

### Cary's New Ladder 3

01/23/12 103 W, 1 I - + 5 - 4

Delivered on Friday morning, January 20. Photographed at Station 1 by Lee Wilson, who plans to return when the sun is shining. The town's third new fire engine is a 2012 Pierce Velocity aerial platform, 100-foot with a 1500 GPM pump and a 300 gallon tank. It replaces a 2003 Pierce Dash aerial platform, which will be placed in reserve and which will replace a 1995 Mack/Craft Body Works service truck. This marks their eight Velocity, following Engine 1, Engine 3, Engine 7, Truck 6, Rescue 7, and the new Rescue 2 and Rescue 4. [Read prior posting](#) and discussion about the new deliveries. [See more photos from Lee.](#)



*Lee Wilson photo*

Did Cary win the lottery to order all this new equipment?..or is the budget so over inflated the \$\$ needs to be spent or risk losing it?...  
**spenders** - 01/23/12 - 10:09

Thanks for your question, Spenders. Let me rephrase in a less antagonistic fashion. In these tougher economic times, how is Cary able to afford this new equipment?

I submit this as a piece of the answer. While the economy has been tough for a number of years, the amount of money that municipalities have can vary greatly. The factors range from their tax base to their budget strategy.

In the last couple weeks, there have been reports of budget surpluses in local towns, some of which have been in the millions (if memory serves). There are many different kinds of fruits (be careful) in these comparisons that are tempting to paint as apples to apples.

**Legeros** - 01/23/12 - 10:17

It's called a capital improvement budget. Or they may have had a big time surplus like Apex did.

**Capital** - 01/23/12 - 15:17

Cary does a great job of budgeting, buying what is needed and delaying what can be delayed. The Town council gets the most bang for their buck. It's not like the budget is inflated, actually, Cary has the cheapest tax rate in Wake County at just .33, and in past years, the Town actually made a cut in the tax rate which was .42. Cary has cut the budget and is still able to maintain essential services. The employees have managed to get raises even through this down turn in the economy. It's all about sound financial practices and doing what is right. My opinion is that the citizens of Cary get the most bang for their buck when compared to other municipalities. Look at the parks, greenways, and other

services that the Town provides, all while not giving a tax rate increase in 20 years. These trucks are part of the capital improvement budget and were planned for years ago. There is a replacement schedule for all equipment and this allows for planning and budgeting, that way there is no surprises.

**David** - 01/23/12 - 15:17

Conveniently, here's a Cary News article from last week about the town and it's budgeting: <http://www.carynews.com/2012/01/21/51063..>

**Legeros** - 01/24/12 - 09:25

Do remember that everything you read my be skewed to have you believe a particular point of view. While Cary may have a low tax rate, the cost for all city services as a whole is higher than other communities in the area. Take a look at the following graphic which helps show service totals from multiple cities: <http://www.raleighnc.gov/content/AdminSe..>

**H2O** - 01/24/12 - 15:03

H2O,the link that you posted showed Cary as the 6th lowest in cost out of the 21 town/cities on the chart. I would have to say they are one of the cheapest overall.

**John** - 01/25/12 - 21:06

any city or town can conduct a reassessment and lower the property tax RATE. As h2o said above, Do remember that everything you read my be skewed to have you believe a particular point of view.

**tax assessor** - 01/25/12 - 21:17

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.