

CHAPTER EIGHT : GOVERNMENT

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A. COUNTY AND TOWN GOVERNMENTS

The governing bodies of Warren County and the Town of Front Royal are planning ahead for the orderly development of public facilities and services in anticipation of tremendous growth within the Shenandoah Valley. The population of Warren County calculated in 2015 was 39,083. It is estimated that in 2007 there were over 80,000 persons residing within a 10-mile radius of Front Royal.

1. Warren County

Warren County is divided into five magisterial districts (Happy Creek, Shenandoah, Fork, North River and South River), each of which elects one representative. Collectively, the representatives form the Board of Supervisors, which is charged with directing policies governing the affairs of the County. A County Administrator oversees and implements these policies. Front Royal is the county seat.

The County also has a planning commission, industrial site plan approval, and zoning regulations.

County Administrator's Office
(540) 636-4600
www.warrencountyva.net

2. Front Royal

The Town of Front Royal is administered by a Mayor/Council/Manager form of government. The Mayor and six councilmen are elected at-large and, in turn, appoint a Town Manager who serves as administrative head of the government.

Front Royal also has a planning commission, industrial site plan approval, and zoning regulations.

Town Manager's Office
(540) 635-8007
www.frontroyalva.com

3. Planning District Commission

Both Front Royal and Warren County are members of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning District includes the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren, The Town of Front Royal and the City of Winchester.

Headquartered in Front Royal, the Commission is actively developing programs designed to ease problems usually associated with rapid population growth, as well as providing data and

technical assistance to its member jurisdictions. Supported by local and state funds, the Lord Fairfax PDC has a full-time staff and is comprised of a planning and advisory board, charged with helping member governments toward efficient development of physical, social, and economic facilities. Both the County and the Town send one elected and one appointed member (a total of four area representatives) to serve on the Commission.

B. WARREN COUNTY OFFICIALS

Board of Supervisors

Linda Glavis, (Chairwoman) *South River District*
Archie Fox, (Vice-Chairman) *Fork District*
Tony Carter, *Happy Creek District*
Dan Murray, *North River District*
Tom Sayre, *Shenandoah District*

County Administrator

Doug Stanley

Deputy County Administrator

Robert Childress

County Attorney

Dan Whitten

Commonwealth's Attorney

Brian Madden

Clerk of Circuit Court

Darryl Funk

Building Inspector

David Beahm

Sheriff

Daniel T. McEathron

Treasurer

Wanda F. Bryant

Commissioner of Revenue

Sherry Sours

Superintendent of Schools

Greg Drescher

Director of Social Services

Elizabeth Reavis

Planning & Zoning

Taryn Logan, Planning Director

C. FRONT ROYAL OFFICIALS

Mayor

Timothy Darr

Town Council

Hollis Tharpe
Bret Hrbek
Gene Tewalt
Bebhinn Egger
Jacob Meza
John Connolly

Town Manager

Steve Burke

Town Attorney

Doug Napier

Chief of Police

Norman Shifflett

Director of Planning & Zoning

Jeremy Camp

Director of Public Works

Jimmy Hannigan, Acting Director

D. WARREN COUNTY GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

(For Year Ended June 30 2015)

WARREN COUNTY

LOCAL EXPENDITURES (\$)

	2015 <u>Expend</u>
General Government Administration:	\$3,123,371
Judicial Administration:	\$1,611,596
Public Safety:	\$13,680,856
Public Works:	\$4,057,917
Health and Welfare:	\$6,313,085
Education:	\$21,384,895
Parks, Recreation & Cultural:	\$3,410,727
Community Development:	\$1,055,488
Non-Departmental	\$269,080
Capital Outlay	\$7,188,644
Total:	\$62,095,659

Source: www.warrencountyva.net

E. FRONT ROYAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

(For Year Ended June 30 2015)

FRONT ROYAL

LOCAL EXPENDITURES (\$)

	<u>Total 2015</u>
General Government:	\$3,610,966
Public Safety:	\$4,256,684
Engineering & Public Works:	\$2,152,085
Planning & Zoning:	\$720,592
Parks & Recreation:	\$22,344
Interest on long-term debt:	\$-0-
Infrastructure Depreciation:	\$3,591,094
Electric:	\$15,469,985
Water:	\$3,075,201
Sewer:	\$3,186,205
Solid Waste Management:	\$929,685
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:	\$37,014,801

Source: www.frontroyalva.com

F. POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION

1. Crime

County Population in 2014	37,575
Town of Front Royal Population in 2014	15,038
Land Area (square miles)	214
Water Area (square miles)	2.6
Population Density	176
White Non-Hispanic Percentage	90.9%
Afro-American Percentage	4.6%
Hispanic Percentage	3.5%
Median Resident Age	40.0
Per Capita Personal Income (2015)	\$29,160
Murders in 2014	0
Rapes in 2014	107
Robberies in 2014	27
Assaults in 2014	20
Burglaries in 2014	127
Thefts in 2014	2,552
Auto Thefts in 2014	120

In 2014, overall crime statistic for Front Royal-Warren County was 85.3%, 14.64% lower than the National Average.

