UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 7, 2012 (February 7, 2012)

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Tennessee	000-22490	62-1120025
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
430 Airport Road Greeneville, Tennessee		37745
(Address of principal executive of	fices)	(Zip Code)
(Former name or f	Not Applicable Former address, if changed since last representations are addressed in the same and the same are addressed in the same are addressed	port)
Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is any of the following provisions: ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under to Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule	the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425) Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12) e 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17	CFR 240.14d-2(b))

SECTION 2. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Attached as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference is a copy of a press release, dated February 7, 2012, announcing the financial results of Forward Air Corporation for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2011.

SECTION 8. OTHER EVENTS.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

Attached as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference is a copy of a press release, dated February 7, 2012, announcing that the Company's Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.07 per share of common stock. The dividend is payable to the Company's shareholders of record at the close of business on March 8, 2012, and is expected to be paid on March 23, 2012.

SECTION 9. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits. The following exhibit is being furnished as part of this Report.

No.	Exhibit
99.1	Press Release of Forward Air Corporation dated February 7, 2012.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION

Date: February 7, 2012 By: /s/ Rodney L. Bell

Rodney L. Bell

Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President and Treasurer

EXHIBIT INDEX

No. Exhibit

99.1 Press Release of Forward Air Corporation dated February 7, 2012.



NEWS RELEASE

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION REPORTS FOURTH QUARTER AND FISCAL 2011 RESULTS AND ANNOUNCES QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.-(BUSINESS WIRE) - February 7, 2012-Forward Air Corporation (NASDAQ:FWRD) today reported results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2011.

Operating revenue for the quarter ended December 31, 2011 increased 11.2% to \$148.2 million from \$133.3 million for the same quarter in 2010. Income from operations was \$23.6 million, compared with \$18.7 million for the fourth quarter of 2010, an increase of 26.2%. As a percent of operating revenue, income from operations increased to 15.9% for the fourth quarter of 2011 from 14.0% in the same quarter of 2010. Net income per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2011 was \$0.50 compared with \$0.41 in the same quarter of 2010, an increase of 22.0%.

Operating revenue for the year ended December 31, 2011 increased 10.8% to \$536.4 million from \$483.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. Income from operations was \$77.1 million, compared with \$53.7 million in 2010. The Company's net income for the year ended December 31, 2011, was \$47.2 million, compared with \$32.0 million in 2010. Net income per diluted share for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$1.60 compared with \$1.10 in 2010.

Bruce A. Campbell, Chairman, President and CEO, said, "We are pleased to announce that a solid fourth quarter completed a record breaking performance year for 2011. Strong demand for our service offerings produced record breaking operating revenue, operating income and earnings per share. While not a record, our 85.6% operating ratio for 2011 was an impressive 330 basis points improvement over 2010."

Commenting further, Mr. Campbell said, "With the benefit of the Forward Air business model, which continues to exhibit ample operating leverage, a solid pricing environment and current inventory and shipping trends that favor our expedited time-definite service offerings, our team is anxious to deliver even better results to our shareholders in 2012."

In closing, Mr. Campbell said, "As always I would like to acknowledge our employees and independent contractors whose hard work and dedication were critical in producing these outstanding results."

In commenting further on the quarter, Rodney L. Bell, Senior Vice President and CFO said, "We ended 2011 with cash on hand of \$58.8 million. In anticipation of entering into a new credit facility subsequent to year end we used \$50 million of our cash reserves to pay off our previous line of credit borrowings. During February 2012, we will finalize our new credit facility. The new credit facility will have a five year term with an initial borrowing capacity of \$150 million. This availability to credit, along with our continued ability to generate strong cash flows, will provide flexibility as we evaluate possible acquisition and other opportunities in the new year."

In commenting on the Company's guidance for the first quarter, Mr. Bell said, "We anticipate our first quarter 2012 revenues will increase in the range of 8% to 12% over the comparable 2011 period, and we expect income per diluted share to be between \$0.31 and \$0.35 per share. This compares to \$0.27 per share in the first quarter of 2011."

On February 7, 2012, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.07 per share of common stock. The dividend is payable to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 8, 2012, and is expected to be paid on March 23, 2012.

