daytime firefighter Fairview FD

- Firefighter I – Jimmy R. Murray – FM403 – Daytime firefighter Fairview FD.

July 1, 1994

Staff:

- 11.5 positions

Budget highlights (93-94):

- Fire Services has 11.5 positions.
- **Milestone** Bay Leaf relocated to new fire station.
- Fire departments were asked to prepare budget requests that would allow them to fulfill the performance standards [see FY 92-93] in the new contract form. These requests were scaled back, in many cases, through an analysis of need by the Fire Marshal's office and Budget & Management Services.
- Some tax districts received rate changes.
- Source: WCAB.

Snapshot:

WAKE COUNTY APPARATUS SUMMARY INVENTORY

DEPARTMENT	Pumpers	Pumper Tanker	Tankers	Mini Pumpers	Heavy Rescue	Brush	Command	Aerial Appar.	Others	Total
Apex	3	1	2		1	2		1	2	12
Bayleaf	2	3	1		1	1			2	10
Cary	(5)				(1)	(1)		(1)	(10)	
Durham Hwy.	2	1	2			1			1	7
Fairgrounds	1	1	2			1			1	6
Fairview	2	1	4		1					8
Falls		3				1				4
Fuquay Varina	4	1	4			1			3	13
Garner	2	4	2			3	1		3	15
Holly Springs	2		2			1			1	6
Hopkins		2	1			1			2	6
Knightdale	1	4		1		1			2	9
Morrisville		5				2			2	9
Raleigh										
R.D. Airport					(1)				(5)	(6)
Rolesville	3		2	1		1			1	8
Six Forks	1	2	1			1			1	6
Stony Hill	1	2	1			2				6
Swift Creek	1	2	2			1				6
Wake Forest	2	1	2		1	2			2	10
Wake New Hope	2	2	5	2	1	1			1	14
Wendell	2	2	1			2	1		3	11
Yrac		3				1			1	5
Zebulon	(2)							(1)	(1)	(4)
Zebulon Rural	1	1	2			1				5
TOTAL	32	41	36	4	5	27	2	1	28	176

Milestone September 28, 1994 – Final report of TriData's *Comprehensive Review of Wake County Fire Protection* was submitted to the Board of Commissioners. The firm's selection was approved by County Commissioners on December 20, 1993.

The report included recommendations for these areas:

- Overall system of fire protection
 - Restructure existing fire departments into smaller number of organizations that would all function as one system.
- Volunteer organizations
 - Continue to utilize volunteer organizations as primary emergency responders for foreseeable future, though fire protection by them must be better coordinated. County should take a much more active role in coordination and supporting them.
- Volunteer and career personnel
 - Develop new system around concept of complementing each other in their duties. Utilize career personnel for functions not practical for volunteers, as well as other functions. Establish duty crews to ensure volunteer staffing is available. Ensure minimal entry-level, training and performance requirements for all career and volunteer members in county.
- Relationship between rural fire departments and municipalities
 - Joint planning must occur, to improve system resources and eliminate redundancies. Consider transition of rural department into municipal department, especially in areas where municipality is becoming dominant component of service area. Combine rural departments to create smaller number of stronger organizations to serve contiguous unincorporated areas. Restructure fire districts accordingly or combine into single fire district. Define so closest station responds in emergency.
- Fire advisory board
 - Appoint and empower a board to be primary source of policy direction for fire protection and advise county commissioners on fire service needs.
- Restructuring the Fire Marshal's Office
 - Hire a county fire administrator, who leads office with three divisions: Fire Marshal. Support Services, and Human Resources. Create two additional fire inspectors/investigators ASAP. More clearly define FM role and authority in area of emergency response.
- Consolidation of tax districts and distributions of funds
 - Consolidate the twenty-three fire districts into one countywide district, with one tax rate. Recommend 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Funding for capital projects based on countywide priorities, with money coming from single tax district.
- Insurance class ratings
 - Establish 9S rating as minimum for entire county. Set objective of at least Class 8 to all built-up areas, and at least Class 5 in urban areas.
- Response standards
 - Establish a more reasonable basis standard for initial response. At least one attack unit with four people within five minutes, and full assignment of 12 to 15 people within 8 to 10 minutes, and with capability to establish and maintain at least 350 GPM within 10 minutes, while conducting interior search and rescue and suppression activities.

- Fire prevention and public fire safety education
 - Where possible, use line firefighters to perform inspections and conduct education as coordinated by Fire Administrator on countywide basis. Develop program to train and qualify firefighters to perform inspections of low-hazard occupancies.
- Fire investigation
 - Establish improved system for follow-up investigations of suspicious fires. This should involve LEO organizations and FM staff.
- Apparatus
 - If obtained through tax funds, future purchases should become county property. Purchases should be coordinated and planned by advisory board, to help strategically locate apparatus and eliminate duplicate purchases. Replacement schedules should be based on average of 15 years of first-line duty but also prioritized by board. Maintenance program based on mileage, condition, and suitability of vehicles, not strictly age.
- Facilities
 - If built using tax funds, should become county property. Establish a CIP committee to assist with facility planning. Committee should identify and priority facility projects. Consider creating joint-use facilities, automatic mutual aid when evaluating locations of new facilities, and future design needs for sleep-in, live-in, and career personnel. At a minimum, provide a fire station within a maximum of five road miles for all developed areas in county.
- Special rescue and hazardous materials
 - Establish plan to locate, fund, train, and equip three additional technical rescue teams across county. Should be coordinated with Raleigh and Cary. County supporting Raleigh and Wendell for haz-mat response.
- Training
 - Create HR position to develop training system for all fire departments providing services to Wake County. Establish full-time Chief of Training position. Establish a task force to work with both, to create system of a competency-based training programs for all ranks and all departments. Develop standard Wake County Training Manual. Implement site safety recommendations from NCDOT. Establish certification program for all live fire training instructors. Establish computer-based record keeping. Establish training program requiring each contracted department to participate in annual evaluations. Establish drill schedule that requires multiple departments to train together. Develop management training series.
- Communications
 - Redesign system and protocols so same communications protocols are used by all departments. Ensure all departments and units in county can communicate.

Read entire report: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/tridata/1994/>

See below for progress report in November 1995.

After September 1994

Fire Marshal's Office restructured to include a county fire administrator.

What other recommendations from the TriData study were implemented?

1994, October 3 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved revised Wake County Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreements. [Possibly first time revised since created in the 1970s.]

1994, November 7 – From BOC minutes:

- At the Public Safety Committee meeting held October 31, 1994, the Committee recommended to the full Board approval of the following staff recommendations concerning the process to review the Wake County Fire Protection study.
- 1. That a formal committee be established to determine acceptance and ultimate implementation processes for appropriate recommendations contained in the report. It is suggested that a 15-member committee composed of five volunteer fire chiefs, five municipal mayors or designees, and five county representatives consisting of the Public Safety Committee and two staff members designated by the County Manager. The above committee would first focus attention on those accepted recommendations in the report which impact contracts between fire departments, municipalities and the county and which have an immediate impact on the 1995-96 budget. This committee would then develop implementation processes for accepted longer term recommendations. This committee would be appointed at the last Board of Commissioners meeting in November.
- 2. That the Board of Commissioners request the volunteer fire departments and municipalities provide written input regarding the study by the November 28, 1994, Board of Commissioners work session.
- 3. Due to study implications regarding "a fire advisory board," staff recommends no further action be taken to reappoint the current Wake County Fire Commission. Upon motion of Commissioner Hedrick, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, accordingly.

1994, November 28 – From BOC minutes:

- Approve interlocal agreement between county and Town of Morrisville, for town to provide rural fire protection effective January 1, 1995. The private Morrisville Rural FD is planning a merger with the town, and a new contract is needed, to continue service to the unincorporated areas around the town.

1995

First public safety (joint police and fire) department in Wake County.

- **Milestone** Holly Springs Public Safety created in 1995, including new municipal fire department. Police and fire departments split in 2006.
- Knightdale Public Safety created in 2003, as new municipal fire department. Police and fire departments are split in 2013.

1995, February 6 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved concept of expansion of fire tax and fire insurance districts for Apex, Knightdale, and Stony Hill fire departments. Each is planning to build a second station to protect those areas.

1995, February 20 – From BOC minutes:

- Appreciation extended to agencies involved in the rescue efforts of the crash of American Eagle Flight 3379:
 - American Red Cross
 - Apex FD
 - Apex Rescue Squad
 - Bay Leaf FD
 - Cary Police
 - Cary Rescue Squad
 - City-County Bureau of Identification
 - Civil Air Patrol
 - Durham Highway FD
 - Fairground FD
 - Fairview FD
 - Federal Aviation Administration
 - Garner Rescue Squad
 - Knightdale Rescue Squad
 - Morrisville FD
 - Morrisville Police
 - N.C. Department of Emergency Management
 - N.C. Department of Transportation
 - National Transportation Safety Board
 - North Carolina Highway Patrol
 - North Carolina National Guard
 - Raleigh-Durham Airport Emergency Services
 - Raleigh-Durham Airport Police
 - Raleigh-Wake County ECC
 - Salvation Army
 - Six Forks Rescue Squad
 - Sprint Cellular
 - State Bureau of Investigation ID Unit
 - State Medical Examiner's Office
 - Swift Creek Fire Department
 - Wake County Emergency Management
 - Wake County EMS
 - Wake County Field Services
 - Wake County Fire Marshal's Office
 - Wake County Fleet Services
 - Wake County General Services
 - Wake County Health Department
 - Wake County Manager's Office
 - Wake County Mental Health
 - Wake County Social Services

1995, March 13 – From BOC minutes:

- Public hearing held to approve purchase of land and facility for second Knightdale VFD station. Approval required so department can obtain federal tax-exempt loan. Resolution passed to approve.

1995, April 17 – From BOC minutes:

- State laws mandate that the county provide fire code enforcement services to all unincorporated areas of the county and all public schools. Each municipality is responsible for periodic inspections in their own municipal limits and “extraterritorial jurisdiction.” In 1992, six positions were requested to perform the mandated commercial building inspections in unincorporated areas of the county, plus in contracting municipalities: Apex, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon. Three of the six positions were authorized. County staff anticipated adding more positions as the scope of the program increased. Contracted municipalities were not paying for the services they received. Without added positions, the county is unable to meet their state-mandated required inspection schedule in both the unincorporated and contracted municipal areas. Thus, staff recommends focusing efforts on meeting the former, and cancelling the contracts for the latter. Approved to authorize County Manager to cancel current contracts effective July 1.

July 1, 1995

Milestone Effective that date, changes took effect from the county reorganizing and streamlining a number of operations, including creating a Department of Public Safety that consolidates the Fire Marshal’s Office, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, and the City-County Bureau of Investigation.

For agencies needing either FM or EM, they should request “public safety” and WC1 will be dispatched to the incident, and handle all other notifications based on need. This would simplify the process with the ECC and reduce unnecessary duplication of things.

The Fire/Rescue Division now took the lead role in day-to-day emergency response, while maintaining involvement and support of fire training, fire code enforcement, fire cause administration, and administration support.

WC1 (primary) and WC2 (secondary) were available 24/7.

Staff and responsibilities:

- 101 – Ray Echevarria – Manages code Enforcement and emergency Response programs. Team A Leader. Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 102 – Dewey Poole – Manages fire training program and training center. Respond.
- 103 – Chris Perry – Manages fire department programs. Inventory, ISO assistance, budget, equipment, incident reporting, administrative assistance. Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 104 – Randy Thompson – Manages haz-mat and rescue programs. Team B Leader. Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 201 – Mike Chambers – Manages public school inspection program. Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 202 – Ricky Dorsey - Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 203 – Cliff Freeman - Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.
- 204 – Charlie Johnson - Inspect. Respond. Investigate. Train.

Source: WCPS memo, 6/25/95.

July 1, 1995

Budget notes (94-95):

- Several fire departments requested tax rate increases.
- No increase was recommended for any district.
- Three districts had tax rates reduced, at request of the fire departments.
- Source: WCAB.

July 1, 1995 – From BOC minutes 6/5/95, 6/3/96:

- Approved extending fire code enforcement services for remainder of calendar year, for towns of Knightdale, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon. County does not have staff to provide services to those municipalities for the county’s jurisdiction but can enter into short-term agreements using part-time temporary staff and overtime for current staff.
- In June 1996, the contracts are recommended to continue with Apex, Rolesville, and Wendell.
- Also, county staff recommends that the actual costs be applied to provide these services. Commercial property inspections are determined to cost the county one cent per square-foot of inspected building.

1995, August 7 – From BOC minutes:

- Fire protection contracts amendments approved, including:
 - Each Fire Department shall maintain a Contingency Account (for unexpected problems, repairs, etc.) of at least \$25,000.00.

- Each Fire Department should have a depreciation schedule for equipment and property valued over \$25,000.00. Departments may fund this account as funds are available.
- Each Fire Department should maintain a Capital Improvement Plan for their department's purchases exceeding \$25,000.00. C.I.P.s should be projected for at least three years.
- Each Fire Department shall have on hand as of a fund balance of at least 25% of their annual op Proposed Amendment No. 5
- In the event a fire department fails to have an acceptable audit as determined by the county Finance Director; the fire department will be considered to have, "failed to render the protection and services to the district..." Therefore, the County shall suspend all funds immediately.

Milestone 1995, September 3 – Serious vehicle accident occurred nearly in front of a Cary fire station. The Cary FD did not initially respond, as the location was in the county. The incident prompted county staff, the town fire department, and surrounding volunteer departments to meet, and agree to respond jointly to all calls that occur within 1.5 miles of a fire station in the town or county. The first-arriving department would assist, and the responsible department would be in command, and complete the call reports. Source: WCPS Memo, September 11, 1995.

Milestone 1995, September 18 – Fire Protection Advisory Commission created. From BOC minutes:

- **FIRE PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMISSION**
A special task force endorsed by the Wake County Fire Chiefs' Council has worked on important issues of the 1994 Comprehensive Review of Wake County Fire Protection study throughout the past year. This special task force and the Wake County Fire Chiefs' Council make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to name an official "Fire Protection Advisory Commission" to address the remaining issues raised by the fire protection study. The fire chiefs propose to name ten members; five members would be from the fire service; five members would be from County and municipal managers and/or elected officials.
- Upon motion of Commissioner Tew, seconded by Commissioner Converse, the Board unanimously approved the endorsement, in concept, of the creation of a "Fire Protection Advisory Commission" comprised jointly of fire personnel and municipal/elected officials to address issues raised by the 1994 Comprehensive Review of Wake County Fire Protection.

November 27, 1995, progress reported on 1994 fire protection study, drafted as pending report to the Board of Commissioners:

- **Apex FD**
 - Currently negotiating with town, to merge with municipality. Expected to be resolved in early 1996.
 - Planning new fire station in New Hill. County Commissioners have approved concept of expanding rural fire district.
 - Repairing fire station to meet minimum fire codes.
 - Participated in regional planning meetings.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- **Bay Leaf FD**
 - Hold monthly regional meetings with area departments to discuss common issues and planning.
 - Created a Search and Recovery (SAR) team.
 - Participating in county planning meetings.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- **Cary FD**

- Held regional meetings to establish automatic mutual aid with all surrounding volunteer departments.
- Started joint monthly training with surrounding volunteer departments.
- Expanded rescue services for town.
- Add two rescue trucks and another pumper, with additional firefighters.
- Durham Highway FD
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service, first county department to do so.
 - New Fire Chief.
 - Signed automatic aid agreement with neighboring Durham County departments.
 - Added laptop computer on first-out engine, with pre-incident surveys, haz-mat information, and more.
 - Have 24 hour/7 day coverage with volunteer duty crews at night.
- Fairgrounds FD
 - Meeting with county staff to discuss alternate functions for department to provide.
 - Adding Special Services Unit in partnership with county, to provide county-wide rehab.
 - Participating in county planning meetings.
 - Considering selling two pieces of apparatus and replacing with one combination unit.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- Fairview FD
 - County daytime firefighter program stabilized.
 - Working on reducing their ISO rating for 95-96.
 - Added automatic aid with Swift Creek FD and partial auto aid with Fairview and Garner.
 - Established a retention and recruitment program for volunteers.
 - Participating in regional planning meetings.
 - Ordered new pumper to replace 1963 model. Delivery is soon.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- Falls FD
 - Added new pumper/tanker to assist with mutual aid.
 - Planning new station to service their region.
 - Participated in regional meetings.
 - Added a very proactive fire prevention program.
 - Activated county's first fire boat, for the Falls Lake area.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- Fuquay-Varina FD
 - Discussions with town about merging with municipality. The town is interested.
 - Two new tankers and a service truck delivered.
 - Implemented automatic aid agreement with Fairview FD.
 - Added additional daytime staffing.
- Garner FD
 - Implemented automatic aid agreements with Fairview, Knightdale, and Clayton.
 - Considering adding medical responder service for Station 2 area.
- Holly Springs FD
 - Has separated from the town.
- Holly Springs PS