2. Police

Three police agencies serve Warren County citizens according to place of residence. The citizens of Front Royal are protected primarily by the Front Royal Police Department. The Warren County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction in the Town as well as the County, but concentrates on providing protection in the rural areas. The Virginia State Police have State-wide law enforcement powers and can be called when needed by both the Town and County agencies.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office is headquartered in Front Royal. The Sheriff has a full-time staff of 36 patrol deputies, 4 animal control deputies, 2 canines, 4 school resource deputies, 2 D.A.R.E. deputies, 3 auxiliary deputies, 26 corrections deputies, 2 court house security deputies, 11 dispatchers and 5 administrative support employees. The Warren County Sheriff's Office has 26 part-time employees. The office has a fleet of 54 vehicles.

The Front Royal Police Department consists of a chief, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 administrative assistant, 2 records clerks, 33 full-time officers, 1 crime prevention specialist, 1 chief dispatcher, 8 dispatchers, 2 school crossing guards. It has 26 radio dispatched police vehicles.

Eight State Troopers are assigned to Warren County. Their services may be obtained through the Sheriff's Department. Their duties include patrolling roads, handling traffic problems, and responding to accidents.

3. Fire and Rescue Service

Nine fire departments provide fire and rescue services in Front Royal and Warren County. More than 207 volunteers are active in the fire and rescue departments.

The Front Royal Volunteer Fire Company has 4 paid personnel. Its equipment consists of four pumpers, two ladder trucks, a brush truck, a heavy crash truck, a rescue boat, and three ambulances.

The Rivermont Company is located in the Fork District. Its equipment consists of two pumpers, a brush truck, a tanker, a rescue boat and an ambulance.

The South Warren Company is located in Bentonville and operates the Browntown Sub-Station. Its equipment includes three pumpers, two brush trucks, a tanker, a rescue boat and an ambulance.

The Linden Company primarily serves the eastern part of the County. Its equipment includes two pumpers, a tanker, an attack unit, a brush unit and an ambulance.

The Shenandoah Shores Company primarily serves the Shenandoah Shores subdivision. Its equipment includes two engines, a tanker, a brush unit, a mobile unit and an ambulance.

The Shenandoah Farms Company primarily serves the Shenandoah Farms subdivision. Its equipment consists of a pumper, a pumper/tanker, a brush truck, a rescue boat and an ambulance.

The Conservation Center Fire Brigade is located in Warren County. Its equipment consists of a brush truck and a pumper/tanker.

The Fortsmouth Company is located in the northern end of Fort Valley. Its equipment includes a pumper and an ambulance.

The Chester Gap Company serves the southern part of the county. Its equipment consists of two pumpers, a brush truck, a tanker and an ambulance.

The North Warren Volunteer Fire and Rescue station serves the northern corridor of the Route 522 residential and industrial sectors. Its equipment consists of a Seagraves pumper (1200 gals/minute); one Pierce brush truck (350 gals/minute); and one ambulance.

4. Public Safety Building

The 44,370 square foot facility, located on Skyline Vista Drive across from Skyline High School, houses the Sheriff's Office and Department of Fire and Rescue Services. The public areas of the building include the main building lobby, the Fire and Rescue Services waiting

room, and when permitted, a community meeting room and training room. Warren County's E911 operations are located in the facility and its associated radio tower are housed on site. The Sheriff's Office contains individual suites for Administration, Investigations, Patrol, and Animal Control. The facility also provides report and briefing rooms, locker rooms, and support spaces to allow for more efficient operation.

The Public Safety Building was designed by Moseley Architects and comes with a construction price tag of \$10,549,000. With the project's furniture, communications equipment, and architectural and engineering fees the total cost comes to \$15,252,444. The project was funded through a combination of cash (\$7.0 million) the County received as part of going to twice-a-year billing and leftover funds from the 2009 financing of the Warren County Middle School improvements (\$7.5 million). The project was put out to bid in June with the winning proposal coming from Neilson Builders. The project includes LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification from the United States Green Building Council.

5. Regional Jail

The new RSW Regional Jail is located on Winchester Road, Route 340/522 approximately 3 miles north of Interstate 66 in Warren County, Virginia. The jail serves the counties of Warren, Rappahannock, and Shenandoah, and will initially have capacity for 375 inmates. The jail contains cells and dormitories to house inmates and has support space which includes food service, laundry, intake and release, medical services, recreation and education, central storage, visitation, magistrate, administration, and staff services. An initial staffing plan for the 375 bed jail has approximately 95 employees in the building each day covering shifts for the 24 hour facility.

Utilizing a modern design approach and incorporating similar materials used on surrounding structures, care was utilized to break up the mass of the front façade of the building in order to provide a pleasing architectural design that will complement the Highway Overlay District zoning by providing a commercial building appearance. The building is planned to have one and two level areas, with a total gross square footage of approximately 175,000 square feet.

The jail pursued LEED certification with the US Green Building Council, and is designed to implement high performance and sustainable features including water saving systems.