



Orange Grove

Volunteer Fire Company

Annual Community Meeting Report

July 20, 2026



Annual Community Update Report

What we'll cover in our annual community update



- **Who We Are** -- District map, stations, apparatus & leadership
- **Successes & Challenges** -- What's working well and what lies ahead
- **Plans & Priorities** -- Station 2 upgrade, paid staffing transition & Station
- **Get Involved** -- Volunteer, attend events & stay connected



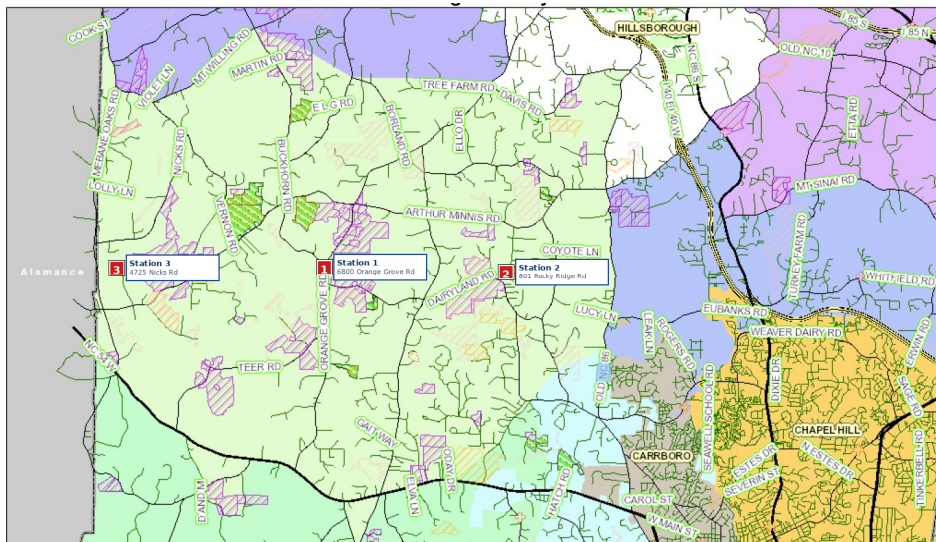
SECTION 01

Who We Are

District · Stations · Apparatus · Team

Our Fire District

Southwest Orange County — green area is the Orange Grove Fire District



60 sq mi
District Area

7,500
Residents

3 Stations
HQ + Rocky Ridge + Nicks Rd

50+ Years
Serving the Community

Source: Orange County GIS - orangecountync.gov/gis

The Numbers Behind Our Department



Key metrics that define our district, funding, and performance

\$1.62B

Total Assessed
Property Value

District properties protected

7¢

Fire Tax Rate
per \$100 Assessed

\$350/yr on a \$500K home

Class 5

NC Insurance
Fire (ISO) Rating

Next inspection May 2027

564

Emergency Calls
Per Year

Fires · EMS · Rescue · Hazmat

Budget Trending

2024-2025 \$ 956,796

2025-2026 \$ 1,198,598

2026-2027 \$ 1,180,224

As the operational cost increases, equipment & facility needs and staffing needs present themselves a tax increase should be expected. We are currently the second lowest tax rate district in county.

Call Responses for OGVFD 7/1/2025-6/30/2026



CALL VOLUME

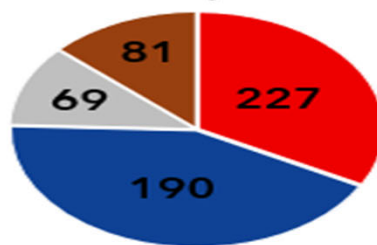
FIRE
304

EMS
263

TOTAL 567

RESPONSE

Demand By District



■ OGFD 1 ■ OGFD 2
■ OGFD 3 ■ AA/MMA

Average Response Time (from
time of dispatch to arrival of
OGFD unit/personnel)



OVERLAPPING CALLS

69
(12.16%)