- New town department.
- Added four career firefighters.
- New pumper delivered.
- Added first responder/defibrillator service and provides to both town and rural districts.
- Added fire protection as a responsibility to their public safety officers.
- Built and occupied new fire station in downtown Holly Springs.
- Hopkins FD
 - Expanded fire station.
 - Started first responder service, including defibrillator service.
 - Established a fire district in Franklin County.
- Knightdale FD
 - Moving into new Station 2 in December 1995.
 - County commissioners have endorsed concept of expanding fire district.
 - Established automatic aid agreements with Garner FD.
 - Large area of county will be added to a rate fire district, with opening of new station.
 - Considering medical first responder and defibrillator service in Station 2 area.
- Morrisville FD
 - Merged with town as of January 1, 1995.
 - County now contracts with town for fire protection in rural district.
 - Implemented 800mHz radio system and now dispatched by Cary.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
 - Participated in regional planning meetings.
 - Increased rescue abilities.
- Raleigh FD
 - Implementing automatic mutual aid with surrounding volunteer departments for closest station response.
 - Participated in planning meetings.
 - Cooperated with county departments with emergency communications channels.
- RDU Airport FD
 - Started operating on 800mHz radio system.
 - Started EMT-D level of service on airport property.
- Rolesville FD
 - Aggressively pursuing an ISO rate reduction.
 - Participated in planning meetings.
 - Working closely with new Rolesville EMS unit.
- Six Forks FD
 - Renovated station in conjunction with Six Forks Rescue Squad.
 - Participated in regional meetings.
- Stony Hill FD
 - Planning Station 2.
 - County commissioners have endorsed concept of expanding fire district.
 - Participated in regional meetings.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- Swift Creek FD

- Implemented automatic mutual aid with Fairview.
 - Aggressively working to lower their ISO rating.
 - Working on recruiting volunteers.
 - Participated in planning meetings.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
- Wake Forest FD
 - Participated in planning meetings.
- Wake New Hope FD
 - New pumper/tanker delivered.
 - Participated in planning meetings.
- Wendell FD
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service in Station 2 area.
 - Participated in planning meetings.
 - New tanker delivered.
 - Continuing to develop haz-mat team and equipment.
- Yrac FD
 - Meeting with county staff to discuss alternative services for department to deliver. Heavy rescue and mutual aid services being considered.
 - Participated in regional meetings.
 - Pursuing reducing their ISO rating.
 - Implemented first responder defibrillator service.
 - Considering adding daytime staff on weekdays.
- Zebulon Municipal FD
 - Proactive fire prevention program in town.
- Zebulon Rural FD
 - Participated in planning meetings.
 - Delivery pending of replacement brush truck.
 - Considering selling old pumper and old tanker and consolidating into single pumper/tanker.
- Wake County Fire/Rescue Division
 - Reorganized as part of county-wide reorganization.
 - Implemented bulk purchasing program for volunteer fire departments.
 - Held scores of regional and countywide planning meetings with fire departments.
 - Completely revised fire department budget process, including add a Capital Improvement Plan.
 - Jointly developed five amendments for the county fire service contract.
 - Worked with group of fire chiefs, called Chief's Ad Hoc Committee, to address pressing issues.
 - Offered professional management training to fire service leaders.
 - Established safety guidelines for operations at training center.
 - Implemented a "WC Team" capable of responding to most types of emergencies countywide and consolidating duplicate resources.
 - Adjusted some workload issues.
 - Increased services in haz-mat and incident command areas.
 - Started using an 800MHz radio system.
- Overall
 - All county fire departments now responding to vehicle accidents, whether first responders or not.

- Countywide 800MHz radio system study underway.
- Departments in most areas work closely with local rescue squads.
- Supporting creation of a Fire Protection Advisory Commission, comprised of fire service members and municipal/elected officials.
- Many agencies working well together on automatic mutual aid.

December 18, 1995 – From BOC minutes, 11/20/95:

- Public hearing held to approve (a.) fire equipment purchase for Fuquay-Varina VFD, so the department can qualify for a federal tax-exempt loan, (b.) expansion of Fairview fire district, and (c.) expansion of Knightdale fire district.

1996

January 20-21, 1996 – Second Annual Fire and Rescue Chief’s Weekend held at Blue Jay Point County Park. Topic is “Retention and Recruitment in the Volunteer Service.” Instructors are Anthony “Chick” Granito and Marcia Lynch. Source: WCPS memo.

Milestone January 30, 1996 – Special Services 19 placed in service. The specialized emergency response unit carries equipment for responder rehab and medical surveillance, including foods and liquids. The unit is operated by the Fairgrounds FD, who are contracted by Wake County Public Safety.

Procedure for dispatching the unit:

1. Unit should be requested by incident commander.
2. WC1 should be paged and made aware of request.
3. WC1 will indicate whether or not to dispatch SS19, based on availability and other events occurring in the county.
4. Fairgrounds FD will be dispatched to respond with SS19. WC1 can also request the unit directly from FFD.

Basic criteria for incident commanders should be when multiple departments are involved and more than 25 emergency workers are involved, or mass transportation is involved.

The unit is equipped with VHF, UHF, and 800 MHz radios. It’s designed to support county emergency personnel and is not intended as a substitute for Salvation Army or Red Cross services. It’s available to any fire department within Wake County.

SS19 operates a converted modular ambulance. Later a trailer with additional supplies is added. Both units are removed from service in 2000, with Wake County Public Safety citing budget issues. In 2007, the county resumes scene support and rehab with Truck 1 operated by Wake County EMS. Sources: WCPS memo, Oral Histories.

February 1996, snapshot of volunteer participation:

- Audience
 - Phil Mitchell, Garner
 - George Gupton, Knightdale

Source: WCPS Memo, 4/11/96

March 1996 – From County BOC minutes, 8/19/96:

- Updated study received from Communications Technology Associates.
- They were hired in August 1995, and asked to update previous studies, to analyze and define current problems, review existing and proposed communication technology for problem resolution and to make specific recommendations.
- The updated study affirms previous recommendations and findings, indicating that the present emergency communications infrastructure is unable to keep pace with current and future demands of public safety. The 800 MHz trunked radio technology is recognized as the corrective action platform.
- BOC approves these recommendations offered by Wake County Public Safety staff:
 - 1. Proceed with the proposed County-wide 800 MHz digital trunked radio system for emergency communications as previously recommended to the Board on March 11, 1996.
 - 2. Design and construct a joint Emergency Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center facility to house and support the 800 MHz digital trunked radio system. Locate the facility at the Wake County Office Park as recommended by the engineering/architectural consultants.
 - 3. Non-fixed radio equipment such as mobiles, portables, and control stations be obtained with a phased-in approach over a multi-year period. Public Safety equipment should take priority in this phase-in program. It is preferred that all non-fixed radio equipment be leased. This offers budget stability during the initial purchase of equipment, and at the replacement phase. Such a concept will provide for maximum potential use of the non-fixed equipment if managed from a centralized approach while at the same time assuring the best possible prices through quantity bargaining power.
 - 4. Emergency 9-1-1 telephone calls be routed to the proposed new Emergency Communications Center in those telephone exchanges that are currently assigned as Wake County's 9-1-1 area. 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance will be dispatched to the appropriate emergency service in accordance with established procedures for those jurisdictions that choose to affiliate with the proposed center operations. This method is substantially consistent with procedures currently in use. For non-participating jurisdictions, 9-1-1 calls for emergency service will be transferred as dictated utilizing enhanced Public Safety Answering Point telephone equipment and practices to eliminate delays and/or errors.
 - 5. Computer Aided Dispatch common equipment and data bases currently in use at the Raleigh/Wake Communications Center be utilized in the proposed new Communications Center, if practical. If not, design and procure a new state-of-the-art computer-aided dispatch system.
 - 6. Design and implement the Emergency Medical Dispatch system concurrently with the operation of the proposed new Communications Center.
 - 7. Establish and appoint a Communications Advisory Commission with authority to establish policy and procedures for the proposed 800 MHz digital trunked radio system and Emergency Communications Center to represent the needs of the system user community. The representation should be carefully selected to provide parity among all user groups .
 - 8. Allocate costs as follows:
 - A. 800 MHz digital trunked radio system infrastructure and fixed radio equipment - Wake County
 - B. Design and construction of Emergency Communication and Operations Center - Wake County
 - C. non-fixed radio equipment - Respective user jurisdictions

- D. Staffing for Emergency Communications Center. Allocate to each participating jurisdiction based on annual dispatch count (similar to current methods) .
- 9. Adjust 9-1-1 surcharge to assist in retiring those-eligible costs associated with 800 MHz digital trunked radio infrastructure and Emergency Communications Center operations.
- 10 Extend an invitation to all municipalities to partner with Wake County in the proposed 800 MHz digital trunked radio system and Emergency Communications Center. The invitation should offer and encourage the City of Raleigh and others to transfer their respective Communication Center operations to the proposed new facility. This concept is the same as recommended in a 1969 report which was a forerunner to establishing the current Communications Center and 911 operations in Wake County. This report was commissioned by the Wake County Planning Committee on Law and Justice. Should such an arrangement be accomplished, current Communications Centers, .at the pleasure of respective municipalities, could be retained as a backup to the proposed new Emergency Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center.

July 1, 1996

Accomplishments, from Annual Budget (95-96):

- Implemented the WCTEAM, a coordinated effort reducing public safety manpower for responses to hazardous materials spills and other major incidents.
- Implemented new shift schedule for fire/rescue personnel to reduce overtime expenditures.
- **Milestone** Started a bulk purchasing program for volunteer fire departments to purchase commodities at lower costs.
- **Milestone** Started “special services unit” for rehabilitation and medical surveillance for responders at emergency scenes.
- Source: WCAB.

1996, August 19 – From BOC minutes

- Resolution adopted commending emergency services agencies who responded to the April 15, 1996, tornado. They were:
- Agency
 - Town of Apex
 - Apex FD
 - Apex EMS/Rescue Squad
 - Apex Police
 - Town of Fuquay-Varina
 - Fuquay-Varina FD
 - Town of Garner
 - Garner Public Works
 - Garner FD
 - Town of Holly Springs
 - Town of Knightdale
 - Knightdale EMS/Rescue
 - Knightdale FD
 - Town of Morrisville
 - Town of Rolesville
 - Rolesville EMS
 - Rolesville FD
 - Town of Wake Forest
 - Wake Forest EMS
 - Wake Forest FD
 - Town of Wendell
 - Wendell FD
 - Wendell Police
 - Wendell Rescue Squad
 - Wendell Public Works
 - Town of Zebulon

- Zebulon Municipal FD
- Zebulon Police
- Zebulon Rescue Squad
- Zebulon Rural FD
- City of Raleigh
- Raleigh Police
- Raleigh FD
- Raleigh-Wake County ECC
- Wake County CCBI
- Wake County Dept of Public Safety
- Wake County EMS
- Wake County Fire/Rescue
- Wake County Major Response/Logistics
- Johnston County Fire Marshal
- Antioch FD
- Corinth-Holder FD
- Archer Lodge FD
- Durham Parks and Recreation
- NC DMV
- NC DOT
- Wake County Manager's Office
- Wake County Public School System
- Wake County Sheriff's Office
- Wake Medical Center ER
- Wake Medical Center Safety/Security
- Bay Leaf FD
- Durham Highway FD
- Fairgrounds FD
- Hopkins FD
- Six Forks FD
- Six Forks Rescue Squad
- Wake-New Hope FD
- NC DPS, Area B
- NC National Guard
- NC SHP
- American Red Cross
- Carolina Power and Light
- N.C. Baptist Men
- REDS Team

- Individuals:

- Becky Smith
- C. Douglas Bass
- Carol C. Mooneyham
- Christopher Perry
- Dewey Poole
- Gary Knight
- Gerald Y. Brown
- Gregory Grayson
- Jimmie Holland
- John R. Callaway, Jr.
- Martin Chriscoe
- Michael S. Chambers
- Nan M. Cheek
- Randy Thompson
- Raymond L. Echevarria
- Ricky L. Dorsey
- S. Cliff Freeman
- Sheryl C. Banks
- Sidney Perry
- Timothy Lanier

1996, August 19 – From BOC Minutes

- Goal Statement adopted. The Wake County Fire Protection Advisory Commission, as appointed by the Board of Commissioners, met for four months and discussed the direction to be taken by the Fire Service in Wake County. After much discussion and many informational sessions, they unanimously voted to recommend this goal statement as the primary driver of service issues through the year 2005:

The Wake County Board of Commissioners desires to provide the highest level of fire protection and emergency services possible to the persons in the Wake County jurisdiction by the most cost effective and efficient means possible.

Furthermore, provided with necessary resources, 95% of all citizens in the unincorporated areas of Wake County will reside in an ISO Class 8 rated district, or better, by the year 2000 and an ISO class 6 rated district, or better, by the year 2005.

Wake County staff will aggressively support volunteer fire departments to accomplish this goal and ensure that quality, comprehensive fire protection and emergency services are provided to all County citizens.

All parties shall strive to keep insurance premium savings higher than the cost of providing fire protection and emergency services.

1996, October 7 – From BOC minutes:

- Resolution calling for public hearing, to consider increasing boundaries of Stony Hill fire district(s), to serve a portion of northern Wake County currently not within a fire insurance or fire tax district. The department is currently constructing a station at New Light and Purnell roads.
- Resolution calling for a public hearing, to consider approval for the purchase of fire equipment and a facility for Stony Hill VFD.

1996, November 4 – From BOC minutes:

- Approval of extension of Stony Hill VFD fire insurance district and fire tax district. The new Stony Hill Station 2 is completed, and slated to be approved by the NC DOI, and thus the county can formally adjust the department fire insurance and fire tax boundaries.
- Approval of purchase of fire equipment and facility for Stony Hill VFD, which is needed for the department to apply for a federal tax-exempt loan for the purchases.

1996, November (or earlier), fire safety house delivered to Wake County Firemen’s Association. Source: WCPS Memo, November 7, 1996.

1996, December 16 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved reimbursements to four fire (Fairgrounds, Fairview, Garner, Knightdale) and four EMS (Apex, Garner, Knightdale, Wake Forest) departments for expenses incurred during the response to Hurricane Fran totaling \$42,936.08.

1997

January 21, 1997 – From BOC minutes:

- Plaque presented to members of Fairgrounds Volunteer Fire Department, in recognition for their operation of a Specials Services Unit for one year, through a partnership with the Fire/Rescue Division of the county. It responds to “border to border” to provide “rehabilitation and medical surveillance services for firefighters and other emergency services personnel.” They also transport specialized equipment, such as “inflatable tents.”
- Plaque presented to members of the Raleigh Professional Firefighter’s Association, for their donation of a \$30,000 fire safety house to the county. The Board also officially accepted the donation.
- Plaque presented to members of the Morrisville Rural Fire Company, for their donation of a 1963 Chevy pumper to the county, which is being used at the county fire training center. The Board also officially accepted the donation.

February 3, 1997 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved combining St. Mary's Fire Insurance District and Panther Branch Fire Insurance District into new Garner Suburban Fire Insurance District.

July 1, 1997

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (96-97):

- Responded and supervised county-wide response to Hurricane Fran and tornadoes which touched down in eastern Wake County.
- After seeking and gaining approval for building a county-wide 800MHz trunked radio system, emergency operations center, and emergency communications center, these projects were placed on hold to develop inter-jurisdictional consensus.
- Obtained two mobile classrooms from Carolina Power & Light for use at the fire/rescue training center.
- Formed a specialized body recovery unit in joint cooperation with Fairgrounds Volunteer Fire Department.
- Source: WCAB.

Milestone September 1997 – Body transport program activated.

- Overview:
 - Extension of Special Services agreement between county and Fairgrounds FD.
 - Funded by county, operated by Fairgrounds FD.
 - For transport of deceased people from crime, fire, or accident scenes to state office of medical examiner in Chapel Hill.
- Scope:
 - Service for law enforcement agencies with a deceased body from a crime, fire, or accident scene that meets criteria to be a Medical Examiner case.
 - Bodies that do not meet these criteria are not expected to be transported.
 - Bodies from county or state detention facilities also exempt from transportation criteria.
 - Service not intended for transportation to or from private funeral home facilities.
- Activation:
 - Requested through Raleigh/Wake ECC.
 - Unit designated WC-7.
 - Cargo van with communications and stretcher equipment.
 - Should arrive on scene within one hour, or drive time from Fairgrounds fire station plus about fifteen minutes.
 - In the event unit isn't available, a secondary provider will be contacted by the ECC.
- Operation:
 - Fairgrounds FD responsible for operation.
 - Department responsible for providing two personnel on call at all times.
 - They must complete a nine-hour block of training.
 - They can be members or employees of Fairgrounds FD, or other county fire departments.
- Funding:
 - County provides van and equipment, fuel and maintenance.
 - County provides \$20,000 for the fiscal year.
 - Fairgrounds FD to seek to recover all possible funding from state office of medical examiner.
 - They are also free to solicit other public funding.

- Families of persons transported are not to be charged for services rendered.
- Review
 - County will assemble and support an advisory board for program.
 - Group will meet twice annually to review and make recommendations about program.
- Source: WCPS Memo, September 16, 1997.

1997, September 15 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved revised boundaries for the Bay Leaf, Stony Hill, and Dutchville fire districts.
- Endorsed federal tax-exempt loans to Fuquay-Varina Rural and Rolesville fire departments, for purchase each of a pumper/tanker.

1997, October 20 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved revised boundaries of Alert (Knightdale) and Rolesville fire districts.
- Renewed contract with city of Raleigh for hazardous materials emergency response, for one-year term.

