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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fauquier County Moves Fire Rescue Employees to a 42-Hour Work Week**

Fauquier County is moving forward with a transition from a 48-hour to a 42-hour work week for Fire Rescue System employees. This strengthens the department's ability to recruit and retain fire rescue technicians and supports the long-term health, safety, and well-being of our personnel who serve our community every day. The new work schedule will allow Fauquier County Fire Rescue to meet the demands of the community.

County Administrator Janelle Downes noted that this transition reflects steady teamwork across County Administration, Human Resources, and Fire Rescue leadership. "We have been working closely with Chief Smith and his team to find the right path forward," Downes said. "A 42-hour schedule improves our ability to recruit and retain high-quality team members while supporting their health and safety."

Fire Rescue Chief Kalvyn Smith shared that the new schedule supports both employees and daily operations. "This is the right move for our people," Smith said. "By partnering with County Administration, we found a solution that reduces fatigue, supports long-term wellness, and brings more stability to our staffing model. Realigning overtime funds helps us sustain this work and continue building a strong department."

Vice-Chairman and Public Safety Committee Member Rick Gerhardt said, "If we want a fire rescue system that protects both our community and the people who serve it, we must be willing to innovate. Creating a healthier, more sustainable schedule for our staff isn't just the right thing to do - it's a smart, cost-efficient investment in long-term readiness, retention, and public safety. And we're doing this with no increase in cost to the taxpayer, which is something we wholeheartedly applaud."

The transition reflects a shared commitment to supporting Fire Rescue personnel and strengthening the services they provide. The shift will be implemented late in 2026. As details are finalized, the County will share updates with employees and the community.

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