

Goldsboro and Wayne County Rescue and EMS History

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First Rescue Squad – 1952 to 1954

1952 – For two years, Fire Chief Wesley Howell had been trying to sell the idea of a rescue squad to local civic clubs. GFD had been frequently called to perform rescue operations, such as drownings, but they were not properly equipped. GFD had an inhalator, and all of its 33 members were trained in first aid, but the fire chief saw a need for better equipment and special personnel for rescue operations. Howell approached Lion's Club member Bob Denmark, who was enthusiastic about the idea. Denmark took the proposal to the club, and they voted to sponsor the project and named Denmark the head of a study committee. [News & Observer, 5/2/54]

1952, Nov – Goldsboro Lions Club announced that it was purchasing a “panel rescue truck” for the city. It would be stationed at the fire department and “manned by trained fire department personnel.” It would be available for “rescue work” anywhere in the county. The project began with a campaign started in late summer by a committee headed by Bill Holland. The final decision to buy the truck was made after members of the Greenville Fire Department, which has a similar truck, spoke to the club and talked about the benefits of the unit. [GNA, 11/22/52]

1953, Jan – The Lions Club presented the city with the new rescue truck in a special ceremony at the fire station on January 5, 1953. It was the city's first rescue truck. The event would also launch a campaign to raise money and get equipment for the truck. The three-ton panel truck was purchased for \$1,660 from Cobb Motor Company in Greensboro. [GNA, 1/3/53, 1/5/53]

1953, Jan – The Lions Club rescue equipment campaign was underway. Some equipment had been obtained—and the fire department already had other equipment—but they still need “a siren, a portable resuscitator, beacon ray warning lights, portable search lights, some body work—metal stretcher straps and windows cut—and some smaller items.” [GNA, 1/14/53]

1953, Mar – Goldsboro Lions Club donated a 1952 Chevy panel van to the city for use in a new rescue squad. The club purchased the truck for \$1,600 and through a fundraising campaign made some \$5,000 of upgrades to turn the truck into a rescue vehicle. [GNA, 1/31/55, 5/1/13]

1953, Mar 18 – GFD rescue truck placed in service. [N&O, 5/2/54]

1953, Mar 21 – GFD rescue unit answered its first call, after a 1950 Plymouth rounded a curve at excessive speed and rolled over on Arrington Bridge Road. The vehicle landed in a fishing pond three miles south of the city. Three occupants were ejected, a fourth was trapped in the vehicle and died. The other three men suffered minor cuts and bruises. After arriving with the rescue truck, the two firefighters entered the chest-deep water and recovered the body. The man—who had been a passenger in the car—had been under water for about 45 minutes. [GNA, 3/23/53]

1953, Jun 23 – GFD rescue unit was now fully equipped, announced the Lions Club. The unit's inventory included 30 pieces of equipment valued at \$2,055.65. [GNA, 6/23/53]

1953, Nov 17 – Lions Club held the first meeting to organize a rescue squad for "Goldsboro and vicinity." They hoped to form a squad of 25 men "to be on standby for local emergencies and to serve locally in the event of a national emergency." The unit would primarily function in conjunction with the GFD rescue truck. Bob Denmark was named temporary chairman and a five-man committee was appointed to create a constitution and by-laws. [GNA, 11/12/53, 11/18/53]

1953, Nov 23 – Organizational meeting held at the fire station to consider by-laws and a constitution. [GNA, 11/23/53]

1953, Dec 8 – Squad meeting held during a fish fry at the fire station. The constitution was approved and officers were elected. Bob Denmark, a club member to started the project to organize the squad, was elected captain. Richard Receives was named first lieutenant. Two second lieutenants and two sergeants would be selected during or after the training period, which would start in early July. Hayden Stuart, a club member and former city alderman, was named president. Other officers named were a vice president, secretary, treasurer, chaplain, and trustees. GFD members prepared the fried fish for the squad members. [GNA, 12/8/53]

1954, Jan – Squad was chartered. [This charter may have been lost, as the squad was re-chartered in 1972.] [GNA, 2/21/78]

1954, Apr 12 – Major incident. Natural gas explosion on Mulberry Street killed five people and injured twenty. [GNA, 4/16/54]

1954, Apr 18 – GFD rescue unit responded to the home of Asst. Fire Chief Al Gurley, who had suffered a heart attack. He could not be resuscitated. [GNA, 5/2/54]

1954, Apr 25 – Dedication of rescue squad. The 26-person squad had one truck and has been serving Goldsboro and Wayne County for over a year. [GNA, 4/26/54]

1954, May 2 – Snapshot. The GFD rescue unit was now equipped with additional equipment including two Scott air packs, an ambulance-type stretcher, a folding stretcher, a two-way radio, portable lighting equipment with a generator, an acetylene torch, and various minor equipment. They also had a utility trailer and a boat and boat trailer. The unit had answered over 100 calls.

