



CHESHIRE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Rejoining the NHAC Corrections Academy

Restoring statewide training continuity and Group II retirement for CCDOC officers

August 2026

Refresher: NHRS Group I vs. Group II

The New Hampshire Retirement System classifies every public employee into one of two groups, each with its own contribution rates, retirement eligibility, and benefit formula.

GROUP I

Employee & Teacher

- General state, county, municipal employees and teachers
- Employee contribution: 7.0% of pay
- Full service retirement at age 60–65, depending on hire date
- Pension $\approx$ 1.5–1.7% of average final compensation per year of service

GROUP II

Police & Fire

- Permanent police and fire positions with hazardous-duty demands
- Employee contribution: 11.55% of pay (police)
- Retire at age 52.5 with 25 years of Group II service, or at age 60
- Pension $\approx$ 2.0%+ of average final compensation per year of service

Under RSA 100-A, “permanent policeman” explicitly includes correctional line personnel who work inside a facility in close daily contact with prisoners and hold security responsibility.



Training: A Decade In-House

The 2015 decision

- CCDOC separated from the NHAC Corrections Academy and built its own in-house training academy.
- The goal: maintain a high standard of training, ensure officers were prepared for their roles, and promote officer success.
- At the time, CCDOC's in-house program was comparable to the NHAC Academy's.

Eleven years later

- Corrections has continued to evolve, demanding that training adapt to new challenges, standards, and practices.
- CCDOC has worked to keep its training current — but operating apart from the other county departments now significantly limits its ability to match the training they receive.
- **Rejoining the NHAC Corrections Academy restores continuity of training for county corrections statewide.**

Retirement: The Case for Group II

The 2015 separation also moved CCDOC officers out of Group II and into Group I — a change felt in every hiring conversation since.



The job demands it

Officers work long, mandatory hours, miss holidays and family events, respond to emergencies, manage people in crisis, and at times deliver life-saving medical intervention — sustained physical, emotional, and psychological demands the average career never asks.



Group II is the competitive standard

Group II retirement recognizes those demands and is a decisive incentive for anyone weighing a corrections career.



CCDOC stands alone

CCDOC is the only county corrections department in New Hampshire not in Group II — a significant disadvantage in both recruitment and retention.



CHESHIRE COUNTY · FLEET FUEL ANALYSIS

Fuel Costs Are Up Sharply Since February

Average price per gallon paid across county departments,
February – June 2026.

\$17,860

in added fuel costs since February
(March–June 2026), as the average price per
gallon climbed 51%

\$2.68

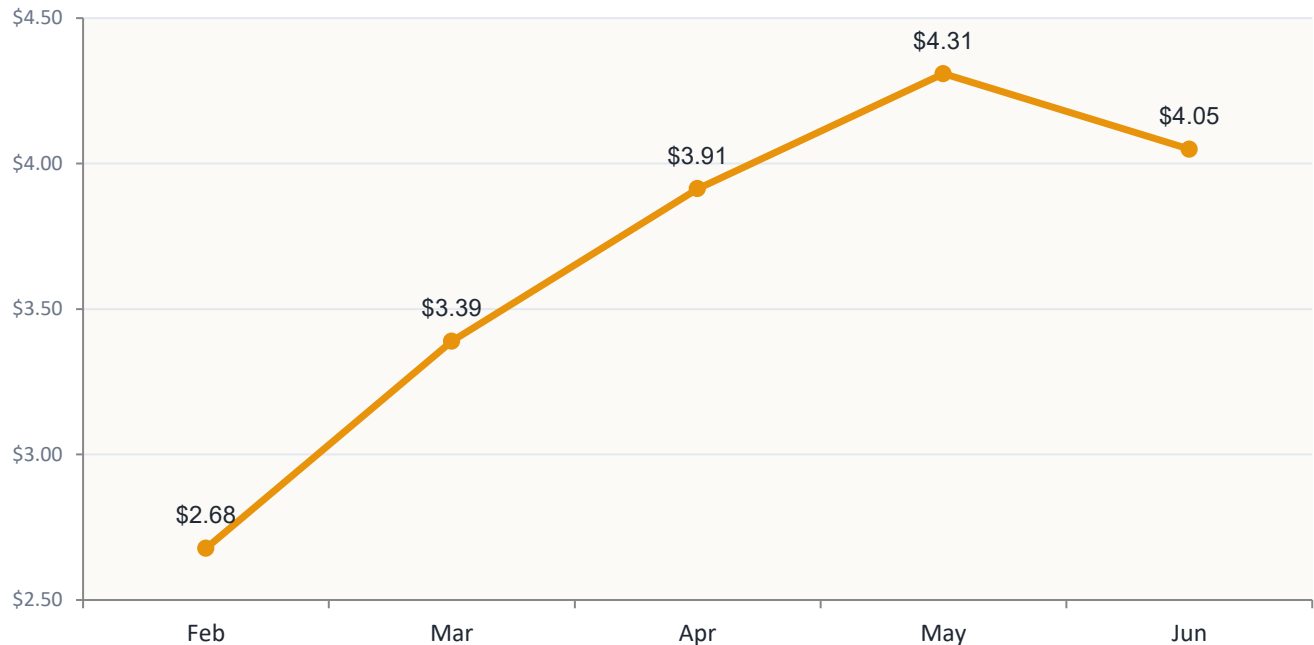
Feb /gal

\$4.05

June /gal

A Steep Climb From February, Easing Slightly in June

Monthly average price per gallon paid by Cheshire County departments



What changed

February: the low point at \$2.68 per gallon.