This quarterly dividend is pursuant to a cash dividend policy approved by the Board of Directors, which anticipates a total annual dividend of \$0.28 per share of common stock, payable in quarterly increments of \$0.07 per share of common stock. The actual declaration of future cash dividends, and the establishment of record and payment dates, is subject to final determination by the Board of Directors each quarter after its review of the Company's financial performance.

Review of Financial Results

Forward Air will hold a conference call to discuss fourth quarter and year end 2011 results on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The Company's conference call will be available online at www.forwardair.com or by dialing 800-230-1085. A replay of the conference call will be available at www.forwardair.com beginning shortly after the completion of the live call.

About Forward Air Corporation

Forward Air Corporation operates two business segments, Forward Air, Inc. and Forward Air Solutions, Inc.

Forward Air, Inc. is a high-service-level contractor to the air cargo industry providing time-definite ground transportation services through a network of terminals located on or near major airports in 85 cities in the United States and Canada. It provides these services as a cost-effective alternative to air transportation of cargo that must be delivered at a specific time but is relatively less time-sensitive than traditional air freight or when air transportation is not economical.

Forward Air Solutions, Inc. is a provider of pool distribution services. Pool distribution involves the consolidation and shipment of several smaller less-than-truckload shipments to a common area or region. Once at the regional destination, the loads are deconsolidated, then grouped with other shipments with common delivery points, and delivered in a very precise, time-sensitive manner. Our pool distribution network consists of terminals and service locations in 19 cities within the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest and Southwestern United States.

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Income (In thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended				Year ended				
	December 31, 2011		Ι	December 31, 2010	D	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010		
Operating revenue:									
Forward Air									
Airport-to-airport	\$	95,024	\$	87,245	\$	361,630	\$	321,702	
Logistics		21,485		17,147		74,394		64,935	
Other		7,116		6,386		27,640		25,130	
Forward Air Solutions									
Pool distribution		24,634		22,532		72,738		72,172	
Total operating revenue		148,259		133,310		536,402		483,939	
Operating expenses:									
Purchased transportation									
Forward Air									
Airport-to-airport		38,294		34,959		142,705		129,111	
Logistics		16,045		13,445		56,259		50,225	
Other		1,752		1,476		6,681		6,288	
Forward Air Solutions									
Pool distribution		6,288		5,123		17,355		15,747	
Total purchased transportation		62,379		55,003		223,000		201,371	
Salaries, wages and employee benefits		35,315		33,426		130,651		129,108	
Operating leases		7,039		6,864		27,122		26,252	
Depreciation and amortization		5,259		5,167		20,993		20,450	
Insurance and claims		2,658		2,442		8,798		8,425	
Fuel expense		2,683		2,409		10,041		8,461	
Other operating expenses		9,297		9,321		38,687		36,133	
Total operating expenses		124,630		114,632		459,292		430,200	
Income from operations		23,629		18,678		77,110		53,739	
Other income (expense):									
Interest expense		(151)		(173)		(619)		(730)	
Other, net		16		53		74		90	
Total other expense		(135)		(120)		(545)		(640)	
Income before income taxes		23,494		18,558		76,565		53,099	
Income taxes		9,045		6,741		29,366		21,063	
Net income	\$	14,449	\$	11,817	\$	47,199	\$	32,036	
Net income per share:									
-	¢	0.51	\$	0.41	C	1.62	Φ	1.11	
Basic	\$				\$		\$		
Diluted	\$	0.50	\$	0.41	\$	1.60	\$	1.10	
Weighted average shares outstanding:		20.502		20.010		20.052		20.004	
Basic		28,502		29,010		29,052		28,984	
Diluted		28,968		29,174		29,435		29,111	
Dividends per share:	\$	0.07	\$	0.07	\$	0.28	\$	0.28	

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Balance Sheets (In thousands) (Unaudited)