Management & Staff

Career staff, command officers, and the board that governs the department

Command (Officers) Rankings

Position	ID	Personnel
Fire Chief	501	Ricky Baker
Assistant Chief	503	Daniel Snipes
Battalion Chiefs	505 / 506	Josh Hudson · Jacob Tutor
Captains	511–515	Greg Tilley · Bill Waddell · Scott Tutor · David Riggs
Lieutenants	521–523	Chris Daniel · Thomas Griggs · Dennis Kaebisch



Board of Directors

Daniel Snipes	President
Chris Daniel	Vice President
Scott Tutor	Secretary
Greg Bohlen	Treasurer
Richard Sykes	Member
Jamie Sykes	Member

Combination Department: OGFD operates with 3 career 11 parttime firefighters plus a corps of trained volunteers. The Chief appointed by the BOD Command Staff are selected/appointed by the Fire Chief. The cost to equip each volunteer (\$ 9,000) is fully covered by the department.

Fleet & Apparatus

12 pieces of apparatus and support vehicles distributed out of three stations

Engines	531 – 2024 F-550 1,250 gpm 300 gal (\$ 450,000) 532 – 2004 Spartan/Ferrara 1,250 gpm 1,000 gal 533 – 2018 Freightliner 1,250 gpm 1,000 gal 561 – 2021 Spartan Pumper/Tanker 1,500 gpm 1,000 gal (\$ 535,000)
Tankers	541 – 2016 Kenworth 1,000 gpm 2,000 gal 542 – 2010 Peterbilt 1,000 gpm 2,000 gal 543 – 1994 International 500 gpm 2,000 gal
Support & Command	551 – 2003 Ford F-350 Brush 100 gpm 100 gal 501-C – 2023 Chevy Tahoe (Administrative) 581 – 2026 F-150 QRV · 582 – 2019 F-150 QRV · 583 – 2014 F-150 Utility - Medic 8 – County EMS ambulance [12hour unit (based @ Station 1)]





SECTION 03

Successes & Challenges

What's working · What's ahead · What we need

Successes & Challenges

A look at where we stand — and what lies ahead



✓ Successes

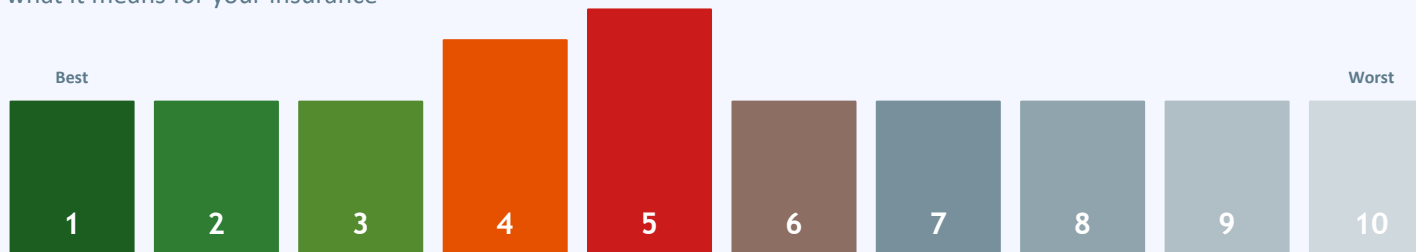
- Celebrating 50+ years serving southwest Orange County
- Three-station district
- Apparatus Fleet replacement continues
 - Replacement Engine 531 (2024 F-550) \$ 450,000
 - Replacement QRV 581 (2026 F-150)**(Historically the department has replaced large apparatus every 5 years)**
- Obtained ISO Class 5 four years ago and will be revaluated next year 2027
- Maintain a constant membership count a few in and a few leaving.
- Responded to over 500 request for assistance and it continues to increase yearly.
- Receive awards for our involvement live saving events annually.

⚠ Challenges

- Aging leadership & senior volunteers nearing retirement eligibility
- Volunteer recruitment increasingly difficult this has become a national trend
- Transition to paid staffing required to maintain the service demands & administrative workload over the next 5-10 years
- Station 2 building requires upgrade to support future operational needs for staffing
- Balancing the district needs at some point Station 3 operational needs will have to be addressed
- Planning for the future
- In the last 5 years the cost of apparatus doubled and personnel have increased by 30 %

Upcoming ISO Fire Rating Inspection 2027

what it means for your insurance



What Is the Fire Rating?