The Goldsboro Rescue Squad organization was patterned after squads in Charlotte, Greensboro, and other cities. The squad captain and a GFD captain also attended a meeting of the International Rescue and First Aid Association in Greensboro in October 1953, to get more information. Goldsboro Rescue Squad members were required to be over 21, in good physical shape, and “of good moral character.” They were required to complete both standard and advance first aid classes, and were required to attend all drills. Members who missed two consecutive drills and without acceptable excuses faced dismissal from the squad. Squad members were required to answer all calls, unless it was impossible to do so. They were also expected to obey all traffic regulations, unless exempted by proper officials. [N&O, 5/2/54]

1954, Dec 31 – Snapshot. The rescue unit at the fire department answered 176 calls during the year, and averaged almost one call every other day. Four fire department members were assigned to the unit, two on each 24-hour shift. They were Captain T. E. “Red” Davis, Carroll Lynch, Aaron Eason, and Charlie Williams. The volunteer members were divided into two companies of ten members, with a second lieutenant in charge of each company and a sergeant as assistant. The squad was led by a captain and first lieutenant. The squad met each Tuesday night at the fire department for a business meeting and training classes.

The entire squad was called into action at the April 12 explosion, and also a major fire on July 2 at Wayne Agricultural Works. They also assisted in the response/recovery after Hurricane Hazel on October 15. Some squad members also assisted firemen with fighting a fire at the First Free Will Baptist church in November. Several drowning calls in the county were answered, and squad members successfully recovered one body. Squad members also assisted city police with traffic control at several parades. Squad members set up first aid stations at local events. [GNA, 1/31/55]

1955 to 1959

1955, Nov 29 – Second rescue vehicle placed in service at ceremony at fire station, a 195_ station wagon. It’s housed at the fire station with the other rescue until, but will be moved to a new fire station in east Goldsboro that’s under construction. [GNA, 11/30/55] Possibly a 1956 Ford. [GNA, 8/11/59]

1955, Dec 31 – Snapshot. Squad answered 441 calls during year. [GNA, 1/30/56]

1957, Dec 31 – Snapshot. Squad answered 405 calls during year. [GNA, 1/31/59]

1958, Feb 8 – Newspaper reports a 1947 Cadillac Ambulance was being prepared as a third rescue unit. [GNA, 2/8/58]

1958, June - **Mount Olive Rescue Squad** was being organized. On the Monday after June 28, the Chamber of Commerce held special meeting to organize a group to obtain the money to “purchase and complete a disaster rescue truck for the area.” (GNA, 6/28/58)

1958, Aug – Goldsboro Rescue Squad added a bloodhound for land searches. Dog is with county dog warden Captain Ronald Lane of the Smithfield Prison Camp and available to the squad as well as law officers. [GNA, 1/31/59]

1958, Sep 4 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad had 26 men, most of whom were charter members. They had three rescue vehicles. They had answered almost 1,500 calls since they were organized. They had saved around a dozen lives. [GNA, 9/4/58]

1958, Sep – Goldsboro Rescue Squad hosted second annual convention of North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads. [GNA, 9/26/58]

1958, Sep – Ladies auxiliary of Goldsboro Rescue Squad organized during the state meeting. [GNA, 1/31/59]

1958, Oct – Goldsboro Rescue Squad added first female members, five nurses installed as members. They were believed to be the first female rescue squad members in the state. [GNA, 10/2/58]

1958, Oct 5 – Squad members from throughout the state held a meeting in Goldsboro to name a committee to divide the state’s squads into areas, and work out mutual aid agreements in each area. [GNA, 10/6/58]

1958, Dec 10 – News reports that the “Goldsboro Civil Defense units”, e.g. the rescue squad and the auxiliary police force, had been withdrawn from assisting the highway patrol with “check stations.” Goldsboro Rescue Squad members manned lighting equipment as auxiliary police checked head and tail lights of stopped cars, while state troopers checked licenses and other details. [GNA, 12/10/58]

1958, Dec 31 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 433 calls during the year. [GNA, 1/31/59]

1959, Jan – **Mount Olive Rescue Squad** now operating. They had a 1958 GMC rescue truck purchased with donated money raised by the chamber of commerce and from the Federal

Civil Defense Administration. The squad captain was Ben Sellers and it had 14 members in Mount Olive and 11 “associate members” in neighboring communities. In July 1960, the squad purchased their first boat. [GNA, 1/3/59, 8/26/77]

