

County Administrator's Office Warren County Government Center 220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 100 Front Royal, Virginia 22630 Telephone: (540) 636-4600 Facsimile: (540) 636-6066

### NORTH WARREN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

### VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 2013 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA JUNE 3, 2013



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# APPLICATION FORM

COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA NORTH WARREN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY JUNE 3, 2013 **Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!** 



### 2013 Achievement Awards

ATTN: 2013 Achievement Awards Program Virginia Association of Counties 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, Va. 23219-3627

### **Call for Entries**

#### 2013 VACo Achievement Awards Deadline: June 1, 2013

#### **Application Form**

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2013.** 

**Program Information** 

Locality County of Warren

 $_{Program \ Title}$  North Warren Volunteer Fire Company

Program Category Community/Economic Development

**Contact Information** 

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Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer Name Douglas P. Stanley, AICP

Title\_County Administrator

Signature\*

\*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.



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# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA NORTH WARREN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY JUNE 3, 2013

#### North Warren Volunteer Fire Company Project Description

North Warren Volunteer Fire Company (Company 10) is one of nine companies that make up the Warren County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. It was chartered by the Warren County Board of Supervisors on August 5, 1997 to provide faster fire and rescue response times for residents and industry located in the Cedarville/Rockland area. The Company operated for a number of years in a temporary location that provided less than ideal conditions for personnel and hampered their ability to provided citizens and industry with efficient and reliable service.

Warren County and representatives from industries in the area recognized the obstacles facing Company 10 and proposed a funding formula to construct the new station with the County and industry evenly splitting the construction cost. In order to accomplish this unique task, the North Warren Volunteer Fire Company Title Holding Company (NWVFCTHC) was formed in 2002. The group was comprised of nine members with Warren County, Company 10, and local industry each holding three positions.

Page 2 of 4

Immediately after the establishment of the NWVFCTHC, Warren County staff began working with representatives of Company 10 and industry in the area to identify a location for a permanent station. DuPont, who has a manufacturing plant nearby, stepped up and donated a two acre site on which the station could be built. With the site secured, the NWVCTHC worked with a local architect in the design of a 7,500 square foot operations building with three bays. The Warren County Board of Supervisors pledged \$420,000 for the project and plans on how to improve both the facility and service of Company 10 began to take shape. The funding was committed for not only the construction of the facility, but also to fund two paid staff personnel during weekday daytime hours to bolster the coverage capabilities of the Company. The County's commitment to Company 10's success was a vital part of building the confidence of local industry and in securing funding from their organizations for the project.

As construction progressed and the facility began to come to life, the doubts of many as to whether or not this unique public-private partnership could pull of a project of such magnitude began to fade. Unfortunately, in February 2003 the project suffered a tremendous set back when a catastrophic roof failure destroyed much of the facility. No emergency responders were injured and no major equipment was damaged, but the building had to be completely reconstructed.

Page 3 of 4

Still determined to see an optimistic outcome, the facility was redesigned with changes that not only improved the efficiency and layout, but also revamped a second floor banquet/conference space to allow for enhanced usability. Construction of the new and improved facility was completed in October 2003 and Company 10 moved into their new home.

Work for the NWVFCTHC was far from over, however. The group continued to dedicate themselves to strengthening ties between the County, Fire and Rescue staff, and local industry leaders and in paying off the original loan for the facility's construction. The ultimate goal was to pay off the loan and have the station transferred over to Warren County so that staff could take over the maintenance of the facility and to continue to collect funds for capital improvements through proffers and development contributions. This task was accomplished on March 30, 2013 when Warren County officially took over the Company 10 facility and the NWVFCTHC was dissolved.

Company 10 is now one of only two 24-hour stations serving Warren County and provides emergency fire and rescue response to eleven large scale industrial operations that employ more than 2,200 employees, and include nearly 4,000,000 square feet of space. Along with the industrial corridor, the Company is located just miles from Interstate 66, and is situated near two large commercial

Page 4 of 4

shopping centers, a nursing home, three high density housing developments, and will be the first responder to both the RSW Regional Jail and Dominion's Warren County Power Plant which are scheduled to be completed in 2014. The Company has also seen a 33% increase in service area in the last two years due to the rerouting of 911 calls from neighboring Frederick County.

Warren County is proud that our staff took the lead on the innovative partnership that allowed for the construction of this much needed station and feels that we have provided for long-term fire and rescue coverage for the area. Having raised over \$1,042,000 for the project, we hope that this project can serve as model for other localities facing similar circumstances and allow them to see what can be accomplished when you are open to non-conventional collaborations. The project has been an invaluable addition to our community and it would not have been possible without the willingness and hard work of the members of the North Warren Volunteer Fire Company Title Holding Company.



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA NORTH WARREN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY JUNE 3, 2013

#### North Warren Volunteer Fire Company Project Overview

In 2002, Warren County was faced with the difficult task of constructing a new fire station for the North Warren Volunteer Fire Company (Company 10), one of the nine companies that is part of the Warren County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. The Company had been operating in a temporary location since 1997 that provided less than ideal conditions for personnel and hampered their ability to provided citizens and industry with efficient and reliable service.

With Company 10 unable to utilize conventional funding sources, Warren County stepped in and took the lead on a public-private partnership that resulted in the development of the North Warren Volunteer Fire Company Title Holding Company (NWVFCTHC). The NWVFCTHC was comprised of nine members with Warren County, Company 10, and local industry each holding three positions. The group pulled together resources and raised over \$1,000,000 to assist in the construction of the facility, even overcoming a catastrophic roof collapse mid-way through construction.

The innovative thinking of the NWVFCTHC resulted in the construction of a much needed facility that will serve our community for many years to come. Warren County is extremely proud that our staff took the lead on this partnership. We hope that this project can serve as model for other localities facing similar circumstances and allow them to see what can be accomplished when you are open to non-conventional collaborations.