The NC Office of State Fire Marshal rates departments Class 1 (best) to Class 10. Ratings assess the fire department (50%), water supply (40%), and communications (10%). A better rating can reduce homeowners' insurance premiums. These assessments are now conducted in NC on a schedule of every 5 years.

Currently Why Are in the middle of the class 5 rating we are expecting to improve on the scoring scale

Our three-station coverage, updated apparatus (2024 Engine 531, 2021 Rescue 561), growing personnel, increase in training programs and improved district-wide water supply capabilities have positioned us for higher score in our next OSFM evaluation.

What It Means for Residents

Our Class 5 rating means meaningful savings on homeowners' insurance for properties within 5 road miles of a station. To improve the rating by multiple number reduction would require a large financial investment funded by tax rate for the district. Contact your insurance carrier to ask how reclassification affects your specific policy.

Workforce: Aging Volunteers & the Path Forward



A challenge shared nationwide — and our plan to address it

The Situation

Like many rural fire departments, OGFV faces a generational shift: our most experienced leaders and volunteers are approaching the 60+ year/20+ year service threshold qualifying them for retirement benefits. At the same time, volunteer recruitment has become increasingly competitive as community lifestyles change. Our demographics of our community is predominately older/retired members in the pocket communities throughout the district.

Leadership Succession

We are actively mentoring the next generation of officers. Our Assistant & Battalion Chiefs and the four Captains represent our pipeline. We are building depth at every command level. We support all our personnel in providing them the opportunities to take advanced training and certifications outside of the regular training provided in-house.

Volunteer Recruitment

We welcome new volunteers — firefighters, junior members (16–17), and support roles. Training and all equipment are fully covered. We are expanding outreach to attract new district residents. Every encounter we have with the community our officers are promoting the department and suggesting neighbors join the department.

Transition to additional Parttime/Paid Staff

Over the next several years, the department has and will gradually transition toward a staffing model that has worked for us in the past. We add personnel gradually as the service needs increase. Due to Stations 1 and 2 incident demands our planning would ensuring 24/7 coverage supplementing the volunteer availability. This action also reduces the apparatus deployment and response times in the district.



SECTION 04

Plans & Priorities

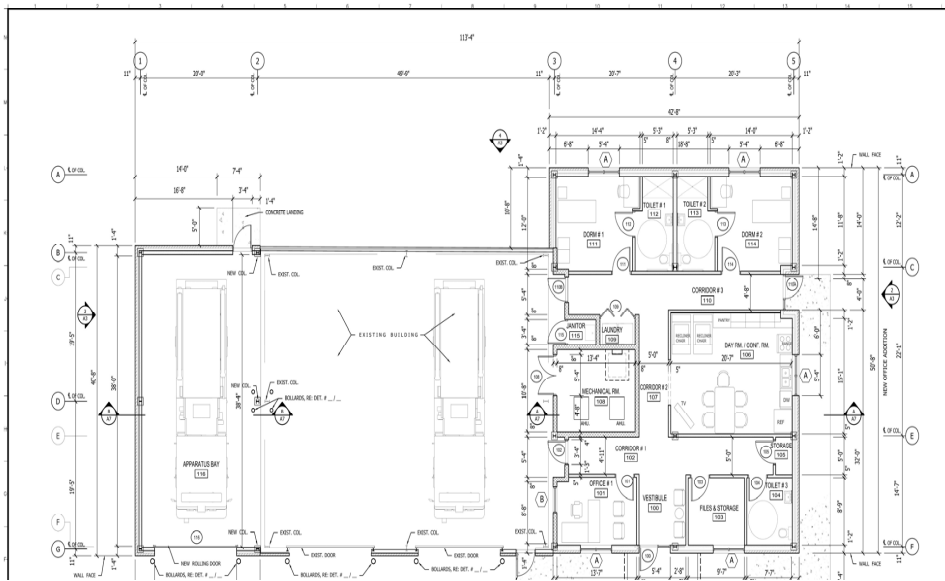
Station 2 Upgrade · Staffing Transition · Station 3