1959, Aug – New rescue vehicle delivered to Goldsboro Rescue Squad , 1959 Ford panel truck that will replace a 1956 Ford [station wagon?]. [GNA, 8/11/59]

1959, Sep – New Goldsboro Rescue Squad rescue vehicle accepted by city in ceremony [GNA, 9/24/59]

1960 to 1969

1960 – MORS purchased their first new ambulance, a Ford panel van, with funds raised by selling raffle tickets for donated merchandise. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1961, Mar – Construction underway of Goldsboro Rescue Squad building on Madison Avenue, behind the East Goldsboro fire station. Construction of the three-bay building is completed that year. [GNA, 3/25/61] Built by a high school bricklaying class. [GNA, 2/11/75]

1961, Aug 20 – New Goldsboro Rescue Squad building dedicated. [GNA, 2/21/78]

1961, Dec 31 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 865 calls during the year. They transported 388 people from 381 accident scenes. They transported 280 people suffering from “sudden illnesses.” They answered 63 false alarms. They spent 500 searching for “lost persons.” [GNA, 8/9/62]

1962 – New Mount Olive Civil Defense building completed, with 3,200 square-feet of meeting space and equipment storage. It was located beside the town hall and housed the rescue squad from 1962 to 1975. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1962, Aug – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad had eight pieces of rolling stock, including two jeeps, a 4x4 ex-military weapons carrier, a pick-up truck with a generator and lights, and four ambulances. They also had two boats. [GNA, 8/9/62]

1963, Feb – Goldsboro Rescue Squad delivered first baby. [GNA, 2/4/63]

1964, Mar – **Fremont Rescue Squad** organized. The first organizational meeting was held at Fremont Medical Center on March 12, 1964. They had 28 applications for membership. The first official meeting was held on March 17, 1964, at Freemont High School. The first captain was Taylor Hooks.

Their first vehicle was a 1947 Cadillac ambulance donated by Goldsboro Rescue Squad. They had 13 initial members. They purchased a 1964 Ford van in June 1964, which was

converted into a rescue unit. In May 1965, they purchased a 1961 Ford truck and converted it into a utility truck. In May 1966, their first new ambulance was purchased for \$31,500. [GNA, 2/22/77]

1964, Mar – FRS started operating on August 31, 1961. Their 1947 Cadillac ambulance was stored at Elmer Balance's garage. [GNA, 3/31/64]

1965 – MORS acquired a GMC panel truck for use as an ambulance. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1965, Oct – Goldsboro Rescue Squad hosted state rescue convention. [GNA, 10/20/68]

1966 – MORS acquired a second GMC panel truck for use as an ambulance. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1966, May – FRS ambulance destroyed in a collision at the intersection of William Street and Patetown Road, while the FRS unit was transporting a patient to the Wayne Memorial Hospital. A car pulled out in front of the ambulance. The collision totaled the ambulance. Four people were injured including rescue truck driver Punk Wooten (head injuries) and his assisting squadsman Jimmy Broughton (back and hip injuries). [GNA, 5/13/66]

1967, May – FRS rescue building on Sycamore Street dedicated. The 40 by 60 prefabricated building housed three emergency vehicles, had a meeting and training room, and a sleeping area for two members who would stay on shift 24 hours a day. [GNA, 5/22/67]

1968, Oct – Goldsboro Rescue Squad hosted state rescue convention. [GNA, 10/20/68]

1968, Oct – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad had one rescue truck at Fire Station 1, for use by firefighters and rescue workers. Two other "ready line" rescue units were also in service, along with an ambulance of out-of-town transport service, a truck for pulling boats and for land search missions, and a "heavy-duty unit" with rescue equipment. [GNA, 10/20/68]

1969, Apr – **Wayne Ambulance Service** started operation on April 14, 1969. Owned by Billy E. Etheridge, the service started in conjunction with an announcement that Goldsboro Rescue Squad was no longer answer non-emergency calls. WAS had one ambulance and planned to add a second as soon as he could hire qualified men. [GNA, 4/14/69]

1970 to 1979

1972 – MORS purchased a Pontiac ambulance. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1972 - Goldsboro Rescue Squad, Inc. corporation chartered with the state.

