

A Resolution to Approve Relocation of Firefighter's Monument

WHEREAS, in 1973, the Rutherford County Volunteer Fireman's Association (subsequently renamed as the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association), a North Carolina non-profit corporation, was organized for the purpose of coordinating and assisting all volunteer fire departments in Rutherford County, to promote the welfare, training, and equipping of all firefighters, and assist and support firefighters in Rutherford County in their efforts to serve the public, and which was reorganized in 2016 as the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc., a North Carolina non-profit corporation, which continues the same functions and duties, and which assumed the ownership of all assets of the Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association raised funds and paid for the creation of a monument "in memory, honor and tribute of the numerous citizens of this county who now serve and who have served in the past in the fire service throughout" Rutherford County (the "Firefighters Monument") for placement in a location suitable to honor firefighters in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, until such time as suitable location specific for firefighters with space to honor additional names in the future could be identified, established and completed, the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association requested the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners permit the placement of the Firefighters Monument on the lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse on land owned by Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association to continue and maintain ownership of the Firefighters Monument and to relocate the Firefighters Monument to a suitable site to honor current and future firefighters in Rutherford County once such a site could be identified; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2004, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to "support a monument on the courthouse lawn which would be placed there by the Firefighters' Association to honor those who have served in the fire service of Rutherford County" contingent upon approval of the design and placement of the monument; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2004, John Condrey, the County Manager, reported those plans had been shared with and approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2004, the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association purchased the Firefighters' Monument from Riverhill Monument Company, Inc., for its creation and placement on the courthouse lawn no later than October 3, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Firefighters' Monument was subsequently placed on the courthouse lawn; and

WHEREAS, it was the agreement of the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association and Rutherford County for the Firefighters Monument to remain the property of the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association (now the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc.) and for it to be placed on the courthouse lawn until such time as the Firefighters Monument could be relocated to a more suitable site with sufficient space to honor current and future firefighters but this agreement was never reduced to writing; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association never presented the Firefighters Monument as a gift and Rutherford County never accepted the Firefighters Monument as a gift but both the County and the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association (now the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc.) have always recognized and continue to recognize the monument as being the sole property of the Rutherford County Firefighters' Association; and

WHEREAS, the courthouse lawn is no longer suitable for the Firefighters Monument since the existing monument no longer has space to engrave the names of any additional firefighters the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc., may seek to honor; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Rutherford County Emergency Services Training Facility (the "Training Facility") was completed and opened on the campus of Isothermal Community College for the training of firefighters and other emergency responders in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc., has identified the proper and prominent location it has long desired for the Firefighters Monument on a central circular drive on the campus of Isothermal Community College, the same college where the Training Facility is located and where firefighters and other emergency responders, their families and loved ones, and the general public can provide the memory, honor and tribute due to those citizens who have protected the public through fire protection services, and where space for the honoring of additional firefighters will be provided; and

WHEREAS, the new location for the Firefighters Monument is of similar prominence, honor, visibility, availability and access to the general public and of greater prominence to those wishing to honor firefighters than its present location on property serving the state court system because of the new location's public prominence on a highly attended campus hosting public events and concerts, its ability to honor future firefighters with space for additional monuments and plaques, and due to its proximity on the same campus to the Training Facility in which firefighters and other first responders visit in the line of duty and to which their friends and loved ones and the general public associate with the courage and service of firefighters in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, the new location for the Firefighters Monument is also located within

Rutherford County the same as its current location; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2025, the North Carolina Historical Commission unanimously approved the relocation of the Firefighters Monument from the lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse to the campus of Isothermal Community College, along with the space necessary to place an additional monument necessary to honor new and additional firefighters; and

WHEREAS, all funds for the creation of the Firefighters Monument, for its placement at its temporary location on the courthouse lawn, for the new permanent location for the monument on the same campus of Isothermal Community College as the Training Facility, and for the cost of its relocation were and will be paid by the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY THAT, the request of the Rutherford County Firefighters Association, to which the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc., has succeeded, to remove the Firefighters Monument from the lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse for the purpose of relocating the monument to the campus of Isothermal Community College as previously approved by the North Carolina Historical Commission is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY THAT the 2004 agreement between Rutherford County and the Rutherford County Firefighters Association, to which the Rutherford County Fire/Rescue Association, Inc., has succeeded, for the Firefighters Monument to continue to be owned by the Association and for Rutherford County to agree for the Firefighters Monument to be relocated to such location and at such time as shall be requested by the Association, is hereby ratified.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of January, 2026

Approved:

Chairman Bryan A. King
Rutherford County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners

(Seal)