(Unauditeu)	_	D 1 21			
	Dec	cember 31, 2011		cember 31, 2010 (a)	
Assets					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	58,801	\$	74,504	
Accounts receivable, net		70,922		62,763	
Other current assets		9,994		8,696	
Total current assets		139,717		145,963	
Property and equipment		223,135		213,704	
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		93,267		87,272	
Net property and equipment		129,868		126,432	
Goodwill and other acquired intangibles:					
Goodwill		43,332		43,332	
Other acquired intangibles, net of accumulated amortization		26,668		31,259	
Total net goodwill and other acquired intangibles		70,000		74,591	
Other assets		1,566		1,810	
Total assets	\$	341,151	\$	348,796	
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$	12,392	\$	10,687	
Accrued expenses		20,986		16,280	
Current portion of debt and capital lease obligations		552		638	
Total current liabilities		33,930		27,605	
Debt and capital lease obligations, less current portion		333		50,883	
Other long-term liabilities		8,860		8,106	
Deferred income taxes		11,126		6,116	
Commitments and contingencies					
Shareholders' equity:					
Common stock		285		290	
Additional paid-in capital		16,121		24,300	
Retained earnings		270,496		231,496	
Total shareholders' equity		286,902		256,086	
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$	341,151	\$	348,796	

⁽a) Taken from audited financial statements, which are not presented in their entirety.

Forward Air Corporation Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three months ended		
	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	
Operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 14,449	\$ 11,817	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities			
Depreciation and amortization	5,259	5,167	
Share-based compensation	1,514	1,397	
(Gain) loss on disposal of property and equipment	(6)	78	
Provision for recovery on receivables	(234)	(254)	
Provision for revenue adjustments	471	127	
Deferred income taxes	(931)	3,060	
Tax benefit for stock options exercised	(515)	(166)	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
Accounts receivable	(1,585)	(198)	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	71	989	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,636	(5,883)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	22,129	16,134	
Investing activities:			
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	270	69	
Purchases of property and equipment	(924)	(3,259	
Other	(38)	(224	
Net cash used in investing activities	(692)	(3,414)	
Financing activities:			
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations	(149)	(173	
Payments on line of credit	(50,000)	(1/3	
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	3,225	501	
•		(2,033	
Payments of cash dividends	(2,007)	(2,033)	
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)	(1,807)	104	
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan	120	104	
Tax benefit for stock options exercised	515	166	
Net cash used in financing activities	(50,103)	(1,435	
Net (decrease) increase in cash	(28,666)	11,285	
Cash at beginning of period	87,467	63,219	
Cash at end of period	\$ 58,801	\$ 74,504	

Forward Air Corporation Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Year ended			i
	Dec	cember 31, 2011	Dec	ember 31, 2010
Operating activities:				
Net income	\$	47,199	\$	32,036
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	S			
Depreciation and amortization		20,993		20,450
Share-based compensation		5,971		6,284
Gain on disposal of property and equipment		(82)		(570)
Provision for recovery on receivables		(217)		(52)
Provision for revenue adjustments		1,951		1,589
Deferred income taxes		5,148		1,436
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		(747)		(194)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities				
Accounts receivable		(9,893)		(8,580)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		(1,757)		(40)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		8,393		3,022
Income taxes		_		(1,386)
Net cash provided by operating activities		76,959		53,995
Investing activities:				
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		1,267		1,482
Purchases of property and equipment		(21,216)		(15,148)
Other		278		(224)
Net cash used in investing activities		(19,671)		(13,890)
Financing activities:				
Payments of debt and capital lease obligations		(637)		(895)
Payments on line of credit		(50,000)		_
Proceeds from exercise of stock options		10,946		991
Payments of cash dividends		(8,194)		(8,121)
Repurchase of common stock (repurchase program)		(26,101)		_
Common stock issued under employee stock purchase plan		248		195
Tax benefit for stock options exercised		747		194
Net cash used in financing activities		(72,991)		(7,636)
Net (decrease) increase in cash		(15,703)		32,469
Cash at beginning of year		74,504		42,035
Cash at end of year	\$	58,801	\$	74,504

