Burke County Rescue Squad

2025 Operations & Community Impact Report



Serving Burke County Through Emergency Medical Services and Technical Rescue

Who we are
100% Volunteer Emergency Response Non-Profit Organization 501(c)(3)

- **Burke Rescue provides:**
- Technical rescue services
- Emergency medical response
- Search and rescue operations
- Swiftwater rescue
- Vehicle extrication
- EMS system support
- Serving Burke County 24/7 with trained volunteers and specialized rescue equipment.



Advanced Medical Capabilities
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
Provider Level Achieved
Obtained AEMT provider status through NCOEMS.

- **This allows Burke Rescue:**
- Advanced life support capabilities
- Expanded medical treatment options
- Improved patient care during emergencies
- Enhanced integration with BCEMS system plans and protocols



Burke Rescue Credentialed Services

NC Association of Rescue & EMS Credentialed Provider

Current Credentialed Capabilities:

- Heavy Vehicle Rescue
- High Angle Rope Rescue
- Low Angle Rope Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue
- Surface Water Rescue
- Rescue Ambulance Provider

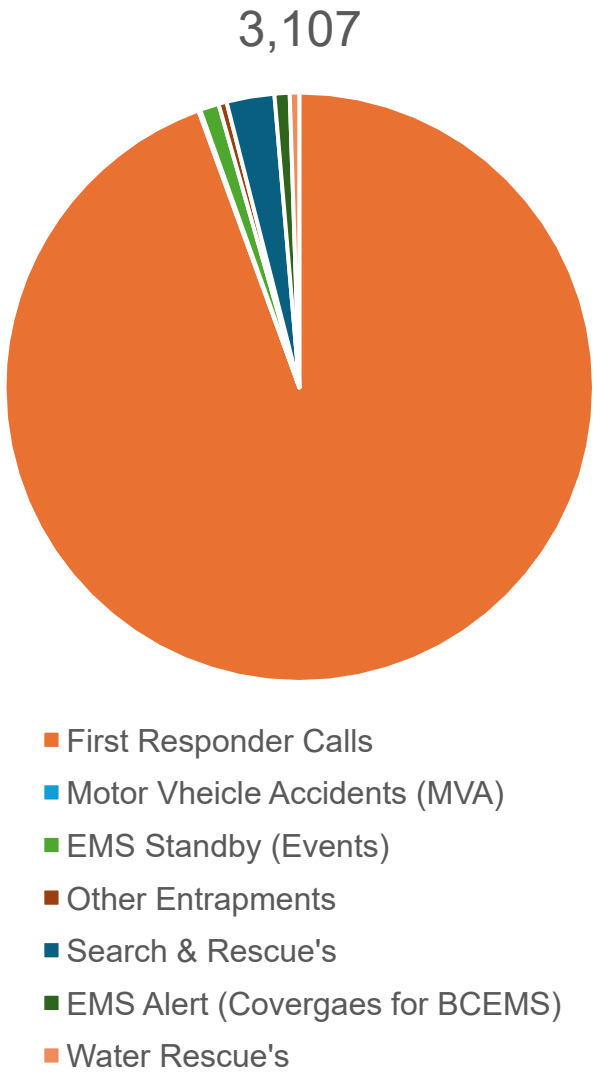
Expanding Rescue Capabilities

Currently awaiting inspections for:

- Mountain & Alpine Rescue
- Wilderness Search & Rescue
- Medical First Responder

2025 Response Statistics 3,107 Total Calls for Service

Burke Rescue continues to play a critical role supporting the Burke County EMS system during high call volumes and staffing shortages.



Strengthening Membership & Training
New Membership Committee & Training Standards

Implemented:

- Structured application process
- Formal interviews
- Required rescue and EMS training
- Competency-based release process

Goal:

- Create highly capable responders with strong foundations in:
  - Technical rescue
  - Emergency medicine
  - Operational safety



Regional Training Leadership

Vehicle Extraction Training Weekend

Hosted county and regional responders for:

- Light vehicle rescue
- Heavy vehicle rescue
- Hands-on extrication scenarios



10,000+ Training Hours in 2025

Training included:

- EMT & Paramedic education
- Rope rescue
- Swiftwater rescue
- Technical rescue disciplines
- [illegible]s





Grants & Investments Secured

Over $130,000 in Grants Obtained Since January 2025

Equipment acquired:

- Polaris UTV with patient transport unit
- Utility trailer
- Zoll X Series cardiac monitor
- 2 Air gas monitors
- 3 Lightweight stokes baskets
- 2 MCI medical response bags
- New life safety ropes & harnesses
- Rope rescue hardware
- Heavy rescue air bag system
- Arxtryx rain gear for all members

Burke Rescue actively pursues outside funding to reduce the burden on county taxpayers.



Community Support & Donations
Generous Support from Local Businesses & Citizens

Donated equipment includes:

- 2 Swiftwater rescue boats
- Mini excavator
- Motorized stokes basket wheel
- Generators

This equipment has already been deployed on emergency incidents and has directly contributed to lifesaving operations within Burke County.

