



WHEREAS, fire protection services are provided to the citizens of Gaston County by a total of 26 different municipal, volunteer, and/or combination fire departments; and,

WHEREAS, these fire departments continuously strive to improve the services they provide to the citizens of their districts; and,

WHEREAS, one such improvement is to participate in a "Rate Reduction Survey" conducted by the NC Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal as part of the NC Response Rating System (NCRRS); and,

WHEREAS, back in June officials spent several days touring and inspecting the Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments evaluating their equipment, equipment maintenance, facilities, personnel, training, availability of water sources, 911 call center, fire inspections, fire investigations, and public fire safety education capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments successfully lowered their ratings from a class 4 to a class 3 and a class 6 to a class 4 respectively; and,

WHEREAS, the NCRRS ranges from one (highest or best) to ten (lowest or not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments across NC and the country falling into the 9S category; and,

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2017 residential, commercial, and industrial property owners should check with their insurance companies to determine if they qualify for an insurance rate reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes and commends the members of both the

### **Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments**

for their hard work, sacrifice of time, and tremendous dedication to reducing the cost of fire protection for the citizens they serve.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tom Keigher

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Donald J. Grant, Jr.

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Fire Marshal

## Board Action

File #: 17-001

Commissioner Grant - Fire Marshal - Commendation - To Recognize and Commend both the Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments for Obtaining a Fire Protection Class Rate Reduction

### STAFF CONTACT

Eric Hendrix - Fire Marshal - (704) 866-3231

### BACKGROUND

In June of 2016 officials from the NC Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (NC OSFM) conducted a NC Response Rating System Survey (NCRSS-also referred to as an ISO inspection) on both the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department and the New Hope Fire Department. The survey evaluated such things as the department's equipment, equipment maintenance, facilities, personnel, training, availability of water sources, 911 call center, fire inspections, fire investigations, and public fire safety education capabilities, etc. Following the survey both departments successfully lowered their ratings from a class 4 to a class 3 and a class 6 to a class 4 respectively. The NCRSS ranges from a 1 (highest or best) to a 10 (lowest or not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments across NC and the country falling into the 9S category.

The new fire protection class ratings went into effect on January 1, 2017 and residential, commercial, and industrial property owners are encouraged to check with their insurance companies to determine if they qualify for an insurance premium rate reduction.

### ATTACHMENTS

Commendation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	Brown	Fraleigh	Grant	Hovis	Keigher	Philbeck	Worley	Vote
2017-016	01/24/2017	TK	RW	A	AB	AB	A	A	A	A	U

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