



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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ROANOKE COUNTY DEDICATES NEW FLEET SERVICE FACILITY

ROANOKE COUNTY, VA (Oct 29, 2009) – Roanoke County dedicated a new Fleet Service Center today as part of a cooperative agreement with the Western Virginia Water Authority (“Authority”). The new, 23,600-square foot facility, located at 5235 Hollins Road in North Roanoke County, is situated on a nine-acre site and features eight heavy equipment truck bays, six bays for cars and light-duty trucks, a parts room, tire storage, bulk fluids, administrative offices, and customer waiting area.

Roanoke County has been servicing the Authority’s vehicles since the Authority’s inception in 2004. Combined, the two entities have over 800 vehicles. The growing fleet – which also includes vehicles from other agencies, such as the Western Virginia Regional Jail, the Western Virginia EMS Council, Roanoke Valley Television, and the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority – has stretched the current facility in downtown Salem to its limit and available space is well below industry standards for a fleet of the size serviced by the County. The new Fleet Service Center replaces the existing garage, which has only four bays and required some work to be performed in the parking lot or sent to outside vendors costing time and money.

This \$7.7 million, state-of-the-art vehicle service facility will be the County’s first LEED-certified “green building,” with sustainable features that include extensive natural lighting, computerized light and HVAC control, water efficient landscaping, a white roof for reduced heat island effect, and recycled content building materials, to name a few. All of the vehicle waste oil will be recycled on site for use in heating the building, dramatically reducing utility costs. The project is being funded through a combination of upfront capital contributions from the County and the Water Authority; bonds will be repaid through fees charged to user departments.

In addition to servicing highly visible vehicles, such as Roanoke County’s Fire and Rescue ambulances and ladder trucks, police cruisers, and trash trucks, the Service Center will also make sure that the other vehicles that serve Roanoke County citizens – such as Water Authority trucks, hybrids used by Community Development and the Authority, and vans that take library books from branch to branch – are kept in good working order.

Given the spacious, modern work bays and plentiful parking on site, it is expected that the new facility will meet the needs of Roanoke County and the Water Authority for the next 20 years.

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