

# New Fire Truck Arrives In North Wilkesboro

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The North Wilkesboro Fire Department received a brand new ladder fire truck on Thursday, Jan. 19.

This truck is now the flagship vehicle for the department thanks to the foresight of the late Jimmy Martin, the former North Wilkesboro Fire Chief who died on Nov. 30, 2022.

Martin had a grant written to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) which covered \$1 million of the \$1.4 million fire truck. Martin also went to the North Wilkesboro Town Board of Commissioners and persuaded them to agree to pay the rest of the cost.

The Town of North Wilkesboro is making plans to dedicate the truck to Martin at a later date.

The new truck replaces a 1987 model ladder fire truck, said Assistant North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Daniel Brown in an interview with *The Wilkes Record*. The old truck will be sold, he added.

The truck was delivered to the North Wilkesboro Fire Station on Thursday morning from Greensboro. It was built by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wis., Brown said.

He added that it took about a year and a half to get the new truck once the financing was approved.

Brown said the new ladder truck has many equipment and technological upgrades.

On Thursday evening, the new truck was parked at the Yadkin Valley MarketPlace on the CBD Loop in Downtown North Wilkesboro.

With the lights all blaring in the dark of night, it was an impressive sight with the extended 100-foot ladder lit up in red, white and blue.

Brown said that a representative from Pierce Manufacturing will come to the fire station next week and conduct a three-day training session on the usage of the new truck.