1972 – First radios acquired by Goldsboro Rescue Squad . [GNA, 2/11/75]

1972, Jun – Snapshot. **Mount Olive Rescue Squad** has answered more than 5,100 calls since organized 14 years ago. They have four ambulance-type vehicles, two “large rescue units with winches”, four “lighting units,” two boats with trailers, and a jeep. Most of the calls are answered around Mount Olive, but others are answered to neighboring Duplin County and a few in Sampson County. They also occasionally answer calls to “distant points,” notably to help search for drowning victims. They have 18 members and the captain is Charles Swinson. They answered 513 calls in 1971, 473 calls in 1970, and 404 calls in 1969. [GNA, 6/18/72]

1974 – New rescue truck acquired by Goldsboro Rescue Squad . [GNA, 2/11/75]

1974 – New rescue van acquired by Goldsboro Rescue Squad . [GNA, 2/11/75]

1974, Dec 31 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad had six ambulances, a crash truck, three boats, four bota motors, two large generators, and a first aid trailer. Squad answered about 1,110 calls during the year. Squad funding now/lately included city and county appropriations. Squad captain was Billy Holland. Squad membership was short, below the desired 36 person number. [GNA, 2/11/75]

1975 – First certified EMTs at MORS. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1975, Feb – Mount Olive Rescue Squad new headquarters on North Center Street nearing completion. Expected to be ready by the first of March. The \$90,000 building had four bays, two bedrooms, a recreation room, a training and meeting room, a kitchen, and a communication room. The squad was currently housed in part of the municipal building. [GNA, 2/11/75]

1975, Sep – **Grantham Rescue Squad** organized. Within two years, they had two ambulances including a new 1977 Dodge rescue van, 28 squad members, and an auxiliary. [GNA, 8/26/77]

1975, Oct 1 - Mount Olive Rescue Squad reorganized. That night, the mayor informed squad members that the organization would be governed by Dr. Hervey B. Kornegay, director of civil preparedness for the town. He was responsible for the reorganization and would report to the board of alderman on all squad activities. All 20 squad members were asked to voluntarily submit their resignations, but only six resigned during the meeting. Ray Thompson, an officer in the former squad, was later captain along with other interim officers in a meeting a week later. In January 1976, squad elections were held and Thompson was elected captain for the year, along with other officers. The squad had about 25 members, including several from the old squad. [GNA, 2/10/76]

1975, Dec 31 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 960 calls last year and logged between 75,000 and 80,000 miles on their vehicles. Squad has at least two men available 24/7 to answer calls. All members meet three times a month for training. Funded by private contributions, city and county funding, and federal supplements from the Neuse Council of Governments. Squad is dispatched by city fire, city police, county sheriff, or county fire dispatcher. [GNA, 2/10/76]

1976, Apr? – Goldsboro Rescue Squad member James Hickman drowned while helping with a rescue attempt. Read more, <https://legeros.com/blog/goldsboro-lodds>. [GNA, 2/21/78]

1976, Nov 7? – Goldsboro Rescue Squad member Kenneth Lee Davis killed when a car hit a squad ambulance that was returning from a call. Read more, <https://legeros.com/blog/goldsboro-lodds>. [GNA, 11/8/76]

1976 – **Seven Springs Area Rescue Squad** organized. Members started training in January and began answer calls the first week in September. Their first ambulance was purchased from Wayne Ambulance Service for \$2,400. In February 1977, a new \$23,000 ambulance was placed in service. [GNA, 2/22/77]

1977 – New rescue vehicle purchased by Goldsboro Rescue Squad to replace the one destroyed in the November 1976 accident. [GNA, 2/21/78]

1978 – Grantham Rescue Squad moved into a new building, a former fire station building [GNA, 2/22/91]

1978, Aug – Snapshot. Goldsboro Fire Department operated their own rescue truck, staffed two men on each shift. But their “first and foremost duty is firefighting.” The GFD rescue truck answered 1,244 calls in 1976. The GFD rescue truck answered calls in the city, while Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered calls in the county. And if the GFD rescue was not available, a county rescue truck was requested. [GNA, 8/26/77]

1978 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 2,516 calls during the year, including three drownings and three searches. Each member was an EMT and worked about 30 hours each work as a volunteer. Its fleet included five ambulances, a mobile command post, a crash truck that was also equipped with lights, a 4WD jeep, three boat trailers, and two heavy-duty generators. It served 49,500 people in its primary response area and also served another 33,500 people as back-up to the city ambulance service. [GNA, 2/27/79]

1979 – MORS add their first crash truck, a 1979 Ford/____, and organized a “heavy rescue team.” The team entered state competitions and won first place in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985. They also entered the national competition twice. [GNA, 2/22/91, 5/16/97]

1979 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 1,388 calls that year. Each squad member was a licensed EMT and donated some 20 hours a week to the squad. [GNA, 3/2/80]

1980 to 1989

1980 – Grantham Rescue Squad moved into a newly completed building. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1980 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad building renovated and expanded, with a 4,000 square-foot addition. Groundbreaking was held in July 1979. It provided space to house six rescue vehicles: the mobile command post, the jeep, boat and generator trailers, and a service area. Another bedroom and bathroom were added and the kitchen was enlarged. A training room was also added. [GNA, 730/79, 3/2/80]