Through May: climbed to a \$4.31 peak.

June: eased to \$4.05, still above February.

Added cost: ~\$17,860 since February.

About this data WEX fuel-card charges across four county departments — EMS, MNH, Sheriff, and DOC. **WEX provides the County with tax-exempt fuel, saving roughly 15¢ per gallon.** Average price per gallon by month, February – June 2026.

What This Means for the County

Higher pump prices flow straight into the operating budgets of every department that runs on fuel.



Sheriff's Department

Patrol cruisers on the road every shift, covering the county around the clock.



Cheshire County EMS

Ambulances responding to emergencies countywide — engines running on every call.



Maplewood Nursing Home

A transport van and facility vehicles that keep residents and daily operations moving.



Department of Corrections

Transport vans carrying individuals in custody to Concord and across state lines.



CHESHIRE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Pursuing Rural Health Transformation Funding

Cheshire County's active applications under New Hampshire's GO-NORTH initiative

County Delegation & Community Briefing | August 2026

What Are GO-NORTH & Rural Health Transformation?

- The federal Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program invests \$50 billion nationwide over five years (2026–2030) through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- New Hampshire created GO-NORTH — the Governor’s Office of New Opportunities & Rural Transformational Health — to administer the state’s five-pillar plan:

Healthcare Access • Population Health • Workforce • Technology • Financial Sustainability

- Funding is awarded one budget period at a time and must be invested within that period — a “use it or lose it” structure that rewards ready projects.
- CDFA administers the Rural Community Health Infrastructure Program (RCHIP) — the channel for Cheshire County’s applications.

\$204M+

awarded to NH for 2026 — the largest RHT award in New England

\$200M / yr

requested by NH annually across the five-year program

\$40M+ / yr

deployed by CDFA for rural health infrastructure projects



Cheshire County EMS — Rural Health Transformation

\$2.0M

requested for frontline
EMS technology

Pre-application submitted
July 30, 2026

Serving all 23 municipalities



Hospital-level care at the patient's side

Replaces end-of-life cardiac monitors/defibrillators, transport ventilators, rugged tablets, point-of-care diagnostics, and a frontline ambulance — the 2022 launch equipment is aging out all at once.



Resilient communications & emergency power

Upgraded dispatch consoles, portable radios, incident command technology, and backup generators keep response running through disasters and prolonged outages.



Workforce pipeline

Simulation-based training technology supports the Cheshire Regional EMS Academy and hands-on rotations with five partner schools, from EMT through paramedic.



Maplewood Nursing Home — Rural Health Transformation

\$1.96M

requested to stabilize the
county's safety-net campus

Pre-application submitted
July 10, 2026

*150-bed nursing home + the county's only
assisted living facility*



Water treatment plant replacement — \$1.43M

The campus sits outside any municipal water system; failure of the nearly 30-year-old plant would close every bed. This is the precondition for everything else.



Restoring existing space

Assisted living kitchen, laundry, and dining renovations; HVAC replacement so the activities and OT/PT space is safe and usable year-round; accessible bus replacement.



Safety & staff capacity

A modern resident monitoring system that shows who and where, and a partitioned training room that raises competency training throughput without adding staff.



Regional Emergency Communications — A Collaborative Effort

Cheshire County is applying on behalf of Southwest NH District Fire Mutual Aid, Capital Region Mutual Aid, and Lakes Region Mutual Aid to replace obsolete, failure-prone radio infrastructure with a modern IP-based network with automatic failover — the system dispatch and responders depend on when cell service fails.

43%

of New Hampshire's landmass covered

8+

counties in the combined service area

150+

communities protected

\$2.3M

already secured from other sources



Why grant funding matters

Without grants, SWNHDFMA would have to bond — raising the cost of mutual aid services roughly 350%, billed directly to member towns. The County will request funding annually over five years to complete the project.

Looking Ahead: Growing With the Need



Cheshire County EMS Headquarters Expansion

- Call volume has grown significantly since the service launched, and the current headquarters is reaching its limits.
- This year: applying for a \$50,000 planning grant to fund architectural and planning work for an expanded or new facility.
- Next year: pursuing the next round of GO-NORTH funding to carry out the buildout.

Nearly \$4 million in GO-NORTH pre-applications already submitted — and Cheshire County is positioned to keep competing for every round of this five-year opportunity.