



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 14, 2025**

## **Warren County Fire Departments Unite Under One System to Enhance Countywide Fire Protection**

Bowling Green, KY —

In a landmark step toward modernizing and strengthening emergency services, the Warren County Fire Department System proudly announces that, effective September 1, 2025, all nine volunteer fire departments serving Warren County will merge into a single, unified structure: the **Warren County Fire Department**.

This historic consolidation is the result of a coordinated, strategic effort aimed at improving fire protection, streamlining operations, and ensuring consistent, high-quality service delivery to all residents of Warren County. With guidance from the Kentucky Fire Commission, the merger has been thoroughly reviewed and confirmed to meet all legal and administrative standards required by state and local regulations.

“This is a monumental step forward,” said Judge Executive Doug Gorman. “It reflects our unwavering commitment to keeping the citizens of Warren County at the forefront of every decision we make.”

### **Leadership and Oversight**

The success of this initiative reflects the steadfast leadership and vision of the Warren County Fiscal Court, led by Judge Executive Doug Gorman, along with Magistrates Tom Lawrence, Scott Lasley, Eric Aldridge, Rex McWhorter, Rick Williams, and Ron Cummings. Their support for innovation and public safety has made this transformation possible. Key administrative roles were also instrumental, including Deputy Judge Executive Bryan Downing and County Attorney Amy Hale Chandler, who have helped shape the legal and governance framework of the new department.

As part of the transition:

- Bill Rector has been appointed as the first Warren County Fire Chief.
- Michael Alden will serve as the first Warren County Deputy Fire Chief.

These appointments, effective September 1, 2025, will provide strong and experienced leadership as the new department begins operations.

In support of this new leadership structure, the Warren County Fiscal Court has established an Executive Steering Committee to advise and assist in shaping the department’s future. This committee will provide recommendations and considerations to the Fire Chief on the creation and implementation of policy, helping ensure that operational standards reflect the diverse needs, concerns, and priorities of communities from all corners of Warren County.

### **A Unified Yet Local Approach**

Under the new structure, the Warren County Fiscal Court will serve as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)—replacing the oversight of individual department boards of directors with a centralized administrative system. This reorganization will enable improvements in:

- Countywide fire/rescue operations
- Training standards
- Emergency response coordination



Importantly, while the organizational structure is evolving, the identity and legacy of each local department will be preserved. Firehouse and truck names will remain unchanged, maintaining the deep community roots and heritage of each station.

“This merger honors the legacy and ongoing contributions of our volunteers,” Judge Executive Gorman stated. “It simply provides the structure and oversight needed to elevate our collective impact countywide.”

**Continued Commitment to Volunteer Service**

The transition does not alter the essential role of volunteer firefighters, whose dedication, courage, and service remain the foundation of fire protection in Warren County. The new unified system ensures they are better supported, trained, and equipped—enabling them to serve their communities more effectively than ever before.

The Warren County Fiscal Court and the newly unified Warren County Fire Department remain committed to working transparently with community stakeholders to ensure accountability, excellence, and citizen-focused service delivery.

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