1980 – Newspaper profile of what was called the first woman in Goldsboro Rescue Squad , Debbie Tillett Harris. However, there were earlier women on the squad, from earlier news articles. [GNA, 10/14/84]

1981, May – By this time, **Johnston County Ambulance Service** was also available as transport from Wayne Memorial Hospital to other area hospitals, in addition to Wayne Ambulance Service. [GNA, 5/13/81]

1981 – Seven Springs Area Rescue Squad moved into their first building at Main Street and Highway 55 during the summer. Previously, their rescue vehicles were parked beside the fire station or kept by the members on call. The squad also used a small rented building for meetings. The \$50,000 building had two vehicle bays with electric doors, a paved parking lot, a meeting and training room with adjoining kitchen and bathrooms, and with air-conditioning. An open house was later held on January 31, 1982. [GNA, 2/23/82]

1981, Sep – SSARS received new ambulance. The \$25,000 vehicle was placed in service in September as a back-up unit, and as a front-line unit in January 1982. It replaced a 1972 ambulance. [GNA, 2/23/82]

1982 – SSARS started providing ALS services. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1982 – Snapshot. Goldsboro Rescue Squad answered 1,293 calls. Their fleet consisted of five ambulances, a utility truck, three boats, a crash truck, a four-wheel-drive Bronco, and the original 1953 Chevy step van. The latter had been restored by squad members. [GNA, 2/6/83]

1983 – SSARS ladies auxiliary organized. [GNA, 1/19/03]

1983, Sep – MORS has first female voted into the membership. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1984, Feb – Newspaper reported that GFD had a new ambulance in service. It replaced an older truck that was used at Station 2. [GNA, 2/12/84]

1985 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad was certified as an advanced life support rescue squad. This followed the training of 15 members who took an ALS course offered through ECU Medical School. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1985, Mar – MORS received certification at the intermediate level with five members at the time certified as EMT-I. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1985, May – Newspaper reported that Goldsboro Rescue Squad was considering hiring a paid EMT to staff the rescue station. They currently had two volunteers on duty 24/7. The paid person would replace one of the volunteer duty positions. The only other county squad with a paid EMT was Mount Olive. The other volunteer rescue squads were located in Freemont, Grantham, and Seven Springs. [GNA, 5/19/85]

1986 – MORS entered the first all-female team in the annual state rescue association competition. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1986, Jun – Newspaper reported that a new ambulance had been purchased for Goldsboro Rescue Squad . The \$28,338 vehicle replaced one that was wrecked. [GNA, 6/1/86]

1988, Dec – MORS received certification to use defibrillators. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1989, Apr 20 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad corporate name changed to **Goldsboro Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**

1989, Aug – FRS corporate name changed to **Fremont Rescue and EMS, Inc.** [GNA, 2/22/91]

1989, Sep – GFD started operating their own EMS service with dedicated medics on September 6, 1989. They had two ambulances, one used for backup. The members were all EMTs. Two worked per shift, 24 on and 24 off, on a three-day cycle. The seventh new medic was the rescue supervisor. The new service relieved EMT-certified firefighters of the duty of staffing the department's ambulance. [GNA, 9/16/90, 2/22/91]

1989, Nov – Newspaper reported that a new ambulance was being added to the Goldsboro Rescue Squad fleet. [GNA, 11/13/89]

1990 to 1999

1990 – FREMS added new ambulances. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1991 – Snapshot. MORS had 37 members, four ambulances, three utility vehicles, three boats, two generators, and answered about 1,200 calls a year. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1991 – Snapshot. FRS had 35 members, three ambulances, one crash truck, and one ALS car. [GNA, 2/22/91], and also require any private ambulance providers to add them. [GNA, 3/19/92]

1991 – Snapshot. Grantham RS owned a 1982 Ford ambulance, a 1985 Ford ambulance a 1975 Chevy crash/utility truck including Hurst tool, and two power boats. They had 33 members. [GNA, 2/22/91]

1991, Mar – Newspaper story on abuse of rescue squad ambulances and how too many area residents consider them “free and personal transportation to the hospital.” Albert Jones, rescue supervisor for GFD, estimated that 50 percent of the city’s ambulance calls were non-emergency. Goldsboro Rescue Squad officials estimated that 35 percent of their calls were non-emergency. [GNA, 3/14/93]

1992, Mar – Public hearing held on proposed amendment to the county ambulance ordinance requiring every ambulance to carry a defibrillator. The county’s squads had each been using them for about two years. This would add the provision to law