1997, November 17 – From BOC minutes:

- Revised boundaries approved for Wendell-Holmes (Wendell Rural) and Ten Ten (Fairview) fire insurance and fire tax districts.

1997, December 1 – From BOC minutes:

- Revised boundaries approved for Hipex (Apex Rural) fire insurance and fire tax districts.

1998

Need for improved radio communications cited in News & Observer, January 21, 1998.

- Raleigh, Cary, Apex have their own dispatch centers for police, fire, EMS.
- Wendell, Wake Forest, Holly Springs, Fuquay-Varina dispatch own police.
- NCSU and RDU dispatch own fire and police.
- Wake EMS dispatched by Raleigh ECC.

1998, February 2 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved revised boundaries of Furina (Fuquay-Varina Rural) fire insurance and fire tax districts.

1998, February 16 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved revised boundaries of Garner Suburban fire insurance and fire tax districts.

Milestone First fire-based EMS provider established in Holly Springs. The fire department begins service April 1, 1998.

- Discontinued circa 2007, when Wake County EMS deploys a full-time unit in Holly Springs.
- County's second fire-based EMS provider is created in 2010, when Apex EMS merged with the town. It's merged with fire department for a number of months before being separated into own town department.

1998, April 25 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved creation of the Garner Special Service Tax District, for purpose of fire prevention and protection.

1998, April 6

- Revised boundaries approved for Wakelon (Zebulon Rural) and Holly Springs fire insurance and fire tax districts.

1998, April 20 – From BOC minutes:

- Revised boundaries approved for Wakette (Wake Forest Rural) fire insurance and fire tax district.

1998, June 15 – From BOC minutes:

- Awarded contract for constructing of new multi-purpose training building at fire training center, to D. A. Thomas Construction Company of Louisburg, \$282,500. The proposed masonry building will contain 3,200 square feet and will consist of an indoor area for fire/rescue vehicle training, two classrooms, restrooms, showers, equipment storage and support space for training staff. A mezzanine containing 800 square feet is also included for bulk storage.
- Approved contract with new Western Wake FD to serve the Fairgrounds and Yrac fire insurance and fire tax districts, effective July 1, 1998. The new department was created as merger of Fairgrounds and Yrac FDs, and the merger was effective July 1.
- Approved proposed improvements to fire protection and EMS delivery system:
 - Expand First Responder service to all unincorporated areas on/before July 1, 1999. Language in FY99-20 contract will reflect this as a standard level of service of care.
 - Closest station response. Effective July 1, 1999, “The closest two fire stations will be dispatched automatically to all structural fires in the unincorporated areas of the County, except during severe weather warnings.” In addition, departments should work together to realign boundaries for closest station response for other type calls as possible.’
- Approved modified boundaries of Furina (Fuquay-Varina Rural), Holly Springs, and Ten-Ten (Fairview) fire insurance and fire tax districts.
- Approved creation of a special service district for purpose of financing fire protection.
 - Action steps:
 - The action steps for creation of County Fire Protection Special Tax District are as follows:
 1. Decide boundaries of proposed district and establish date of public hearing
 2. Direct staff to prepare report required by GS 153A-302(b) and file with clerk
 3. Direct staff to prepare map of proposed district and to draft notice for publication
 4. Pass resolution limiting tax rate to not more than 15 cent/\$100 valuation (not more than 90 days prior to public hearing, but before first publication of notice of public hearing)
 5. First publication of notice (at least two weeks prior to public hearing)
 6. Second publication of notice (within two weeks of public hearing) and
 7. Public hearing and adoption of resolution creating district.
 - Resolution passed that:
 - Sets July 13, 1998, as public hearing date.
 - Sets maximum rate as 15 cents per \$100 of property subject to taxation.
 - Defined geography as all areas in county outside of municipal limits, with exception of area currently served by Creedmoor FD.
- Approved creation of a Wake County Fire Commission.

- Commissioners appointed by BOC and composed of:
 - Board of Commissioner members (3)
 - Participating representatives of Wake County Mayors' Association (4)
 - Representatives of fire service planning and service regions (4)
 - President of the Wake County Firemen's Association (1)
 - Public consumers (3)
 - External facilitator (non-voting) and
 - County staff (non-voting)
- Duties
 - Managing "mutual aid" funding for FY 98-99
 - Developing all necessary operational regulations and guidelines in order to implement a single fire protection service district, effective July 1, 1999
 - Developing a revised fire protection and emergency services contract to be effective July 1, 1999
 - Reviewing and making recommendations on all operating budget requests for FY 1999-2000
 - Reviewing and making recommendations on all Capital Improvement Program budget requests for FY 1999-2000
 - Developing and implementing fire fighter and volunteer incentive retention and recruitment programs
 - Making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for continuing improvement of the fire protection system
 - Reviewing ISO and consultant's reports and taking action for improvement as deemed necessary
 - Enforcement of all service district operational regulations and guidelines for the Wake County fire protection service district

July 1, 1998

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (97-98):

- Re-instituted Public Safety Day featuring public safety and encouraging volunteer participation.
- Promoted volunteer retention and recruitment through a number of programs to acknowledge the importance of the volunteer component within the fire protection system.
- Initiated the "deceased body transport" program for the entire county. By contracting with a specific agency to transport bodies at accidents and fire scenes, the waiting time for this transport has been reduced.
- The deputy fire marshals can now enter fire inspection data while in the field as well as electronically obtain pertinent data remotely.
- Improved performance of fire inspections of commercial buildings by increasing the number of inspections and positioning the county in a proper schedule according to General Statute requirements.
- Completed design of 800 MHz radio system.
- Source: WCAB.

Milestone Wake County Fire Commission formed as advisory board, as recommended in 1994 fire service study.

- Wake County Fire Chief's Council still active as of April 1999.
 - Ed Brinson was president 1996 to 1998.
 - **When did organization stop meeting?**
- First meeting of fire commission is November 24, 1998.
- Location was Wake County Commons Building.
- Present were:
 - George Mills, North Region/Primary
 - A. C. Rich, North Region/Alternate
 - Tom Vaughan, East Region/Primary
 - Rodney Privette, East Region/Alternate
 - Ed Brinson, West Region/Primary
 - Tony Chiotakis, West Region/Alternate
 - Phil Mitchell, South Region/Primary
 - Max Ashworth, Citizen/Consumer
 - Ned Perry, Citizen/Consumer
 - Chuck Sannipoli, Citizen/Consumer
 - Bonnie Woodruff, Citizen/Consumer
 - Blaine Parks, Citizen/Consumer (Alternate)
 - Bill Stevenson, President of Firemen's Association
 - Cloyce Anders, External Facilitator (Non-voting)
 - Ray Echevarria, Interim Director-Fire/Rescue Division
- Absent were:
 - Ken Farmer, South Region/Alternate
 - Nancy Schwarm, Citizen/Consumer
- Notes:
 - Schedule set as third Tuesday of each month.
 - Distributed were:
 - Copy of fire service contract.
 - Draft of Rules of Procedure for commission.
 - Roster of members.
 - Handout, two studies of volunteer fire service in DE and PA.
 - Current priority issues for commission established as:
 - Fire Protection Contract Development
 - Performance, Service and Contract Compliance Issues
 - Funding Distribution/Service District Budget Development.

Fire Commission Committees

- The first appointed committees on November 24, 1998, were:
 - Capital Projects Improvement Committee.
 - Budget Review Committee.
 - Contract and Performance Requirements Committee.

- Planning Committee.
- Committees continue to be created over the years, decades. Some are ongoing, others are ad hoc as heeded.
 - Apparatus Committee.
 - Budget Committee.
 - Compensation Committee.
 - Equipment Committee.
 - Facilities Committee.
 - Staffing Committee.
 - Etc.

See minutes dating to the first meeting at <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission/minutes/>

1998, December 7 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved boundaries of newly created Western Wake fire insurance district and abolish the Fairgrounds and Yrac districts.

1999

1999, January 4 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved changes to Morrisville fire insurance district, including separation of corporate area from the county fire insurance district, updating the description, and renaming from “Morrisville” to “Morrisville Rural.”
- Approved changes to Holly Springs fire insurance district, including separation of corporate area from the county fire insurance district, updating the description, and renaming from “Holly Springs” to “Holly Springs Rural.”

1999, February 1 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved agreement with Town of Fuquay-Varina, to accept responsibility for all fire service agreements between the county and Fuquay-Varina Rural Fire Department Inc., effective January 11, 1999. Effective January 25, 1999, the department’s merger with the town became effective.

July 1, 1999

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (98-99):

- Smoke Detector Enforcement Program. Effective 1, 1999, the [state] adopted provisions to enforce mandatory smoke detectors in rental property. [Fire Services] prepared a plan to facilitate enforcement [of same], using existing staff, without a budget increase.
- Volunteer retention and recruitment was promoted through incentive and awards programs.
- County fire departments were encouraged to serve a system and not individual areas through the creation of a single fire tax district. Mutual agreements, automatic aid agreements, mergers of departments, and discussion of mergers of other agencies [show evidence] of progress.
- Completed new classroom facility at fire training center.

- Contracts were cancelled in December 1998, after bids were awarded for [the postponed projects of ?] an 800MHz trunked radio system, a communications/emergency operations center, and a computer aided dispatch system.
- Source: WCAB.

Milestone July 1, 1999 - Fire tax districts consolidated into single countywide district.

- Effective July 1, 1999.
 - Created by county commissioners in July 1998.
 - Consolidated rates for twenty-one rural fire districts.
 - Source: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/pages/fireservfaq.aspx>
- Origins:
 - Certain areas of the county have experienced more tax base growth than others. In addition, some residents of the county were located beyond five road miles from a fire station. Residents who were beyond five road miles from a fire station were not paying fire tax to the fire department but received fire protection services from the fire department. All of these situations combined to create an environment with unequal levels of funding across the county.
 - The mission of progressive fire departments was expanding in scope. In addition to the traditional fire suppression services, modern fire departments were providing emergency medical care, response to vehicle accidents, water rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, fire and life safety education programs, and responding to an ever-increasing number of various fire and other alarms.
 - In large part, services provided by the county fire departments were dependent upon tax revenue generated within the individual rural fire tax districts. With the imbalance of funding across the county, varying levels of service existed across the county.
 - The Service Tax District was intended to provide a level of funding to all county fire departments based upon county-wide priorities.
 - Source: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/pages/fireservfaq.aspx>
- Municipalities were offered inclusion in the Fire Protection Service Tax District.
 - The County would charge residents within the corporate limits fire tax (as if they were in the County area) and the County would take care of fire protection. The Towns could get out of the fire business (so to speak).
 - This was inviting for some Towns because they had a history of long battles with their contracted fire departments over funding each year.
 - If the town enrolled, the town received a seat on the Fire Commission to make sure your interests were protected.
 - In the end, Wendell was the only town to enroll.
- Impacts:
 - Stony Hill ceased fundraising after tax district changes, as it was no longer needed.

See Appendix for chart of tax rates from 1987 to 2003

[2000 to 2009 - More Milestones](#)

2000

July 1, 2000

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (99-00):

- **Milestone** Implemented the fire protection service tax district. This single fire tax district replaces the previous system of financing fire protection through 21 separate fire districts.
- **Milestone** Expanded the fire protection service tax district to include Town of Wendell corporate limits.
- **Milestone** Expanded medical first responder service throughout the unincorporated areas of Wake County.
- Implemented the “two closest fire station response” concept for all structure fires within the county.
- Provide out of county assistance to fire departments in eastern North Carolina affected by flooding as a result of Hurricane Floyd.
- Completed a major renovation of Fairview Fire Department Station #1.
- **Milestone** The Zebulon Rural Fire Department merged with the Town of Zebulon to become [part of] a municipal fire department.
- **Milestone** Garner Fire Department completed construction of Fire Station #3 located on Timber Drive.
- Rolesville Fire Department entered into a personnel services contract with Wake County to provide two full-time firefighters at Rolesville Fire Department during normal weekday working hours.
- The North Carolina Department of Insurance certified two fire insurance districts: Garner Suburban Fire Insurance District served by Garner Fire Department and the expanded Alert Fire Insurance District served by the Knightdale Fire Department.
- Conducted in excess of 27,000 man-hours of life fire training and drills with no OSHA lost time accidents.
- Promoted volunteer retention and recruitment through a number of programs to acknowledge the importance of the volunteer component within the fire protection system.
- Source: WCAB.

2000, May 15 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved budget ordinance amendment to distribute revenues received from new single service fire tax district to each contracting fire department.

2000, August 7 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved personnel services agreement for one full-time employee for Western Wake FD. County to be reimbursed for all direct salary and benefit costs.

2000, October 16 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved personnel services agreement for one full-time employee for Stony Hill FD. County to be reimbursed for all direct salary and benefit costs.

2000, Dec 4 – From BOC minutes:

- Approved extending lease for fire training center land for another five years.

2000, Special Services 19 and Special Services 20, operated on contract by Western Wake FD, are removed from service by Wake County Public Safety, citing budget issues. Source: MJL.

2001

July 1, 2001

Accomplishments from prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (00-01):

- Established and implemented a process for developing a fire service capital improvement program.
- **Milestone** Received and placed in service a new specialized vehicle to support on-scene emergency operations.
- Entered into a personnel services agreement with the Stony Hill and Western Wake Fire Departments providing two full-time county staff at the fire departments during normal weekday working hours.
- Developed curriculum and related instructional modules to provide Fire Officer Level I certification training course. This collaborative effort with the State Fire Marshal's Office is the first of its type in the state.
- Implemented a computerized document imaging system that allows for electronic storage and access to important documents including but not limited to fire incident reports and contractual agreements with fire departments.
- Developed prototype fire station designs incorporating co-location of fire and EMS services, a fire substation and a central fire station.
- Developed a facility capital improvement plan which prioritized three projects for FY 00-01: constitution of fire station in Willow Springs community, renovations to Knightdale Fire Station #1 and renovations to Wendell Fire Station #1 and #2.
- The Town of Zebulon Fire Department was surveyed by Insurance Services Office, Inc., and reduced their public protection classification in county areas from Class 6/9S to Class 3 9S.
- Western Wake Fire/Rescue was surveyed by Insurance Services Office, Inc. and reduced their public protection classification from Class 6/9S to Class 4 district wide.
- Initiated a Child Safety Seat inspection program at Apex Fire Department, Gamer Fire Department, Hopkins Fire Department.
- Six Forks Fire Department, and Zebulon Fire Department. Stony Hill Fire Department entered into a personnel services contract with Wake County to provide a full-time Captain at Stony Hill Fire Department during normal weekday working hours.
- Western Wake Fire/Rescue entered into a personnel services contract with Wake County to provide a full-time Captain at Western Wake Fire/Rescue during normal weekday working hours.
- Initiated program to revise fire insurance districts to represent closest fire station response and to extend districts to 6 mile maximum into areas currently classified as unprotected.
- The North Carolina Department of Insurance recertified three Class 9S fire insurance districts: the Hopkins Fire Insurance District served by the Hopkins Fire Department, the Ten Ten Fire Insurance District served by the Fairview Fire Department, and the Stony Hill Fire Insurance District served by the Stony Hill Fire Department.
- Source: WCAB.

2001

July 19, 2001 – *News & Observer* story reports on “Fire squads face new spending rules”. Story notes:

- County seeking “sweeping changes” on how private fire and EMS departments are managed.
- Wake County Rescue Association discussed the proposed new rules on Wednesday.
- Wake County Fire Commission may talk about them tonight.

- County contracts with sixteen private fire departments and eight private EMS providers, to serve about forty percent of county residents.
- The fire departments are funded almost entirely by some \$8.5M in county and municipal taxes.
- EMS agencies receive about \$1.4M from county, which accounts for about half their budgets.
- Audits have shown that “the departments sometime poorly account for the money. Auditors note the same problems year after year in some departments. Too few people handle the money; financial records are filled with errors; federal tax laws are ignored.”
- Proposed new rules would empower county to ensure financial problems are corrected.
- They would require departments to submit written plans for addressing problems noted in audits.
- Also to use “generally accepted accounting principles,” to conduct criminal background checks on new employees, and to old open meetings in compliance with state laws.
- For fire departments, proposed changes also add a prohibition on Fire Chiefs or paid firefighters from sitting on board of directors. They would require departments who sell equipment to return proceeds to the county in most cases. And if audits show financial mismanagement, the county would have authority to take over the department’s finances.
- The new rules were written by a committee that included three Wake County Fire Chiefs.

2002

Milestone May 25, 2002 – *News & Observer* story reports on “Fire squad funding debated.” Context is a possible increase in funding for Knightdale Fire Department from prior budget year. The article cites such points as:

- Six months earlier, a county-funding audit showed “widespread financial mismanagement” in the department, which operates as a private, non-profit corporation.
- County commissioners had yet to discuss the department’s performance in a public meeting.
- Proposed increase in annual budget, of additional \$354,600.
- Represents nearly sixty percent increase over prior year’s budget.
- Money would replace annual payment from town.
- Town offered to take over the entire fire district, which is 54 square-miles including 51 square-miles of unincorporated areas.
- Commissions decided to continue contract with the private fire department.
- Two departments will service the district beginning July 1, 2002.
 - Town fire department is part of newly created Public Safety Department.
 - Includes three full-time firefighters, and over twenty volunteer firefighters who are supplemented by Public Safety Police Officers and other town employees.
 - Source: MJL.
- Five fire chiefs in eastern Wake County sign letter, opposing the funding increase.
- The proposed increase was subsequently adopted.
 - Legeros: The county over the years and decades supported volunteer fire departments impacted by annexation with such measures as increasing tax rates, to adjust for lost revenues.