Architectural drawing of the front elevation (south) of a building. The drawing shows a long, low structure with a gabled roof on the left and a flat roof on the right. The left side features three large garage doors with blue horizontal stripes and a small sign above the middle one. The right side has a central entrance with a small portico supported by columns and two windows on either side. Various materials and colors are specified, such as "METAL COATING, DARK BRONZE" and "CAST STONE BAND, RE: DET. # 3 / A2". Dimensions are provided for heights and widths. A scale bar at the bottom indicates 1 inch equals 3 feet 16 inches.

Right side addition

Planned Station 2 Upgrade — Floor Plan

2,959 sq ft building addition · Preliminary design — not for construction



New Rooms

- 100 Vestibule
- 101 Office #1
- 103 Files & Storage
- 104 Toilet #3
- 106 Day Rm / Conf. Rm
- 107–110 Corridors
- 109 Laundry Room
- 111 Dorm Room #1
- 112 Toilet #1
- 113 Toilet #2
- 114 Dorm Room #2
- 115 Storage / Janitor
- 116 Apparatus Bay

Station 2 Upgrade — Bid Results & Project Status



Bid opening March 12, 2026 · Three responsive bids received

Station 2 — 6801 Rocky Ridge Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278 · Addition: approx. 2,959 sq ft

Bidder	Location	Base Bid	Completion	Status
Central Builders, Inc.	Mebane, NC	\$1,649,000	240 days	LOW BID ✓
Stonewall Construction	Burlington, NC	\$1,777,200	260 days	Responsive
H.M. Kern Construction	Greensboro, NC	\$2,055,200	300 days	Responsive
Engineered Construction	Raleigh, NC	—	—	Non-Responsive
Tungsten LLC	Myrtle Beach, SC	—	—	Non-Responsive

Project Status

- Low bidder: Central Builders, Inc. of Mebane — \$1,649,000
- Permitting in progress · Est. 10-month construction
- Target completion: Early 2028

Funding Plan

- Orange County Bond Funding — up to \$1.7M (board-approved Oct. 2025)
- Remaining balance: dept. reserves / supplemental funding
- No special county-wide vote required for bond inclusion



SECTION 06

Get Involved

Volunteer · Community Events · Stay Connected

Get Involved — We Need You

Many ways to support OGFD — you don't have to fight fires to make a difference

Become a Firefighter

Must be 18+. Pass physical & background check. We cover all NC OSFM-certified training and equipment (\$9,000). Junior program for ages 16–17.

Apply: ogfire.org/join/volunteer

Auxiliary Members

Support the department through events, fundraising, administrative support, and community outreach. A vital part of our department family.

Contact: Fire Chief
Ph: 919-967-5858
Email: chief@ogfire.org

Office & Tech Help

Website, social media, grant writing, photography, etc. We welcome community members with skills to share.

Contact: Fire Chief
Ph: 919-967-5858
Email: chief@ogfire.org



Community Events

- Annual Country Breakfast — Station 1 Held at the Cane Creek Activity Center (typically spring and fall)
- Board Meetings — 3rd Thursday, odd months, 6 PM - public welcome
- Annual Community Meeting - 3rd Monday each July
- Station tours available - call (919) 967-5858 to schedule
- Other events are scheduled and posted on Facebook, website, & station 1 yard sign

Stay Connected

 Info@ogfire.org
 (919) 967-5858
 ogfire.org
 Facebook: @OGFD1

[Add mailing list / QR code]



Thank You for Your Support

"Zero Lives Lost. Zero Property Damage."

"A Few Serving Many"

Station 1 (HQ):	(919) 967-5858 · 6800 Orange Grove Rd, Hillsborough	Website:	ogfire.org
Email:	Info@ogfire.org	Facebook:	@OGFD1