1992, Nov – Mount Olive commissioners passed an ordinance requiring that Mount Olive Rescue Squad establish and be governed by a board of directors. The board was chaired by an elected commissioner and included two active squad members and two citizens selected by commissioners. Official by-laws governed the squad’s membership and chain of authority. The action was the result of several weeks of negotiations between the squad’s officers and town officials, with a goal of creating an “intermediary body” to “adequately supervise” squad operations and “oversee the expenditure of public funds.” Some people criticized the action, characterizing the ordinance as a “town takeover.” [GNA, 11/5/92, 11/6/92]

1993, Mar – Goldsboro Rescue Squad discussed problems with money and manpower, speaking with county commissioners on March 17, 1993. The county offered no solutions but did give the squad \$6,601 to finish repairs on their station. Squad captain Allen Jones said there have been times recently when only one squad member was available to answer calls. The squad was advertising to hire a second full-time paid employee. Though he didn’t go into specifics about money problems, he noted that the cost of hiring a second employee would add to the already “press problem” of maintaining the squad’s equipment. The squad was funded by city and county appropriations plus fundraising. There was no tax district or user fees. [GNA, 3/17/93]

1994, Oct – Newspaper reported on November 1, 1994, that Better Health Ambulance of Greenville had been granted an ambulance franchise by county commissioners. They already operated in Pitt and Lenoir counties. They were the second private ambulance

service in the county, after Johnston County Ambulance Service. BHA had added the ALS equipment required by the county ambulance ordinance and expected to be operational by the end of the month. [GNA, 11/1/94]

1995, Dec – County commissioners were asked by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory County to “create a billing method to help fund the five rescue squads” on December 19, 1995. Both the commissioners failed to reach agreement on the proposal, along with another proposal to create individual tax districts for each squad. A committee would be formed to investigate. [GNA, 12/19/95]

1995, Dec – Snapshot. Service levels and other notes about the squads:

- Fremont Rescue Squad – EMT-D. Also has paid weekday member(s).
- Goldsboro Rescue Squad – EMT-I. Also has paid weekday member(s).
- Grantham Rescue Squad – EMT-D. No paid members.
- Mount Olive Rescue Squad – EMT-I. Also has paid weekday member(s).
- Seven Springs Rescue Squad EMT-I. No paid members.

Also, the average time to answer a call in the county is 11.5 minutes. Source: GNA, 12/19/95

1996, May – Goldsboro Rescue Squad started new fundraising campaign to fund a new ambulance and part of a defibrillator. [GNA, 5/3/96]

1997, May – MORS received a new crash truck by this time. The 1997 International/_____ cost about \$40,000 and was built by Coastal Remanufacturing Company of Washington. It replaced a 1979 Ford crash truck. The purchase by money raised through donations. GNA, 5/16/97.

1997 – County study conducted that found problems with EMS response times. (GNA, 7/8/01]

1999, Jan – MORS reorganized on January 28, 1999, after the squad was disbanded by the Town Manager during a meeting. All but three of the previous officers were allowed to rejoin. The town and the squad had been “feuding” since December, when the town fired a paid rescue worker in December for violating labor laws. Two other officers were asked to resign as they had allowed the terminated worker to continue to ride on rescue calls, even though the town had prohibited same. During the meeting, eighteen supporters of the dismissed worker quit in opposition of the town’s actions. The members requested a reinstatement and reversal of the terminations. [GNA, 2/7/99]

1999, Jul – MORS member who was dismissed in December 1998 was reinstated on the condition he write a formal letter of apology to the town and the squad, along with two officers were asked to resign. The latter action was done due to a shortage of EMT-I members on the squad. [GNA, 7/23/99]

1999, Oct – Wayne Memorial Hospital ceased providing free medical supplies to the rescue squads. The change was effective October 1 and all squads were notified at the beginning of September. MORS estimated that it would cost about \$60,000 to purchase their own supplies. County emergency services director Joe Gurley would look into group purchases, to try to reduce costs. [GNA, 10/13/99]

2000 to 2009

2000, Sep – County commissioners granted requests for two ambulance providers to advance to paramedic level: Goldsboro Rescue Squad and Johnston County Ambulance Service. [GNA, 9/6/00]

2000, Sep – Snapshot. The GFD EMS unit(s) answered 3,362 calls in their first year. They also upgraded their service level to EMT-I during the past year. [GNA, 9/16/90]

2000, Sep – County officials approved \$175,000 for five new ambulances and a crash truck for the county rescue squads. The county also granted permission for two providers to advance to paramedic level, Goldsboro and Johnston County Ambulance Service. Goldsboro Rescue Squad would be the only Wayne County-provider with paramedic level. [GNA, 9/6/00]

2000, Oct – Goldsboro Rescue Squad placed new crash truck in service, a 2000 F-550/____ utility truck. It replaced a 1977 model. It had a large generator and nine compartments. [GNA, 10/27/00]

2000, Oct – The Goldsboro Rescue Squad crash truck supported eleven fire departments, which only had three crash trucks between them Arrington, Belfast, Dudley, El-Roy, Mar Mac, New Hope, Oakland, Patetown, Pinewood, Rosewood, and Saulston. [GNA, 10/27/00]

2001 – Goldsboro Rescue Squad advanced to paramedic level? [GNA, 10/27/00]

2001, Feb – Snapshots.

