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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Begins on New Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management Base

Haywood County broke ground Wednesday on a new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Management base. The new building enables the co-location on the same campus of most of the county's public safety entities, including: the Sheriff's Office, all EMS Administration, Emergency Management and 911. The building will serve as quarters for the (2) Waynesville EMS ambulances. This will enhance cooperation and communications amongst these agencies.

Emergency Services Director, Jim Pressley, who will retire this year, was presented with a "golden" shovel autographed by county employees and the county commissioners. Pressley has worked for the county since 1991; for the last nine years he has served as the EMS Director. Recounting the long road to reach the groundbreaking, Pressley noted "this (facility) is much more than a simple building with offices, bays and living quarters. It is a representation of the patients that we care for every day, the support we receive from the County Administration and the County Commissioners, the paramedics that learn, work and grow together, and most importantly, the community that we serve."

Haywood County's Emergency Medical Services was formed in 1968. The current EMS base was built in the 1950s and was originally a North Carolina Department of Transportation maintenance facility. This facility is small and outdated. The new building will have 5 ambulance bays and 6 bays to house emergency response equipment including command post trailers, generator and hazardous materials support truck. Currently the EMS has insufficient space to store ambulances.

The county's Emergency Management department was formed after the tragic events of September 11, 2001 to integrate emergency management throughout county plans and operations. Emergency Management is the primary link between the local community and state and federal emergency management agencies. Emergency Management includes the Incident Management Team (IMT) that responds to assist in major emergencies, including search and rescue and the Local Emergency Planning Committee that coordinates all plans, training activities and exercises.

Photo Captions:

File: breakingground 5 25 2016.jpg

From left to right:

Commissioner Michael Sorrells

Commissioner Kevin Ensley

Director of Emergency Management, Greg Shuping

Chairman of the County Commissioners, Mark Swanger

Director of Emergency Medical Services, Jim Pressley

Vice Chairman of the County Commissioners Kirk Kirkpatrick

Marty Stamey, Senior Operations Director, Haywood Regional Medical Center

Julie Davis, Haywood County Director of Finance

Scott Donald, PFA Architects

John Burgin, Burgin Construction

Ira Dove, Haywood County Manager

File: shovel award 5 25 2016.jpg

Dale Burris, Director Haywood County Facilities and Maintenance presents Jim Pressley, Director of Emergency Medical Services with a “golden” shovel to see him into retirement.

File:Haywood County Ready to Serve.jpg

Haywood County Ready to Serve You!

From left to right: Ben Clawson, Kevin Davis, Stan Coggins, Kerry Pless, Aaron Mason, Duane Evans, Jim Pressley, Courtney Best, Brian Krowicki, Clay Bryson, Johnny Reece, Heather Hunter,Bradley Jowers, Travis Donaldson, Ira Dove

File Chairman Swanger.jpg

Chairman Mark Swanger welcomes guests to the groundbreaking.

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