Milestone County ownership of new fire department facilities introduced. First project is fire station for Willow Springs community, operated by Fuquay-Varina Fire Department:

- Fuquay-Varina Station 3 – New service area - Opened 2002.
- Stony Hill Station 1 – Replace existing station - Opened 2004.
- Garner Station 4 – New service area - Opened 2010.
- Bay Leaf Station 1 – Replace existing station - Opened 2013.

July 1, 2002

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (01-02):

- **Milestone** Completed merger of the Apex Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. with the Town of Apex Fire Department. After consolidation is complete, the Town of Apex will provide fire protection and other emergency services in the Hipex Fire District.
- **Milestone** Completed the planning, implementation, and consolidation of the Six Forks Volunteer Fire Department into the Bay Leaf Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Milestone** Began construction of a prototype fire station to serve the Willow Springs community. Construction is expected to be completed Summer 2002.
- Collaboratively developed a new fire protection contract with Wake County for rural fire protection services. The new agreement increases fiscal accountability for the private, non-profit fire departments.
- Continued a Child Safety Seat inspection program at Apex Fire Department, Gamer Fire Department, Hopkins Fire Department, Six Forks Fire Department, and Zebulon Fire Department.
- DOI recertified the Furina Fire Insurance District, served by the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department, from a split 6/9S to a split 4/9S.
- Source: WCAB.

2003

July 1, 2003

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (02-03):

Fire/Rescue:

- Completed a USFA study of fire investigation services in Wake County
- Initiated fire station and fire truck deployment/location study
- Completed study of compensation of part- and full-time firefighters, and received Fire Commission approval of implementation strategy
- In partnership with Progress Energy, improved Fire/Rescue Training Center

Fire Tax District:

- The Apex fire department will utilize additional funding to provide stipends for volunteer coverage at Station #2 near New Hill. The department is currently providing 24/7 protection in the unincorporated area of the Hipex fire district from this station with volunteers.
- Hopkins and Stony Hill fire departments will receive funding for part-time personnel for greater staffing availability to improve response times.

- Funding is provided to begin implementation of a pay and classification plan proposed for adoption in an effort to standardize pay and classification practices among the various contracting departments.
- Completion of the station location and fire apparatus study is expected to be completed in early fiscal year 2003-2004. The results of this analysis will lead to a master plan for capital needs for the fire service delivery system of the contracting agencies.

CIP:

- The projects currently in the capital budget for this element address issues such as Fire and EMS coverage areas, response times, renovations, and installation of back-up power generators for EMS and Fire stations. These needs were identified in studies conducted by Wake County during the late 1990s. Currently, the County is developing a long-term strategy and capital plan for providing Fire and EMS facilities to identify and prioritize the needs for facility renovations and new construction.
- In FY2004, investments totaling \$3.6 million to focus on the following fire facilities and equipment capital:
 - **Milestone Stony Hill Headquarters Station:** Complete construction and open new combination Fire/EMS facility by end of second quarter.
 - **East Garner Area Station:** Finalize site evaluation and acquire land needed for prototype fire station; complete design work, award construction contract and begin construction.
 - **Master Planning process,** review with Fire Commission and obtain approval from Board of Commissioners; incorporate master plan recommendations into capital plan as appropriate.
 - **Fire Facility Assessments:** Complete Phase I of life safety and code improvements identified in the February.
 - 2003 report based on available funding; prepare bid package and obtain bids from contractors for remainder of Phase I improvements.
 - **Emergency Communications Improvements:** Purchase and place into operation all 800 MHz radios and pager units as planned.
 - **Hopkins Fire Station:** Complete renovation of existing facility to add sleeping quarters, showers and restrooms.
- Source: WCAB.

Milestone November 2003 – Final report of TriData’s *Wake County Fire/EMS Capital Facility and Equipment Study* received.

Recommendations include:

- Apparatus:
 - Countywide procurement and deployment.
 - Standard countywide specs.
 - Countywide maintenance program.
- Stations:
 - Relocate four fire stations (HSPS 2, KPS, GFD 1, AFD 1).
 - Construct eight new stations (Knightdale, Garner, Apex, etc.) over the next decade to improve the ability to meet the Wake County service standards, particularly in growth areas.
 - Phase out seven stations (Falls, WWFD 1, WWFD 1, NHFD 1, EWFD 2, BLFD 3, MFD 3) that could be served as well or better by resources from nearby fire stations, if their small service areas could be contracted out.

- System:
 - Develop a “seamless system” with
 - Closet unit response independent of boundaries.
 - Integrated planning of fire station locations and apparatus.
 - Integrated planning of fire and EMS.
 - Mutual department back-up with automatic aid. “No department an island.”
 - Common, standardized equipment purchases.
 - Common maintenance and replacement policy.
- Data:
 - Need improved data on number of personnel responding on first-in units, cost for repairs per apparatus, complete tally of calls and response times.

Read entire report <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/tridata/2004/>

2004

July 1, 2004

Staffing for FY04:

- 22 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (03-0):

- Assisted in development of long-range business plan for County Fire Departments
- Served as liaison between the fire service community and the Raleigh/
- Wake Emergency Communications Center on issues related to the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and provided end-user support to maintenance of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System
- Maintained new fire insurance district boundaries, expanded to six miles, as approved by the Fire Commission, Wake County Board of Commissioners, and the North Carolina State Fire Marshal’s office.
- Increased workload to meet the demand of increased construction and renovation by the Public School System. Each new public-school building requires two fire and electrical inspections each year, as mandated by law.
- Provided terrorism related training for emergency service providers to improve the ability of fire departments to effectively and safely respond to these terrorism-related events.
- Revised Wake County’s Fire Protection Ordinance to transition the ordinance to the International Fire Code. The State Building Code Council adopted the International Fire Code as its model fire prevention code.

2005

Milestone County ownership of apparatus introduced, along with bulk purchasing and county specifications for apparatus.

- Notes

- 2005, Feb 21 – County commissioners approved up to \$6.8 million for pumpers and tankers. [BOC minutes, 10/17/05]
- 2005, Oct 17 – Equipment was expected to arrive that month. [BOC minutes]
- Pierce Contender pumpers
 - First bulk purchase.
 - Eighteen delivered in 2005.
 - Seven (or more) ordered in 2006.
 - Some municipalities also ordered, outside of bulk purchases.
 - Deliveries have included:
 - 2005 models - AFD (E2), BLFD (P122, E251, P258, E361), Fairview (E1, E2), WFD (E113), RFD, SHFD (P264), WWFD (E196), etc.
 - 2006 models - EWFD (E1), KFD (E134), WFFD (E61)
 - 2007 models - Falls (P212), GFD (E1, E3), FVFD (E3), SCFD (E3), ZFD (P94)
 - 2008 models - WFD (E115)
 - 2009 models - Fairview (E3), Falls (T217), FVFD (E5), MFD (P3), WNHFD (E1)
- Ford/Knapheide brush trucks
 - First ordered in 2005 [?]
 - Both two- and four-door models.
 - Skid systems from Emergency Apparatus, Inc. in Pittsboro, NC.
 - Deliveries included DHFD (1), EWFD (2, two-door and four-door), SHFD (B269, B399) (2, four-door) WFD (B114, B119) (2, two-door and four-door), WWFD (B299) (1, two-door).
- Ford/Seagrave brush trucks
 - First ordered in 2006.
 - Five departments: AFD, HSFD, MFD, WFFD, ZFD.
- International/KME tankers
 - First delivered in 2006.
 - Deliveries included:
 - 2005 models – RFD (T157), SCFD (T6), WWFD (T198).
 - 2009 models – GFD (T7), Fairview (T6), RFD (T158).
 - 2013 models – BLFD, WFFD, WFD (T117), WNHFD (T10).
- Spartan MetroStar/Hackney rescues
 - First delivered in 2008.
 - 2008 models - SHFD (R26), HFD (R22), WFD (T11).
- Pierce ladder for Wendell
 - Delivered 2006.

July 1, 2005

Staffing for FY05:

- 21 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (04-05):

Fire/Rescue:

- Developed Open Burning Permit requirements.
- Implemented the recommendations of the USFA Fire Investigation Study.
- Continued to manage regulatory compliance in fire services.
- Provided continuing support to the Wake County Fire Commission.
- Provided end-user support for maintenance of the new Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) System
- Maintained expanded fire insurance district boundaries.
- Provided inspections for increased construction by the Public School System.
- Identified need for fire service capital improvement planning.
- Continued to implement the 800 MHz radio system.
- Revised Wake County's Fire Protection Ordinance. The State Building Code Council has adopted the International Fire Code as its model fire prevention code. Because of this transition to the International Fire Code and given the need to address local fire protection needs, staff will continue to work to revise the County's fire protection ordinance.
- Increased use of portable live fire training props throughout Wake County.
- Developed standardized salary structure for fire service.

Fire Tax District:

- No increase in tax rate.
- Funding for the Wake County Compensation Plan, which adjusts firefighter salaries to meet system-wide minimums.
- \$150,000 for "bulk purchasing" turnout gear.
- Approximately \$274,000 for small capital, defibrillators, and Thermal Imaging cameras.
- Funding to reimburse Wake County for the fire services use of the 800 MHz radio system.

CIP:

- Completed construction of a new Stony Hill Fire Headquarters/EMS Station.
- Made renovations to Fuquay-Varina Fire Stations #1 and #2 to incorporate EMS vehicle bays and sleeping quarters.
- Completed construction documents and awarded construction contracts to address priority categories 1-3 identified in the Heery facility study (life safety, building envelope, and system reliability improvements) at 29 fire facilities.
- Completed the Fire/EMS Capital Facility and Equipment Study.
- Extended rural fire insurance districts from five road miles to six road miles where possible countywide. All fire departments successfully completed the rating process.
- **Milestone** Transitioned to a new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system. The new CAD system provides for the dispatch of the nearest appropriate resource to an emergency.
- Began transition to new 800 MHz radio communications system, which will significantly improve radio interoperability between and among various emergency service agencies.
- Source: WCAB.

2006

July 1, 2006

Staffing for FY05:

- 21 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (05-06):

Fire/Rescue:

- Assisted in development of long-range business plan for County Fire Departments
- Served as liaison between the fire service community and the Raleigh/ Wake Emergency Communications Center on issues related to the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and provided end-user support to maintenance of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System
- Maintained new fire insurance district boundaries, expanded to six miles, as approved by the Fire Commission, Wake County Board of Commissioners, and the North Carolina State Fire Marshal's office.
- Increased workload to meet the demand of increased construction and renovation by the Public School System. Each new public-school building requires two fire and electrical inspections each year, as mandated by law.
- Provided terrorism related training for emergency service providers to improve the ability of fire departments to effectively and safely respond to these terrorism-related events.
- Revised Wake County's Fire Protection Ordinance to transition the ordinance to the International Fire Code. The State Building Code Council adopted the International Fire Code as its model fire prevention code.

Fire Tax District:

- Developed Long-Range Business Plan that addresses such capital needs as apparatus and stations, and such operating issues as staffing and fund balance policies. In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the Plan to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted it in February 2005.
- **Milestone** Implemented new 800 MHz radio system.
- Completed implementation of compensation study adjustments for department personnel.
- Funding for 16 additional firefighter FTEs.
- Increase in funding for turnout gear replacement.
- Source: WCAB.

CIP:

- Submitted Long-Range Plan to Board of Commissioners in February 2005, which addressed such capital needs as apparatus replacement and station location.
- Transitioned to new 800 MHz radio communications system, which significantly improves radio interoperability between and among various emergency service agencies.
- Developed a financial model to assist committees and Fire Commission with long-range capital planning.
- Initiated coverage discussions with the City of Raleigh and Town of Cary; discussions will continue in FY 2006

2007

Milestone April (?) 2007 – Wake County EMS places Major Operations Support Unit in service.

- 2007 Sterling/Hackey heavy rescue truck
- Call sign is Truck 1, housed at Station 1.
- Serves two purposes, as a multi-patient unit with equipment for 25 patients, and as responder rehab, with fans, cooling chairs, fluids, ice, and necessary medical equipment.
- First call answered on April 17, 2007, to house fire on Fayetteville Road in Fuquay-Varina.

Press release:

Wake County, North Carolina purchased a Hackney model DF1082 mounted on a Sterling cab and chassis with vertical exhaust. Wake County serves the capital region of central piedmont North Carolina, home of the Research Triangle Park, several universities and high-tech industrial sites. The primary mission of this vehicle is to support multi-casualty situations.

It is outfitted to be a base of operations for the Medical Branch at large scale incidents. Specialized compact portable equipment is available for use by EMS Strike Teams triaging and treating patients on a complex scene.

Equipment and supplies are stored according to triage levels for the establishment of a treatment area/casualty collection point. The vehicle contains all the necessary equipment for establishing a state-of-the-art responder area. From hydration coolers, thermal cooling chairs, folding benches, to an extensive array of medical monitoring equipment, this truck is suited to assist responders at all types of incidents. All of the rehab equipment is packaged to move - whether up a street or up 30 floors - to support the Rehab Group during a high-rise fire scenario. In addition, the truck is equipped to function as a Paramedic response unit, as well as in support of the Wake County EMS Special Operations teams.

The truck is available regionally as needed and is a primary response asset to incidents at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. The unit is currently stationed at the Public Safety Center on Davie St. in Downtown Raleigh. It is staffed during the daytime by Administration and other hours by designated ambulance crews that are stationed at the PSC.

Jonathan Olson, Division Chief – Management Services, states that “in designing the apparatus, personnel looked back at deficiencies on incident scenes in recent years and focused on designing a single response vehicle with enough volume of storage space to transport critical equipment.” Hackney was identified as a prime supplier due to its vast compartment storage space, enhanced by the drop/pinch frame. The body provides an incredible 925 cu.ft. of fully useable storage capacity.

A primary need identified was lighting. This unit is outfitted with significant primary lighting, including a Will-Burt tower and body lamps on each side, tripod lighting on the rear, and underbody lighting. It has dual 200' power reels with distribution blocks to allow the establishment of lights in proximity to the truck using portable ground and stand lights. To get even further away, the truck is equipped with 3 Honda 2KW portable generators. The truck also serves as a point to recharge batteries on extended scenes as it is equipped with both radio and defibrillator battery charging units. On the chance that the unit is deployed in time of major disaster, it is outfitted with an ICOM VHF/UHF/HF amateur band radio - as well as standard public safety VHF, UHF, and 800Mhz VIPER radios.

The vehicle was sold by C.W. Williams and Company.

July 1, 2007

Staffing for FY07:

- 17 FTE positions. [Reduced from 22 in prior FY. Reason?]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (06-07):

Fire/Rescue:

- Completed a training plan in support of National Incident Management System implementation.
- Completed a countywide specification for firefighting turnout gear purchase and coordinated a collaborative turnout gear purchase arrangement for the contracting fire departments.
- Initiated quarterly training sessions focusing on identified training needs to improve fire investigation competencies.

Fire Tax District:

- Increased fire service participation in the budget development process— Over 10 departments represented on Budget Committee. Staffing Committee progressed on long-range plan to address staffing needs County-wide.
- Increased funding for staffing resources, including \$200,000 additional funds for volunteer support and cost-shared positions with three municipalities.
- Continued funding for replacement of turnout gear and small capital.
- Developed the first countywide consensus specification for firefighting turnout gear. The City of Raleigh Fire Department partnered with County departments in drafting the specifications.
- Completed the third and final year of the three-year implementation plan for the fire service compensation plan.
- Completed a salary market survey for the fire service compensation plan and revised salary bands based upon survey results and consultant recommendations.
- Recommended a uniform and consistent accidental death and injury insurance plan for all volunteers in all fire departments. This plan equalizes volunteer coverage countywide for accidental death and injuries.

CIP:

- Planned for and funded the next “batch” of pumper/tankers and tankers for FY 2007; Began development specifications for service trucks and watercraft.
- The Commission and staff began analyzing the need for new fire stations in the County’s unincorporated area. During FY 2007, the Commission may consider specific proposals for stations in the Wake Forest service area, and in the service area East of Garner (which is currently not in an ISO rated district).
- Began construction of Phase 2 of the Fire Facilities Assessment Upgrades (the “Heery Project”) to include improvements to emergency preparedness, facility life cycle, code compliance, and accessibility compliance for 14 fire stations.
- Completed a dormitory addition to Rolesville Fire Station.
- Completed reconfiguration of space for dormitories in Garner Fire Station #2.
- Initiated studies and work on parking lot and driveway improvements to 16 fire stations.
- Source: WCAB.

2008

First fire station closed, after multi-year process to evaluate stations for possible closure:¹¹

- Western Wake Station 2 closed, Cary Suburban Fire District created, Cary FD contracted – July 1, 2008.
- Other stations initially identified were Western Wake Station 1, Eastern Wake Station 2, and Wake New Hope Station 1.

