

Findings Report on the request to include the towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue District

Background:

The Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District was established in 2022 to provide dedicated funding for emergency medical and rescue services within the unincorporated areas of Ashe County.

During the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 fiscal years, district funding supported operations of the Ashe County Rescue Squad (ACRS). In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, funding was expanded to include expenses associated with the planned transition of emergency medical services from a privately contracted provider to a county-operated EMS system.

The Ashe County Rescue Squad (ACRS) provides a wide range of rescue services throughout the county, in addition to serving as a backup EMS provider.

Findings:

Plan for providing EMS/Rescue service:

Ashe County plans to transition from a privately contracted EMS provider to a county-operated EMS system effective July 1, 2028.

Current plans include:

- Construction of an EMS station in the Town of Jefferson
- Establishment of an EMS station in Warrensville

The Jefferson station will serve as the primary response base for both the Town of Jefferson and the Town of West Jefferson. In addition, an EMS Committee has been established to address staffing, equipment, and operational considerations to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

Ashe County also maintains an ongoing contract with the Ashe County Rescue Squad to provide rescue services and backup EMS coverage within the district.

Need

There is a demonstrable and ongoing need to provide EMS and rescue services within the areas proposed for inclusion in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District. Expanding the district to include the Towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson will support improved coordination, response reliability, and long-term sustainability of emergency services.

NCGS standards and Requirements

The areas proposed for inclusion are contiguous with the existing district boundaries, with at least one-eighth of the aggregate external boundary coinciding with the current district boundary; and

The Towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson have each adopted resolutions pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §153A-303 requesting inclusion in the Ashe County EMS/Rescue Service District. These resolutions reflect the municipalities' intent to promote reliable, consistent, and adequately funded emergency medical and rescue services; and

A map of the current and proposed service areas is attached.

Availability of Report and Public Hearing:

This report will be available for public inspection beginning April 28, 2026, during normal business hours at the Ashe County Administration Office, located at 150 Government Circle, Jefferson, North Carolina.

A public hearing on this matter has been scheduled for **9:05 a.m. on June 8, 2026**, to be held on the third floor of the Ashe County Courthouse, located at 150 Government Circle, Jefferson, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room (small courtroom).