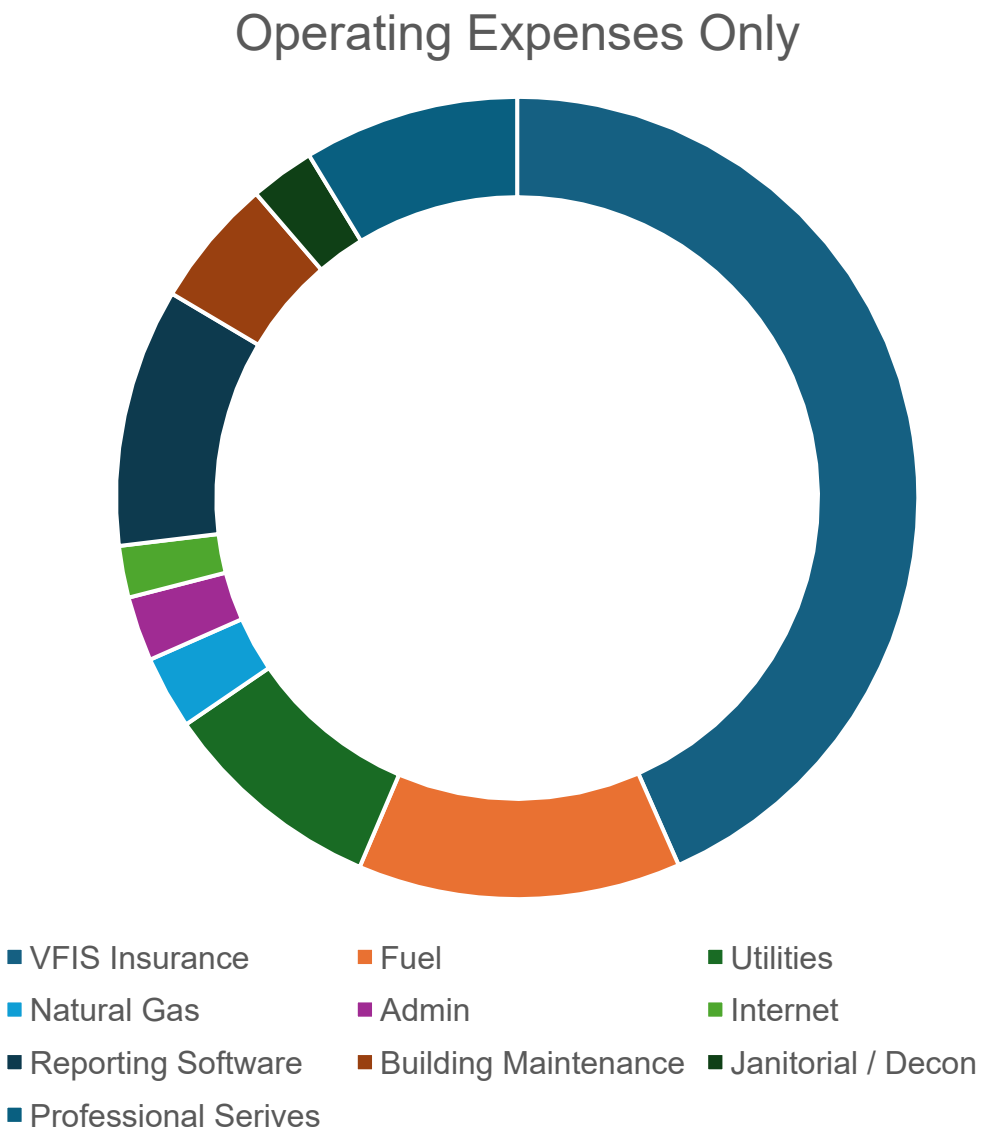
Financial Challenges Rising Operational Costs

Key challenges:

- Insurance costs increasing 10%
- Annual insurance approaching $28,000
- Insurance and vehicle loans consume nearly 50% of annual allotment

Every dollar received is reinvested into:

- Personnel
- Training
- Equipment
- Emergency vehicles
- Operational readiness



Critical Need: Portable Radios

Motorola APX 7000 Radios

Need:

- 20 additional radios

Current progress:

- County partnership replaced mobile VIPER radios
- 15 handheld radios replaced
- Burke Rescue purchased 10 additional units

Remaining need:

- 20 radios
- Approximate cost: $36,000

Why it matters:
Reliable communications are essential for responde
safety and coordinated emergency operations.



Critical Need: Replacement Ambulance

Replacement for 99 Medic 1

Current unit:

- 1998 Ford F350 4x4 Ambulance
- Only county backup ambulance

Used for:

- EMS Alerts
- Mass casualty incidents
- Fire & law enforcement standbys
- Large public events
- Extended incidents



Challenges:
Aging vehicle
Frequent repairs
End of service life approaching

Request:
Support replacing or donating a unit with a low-mileage used 4x4 ambulance

Estimated cost:

$80,000–$100,000

Critical Need: Part-Time Staffing

Improving Emergency Response Availability

Burke Rescue currently operates:

- 100% volunteer staffing
- Personnel availability-based response

Request:
County assistance funding:

- 80 hours/week of part-time staffing

Estimated annual cost:

Approximately $90,000

Benefits:

- Faster response times
- Increased reliability
- Improved county coverage
- Better support for BCEMS and fire departments



Future Facility Needs

Property & Station Expansion

Current situation:

- 4-bay station on leased property
- Multiple vehicles and trailers stored outside
- Equipment exposed to weather

Need:

- Property acquisition assistance
- Future rescue station development
- More centralized response location

Benefits:

- Protect county assets
- Improve response times
- Expand operational capability
- Support future county growth



100% Volunteer. 100% Committed to Burke County.

- 3,107 calls for service in 2025
- Continued support of Burke County EMS during critical staffing shortages
- Expanded advanced medical and technical rescue capabilities
- Over 10,000 training hours completed by volunteer members
- More than $130,000 in grant funding secured for lifesaving equipment

- **Burke Rescue remains committed to:**
- Rapid emergency response
- Professional training and preparedness
- Responsible stewardship of county resources
- Protecting the citizens and visitors of Burke County

Burke Rescue Thanks' You for Your Continued Support

Professional • Prepared • Ready to Respond