July 1, 2008

Staffing for FY08:

- 18.50 FTE positions. (From FY09 budget)
- 24.50 FTE positions. (From FY10 budget)
[Why the discrepancy? Assumption: Higher number reflects addition of EM division, which merged with Fire Services in 2009]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (07-08):

Fire/Rescue:

- Completed second phase of fire apparatus replacement plan; coordinated with Fire Commission's Apparatus Committee to draft specifications for service trucks and brush trucks.
- Completed a countywide specification for firefighting turnout gear purchase and coordinated a collaborative turnout gear purchase arrangement for the contracting fire departments. The coordinated process included participation by City of Raleigh and Town of Cary Fire Departments.
- Implemented revised firefighter rehabilitation guidelines at Fire/Rescue Training Center to provide improved emergency medical services standby and increased firefighter safety during live fire training drills.
- Provided on-scene technical assistance to Town of Apex Fire Department during response to EQ Industrial Services chemical explosion and fire. Coordinated multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction origin and cause determination for the chemical explosion and fire.
- Developed and implemented quickest-unit response protocol in computer aided dispatch (CAD) system for new section of I-540.
- Development involved active participation and coordination by and between Wake County, City of Raleigh Fire Department, Raleigh/ Wake Emergency Communications Center, Town of Knightdale Fire Department, Eastern Wake Fire Department and Wake New Hope Fire Department.

Fire Tax District:

- Continued implementation of Long-Range Business Plan – Completed countywide purchase specifications for service vehicles; updated countywide purchase specifications for brush vehicles.
- Funded implementation of volunteer duty crews at Fairview and Swift Creek Fire Departments and increased funding for volunteer duty crew at Bay Leaf Fire Department.
- Provided financial support for Feed-the-Firefighter Foundation.

¹¹ Station closures are first suggested in 2004 TriData study.

- Updated Fire Commission’s Service Level Goals – The updated goals state that four personnel must arrive on the first arriving unit within prescribed response time goals.
- Increased funding to provide accidental death and dismemberment insurance for all members of contracting fire departments.

CIP:

- Planned for and funded the next “batch” of fire apparatus to include pumper/tankers, tankers, and service trucks for FY 2008;
- The Commission and staff began analyzing the need for new fire stations in the County’s unincorporated area. During FY 2007, the Commission began reviewing specific proposals for stations in the Wake Forest service area, and in the service area East of Garner (which is currently not in an ISO rated district).
- Continued construction of Phase 2 of the Fire Facilities Assessment Upgrades (the “Heery Project”) to include improvements to emergency preparedness, facility life cycle, code compliance, and accessibility compliance for 14 fire stations.
- Began work on parking lot and driveway improvements to 17 fire stations.
- Source: WCAB.

2009

July 1, 2009

Staffing for FY09:

- 23.50 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (08-09):

Fire/Rescue:

- For the FY08 budget, Fire and Rescue requested and received funding for a part-time Deputy Fire Marshal position. Two conditions made the request necessary: (a) Fire and Rescue was not in compliance with the state mandated inspection schedule; and (b) Plan review performance was below the performance goal.
- In FY 07, Fire and Rescue identified a total of 869 commercial, one year, two year and three-year occupancies that were not in compliance with the inspection schedule. For FY 08 to date, the number has decreased approximately 34% to a total of approximately 568 occupancies not in compliance. Based on FY 08 performance data, fire inspection compliance is predicted to occur in FY 2010.
- Fire and Rescue's plan review performance for FY 08 has improved from approximately 56% of plans completed within seven working days in July, to 95% of plans within seven working days in January 2008. Reduced the percentage of fire cause determinations listed as "Under Investigation" 9%. The reduction is due to improved reporting and fire cause determination practices. By reducing the number of fire causes listed as under investigation, the number of fires with a cause determined increased.
- Investigated approximately 30% more intentionally set fires than in FY 07. The number of intentionally set fires is predicted to increase from 46 in FY 07 to approximately 60 for FY 08. The investigation of intentionally set fires involves a significant amount of more case investigation work to support a criminal prosecution.
- Coordinated with the General Services Department to complete critical infrastructure repairs at the Fire/Rescue Training Center. The work involved replacement of fire hydrants, repair of underground mains, and replacement of hydrant pressure valves.

- Began delivery of National Incident Management System training courses in a multi-agency, multi jurisdiction format. The format involved fire, police, and EMS personnel from various jurisdictions in Wake County training to prepare for major incident response.
- Completed a needs assessment and feasibility study for a countywide recruit academy. The first academy is planned for FY 2009. The academy will allow volunteer and paid members to attend and attain the training and certifications required by the Fire Service Compensation Plan.
- The Fire Commission approved a recommendation from its Facility Committee to locate a fire station in the Raynor Road area. This site will allow for the extension of fire insurance district boundaries to cover the southeastern part of the County which is not in a rated fire insurance district.
- **Milestone** Staff completed an evaluation and application of the Fire Commission's closure criteria to Western Wake Fire Station #2.
 - Western Wake Station #2 is the first station recommended in the Long-Range Business Plan for evaluation. The station is scheduled to close effective July 1, 2008.
- The Fire Commission has not completed the staffing and facility components of the long-range plan. Staff coordinated with the Staffing and Facilities Committees to develop a recommended plan for the Fire Commission's consideration. At its January 17, 2008 meeting, the Fire Commission did not support the recommendations of the various committees.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted it in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the final components of the plan consisting of facility and staffing.
- The Fire Commission and various committees continued implementation of Long-Range Business Plan. The Apparatus Committee completed countywide purchase specifications for service vehicles, brush vehicles, and pumper-tankers.
- The Compensation Committee has recommended standardization of benefits including fire tax retirement contributions, a longevity program, and countywide group term life insurance plan for all fire department members. The Compensation Committee have continued to discuss other related issues.
- The Facilities Committee has recommended a location for fire station in southeastern Wake County near the Town of Garner. This station will serve the area that is presently not in a rated fire insurance district.

CIP:

- Source: WCAB.

[2010 to present - More Milestones](#)

2010

July 1, 2010 – Wake County Fire Academy #3 begins. Graduates in December 2010. Successful candidates get certified as Firefighter II, Haz-Mat Operations Plus, EMT Basic, ICS, Firefighter Rescue, Firefighter Survival, Rescue Technician, and Fit Testing. (Legeros Fire Blog.)

July 1, 2010

Staffing for FY11:

- 22 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (09-10):

Fire/Rescue:

- For the first time since the Division began plans review, fire prevention achieved the performance goal of reviewing 90% of plans received within seven working days. This achievement improved our level of customer service to those submitting plans for permitting and other purposes.
- Construction on RDU Terminal 2 was completed in FY 09. Plans have been submitted and approved for the South Concourse expansion project (Phase 3). When construction is completed for Phase 3, Terminal 2 will become one of the largest buildings in Wake County. During the course of this 4+ year project, Fire/Rescue staff conducted 307 inspections to ensure code compliance prior to the October 2008 grand opening.
- **Milestone** First Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class graduated in January 2009.
 - The academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a nineteen-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. Twelve graduates of the first class represented eight different fire departments in Wake County.
- Developed a weeklong Basic Fire Investigation School for local fire investigators from Wake County Fire Services, Wake County Sheriff's Office, Raleigh Fire Department, Cary Fire Department, local contracting fire departments and local law enforcement agencies. Fifty students from throughout Wake County attended the course to improve their skills in fire origin and cause investigations and better share information related to fire investigations in Wake County. Instructors were from North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Wake County District Attorney's Office, and Wake County Fire Services.
- Fiscal Year 2008 was the third year in a row that the Division reached a 100% collection rate for fire incident reports.
- Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of land on Raynor Road for construction of a fire station to extend fire insurance district boundaries to an area of southeastern Wake County that is not currently in a rated fire insurance district. Wake County and the Town of Garner approved an interlocal agreement that provides the details of the partnership between the County and Town to purchase the land and build and operate the fire station. The site will be a co-location site with facilities to house an Emergency Medical Services ambulance.
- The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved creation of the Cary Suburban Fire Insurance District and authorized an agreement with the Town of Cary Fire Department to serve the unincorporated fire insurance district. The North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal has approved the certification for the Cary Suburban District.
- Fire/Rescue performed 160 fire investigations in FY 2008. This number of fire investigations is a 29% increase from the prior year. Although the number of fire investigations is projected to decrease for FY 09, the FY 09 projection is the second highest number of fire investigations in the last five years.
- Discontinued training services for private fire brigades from outside Wake County. To reduce costs for LP gas used in live fire training, private fire brigades are no longer trained at the County's fire training center.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted the plan in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the final components of the plan consisting of facility and staffing.
- During FY 2009, the Fire Commission began implementing components of the staffing plan based on available funding sources. This includes a total of ten new firefighter positions in the following departments: Garner, Hopkins, Rolesville, Stony Hill, and Wendell. Two additional firefighter positions are funded for FY 2010 but have not yet been placed in departments.
- The Apparatus Committee completed a review of the current apparatus replacement plan examining actual use, condition, and total department/station fleet. Based on this information, some apparatus replacements were delayed saving over \$7.3 million in the seven-year replacement schedule. In addition, the committee completed countywide purchase specifications for tanker apparatus that includes new EPA emissions standards.
- The Compensation Committee completed an evaluation of pay-bands with support of the Wake County Human Resources Department. The revised pay bands were adopted by the Wake County Fire Commission and will become effective July 1, 2009. In prior years, the Compensation Committee had developed a plan for standardized retirement funding among all the contracted departments. In FY 2010, the budget provides departments with a minimum of 9.87 percent funding for retirement and/or 401(k) benefits. These benefits are extended to eligible full-time staff.
- The Turnout Gear Committee was renamed the Equipment Committee and was converted to a standing committee. The Fire Commission recognizes that equipment repair and replacement are likely to become a greater share of future Fire Tax District budgets. The Equipment Committee will develop and oversee the equipment replacement programs such as turnout gear, air bottles, defibrillators, thermal imaging cameras, and breathing apparatus.
- With significant assistance from Facilities, Design and Construction staff, the Fire Facilities Committee has completed the purchase of land for Garner Station #4 and schematic design of the joint Fire/EMS station. The new station will be located on Spaceway Court near Raynor Road and will provide fire services to areas in southeastern Wake County, some of which are outside of a rated insurance district.
- Source: WCAB.

2011

July 1, 2011

Staffing for FY11:

- 20 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior budget year, from Annual Budget (10-11):

Fire Services:

- Coordinated with other county departments and the Town of Garner to begin construction of a new fire/EMS station on Raynor Road in the southeastern area of Wake County. This new station will allow for improved response times for fire and EMS units in a cost-effective manner. The new station will also allow Wake County to extend fire insurance district boundaries to cover an area that is not currently in a rated fire insurance district.
- **Milestone** Second Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class graduated November 2009.

- This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a twenty-three-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. The first Wake County Fire Academy began in September 2008. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Rescue Technician, Hazmat Ops. Plus, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. The class started with 14 recruits with 12 graduating November 23, 2009. The recruits represent 7 different fire departments in Wake County. The next academy is scheduled to begin July 2010.
- Completed the second annual basic Wake County Fire Investigation School for local fire and law enforcement personnel. This 7-day course is designed to offer basic techniques in fire cause determination to local fire and law enforcement personnel. Forty-five students representing agencies throughout Wake County attended this course to learn basic techniques in fire cause determinations in Wake County. Based on student evaluations and recommendations, plans are to continue this course annually.
- FY 2009 was the fourth year in a row that the Division reached a 100 percent collection rate for fire incident reports.
- Initiated discussions with the City of Raleigh Fire Department to provide service in unincorporated areas as part of the overall project to evaluate the Fire Commission's fire station closure criteria for four fire stations - Bay Leaf Fire Station #3, Falls Fire Station, Wake-New Hope Fire Station #1, and Western Wake Fire Station 31.
- Coordinated with the Fire Commission and the Fire Commission's Budget Committee to draft a new fire protection agreement planned for July 1, 2010, implementation.
- Fire Services staff assisted Garner Fire Department with coordination of post incident review of the Con Agra explosion and building collapse and delivered lessons learned presentations to various groups. From FY 08 to FY 09, the number of fires listed as "Under Investigation" increased approximately 33% to a total of 32 fire causes listed as "Under Investigation." The number of "Under Investigation" fire caused is projected to increase again in FY 10. Fires listed as "Under Investigation" are fires with an undetermined cause of ignition at the time of the scene investigation and may result in underreporting of intentionally set or accidental fire causes.
- Fire Service personnel assisted in the Emergency Operations Center with the H1N1 vaccination distribution planning.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted the plan in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the final components of the plan consisting of facility and staffing. During FY 2009, the Fire Commission began implementing components of the staffing plan based on available funding sources. This includes a total of ten new firefighter positions were placed in various departments throughout the County.
- Two additional firefighter positions are funded in FY 2010 but were not specified to a particular department. The Fire Commission placed these positions in the Fairview and Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments. In addition, the Town of Fuquay-Varina agreed to fund an additional position, creating a total of three positions.
- Also, with the new position funding, Fairview re-organized existing staff and converted part-time positions into additional full-time Driver/Operators. By converting part-time positions, Fairview has been able to improve response time and level of service with minimal investment of fire tax dollars.
- The Wake County Board of Commissioners and Fire Commission approved the contract to build Garner Station #4. The new station will be located on Spaceway Court near Raynor Road and will provide fire

services to areas in southeastern Wake County, some of which are outside of a rated insurance district. The station is expected to open in December 2010.

- Source: WCAB.

2012

County-driven mergers start with county manager and staff encouraging private departments to discuss consolidation as a means of reducing operational costs.

- Falls merges with Wake Forest – March 25, 2012. The Falls fire station becomes WFFD Station 5, and the equipment assigned is Engine 5, Tanker 5, Squad 5, Fire Boat 5, Utility 5 and Car 6. Station is staffed with part-time employees on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and fully staffed by volunteers on nights and weekends. The departments signed an operational consolidation contract on July 25, 2011. The merger was first proposed in 2009 and originally included ideas to close the Falls fire station. (Source: MJL)

Milestone Four regional tanker strike teams are established. They can be special called by any fire department in the county. Source: <https://legeros.com/blog-archives/content/2012-11-14-wake-county-tanker-strike-teams.pdf>

Region	Department	CAD ID	Gallons
North	Bay Leaf	BLP366	1100
North	Bay Leaf	BLP122	1000
North	Durham Highway	DHP1	1250
North	Stony Hill	SHTA268	1800
North	Wake Forest	WFTA5	1000
South	Garner	GFTA7	2000
South	Fuquay	FVTA1	2000
South	Fairview	FFTA6	2000
South	TBD		
East	Hopkins	HOTA227	2000
East	Zebulon	ZFTA98	2000
East	Rolesville	RVTA157	2000
East	New Hope	NHTA12	1800
East	Eastern Wake	EWTA3	1800
East	Wendell	WETA117	1800
West	Swift Creek	SCTA2	2000
West	Apex	AFTA1	2000
West	Western Wake	WWTA198	2000
West	Morrisville	MFP3	1000

Wake County Association of Fire Chiefs created.

July 1, 2012

Staffing for FY12:

- 20 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year, from Annual Budget (11-12):

Fire Services:

- **Milestone** Completed construction of a new [Garner] fire/EMS station [#4] on Raynor Road in the southeastern area of Wake County.
 - This new station will allow for improved response times for fire and EMS units in a cost-effective manner. The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the extension of fire insurance district boundaries for the Garner Suburban Fire Insurance District to cover property in southeastern Wake County previously in an unrated area.
- **Milestone** Third Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class graduated in December 2010.
 - This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a 23-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with County fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Rescue Technician, Hazmat Operations. Plus, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. The class graduated the most recruits in the Academy's three-year history. Ten of the graduates were employed by the Garner Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department to staff the newly opened fire station.
- Continued a 100 percent collection rate for fire incident reports for the fifth straight year. Wake County is one of a few counties statewide to collect and submit fire incident reports from all fire departments in the County.
- Continued discussions with the City of Raleigh Fire Department to provide service in unincorporated areas as part of the overall project to evaluate the Fire Commission's fire station closure criteria for four fire stations - Bay Leaf Fire Station #3, Falls Fire Station, Wake-New Hope Fire Station #1, and Western Wake Fire Station #1.
- **Milestone** Implemented a new fire protection agreement on July 1, 2010.
 - The new agreement increased accountability for the contracting fire departments and provides a process for ensuring contract compliance.
- Completed fire inspection activities for Raleigh Durham Airport Terminal 2 Concourse Expansion Project. This project is the largest project in Wake County's jurisdiction. All fire related activities were conducted in a timely manner to support early completion of the expansion.
- Participated in multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction exercises including the Wake County Public School System shooter exercise and the National Disaster Medical System exercise.
- Completed the third annual Advanced Fire Investigation School. Fire experts from the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms assisted in the instruction for fire and law enforcement personnel from across the County.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan (LRBP) to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted the plan in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the supplementary sections to the LRBP including facility and staffing components.
- In FY 2009, the Fire Commission began implementing components of the staffing plan subject to available funding sources and placed ten new entry-level firefighter positions in various departments throughout Wake County. In FY 2010, two more entry-level firefighter positions were added at Fairview and Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments. Fairview Fire Department used the funding for a new position and converted existing part-time positions to create two Driver/Operator positions. The Town of Fuquay-Varina agreed to fund an additional firefighter position. Therefore, the Fire Tax District was able to leverage funding for two positions into the creation of four new positions, improve response time and service levels.

