

**Sean D. Martin**  
*City Manager*  
**Heather Dowless**  
*City Clerk*

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whitevillenc.gov



**Terry L. Mann**  
*Mayor*  
**Jimmy Clarida**  
*Mayor Pro-Tem*  
**Tim Collier**  
*Council Member*  
**Joshua Harris**  
*Council Member*  
**Vickie Pait**  
*Council Member*  
**Linda Smith**  
*Council Member*  
**Kevin G. Williamson**  
*Council Member*

March 18, 2026

Representative David Rouzer  
310 Government Center Drive, Unit 1  
Bolivia, NC 28422

Representative Rouzer,

The City of Whiteville has a critical need for a new fire truck for its Fire Department. A new fire truck is essential to ensure a timely and reliable emergency response by the Fire Department. Due to the City's aging fleet, there are ongoing issues with increasing maintenance costs, lack of parts availability, and downtime. There is also a need for equipment with more advanced technology and safety features. The City of Whiteville needs to be able to meet the needs of its community, and a reliable emergency fleet for its Fire Department is a crucial part of meeting those needs.

The City has pursued many funding sources for the purchase of a new fire truck, including grants and other opportunities. As public safety is a priority, every effort is being made to obtain the funding and support to fill this need. A new fire truck would allow for a more efficient and effective response during emergencies. In addition, a new fire truck would help the City of Whiteville work towards improving its Fire Rating from a Level 4 to a Level 3, which benefits the City, its citizens, and its business owners.

If there is any support you and your office could lend to this need, it would be greatly appreciated. This support would not only help the City of Whiteville and its citizens, but it would also help the region itself.

Thank you.

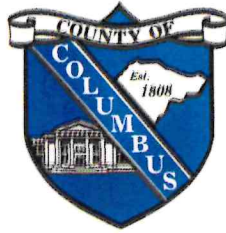
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Terry Mann  
Mayor  
City of Whiteville



# Columbus County

CHRIS SMITH



DISTRICT II COMMISSIONER

March 18, 2026

Representative David Rouzer  
310 Government Center Drive, Unit 1  
Bolivia, NC 28422

Representative Rouzer,

The City of Whiteville has identified a critical and immediate need for a new fire truck to support its Fire Department. Columbus County recognizes that this need directly affects not only the safety and well-being of Whiteville's residents, but also the surrounding communities that rely on the City's emergency response services. A dependable and modern fire apparatus is essential to ensuring timely, reliable, and effective emergency response across the region.

The City's current fleet is aging, resulting in increasing maintenance costs, limited parts availability, and extended periods of downtime. These challenges place a strain on emergency response capabilities and heighten risks during critical incidents. Additionally, updated equipment with advanced technology and enhanced safety features is necessary to meet today's public safety standards and to better protect both firefighters and the citizens they serve.

The City of Whiteville has actively pursued multiple funding avenues – including grants and other external opportunities – to address this need. Because fire protection and emergency response are priorities for every community within Columbus County, we recognize and support the City's efforts to secure the resources required for this investment. A new fire truck would significantly improve emergency response efficiency and effectiveness, benefiting the City and the broader region.

Furthermore, acquiring this equipment would assist the City of Whiteville in its work to improve its Fire Rating from a Level 4 to a Level 3. Such an improvement provides substantial advantages for citizens and business owners, including potential reductions in insurance premiums and increased economic appeal – outcomes that positively influence the entire county.

Any support that you and your office can extend to assist the City of Whiteville in securing this vital piece of equipment would be greatly appreciated. Strengthening Whiteville's emergency response capabilities strengthens the safety, resilience, and overall well-being of Columbus County as a whole.

Thank you,

Chris Smith  
Columbus County Commissioner



March 18, 2026

Joan McPherson  
President

Paul Todd - Chairman  
Todd's Clothing

**Board of Directors**

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First Citizens Bank

Amber Bellamy  
Columbus County DREAM Center

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County of Columbus

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Civic Federal Credit Union

Chassica Ward  
Carolinas Staffing Solutions

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Dylan Bowen  
Col Co Economic Development

Terry Mann  
Mayor, City of Whiteville

Representative David Rouzer  
310 Government Center Drive, Unit 1  
Bolivia, NC 28422

Representative Rouzer,

The Columbus County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism strongly supports the City of Whiteville's efforts to secure a new fire truck for its Fire Department. Reliable and modern emergency services are essential not only for public safety, but also for sustained economic growth and community development. As the economic hub of the region, Whiteville's ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies directly affects local businesses, workforce stability, and long-term investment opportunities.

The City's current fire fleet is aging, leading to frequent maintenance challenges, higher repair costs, and increasing downtime due to limited parts availability. These issues create potential delays in emergency response, which can have significant consequences for both residents and the businesses that are foundational to the economic vitality of our community. Updated equipment with advanced technology and improved safety features is necessary to ensure that Whiteville remains a safe and appealing place to live, work, and invest.

The City of Whiteville has been proactive in pursuing grants and other funding opportunities to meet this need. As an organization committed to supporting the economic health of our region, the Chamber recognizes how vital this investment is to maintaining a strong business climate. A new fire truck would greatly enhance emergency response capabilities and contribute to community confidence—factors that influence business retention, expansion, and recruitment.

Additionally, the acquisition of a new fire truck would support the City's efforts to improve its Fire Rating from a Level 4 to a Level 3. This improvement benefits businesses directly by potentially lowering insurance costs and making the area more competitive for future development. Enhancing the City's fire protection capabilities strengthens both public safety and the economic landscape that local businesses rely on.

Any assistance or support that you and your office can provide to help the City of Whiteville obtain this essential equipment would be deeply appreciated. Your support would not only benefit the citizens and businesses of Whiteville, but also contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of the entire region.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joan McPherson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joan McPherson  
President

*Columbus County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism*  
601 South Madison Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
910-642-3171