- Goldsboro Rescue Squad has 50 active volunteers and three paid people who rotate 24-hour shifts. They have 12 paramedics in training, perhaps by March 1. They have four ambulances and a Chevy Suburban that they recently bought, which will be “an intercept vehicle.” They also have a crash truck and two boats. They answered about 2,500 calls in 2000, including 125 calls in the city, when the GFD ambulances were

not available. They have the largest district by size and call volume in the county. [GNA, 2/23/01]

- MORS has 32 volunteers plus four full-time EMT-I and four part-time paid members. They answered 1,950 calls last year. They have four ambulances, two crash trucks, two boats, and a suburban. [GNA, 2/23/01]
- FRS has 18 volunteers plus four paid members who work 12-hour shifts. They answered about 900 calls last year. They have three ambulances, a crash truck, and a boat. They also have a junior program with five members. [GNA, 2/23/01]
- Grantham has 26 volunteers and three paid members who rotate 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week. They answered about 600 calls last year, including some in Johnston and Sampson counties. They also have a junior program. [GNA, 2/23/01]
- SSARS has 21 volunteers and two paid members who work weekdays. They answered about 550 calls last year, including some in Duplin and Lenoir counties.

2001, Apr - MORS received two new ambulances, cost \$200,000. The first was purchased with \$30,000 from the city and \$30,000 from the county. The squad entered a lease-purchase agreement for the second. Both were built by Wheeled Coach.

2001, May – Newspaper reports that county officials had been studying a proposal to assume control of the volunteer rescue squads, and primarily to improve response times and the quality of medical care. It proposes creating a county-wide EMS system and with the goal to have county-wide paramedic service. Only GFD ambulances are paramedic, the rest are EMT-I. The county would also have to start charging for ambulance transports, as Wayne County is one of a few counties in the state that doesn't charge. And if the county staffed the five existing squads with full-time personnel, it would need to hire about 35 people to supplement the 13 paid members of the squads, and all of whom would become county employees. [GNA, 5/30/01]

2001, Aug – County officials decided to start charging for ambulance transports. Squads currently charging included Goldsboro and Mount Olive. [GNA, 8/21/01]

2001, Nov – Snapshot. County had hired a director for its new EMS service, had bought three new ambulances, had three more new ambulances on the way, and had hired a firm to provide billing for EMS services. They were planning to begin operation on January 31, but delays had hindered county commissioners from making final decisions needed to create the department and hire staff. [GNS, 11/28/01]

2001, Dec – Goldsboro Rescue Squad notified county that it would not participate in the new county EMS system. Three of the other four squads that would be affected had informally agreed to support the new system. [GNA, 1/9/02, 1/11/01]

2001, Dec – Snapshot. County was targeting March to implement new EMS system. Three ambulances ordered by the county were expended at the end of January. Station locations were still being determined. The first to open would be at the Seven Springs Area Rescue Squad. The county had verbal agreements with the Grantham and Fremont squads to use their stations in exchange for the cost of utilities. Those stations would probably open in April. The county had also hoped that Goldsboro Rescue Squad would participate in the new system and that their members would staff new EMS stations in Dudley, New Hope, and Rosewood. The Goldsboro Fire Department would also be impacted, as it operated two ambulances. [GNA, 1/9/02]

2002, Jan – Newspaper reported that Goldsboro Rescue Squad had held informal discussions with the city, about merging with the Goldsboro Fire and EMS Department. No merger happened. [GNA, 1/11/02]

2002, March 1 – Wayne County EMS placed in service with the opening of their first station in Seven Springs. The paramedics used a former SSARS ambulance that had been re-painted. [GNA, 3/19/02] The volunteer squad continued operating, staffing second-duty calls and assisting with extra help where possible on first-duty calls. [GNA, 9/29/02]

2002, Oct 1 – WCEMS Station 2 opened Rosewood. [GNA, 9/29/02]

2002, Oct 1 – WCEMS Station 3 opened in Grantham, at the rescue squad building. The volunteer squad continued operating, staffing second-duty calls and assisting with extra help where possible on first-duty calls. [GNA, 9/29/02]

2002, Oct 1 – WCEMS Station 4, Station 5, and Station 6 opened in Goldsboro. The locations were two city fire stations and the volunteer rescue squad, with the county renting the building space. Thirteen GFD EMTs became county employees, along with nine city telecommunicators. The county took over operation of the GFD ambulances as well as EMS operations previously provided by the rescue squad. The squad had previously backed-up the fire department EMS units and had been answering 13 to 15 calls a month. [GNA, 9/29/02]

2003, Jan – Monument dedicated to the members of SSARS and the ladies auxiliary. It was located at the squad building, which was now WCEMS Station 1. [GNA, 1/19/03].