- In FY 2011, the Fire Tax District added a total of 16 new positions. Nine entry-level firefighter positions were distributed to existing fire departments: three positions at Bay Leaf, three at Fairview, and three at Stony Hill Fire Departments.
- Garner Station #4 opened. The LRBP identified a crucial need to construct and operate a fire station in the southeastern Wake County. Located on Spaceway Court near Raynor Road, Garner Station #4 was completed and opened in November 2010. The station provides fire services to unincorporated areas, some of which was outside of a rated insurance district. The opening of Garner #4 includes the creation of seven new positions needed to provide fire prevention services. As a result of priorities identified in the LRBP and funding availability, the Fire Tax District has been able to create and/or leverage approximately 30 new positions since FY 2008.
- Source: WCAB.

2013

July 1, 2013

Staffing for FY13:

- 19 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013), from annual budget:

Fire Services:

- **Milestone** Fourth Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class graduated on February 2, 2012.
 - This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a twenty-five-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Technical Rescuer, Hazmat Responder, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. Departments look to this academy for highly trained employees. Garner Fire/Rescue hired 10 of the recruits from academy three. This program also promotes volunteerism as applicants are required to be a member of a fire department.
- Continued a 100 percent collection rate for fire incident reports for the fifth straight year. Wake County is one of a few counties statewide to collect and submit fire incident reports from all fire departments in the County.
- The Department of Fire and Emergency Management staff continue to have discussions as part of the Department's work to evaluate the Fire Commission's criteria for replacing fire protection service in the unincorporated areas of the County. As identified in the Wake County Fire Commission Long Range Business Plan there are four fire stations under consideration. They include Bay Leaf Fire Station #3, Falls Fire Station, Wake New Hope Fire Station #1, and Western Wake Fire Station #1. In July of 2011 the Board of Directors for Wake Forest Fire Department and Falls Fire Department entered into an Operational Consolidation Agreement which authorized and established policies and procedures that would enhance each agencies firefighter programs and emphasize the combined utilization of personnel, training resources, and staffed response apparatus. The full consolidation/merger between Wake Forest Fire Department and Falls Fire Department is anticipated to be completed in Fiscal Year 2013. This service replacement is expected to result in more efficient and effective fire protection service.
- **Milestone** In FY 2010 the County implemented a new Fire Protection Agreement that included language that allowed staff to visit the contracting departments to perform compliance reviews to ensure that fire department operations were conducted in accordance with the contract.

- The Fire and Emergency Management Department performed a compliance review on the Eastern Wake Fire Department, and it was determined that the Department was non-compliant with several areas of the contract. To resolve the non-compliance issues the Eastern Wake Fire Department Board of Directors and the Wake County Board of County Commissioners jointly appointed a Trustee whose primary duties are to oversee disbursements, receipts, budgets, financial transactions and other business for the Eastern Wake Fire Department. Also, the Wake County Board of County Commissioners appointed four (4) members to the Eastern Wake Fire Department Board of Directors.
- Staff is working with members of the Fire Commission on revisions to Wake County's fire protection agreement to strengthen financial and management accountability of the contracting fire departments. New amended contracts will be considered and approved in FY 13.
- Fire Services Training assisted with the Wake County Law Enforcement Adventure Kids Camp sponsored by Wake County Sheriff's Office. 135 kids from 12 to 15 years of age attended the fire training center for two full days and experienced live fire demonstrations from fire departments and participated in fire safety education training.
- A Memorandum of Understanding to reconstruct Bay Leaf Station #1 was arranged with the Bay Leaf Fire Department Board of Directors. The County proposed to build this two-story station in exchange for the conveyance of Bay Leaf Station #3, located at 1431 Lynn Road to the County.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan (LRBP) to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted the plan in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the supplementary sections to the LRBP including facility and staffing components. In FY 2009, the Fire Commission began implementing components of the staffing plan subject to available funding sources and placed ten new entry-level firefighter positions in various departments throughout Wake County. In FY 2010, two more entry-level firefighter positions were added at Fairview and Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments. Fairview Fire Department used the funding for a new position and converted existing part-time positions to create two Driver/Operator positions. The Town of Fuquay-Varina agreed to fund an additional firefighter position. Therefore, the Fire Tax District was able to leverage funding for two positions into the creation of four new positions, improving response time and service levels.
- In FY 2011, the Fire Tax District added a total of 16 new positions. Nine entry-level firefighter positions were distributed to existing fire departments: three positions at Bay Leaf, three at Fairview, and three at Stony Hill Fire Departments.
- The LRBP identified a crucial need to construct and operate a fire station in the southeastern Wake County. Located on Spaceway Court near Raynor Road, Garner Station #4 was completed and opened in November 2010. The station provides fire services to unincorporated areas, some of which was outside of a rated insurance district. The opening of Garner #4 includes the creation of seven new positions needed to provide fire prevention services.
- As a result of priorities identified in the LRBP and funding availability, the Fire Tax District has been able to create and/or leverage approximately 30 new positions since FY 2008.

2014

Milestone Fifth Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class is scheduled to graduate June 2013.

This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a twenty-five-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Technical Rescuer, Hazmat Responder, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and

several other topics. Departments look to this academy for highly trained employees. This program also promotes volunteerism as applicants are required to be a member of a fire department. (Source: TBD)

July 1, 2014

Staffing for FY14:

- 19 FTE positions. [Includes EM division positions.]

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014), from annual budget:

Fire Services:

- **Milestone** The Sixth Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class is scheduled to graduate in June 2014. This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a 25-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Technical Rescuer, Hazmat Responder, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. Departments look to this academy for highly trained employees. This program also promotes volunteerism as applicants are required to be a member of a fire department.
- Maintained a 100 percent submission rate to NC Office of State Fire Marshal for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the sixth straight year. Wake County is one of the few counties statewide to collect and submit fire incident reports from all fire departments as required by General Statute.
- Fire Services Training assisted with the Wake County Law Enforcement Adventure Kids Camp sponsored by Wake County Sheriff 's Office. 110 kids from 12 to 15 years of age attended the fire training center for two full days and experienced live fire demonstrations from fire departments and participated in fire safety education training. We expect to continue this program each year.
- A comprehensive study of fire training programs is due to be presented to the Wake County Fire Commission in Summer 2014.
- Staff participated in the evaluation process to select and recommend a vendor for a Land Development Solution to automate all development services for the County.
- Replaced electrical components for the fire pump at the fire training center after being out of service for an extended period. While the pump was out of service, minimal live fire training was accomplished. Full live fire training capabilities have been resumed.
- Developed a new staff training program for Fire Services staff to ensure compliance with NC General Statutes. This will be an annual training program to address current training issues facing our department. Topics include: Fire Investigations, Code Enforcement, OSHA Standards, Hazardous Materials and various administrative protocols.
- Fire Training staff delivered a new North Carolina Rapid Intervention Team School to Wake County firefighters. This is a state certification program providing students with skills in the area of firefighter survival and firefighter crew rescue. This is a 40-hour course.
- Fire Training staff facilitated Post Incident Reviews for several major incidents in Wake County. We anticipate conducting an average of two reviews monthly based upon the current trend. This program is designed to review the response and identify opportunities to improve responses. Collectively the PIR allows the Wake County Fire Service to trend emerging challenges and issues. Additionally, participation in this program is a requirement of the Fire Service Contract based upon the defined criteria.

Fire Tax District:

- In January 2005, the Fire Commission unanimously recommended the first version of the Wake County Fire Tax District Long-Range Business Plan (LRBP) to the Board of Commissioners, which adopted the plan in February 2005. In January 2008, the Fire Commission developed and recommended the supplementary sections to the LRBP including facility and staffing components.
- In FY 2009, the Fire Commission began implementing components of the staffing plan subject to available funding sources and placed ten new entry-level firefighter positions in various departments throughout Wake County. In FY 2010, two more entry-level firefighter positions were added at Fairview and Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments. Fairview Fire Department used the funding for a new position and converted existing part-time positions to create two Driver/Operator positions. The Town of Fuquay-Varina agreed to fund an additional firefighter position. Therefore, the Fire Tax District was able to leverage funding for two positions into the creation of four new positions, improving response time and service levels.
- In FY 2011, the Fire Tax District added a total of 16 new positions. Nine entry-level firefighter positions were distributed to existing fire departments: three positions at Bay Leaf, three at Fairview, and three at Stony Hill Fire Departments.
- The LRBP identified a crucial need to construct and operate a fire station in the southeastern Wake County. Located on Spaceway Court near Raynor Road, Garner Station #4 was completed and opened in November 2010. The station provides fire services to unincorporated areas, some of which was outside of a rated insurance district. The opening of Garner #4 includes the creation of seven new positions needed to provide fire prevention services.
- As a result of priorities identified in the LRBP and funding availability, the Fire Tax District has been able to create and/or leverage approximately 30 new positions since FY 2008.
- Members and County Management need to address the long-term management and planning of the Fire Tax District. To address this, in late FY 2013 the Fire Commission and Staff have set up a new Sustainability Committee to address future issues and opportunities. The Committee already has met several times to develop strategies to address the long-term sustainability.

2015

July 1, 2015

Staffing for FY15:

- 17 FTE positions.

Notes:

- **Milestone** Emergency Management division now separated from Fire Services at start of fiscal year.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015), from annual budget:

- **Milestone** The Seventh Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class is scheduled to graduate in July 2015. This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a 26-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with county fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Technical Rescuer, Hazmat Responder, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. Departments look to this academy for highly trained employees. This program also promotes volunteerism as applicants are required to be a member of a fire department. Maintained a 100 percent submission rate to NC Office of State Fire Marshal for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the seventh straight year. Wake County is one of the few counties statewide to collect and submit fire incident reports from all fire departments as required by General Statute.

- Fire Services Training assisted with the Wake County Law Enforcement Adventure Kids Camp sponsored by Wake County Sheriff 's Office. 120 kids from 12 to 15 years of age attended the fire training center two full days and experienced live fire demonstrations from fire departments and participated in fire safety education training. We expect to continue this program each year.
- Staff participated in the selection of a vendor for a Land Development solution to automate all development services for the County. Staff continue to work with the project team to implement the solution.
- Fire Training staff facilitated Post Incident Reviews for several major incidents in Wake County. We anticipate conducting an average of two reviews monthly based upon the current trend. This program is designed to review the response and identify opportunities to improve responses. Collectively the PIR allows the Wake County Fire Service to trend emerging challenges and issues. Additionally, participation in this program is a requirement of the Fire Service Contract based upon the defined criteria. Fire Prevention staff partnered with Wake Safe Kids Coalition to secure a home safety grant that will provide smoke alarms, installation tools and training. Staff will work in conjunction with local fire departments to provide these alarms as requested. Fire Services staff assisted the Zebulon Fire Department with their scheduled North Carolina Response Rating Schedule inspection. Zebulon Fire Department improved their rating that will reflect in lower insurance premiums for their insurance district.
- Fire Prevention staff participated in Operation Save-A-Life campaign with Home Depot, Kidde, ABC 11 News and North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center. The campaign provided approximately 500 smoke alarms for distribution throughout Wake County.

Fire Tax District:

- Fire Commission Members and County Management need to address the long-term management and planning of the Fire Tax District, in order to address the financial sustainability of the Fire Tax District. The Sustainability Committee, created by the Fire Commission in late FY 2013, met and developed recommendations over the course of FY 2014 to address future issues and strategies for resource allocation and cost savings opportunities.
- Sustainability Committee recommendations will be evaluated in conjunction with staffing and operational models for implementation in future fiscal year budgets.

2016

July 1, 2016

Staffing for FY16:

- 17 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016), from annual budget:

- **Milestone** The Eighth Wake County Fire Academy Recruit Class is scheduled to graduate in July 2016. This academy offers an opportunity for career and volunteer firefighters to complete a 28-week program and obtain certifications and training necessary for employment with County fire departments. The academy training program includes certifications and training in the following areas: Firefighter I and II, EMT Basic, Technical Rescuer, Hazmat Responder, ICS, Safety and Survival, Firefighter Rescue and several other topics. Departments look to this academy for highly trained employees. This program also promotes volunteerism as applicants are required to be a member of a fire department.
- Maintained a 100 percent submission rate to NC Office of State Fire Marshal for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for the eighth straight year. Wake County is one of the few counties

statewide to collect and submit fire incident reports from all fire departments as required by General Statute.

- Fire Services Training assisted with the Wake County Law Enforcement Adventure Kids Camp sponsored by the Wake County Sheriff's Office. 120 kids from 12 to 15 years of age attended the fire training center two full days and experienced live fire demonstrations from fire departments and participated in fire safety education training. Fire Services expects to continue this program each year.
- Staff continue to work with the Land Development Solution (LDS) project team to complete the evaluation of the required workflow processes needed to facilitate the transition to new software.
- Fire training staff facilitated Post Incident Reviews (PIR) of significant incidents that occurred throughout the year. This program is designed to review the response and identify opportunities to improve responses. Collectively the PIR allows the Wake County Fire Service to trend emerging challenges and issues. Additionally, participation in this program is a requirement of the Fire Service Contract based upon the defined criteria.
- Fire Services staff assisted the Cary, Durham Highway, Western Wake, Rolesville, and Wendell Fire Departments with their North Carolina Response Rating/ISO Inspections that were conducted to evaluate many aspects of the department's response, record keeping, training and community risk reduction. All departments that have received grades improved their rating.
- **Milestone** The department undertook a task analysis review. As a result of this review, the following changes were made. A Deputy Director/Chief of Operations, as well as a Logistics Manager were added to the organizational structure to provide assistance to the Fire Tax District. Support includes data collection, management of records, development of guidelines to improve operations and assistance with daily departmental needs. The existing Training Deputy Chief position was placed under the Operations program area in a mid-level management role.
- Staff in partnership with Information Services developed and implemented a SharePoint site for sharing and managing information in regard to Fire Commission and its subcommittee activities. Agendas, meeting calendars, documents, audio and written minutes can be found on this site.
- Completed a NFPA 1403 structural inspection of the fire training center burn building and received a passing grade.
- Staff participated with the Public Safety Core Team to develop recommendations for consideration by the Board of Commissioners for their FY 2017 goals.
- Fire Prevention staff participated in Operation Save-A-Life campaign with Home Depot, Kidde, ABC 11 News and North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center. The campaign provided approximately 500 smoke alarms for distribution to local fire departments throughout Wake County.
- Completed the data verification for the implementation of the Fire Tax District cost-share study. Implementation of the study recommendations is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2017.

Fire Tax District:

- Fire Commission Members and County staff are engaged in efforts to address the long-term management, planning, and financial sustainability of the Fire Tax District. Major initiatives include the establishment of a Standard of Cover for the District, an update to the Long-Range Business Plan and various technology improvements.
- The Fire Commission is also evaluating the potential for consolidations and mergers of the contracted fire departments that would lead to more efficient and effective provision of fire protection services in the district.
- These efforts will help identify the optimal level of fire service protection for the district while also ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Fire Tax District Fund.

2017

July 1, 2017 – Northern Wake FD begins operating, a new private non-profit organization that consolidated the private Bay Leaf and Stony Hill fire departments. See <https://legeros.com/blog/introducing-northern-wake-fire-department>.

July 1, 2017

Staffing for FY17:

- 17 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017), from annual budget:

- **Milestone** In September 2016, the Department of Emergency Management was brought under the Department of Fire Services as a third division. This consolidation presents many opportunities for the department to realize efficiencies and take advantage of synergies existing within the individual organizations. The recent completion of a new warehouse facility provides the department with an opportunity to combine the logistical functions of both emergency management and fire services, which will result in increased efficiencies and potential cost savings. Examination of the emergency response roles within both original departments will result in reduced redundancy and the identification of cross-training possibilities.
- Emergency Management programs and operations have improved through annual training, exercises, and real-world events, which included a FEMA graded bi-annual Harris exercise and Hurricane Matthew. Through lessons learned and training, the depth and level of experience provided to field, and Emergency Operations Center personnel has increased. Integral to the activation of emergency management systems, the County's mass notification system was replaced this year. Emergency Management personnel provided technical and resource support to local public safety organizations during 160 incidents and scheduled events including the NC State Fair, hazardous materials releases, airplane crashes, bomb threats, missing person searches, severe weather and other events. Based on requirements of SARA Title III, Wake County collected 1,103 chemical facility reports, which provide locations, inventories, and other data on specific chemicals. Additionally, Emergency Management performed quality assurance checks on submitted reports and ensured that chemical information was accessible by first responders for use in emergency pre-planning and response activities.
- Fire Services staff conducted 5,078 code enforcement activities, including pre-construction meetings, plans review and inspections. A large portion of this workload is associated with the demand from the state's largest school system.
- Fire Services staff responded to 187 incidents to conduct fire investigations and provided technical assistance to various public safety agencies. Staff initiated mid-year improvements to quality assurance program for incident reporting and developed new performance measures to address program effectiveness.
- The Logistics section updated the Fire Tax District Apparatus Replacement guidelines to include a points-based replacement plan based on 3-year averages of collected vehicle maintenance data. Staff began to inventory departments turnout gear and created a replacement plan for firefighter protective equipment based on NFPA guidelines. These changes created a level funding plan in the district's financial model. The Logistics Manager also created a digital catalog for all fire apparatus. Complete inventories for all equipment were created and are now managed and housed at the County level. All replacement plans are based on NFPA Standards and best practices.
- **Milestone** The Fire Training Division completed Recruit Academy 8 and placed 50% of the graduates in jobs within Wake County. Recruit Academy 9 is set to graduate in July 2017. Staff conducted Post

Incident Reviews on 71% of fires meeting the required thresholds as stated in the Fire Protection Agreement. These Post Incident Reviews allow the Training Staff to identify emerging trends and challenges that need to be incorporated into training opportunities.

Fire Tax District:

- **Milestone** County staff gathered the data needed to implement a more equitable, reasonable and defensible funding methodology for the cost-share departments. Beginning in FY 2017, the cost-share departments will be funded based on a formula consisting of five key elements that drive the costs of fire protection including service demand, population, property valuation, heated square footage and land area. The cost-share formula will be updated annually as part of the budget process to ensure funding levels reflect the most recent data.
- For years, the County worked to develop a data-driven funding formula that could be applied to the cost-share departments to establish funding levels that more accurately reflect the County's share of costs. In 2013, a consultant was hired to assist in the development of a cost-share funding formula. A cost-share committee consisting of cost share and non-cost share chiefs, Fire Commission members, a neutral non-Fire Tax district representative and County staff was also established to participate in the process and consider the consultant's recommendations. With input from the consultant, the committee and the public, the Fire Commission ultimately approved a weighted formula with the following elements: service demand (35% weight), population (30% weight), property valuation (20% weight), heated square footage (7.5% weight) and land area (7.5% weight). The final step, completed this year, was gathering and validating the data inputs to be included in the formula.
- **Milestone** Fire Services staff have been working directly with the contract fire departments to develop a more accurate inventory of fire apparatus, vehicles, and equipment. This data will be used to inform the various replacement schedules funded through the Fire Tax Capital Fund.
- Fire Services staff assisted the Cary, Durham Highway, Western Wake, Rolesville, and Wendell Fire Departments with their North Carolina Response Rating/ISO Inspections that were conducted to evaluate many aspects of the department's response, record keeping, training, and community risk reduction. All departments that have received grades improved their rating, ultimately saving money for property owners through lower fire insurance premiums.

2018

July 1, 2018

Staffing for FY18:

- 22 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), from annual budget:

- The Department continues to organize as a single entity, following the FY 2017 addition of Emergency Management as a third division. This consolidation presented many opportunities to the department to realize efficiencies and take advantage of synergies existing within the individual organizations. The department continues to explore opportunities to combine the logistical functions of both emergency management and fire services in the newly opened warehouse facility, in an effort to increase efficiencies and potential cost savings. Identification of cross training possibilities in the emergency response roles within both departments have been identified and a coordinated, phased response system is being implemented. These changes will result in reduced redundancy and increased efficiency
- Emergency Management completed a project studying existing hazardous materials facilities and the growth surrounding those facilities. The study was designed to assist land use and development planners

by providing them with a tool that assists in the decision-making process for smart land use and growth. Ninety-two of 1,108 facilities were selected for evaluation based on the products used, manufactured or stored at those facilities.

- Fire Services staff responded to 150 incidents to conduct fire investigations and provided technical assistance to various public safety agencies. Staff continue to learn from the results of the quality assurance program for incident reporting.
- Logistics Section has inventoried, produced specifications, and is currently replacing all handheld and mobile radios within the fire tax district. A complete inventory and replacement of Tone paging devices throughout the tax district is also taking place during this fiscal year. Logistics has assisted the Deputy Director with data collection and development of a plan to implement Mobile Data Terminals in dispatchable fire apparatus. This will parallel with the implementation of the new CAD system and allow full use of several new features such as auto status, turn by turn direction and visible notes from telecommunicators that could be sensitive and not allowed to be transmitted over the radio. Logistics Section continues to collect, update and utilize the replacement plans and schedules for all equipment throughout the Tax District.
- **Milestone** Fire Training Division completed Recruit Academy 9 and has successfully placed 12 out of 14 into jobs within 90 days of graduation. Training Center Staff have completed 4 out of 5 (80%) Post Incident Reviews that have met the contractual requirements. Staff utilize these reviews to identify challenges and training opportunities for tax district departments.

Fire Tax District:

- A Staffing and Deployment study was completed during FY 2017. The study included an in-depth analysis of emergency response data and examined current staffing levels, station locations and apparatus deployment throughout the fire district, providing an overall picture of the level of Wake County's fire service delivery. The study provided eight recommendations to guide the Fire Tax District into the future. These recommendations were:
 - Utilize NFPA 1720 as a guide to staffing and deployment strategies.
 - Work to ensure 3 man staffing 24/7 immediately and work to collect accurate assembly time data to guide long term staffing decisions.
 - Work with Raleigh/Wake Emergency Communications Center to adopt fire dispatch standards.
 - Implement a county-wide NFIRS reporting system integrated with the County's computer aided dispatch system.
 - Develop an organizational structure template to guide future growth administrative growth within county fire departments.
 - Take advantage of identified fleet consolidation opportunities.
 - Continue to work with County and Municipal leaders to address "doughnut hole" coverage areas.
 - Consider long range station locations needs.
- Fire Services staff has been working directly with the contract fire departments to develop a more accurate large vehicle maintenance program. Through the collection of actual vehicle maintenance cost data, predicted maintenance cost schedules for vehicle types and ages were developed. This schedule was then utilized as a formula for a pilot program, which determined apparatus maintenance budgets for several non-profit fire departments. This program will be continued on a county-wide basis for all contracted fire departments to determine vehicle maintenance budgets, beginning in FY 2018.
- The Fire Services Operations Division completed an inventory of all protective firefighting turnout clothing. Using NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, as a guide, Fire Services created a new replacement program which increases protective clothing replacement from five years to ten years, while providing for annual testing of protective clothing to ensure compliance with recognized protective standards. This new

program will replace ten percent of all turnout clothing in contracted county fire departments annually, so that no department will have protective clothing older than ten years of age. Additionally, the County began replacing all protective boots and helmets over ten years of age and is placing boots and helmets on the same ten-year replacement schedule.

- The FY 2017 budget contained funding to provide all contracted fire department firefighters with an annual fitness for duty medical exam. These comprehensive exams are provided to all firefighters regardless of pay status (Career, part-time, volunteer) by a contracted medical provider versed in firefighter occupational injuries and disease. These exams are provided at no cost to the firefighter and will greatly enhance the safety and well-being of County firefighters.
- Fire Services staff assisted the Garner and Fuquay-Varina Fire Departments with their North Carolina Response Rating/ISO Inspections that were conducted to evaluate various aspects of the department's response, record keeping, training, and community risk reduction efforts. All departments that have received grades improved their rating, ultimately saving money for property owners through lower fire insurance premiums.

2019

May 7, 2019 – Cary, Apex, and Morrisville fire departments begin operating as a unified system, with all three departments now dispatched by the Town of Cary, with their unit numbers changed (as needed) to a single system, and their resources operationally consolidated. See more at <https://legeros.com/blog/cary-apex-morrisville>.

July 1, 2019

Staffing for FY19:

- 22 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019), from annual budget:

- The department continues to organize as a single entity, incorporating responsibilities and capabilities of all divisions into training and response across all department staff. This cross-divisional training was put to the test during Hurricane Florence in September 2018. During this nearly week-long event, the County's emergency management effort operated six shelters and provided medical and mental health care to 1,188 coastal and county residents. The new warehouse facility was leveraged, as intended, to support the sheltering operations and served emergency workers and the community well.
- **Milestone** An integrated computer aided dispatch to fire records management system was implemented countywide and went live in January 2019. This system will provide automated data transfer of dispatched incident information directly into individual fire department's National Incident Fire Reporting systems. This new system will standardize fire reporting data input, reduce human error and improve the validity of fire response data used for planning efforts.
- The Emergency Management Division completed the coordinated update of the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan. Also, in concert with FEMA, the State of North Carolina, the counties of Chatham, Harnett and Lee and Duke Energy, the Emergency Management Division successfully passed a graded exercise inclusive of a comprehensive examination, testing, and demonstration of emergency plans and activities.
- **Milestone** The Logistics Section completed new radio replacements and installs, as well as replacement of all tone pagers for the Fire Tax District. Nearly two hundred new mobile data terminals (MDT) will be installed and activated in all fire response vehicles throughout the County to coincide with implementation of the County's new computer-aided dispatch platform. The terminals will provide full use of advanced technological features regarding the collection of accurate response data needed for long range planning. The division continues to collect, update and utilize the replacement plans and schedules

for all equipment throughout the Tax District. The division will be integrating a new records management database for inventory control at the warehouse. This new system will help identify supply chain deficiencies and support a commodity organizational method within the storage area.

- **Milestone** The Fire Training Division completed Recruit Academy 10 and successfully placed eight of the fourteen students into jobs prior to graduation. Training Center staff performed post incident reviews on 100% of incidents required per contractual agreements. The reviews inform training programs. The division is currently exploring opportunities to partner with Town of Cary on future use and growth of the Fire Training Center.

Fire Tax District:

Goes here.

- Fire Tax District continues to improve service delivery to the citizens of Wake County. Six new Apparatus Deliveries will take place during FY 2018, all coming in below projected model pricing. Due to apparatus re-allocations, the apparatus fleet has been reduced by five large apparatus, enabling the County to have three reserve engines for use when others are down for repair. This not only ensures departments keep service delivery standards up, but it also provides extra points toward individual departments' insurance ratings.
- **Milestone** Beginning in July 2017, all departments were funded to provide a minimum of three firefighters on duty 24/7/365 in either a part-time, duty crew or full-time status, which should decrease response times to citizens in their time of need.
- Three departments underwent insurance rating inspections during FY 2018, and all improved their grades, resulting in lower insurance premiums for homeowners within their district.

2020

July 1, 2020

- Eastern Wake FD merged with the town of Knightdale and its fire department. More: <https://legeros.com/blog/knightdale-merger>.
- Wake Forest FD merged with the town of Wake Forest.

July 1, 2020

Staffing for FY20:

- 22 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020), from annual budget:

- **Milestone** Fire Training in partnership with Town of Apex Fire Department completed Recruit Academy 11. This was the largest graduating academy in its 11-year history, as we had 29 recruits successfully complete the 38-week program. A total of 27 recruits were offered career opportunities with Wake County Departments prior to the end of the Academy.
- **Milestone** Logistics Section of the Operations Division implemented a plan to organize, inventory and track all equipment and assets within the Fire Services Department. This comprehensive plan included a restructuring of the warehouse and use of a new record management system with barcoding/scanning ability.

- Operations Division was a working partner with City of Raleigh over the last 3 years in the planning and implementation of the new Computer Aided Dispatch System. This included the development and testing of new response plans for all contracted fire departments.
- The Prevention and Response Division continually focuses on the reduction of property and life loss caused by fires. This focus includes comprehensive fire code inspections within new and existing facilities, public awareness of fire dangers and thorough fire cause and origin investigations. Although this division has not been fully staffed for one-half of the year, the division is on pace to complete approximately 2,600 periodic fire inspections, 675 new construction inspections and 600 plan reviews. Completed more than 100 fire cause and origin investigations with a solvability rate of approximately 75%. Prevention and Response staff continue to attend and participate in training activities to improve proficiency as related to all aspects of this initiative.
- Emergency Management has worked diligently to coordinate projects and tasks related to the Florence AAR. Of most significance, the Disaster Service Worker Program has been initiated and much of the operational improvement equipment has been acquired and deployed or installed. The County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed, approved by all local governing bodies and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Emergency Management successfully formulated and led a response to the COVID19 response. Through significant effort, the County responded to the novel health threat with positive outcomes.

Fire Tax District:

- Fire departments began switching their records management systems over to a new integrated countywide platform in FY 2019. This new system receives incident specific information directly from the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center computer-aided dispatch system and prepopulates fire incident reports at the respective fire department. Manual data entry has been reduced, ensuring more consistent information.
- Two departments underwent insurance rating inspections during FY 2019, and both improved their grades, resulting in lower insurance premiums for commercial properties within their district.

2021

July 1, 2021

Staffing for FY21:

- 23 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021), from annual budget:

- **Milestone** The Emergency Management Division experienced its longest ever continuous activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in 2020. The activation of the EOC required collaborative management between Emergency Management, the County Manager's Office, and the County's operating departments. In 2020, the County responded to high-profile events including initial and ongoing COVID- 19 response, coordination of county-wide emergency pandemic restrictions, civil unrest operations, and national election security planning and coordination.
- A substantial number of Fire Services staff from all divisions have provided planning, operational, and logistics support to Public Health throughout the entire fiscal year. Following the closing of the EOC in

the fall of 2020, departmental staff continued to support public health operations including the establishment of a large drive-thru vaccine distribution site at PNC Arena.

- The Prevention and Response Division continually focuses on the reduction of property and life loss caused by fires. This focus includes comprehensive fire code inspections within new and existing facilities, public awareness of fire dangers, and thorough fire cause and origin investigations. As the division continued to dedicate personnel to the COVID response, the division is on pace to complete approximately 2,300 periodic fire inspections, 540 new construction inspections and 744 plan reviews. The division continues a solvability rate of approximately 75% within its fire investigations program.

Fire Tax District:

- Wake County implemented a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system and purchased all new mobile data terminals in all responding fire trucks in Wake County. This new CAD and associated systems are integrated with a County supported record management system for the not-for-profit departments. This technology upgrade automatically captures en route times and on scene times during emergency incidents. This collection of data is key to measuring the performance of departments in regard to service delivery.
- Two Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire inspections were performed this year resulting in Wake County's first rural Class 1 Fire Department. Only one other Class 1 rural district exists in the state.

2022

July 1, 2022 – New Hope Station 1 road closes. At 0800 hours this morning, Friday, July 1, 2022, Fire Chief Lee Price marked Station 1 at 4415 St James Church Road out of service. Engine 281 and its full-time crew were subsequently relocated to Station 2, at 4909 Watkins Road. The Raleigh Fire Department started contracted service to the station's district. More: <https://legeros.com/blog/new-hope-station-1-closes>.

July 1, 2022

Staffing for FY23:

- 25 FTE positions.

Accomplishments of prior fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), from annual budget:

- The Fire Services and Emergency Management team supported Wake County's response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 by assisting with the development and implementation of five mass testing sites during the peak of the surge. This 60-day response included all divisions of the department in planning, logistics, and on-site operations. Emergency Management continued to work with Public Health on a weekly basis to ensure coordination between hospitals and other partners.
- **Milestone** The Fire Operations Division completed its first ever data driven analysis based on Wake County's Fire Commission Long Range Standards and Guidelines. Over 10,000 incident reports were examined to evaluate the performance of fire departments in the Wake County Fire Tax District. The data was incorporated into the FY 2023 Fire Tax District budget development process to determine need for additional staffing and one additional fire station location.
- **Milestone** Fire Operations implemented a county-wide preplanning software (First Due) that will give all 19 fire departments in the Wake County 100% credit for preplans with the Department of Insurance. First Due gives Firefighters vital information about a structure while en-route to an emergency scene, improving Firefighter safety and on-scene operability. First Due also has a public portal that allows citizens to enter critical information about their homes such as the presence of persons with disabilities.

- This Fire Marshal Division completed 2,200 state-mandated periodic fire inspections, conducted 950 new construction plans reviews and over 800 new construction field inspections. The division successfully solved 71% of fire investigations in FY 2022.

Fire Tax District:

- Wake County Fire Services completed its first Long- Range Plan for the Fire Tax District. The plan includes standards and guiding principles for response time, number of responders on scene, and metrics to inform future staffing and station needs. Data collected for the plan informed staffing and station decisions in the FY 2023 Fire Tax District Budget.
- Three departments received improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings after inspections that were completed in FY 2022. Wake County now has one-third of North Carolina’s Class 1 rated departments, which is the best possible ISO rating.

2000s to 2010s – Other Trends

- County-funded renovations and facility improvements at fire stations serving rural areas.
- Expansion of EMS units co-locating at fire stations around the county. In prior decade, these were isolated arrangements, and sometimes temporary.
- Wake County Fire Academy program created in 2008.

2014 – Funding Notes

- Wendell is only municipality in Wake County that does not fund its fire department. The department is funded entirely by the county.
- Wake Forest is nearly but not entirely fully funded by the town. However, they are still run as a private corporation.
- Municipalities that serve rural districts receive yearly appropriations from the county, for service to those areas.
- Private fire departments that serve municipalities receive both town money (for municipal coverage) and county money (for rural coverage).
- Cary is contracted by the county to provide service to the Cary Suburban Fire District, formerly protected by Western Wake Station 2.
- Raleigh has contracted in the past with private departments, to provide service to newly annexed areas by the city. This at times (always?) a state requirement, which required a municipality to continue private fire service for a period of time after annexation. The city contracted protection as early as 1960 with Six Forks FD.

Appendix – Fire Marshal/Fire Services Directors/Public Safety Directors

1971 - **Russell Capps** appointed Director of Raleigh/Wake Civil Preparedness.