2003, Mar – WCEMS Station 7 opened in Fremont. [GNA, 9/24/03]

2003, Jun – MORS ceased providing rescue services. They transferred one of their crash trucks to the Mount Olive VFD. [GNA, 6/6/03]

2003, July – WCEMS Station 8 opened in Dudley. [GNA, 9/24/03]

2003, Oct – WCEMS Station 9 opened in Mount Olive on October 1, 2003. Also on that date, MORS merged with the county. [Alternate date, June 2003 for the merger, from GNA, 6/6/03.] The squad's three paid employees were hired by the county. The town's 911 communications center also merged with the county, though the dispatchers stayed in Mount Olive for more than a month while the county completed its new emergency dispatch center in Goldsboro. [GNA, 9/24/03]

2003, Oct – Snapshot. WCEMS had nine stations, 60 full-time employees, and 40 part-time employees. The entire county was covered by a single EMS system that provided paramedic-level care. All (civilian) emergency telecommunications in the county would also be centralized once the new dispatch center was completed. [GNA, 10/1/03]

2006, Aug – WayneNET ambulance service started operating. The county service was created to transport chronically ill patients from their homes to doctor's appointments. The service had two ambulances that could also back-up Wayne County EMS, in the event of a disaster. They were located on Madison Avenue. [GNA, 8/18/06, 8/20/06]

2007 Mar – Snapshot. WCEMS on their fifth anniversary had eight stations and 50+ employees, including 54 medics and over 20 trucks. They answered 14,000 calls annually. [GNA, 3/11/07]

2010 to Present

2016, Oct – Seven Springs EMS station—co-located with Seven Springs Area Rescue Squad—building damaged by flood from Hurricane Matthew. The WCEMS unit housed in the building was relocated to Elroy Fire Station 2 on Dollard Town Road. [GNA, 1/22/17]

2018, Oct – Seven Springs Area Rescue Squad dissolved by judicial order on October 29, 2018. [GNA, 11/21/18] Neither membership nor board had been active in several years. Assets, including proceeds from insurance following flood damage to HQ during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, were transferred to SSVFD.

2018, Apr – Expansion WCEMS Station 10 opened on April 19, 2018, in the former quarters of the Antioch Fire Department. It was purchased by the county earlier this year. It housed a 24-hour EMS crew and two engines from Patetown VFD. [WC video story.]

2019, spring – Replacement WCEMS Station 1 on March 2, 2019, at 4205 Indian Springs Road in Seven Springs. The EMS unit relocated from Elroy VFD Station 2, where it had been housed since 2016. The one-bay building cost \$385,000. [GNA, 11/05/18, 6/30/19]

2019, spring – Replacement WCEMS Station 7 opened at 1900 Nahunta Road in Pikeville. The two-bay building cost \$500,000. It replaced an older building. [GNA, 11/05/18, 6/30/19]

2019, Jun – Replacement WCEMS Station 9 opened on June 21, 2019, at 121 Northeast Church Road in Mount Olive. It replaced an older building on North Center Street. It's named the R. A. Wilson EMS Station, to honor the family that donated the land. The two-bay, \$500,000 building was dedicated on June 29. Construction started in late December. [GNA, 11/05/18, 6/30/19]

2019, Sep – Expansion WCEMS Station 11 opened on September 13, 2019, at 210 Miller's Chapel Road in Goldsboro. The one-bay building cost \$385,000. It was named the Robert M. and Kathleen Wilson EMS station. [GNA, 11/05/18, 6/30/19, WC video story.]

2021 – Grantham Rescue Squad disbanded, following WCEMS taking over their service area. [Did they take over more of their service area?] [NA, 9/23/22] In March 2021, the squad asked the county to purchase their building at 3430 US 13 South, which was located next door to GVFD. The county had been renting the building from the squad since 2002. [GNA, 6/23/22]

2023, Apr – Goldsboro Rescue Squad [still an active corporation?] returned their first vehicle to the Goldsboro Lion's Club, which had donated the truck in 1953. The donation was part of the squad's 60th anniversary celebration. The squad didn't have haven't money to restore the truck, so the donated the truck to the club, so the club could restore it. [GNA, 5/1/13]