Previously Wake County Planning Director since 1969, previously WRAL announcer since 1950.

By the late sixties, the unincorporated areas of Wake County had no zoning, except around the airport. Farmers and landowners were apprehensive about zoning, and the county telling them what could be done with their land. County hired Capps because he was known through television and would help the planning office make a better or more likable impression. Source: OH.

Civil Preparedness Director position previously held by Colonel John C. Thorne (1960-1971) and Colonel David L. Hardee (1954 to 1960).

Office previously named Raleigh/Wake County Civil Defense.

Office renamed Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Preparedness by July 1, 1976. (WCAB 76-77)

Office renamed Wake County Emergency Management by July 1, 1981. (WCAB 81-82)

Position expanded to include second role of Fire Marshal in 1978, with the adoption of a county fire prevention code. Duties included inspection of all public buildings in the county and, upon request, homes and business. The duties later became his primary function. (N&O, 4/19/86)

Position expanded to include second/third role of Wake County EMS director in 1976.

Position later changed to Emergency Management director.

Relieved of Fire Marshal role in June/July 1985, after county officials saw the need for a full-time position. (N&O, 4/19/86)

Resigned in 1986, submitting letter of resignation on March 18, 1986. (N&O, 4/19/86)

Sources: Capps biography, MJL.

1986 – **Frederick P. “Rick” Hall IV** hired as first full-time Fire Marshal on February 10, 1986. (Source: N&O, 1/28/86)

See biographical information in 1986 section of milestones above.

1988 – **Edward L. Schmelzer** hired Fire Marshal on February 15, 1988.

Serves until 1994? (Source: WCFC)

1994 – **Gregory H. Grayson** hired as Fire Marshal. Serves until 1998.

Former Deputy Fire Marshal.

Source: Grayson biography.

Fiscal Year 1995-96 - Public Safety Division created.

Jimmie B. Holland appointed as Director. He is/was an assistant county manager. The changes are part of a restructuring of the county manager's office.

Four departments (Fire, EMS, EM, CCBI) converted into divisions of Public Safety.

Vehicle markings changed to reflect.

After Holland's retirement (circa 2001?), CCBI Director **Tim Lanier** serves as Interim Director.

1995 - Fire Marshal position renamed Fire/Rescue Director. (Source: Grayson biography.)

1998 - Greyson resigned.

Hired as Burlington Fire Chief, later as Asheville Fire Chief, later as Greensboro Fire Chief. (Source: Grayson biography.)

1999 - **Ray Echevarria** (previously Interim Director, prior Deputy Fire Marshal) hired as Fire/Rescue Director.

Later named Fire Services Director.

Serves until 2001, then 2002 to 2011. (Source: MJL)

2000 - **John Rukavina** hired as Director of Public Safety.

Former Asheville Fire Chief, served since 1986.

Previously Interim City Manager and Fire Chief in Missouri, and prior extensive public safety career in Minnesota.

Serves until 2008. (Source: LinkedIn)

2001 – Echevarria resigned, hired as Apex Fire Chief.

2001 – **Dewey Poole** (Deputy Fire Marshal/Director of Training) named Interim Director.

Serves until 2002.

2002 - Echevarria hired again as Fire Rescue Director.

2006-07 - During fiscal year, CCBI was subtracted from the Public Safety division.

2008 - Rukavina resigned.

Position was removed.

County reorganized Public Safety Department.

Among the changes were Wake County Medical Director Dr. Brent Myers appointed as the administrative director of the Wake County EMS System. (Source: BOC, 8/18/08)

2009 – Fire Services and Emergency Management combined into a single department named Fire and Emergency Management.

Separate divisions for Fire and Rescue Services Emergency Management.

Echevarria is Director.

2011 - Echevarria retired.

No director until position filled in 2013.

2011 – Deputy County Manager **Joe Durham** appointed Interim Fire Services Director.

During that time, between July 30, 2011, and July 1, 2012, Fire and Rescue Services was renamed Fire Services.

2013 - **Mike Wright** hired as Fire Services Director. Started November 12, 2013.

Former Deputy Director of Guilford County Department of Emergency Services since 2004.

Former Fire Chief of Colfax FD.

Former Greensboro Fire Department member. (Source: MJL)

2014 – Wright retired on December 31.

2015 – **Nicholas Campasano** hired as Fire Services Director, started May 26, 2015.

Retired Deputy Fire Chief, Manchester, NH. Retired with 30 years of service. (Source: MJL)

2020 – Campasano retired on August 31, 2020

Deputy Director Darrell Alford appointed interim director, started September 1. (Source: MJL)

2021 – **Darrell Alford** appointed Fire Services Director, started January 2021. (Source: LinkedIn)

Appendix – Fire Tax Rates – 1987 to 2003

TWP	DISTRICT	CODE	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987
1	Bay Leaf	BAY						.065	.065	.065	.065	.065	.065	.055	.055	.055	.055	.055	.07
2	Durham Highway	DH						.06	.06	.06	.06	.06	.06	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	.05
3	Stony Hill	SH						.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.095	.07	.07	.07	.10	.10	.08
4	Rolesville	ROL						.07	.07	.07	.07	.07	.07	.065	.065	.065	.065	.065	.08
5	Cary (Yrac)	YRA						.10	.085	.08	.08	.08	.08	.075	.075	.075	.10	.06	.04
6	Raleigh	RAL						.10	.10	.10	.10	.095	.095	.095	.095	.095	.10	.10	.10
7	Wake-New Hope	WH						.10	.075	.075	.075	.075	.075	.065	.08	.08	.08	.08	.06
8	Six Forks (6f)	SF						.06	.06	.06	.06	.06	.06	.055	.07	.07	.07	.07	.07
9	Wake Forest (Wakette)	WKT						.085	.085	.075	.075	.075	.065	.05	.07	.07	.07	.07	.07
10	Zebulon (Wakelon)	WLN						.095	.095	.095	.095	.095	.075	.065	.08	.08	.08	.08	.08
11	Morrisville	MOR						.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.05	.08	.08	.08	.08	.08
12	Swift Creek	SC						.065	.065	.065	.065	.055	.045	.04	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05
13	Knightdale (Alert)	ALT						.10	.085	.08	.08	.08	.07	.06	.07	.07	.07	.07	.05
14	Fairview (Ten-Ten)	T-T						.095	.095	.085	.085	.07	.065	.04	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05
15	Falls	FLS						.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.095	.075	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10
16	Fuquay Varina (Furina)	FUR						.10	.10	.085	.085	.085	.085	.075	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10
17	Holly Springs	HS						.10	.10	.10	.10	.095	.095	.06	.08	.08	.08	.08	.08
18	Wendell (Holmes)	WEN						.09	.09	.09	.09	.08	.08	.07	.09	.09	.09	.09	.09
19	Fairgrounds	FG						.10	.10	.10	.10	.09	.09	.065	.08	.08	.08	.08	.05
20	Hopkins	HOP						.10	.10	.075	.075	.075	.075	.05	.06	.06	.06	.06	.06
21	Apex (Hipex)	HIP						.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.085	.085	.095	.095	.095	.095	.075
22	Garner	GAR						.075	.075	.07	.07	.07	.06	.06	.08	.08	.08	.08	
23	Fire Tax District	FTD	.10	.10	.09	.07	.085												

Appendix – Wake County Fire Chiefs Past and Present

See <http://legeros.com/ralwake/wake/wake-chiefs.pdf>

Created in August 2011 as a blog posting on Legeros.com.

Wake County Fire Service Leadership Overview

As a public service to our readers, Mike Legeros, A. C. Rich, and Lee Price present an overview of fire service leadership in Wake County. The information is delivered in the format of an FAQ. First, though, let's identify the speakers.

Mike Legeros is the historian, author, and photographer who runs this blog. A. C. Rich is Fire Chief of the Stony Hill Fire Department, in addition to a career firefighter in Raleigh. Lee Price is Asst. Chief of the Wake-New Hope Fire Department, in addition to a career firefighter in Rolesville.

Below is their best attempt to explain the many heads of the hydra that we call "local fire service leadership." We'll start with the fire commission and work our way outward.

Q: What is the Wake County Fire Commission?

A: It is a group of people appointed by the Wake County Board of Commissioners and empowered as a group to make recommendations to the County Commissioners, about aspects of the fire service within the control of the county. This web site lists the expected duties of the Fire Commission: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission>.

Q: Who are the members of the Fire Commission?

A: Conceptually, they consist of:

- One County Commissioner.
- Four primary regional representatives of the county-funded fire departments: one for north region, one for south region, etc.
- Four alternate regional representatives, for above.
- The president of the Wake County Firefighter's Association.
- One representative from the town of Wendell.
- Five citizens, also called "consumers."

The specific members are listed on a web site (<http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission/members.htm>). However, that page is out of date at this time.

Q: How can you get appointed to the Fire Commission?

A: Fire Commission members are appointed in two ways:

- Citizens/consumers are appointed by a vote of the County Commissioners. They express their interest through an application form (<http://lnweb02.co.wake.nc.us/boards/boards.nsf/WebApp>).

- Primary and alternate regional representatives are recommended by their respective regions and submitted directly to the Wake County Clerk of Court via the Wake County Fire Marshal.

Q: Do the Commissioners factor additional information into their appointment of citizen/consumer members, beyond just the application form? Should I get to know my Commissioner, if I want to apply?

A: It certainly couldn't hurt! The County Commissioners are people, too. They make decisions based on their knowledge and experience. The more they know of you, and have experienced you, the more that can be applied to any decision regarding your application for membership, should they face that decision.

Q: Nice, safe answer there.

A: Thank you.

Q: You said that the Fire Commission makes recommendations to the County Commissioners? I thought the Fire Commission was the governing body for the fire service in Wake County?

A: Negative. The Fire Commission makes recommendations only, and only within a set of parameters:

- Budget – Both operating budgets and capital expenses. Operating budgets are the monies appropriated each fiscal year to county-funded fire departments. Capital expenses are one-time costs, for larger purposes or projects, such as building fire stations.
- Staffing – County-funded firefighter positions, and the issues therein, ranging from salary and benefits to allocation of the positions.
- Apparatus – County-funded vehicles, both small and large, and the issues therein.
- Equipment – County-funded equipment, such as PPE.
- Facilities – County-funded facilities, as well as county-funded improvements to private-owned facilities.
- Contracts – The language of the document used in fire service contracts between Wake County, and both public and private-owned fire departments.

Q: Are the recommendations of the Fire Commission always followed?

A: Not necessarily. The Wake County Board of Commissioners has the authority to ignore the recommendation of the Fire Commission, and make alternate decisions on facilities, apparatus, staffing, etc. The recommendation of the Fire Commission is also reviewed by the Wake County Manager, for his approval and recommendation, just like any other department in Wake County government.

Q: How often does the Fire Commission meet?

A: They meet on the third Thursday of every other month. The location is the Wake County EMS Training Center, which is located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at 4001 Carya Drive in Raleigh. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. They last anywhere between one and three hours. The very short meetings and very long meetings are rare.

Q: Are the meetings public? Can I attend? Can I stand up and speak?

A: Fire Commission meetings are open to the public. Citizens are welcome to attend. The attendees are typically the Fire Commission members, the Fire Marshal, Wake County Fire Services staff members, other county and

local municipal officials, and officers and firefighters from the county-funded fire departments. Plus, some guy in a Hawaiian shirt.

Q: Why do you keep saying “county-funded fire departments” instead of just “county fire departments?”

A: We’re trying to be accurate. The Wake County Fire Commission has limited governance over fire departments in Wake County that receive funding from Wake County. Those departments include some municipal-run fire departments (Fuquay-Varina, Zebulon, etc.), some municipally based (but privately operated) fire departments (Garner, Wendell, etc.), and some privately operated "rural" fire departments (Hopkins, Stony Hill, etc.). The label “county-funded fire departments” seems the most accurate, but excuse our shorthand if we subsequently say just “county fire departments.”

Q: What about the Fire Commission subcommittee meetings? Are they also public? What about all the other governing bodies?

A: Yes, the Fire Commission subcommittee meetings are also public meetings. So are the Board of Director’s meetings of privately operated fire departments, as are the town council and city council meetings of municipalities.

Q: How can I get a copy of those meeting schedules?

A: Contact the Wake County Fire Services office. Here's a web page with contact information: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: Can I get copies of those meeting minutes?

A: Minutes of the regular meetings are posted to a web site, which is also out of date: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire/commission/minutes>. Subcommittee minutes are not posted on that web site. Thus, for both, contact the Wake County Fire Services office. Here's a web page with contact information: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: Do the County Commissioners have control over the fire services in Wake County?

A: In part, yes. Wake County government has control over some, but not all aspects of fire service delivery in the county. What are the exceptions? For example, if you live within a municipality, they call those shots. That is, they call those shots but within greater regulatory structures. For example, there are state requirements that all fire departments must follow.

If you live within an unincorporated area that’s outside of a municipality, the county has greater control over the fire service that you receive. But not absolute control. Wake County does not operate any fire departments. Instead, it contracts with private- or public-operated (municipal) fire departments.

Q: But because the county contracts with those departments, can the county call the shots in those cases?

A: Yes and no.

The Wake County fire service contract is the governing element for the fire department's relationship with the county. Unless it is specified in the contract, and not withstanding local, state, and federal laws, departments are bound to the performance standards indicated in that document.

That's why we have some differences in the way the fire departments in Wake County operate. Each fire department has its own set of policies, procedures, and vision on how fire services are operated in their district. There are differences in the way it's done in New Hope versus Stony Hill, for example. And outside of what's stated in the contract, neither the county, nor the Fire Commission, plays any role in those operational decisions.

Q: So, there's no Wake County Fire Chief?

A: Correct.

Q: Then who leads the fire service in Wake County?

A: Leadership is shared or distributed among several individuals and groups. There's the county Fire Services office, led by the Wake County Fire Marshal. They provide input to and work with the Wake County Fire Commission. Both groups provide input to the Wake County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager.

Q: Plus, the individual fire departments, right?

A: Correct. Private fire departments--which are non-profit corporations-- are led by a Board of Directors, which appoints the Fire Chief and perhaps other positions. It varies from department to department, and board to board. Public fire departments are run by municipalities. They're led by a Fire Chief (or similar position) and his command staff, who also reports and receives guidance from a city or town council or commissioners, and a city or town manager.

Q: It's very complicated! Why isn't it easier to understand?

A: Because it is very complicated.

Q: What's the role of the county Fire Marshal and the Fire Services office?

A: Their duties include emergency response activities, code enforcement, fire prevention, training, and administrative assistance to the Fire Commission. The staff and their roles are detailed on this web page: <http://www.wakegov.com/fire>.

Q: How many different kinds of fire service contracts are there in Wake County?

A: There's the contract that Wake County uses with private and public fire departments to provide protection to unincorporated areas.

Then there are contracts used by municipalities to supplement the fire protection services. For example, there are places within the city limits of Raleigh that require fire protection at a level of service greater than the Raleigh Fire Department can presently provide. Thus, a second fire department is contracted, to provide protection to

those areas. For example, in a newly annexed area, the city often contracts with a county fire department, until such time as a new city fire station has opened and is protecting that area.

Q: Doesn't a municipality have to contract with a county fire department if they annex that territory?

A: Yes, there's a state law that requires the annexed fire department to be contracted or receive contract income for a number of years after the annexation.

Q: How many municipalities are there in Wake County, by the way? And how many public versus private fire departments?

A: Here's the list.

- Apex – Municipal, but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Bay Leaf – Private, contracted by county.
- Cary – Municipal and recently contracted by county to protect "rural district" formerly covered by Western Wake Station 2, now closed.
- Durham Highway – Private, contracted by county.
- Eastern Wake – Private, contracted by county.
- Fairview – Private, contracted by county.
- Falls – Private, contracted by county. Presently merging with Wake Forest FD.
- Fuquay-Varina – Municipal but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Garner – Private, contracted by county.
- Holly Springs – Municipal but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Hopkins – Private, contracted by county.
- Knightdale – Municipal.
- Morrisville – Municipal but also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Raleigh – Municipal.
- RDU Airport – Private. Operated by Airport Authority, which is kinda like a municipality.
- Rolesville – Private, contracted by county.
- Stony Hill – Private, contracted by county.
- Swift Creek – Private, contracted by county.
- Wake Forest – Combination of municipal and private. Special case. Also contracted by county for "rural district."
- Wake-New Hope – Private, contracted by county.
- Wendell – Private, contracted by county. Also, a special case, where all residents, both inside the town limits and in the rural district, are taxed in a manner different than the county-wide fire tax.
- Western Wake – Private, contracted by county.
- Zebulon – Municipal but also contracted by county for "rural district."

Q: Are you guys available for speaking engagements, weddings, or bar mitzvahs?

A: Check with our agents.

Appendix – Sources

- MJL – Legeros sources.
- MJL/Arcadia – *Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting* books, two volumes by Legeros.

- MJL/WCFD – Wake County Fire Department histories by Mike Legeros, see web site: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/wake/history>
- N&O – News & Observer.
- RT – Raleigh Times.
- WCFA – Wake County Firefighter’s Association.
- WCFCC – Wake County Fire Chief’s Council.
- WCAB – Wake County Annual Budget.
- WCFC – Wake County Fire Commission.