Forward Air Corporation Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

			Three months e			
	December 31	, Percent of	December 31,	Percent of	ent of	
	2011	Revenue	2010	Revenue	Change	Change
Operating revenue						
Forward Air	\$ 123.	9 83.6 %	\$ 111.1	83.3 %		11.5 %
FASI	24.	8 16.7	22.6	17.0	2.2	9.7
Intercompany eliminations	(0.	5) (0.3)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.1)	25.0
Total	148.	2 100.0	133.3	100.0	14.9	11.2
Purchased transportation						
Forward Air	56.	3 45.4	49.9	44.9	6.4	12.8
FASI	6.	5 26.2	5.5	24.3	1.0	18.2
Intercompany eliminations	(0.	4) 80.0	(0.4)	100.0		
Total	62.	4 42.1	55.0	41.3	7.4	13.5
Salaries, wages and employee benefits						
Forward Air	26.	2 21.1	24.9	22.4	1.3	5.2
FASI	9.	1 36.7	8.5	37.6	0.6	7.1
Total	35.	3 23.8	33.4	25.0	1.9	5.7
Operating leases						
Forward Air	4.	9 4.0	5.0	4.5	(0.1)	(2.0)
FASI	2.		1.9	8.4	0.2	10.5
Total	7.		6.9	5.2	0.1	1.4
Depreciation and amortization						
Forward Air	4	2 3.4	4.2	3.8	_	_
FASI	1.		1.0	4.4	0.1	10.0
Total	5.		5.2	3.9	0.1	1.9
Insurance and claims						
Forward Air	2.	3 1.9	1.6	1.4	0.7	43.8
FASI	0.		0.8	3.6	(0.5)	(62.5)
Total	2.		2.4	1.8	0.2	8.3
Fuel expense						
Forward Air	1.	1 0.9	1.0	0.9	0.1	10.0
FASI	1.		1.4	6.2	0.2	14.3
Total	2.		2.4	1.8	0.3	12.5
Other operating expenses						
Forward Air	7.	7 6.2	7.6	6.9	0.1	1.3
FASI	1.		1.7	7.5	_	_
Intercompany eliminations	(0.				(0.1)	100.0
Total	9.		9.3	7.0		
Income from operations						
Forward Air	21.	2 17.1	16.9	15.2	4.3	25.4
FASI	2.		1.8	8.0	0.6	33.3
Total	\$ 23.			14.0 %		26.2 %
Total	Ψ 23.	13.7 /0	φ 10./	17.0 /0	Ψ 7.7	20.2 /0

Forward Air Corporation Segment Information (In millions) (Unaudited)

	Year ended								
		ember 31, 2011	Percent of Revenue	December 31, 2010	Percent of Revenue	Change	Percent Change		
Operating revenue									
Forward Air	\$	464.5	86.6 %	\$ 412.9	85.3 %	\$ 51.6	12.5 %		
FASI		73.2	13.6	72.5	15.0	0.7	1.0		
Intercompany eliminations		(1.3)	(0.2)	(1.5)	(0.3)	0.2	(13.3)		
Total		536.4	100.0	483.9	100.0	52.5	10.8		
Purchased transportation									
Forward Air		206.0	44.4	185.8	45.0	20.2	10.9		
FASI		18.2	24.9	16.9	23.3	1.3	7.7		
Intercompany eliminations		(1.2)	92.3	(1.3)	86.7	0.1	(7.7)		
Total		223.0	41.6	201.4	41.6	21.6	10.7		
Salaries, wages and employee benefits									
Forward Air		101.3	21.8	98.3	23.8	3.0	3.1		
FASI		29.4	40.2	30.8	42.5	(1.4)	(4.5)		
Total		130.7	24.4	129.1	26.7	1.6	1.2		
Operating leases									
Forward Air		19.7	4.2	18.6	4.5	1.1	5.9		
FASI		7.4	10.1	7.7	10.6	(0.3)	(3.9)		
Total		27.1	5.0	26.3	5.4	0.8	3.0		
Depreciation and amortization									
Forward Air		16.8	3.6	16.5	4.0	0.3	1.8		
FASI		4.2	5.7	3.9	5.4	0.3	7.7		
Total		21.0	3.9	20.4	4.2	0.6	2.9		
Insurance and claims		7.0	1.6	()	1.5	1.0	161		
Forward Air		7.2	1.6	6.2	1.5	1.0	16.1		
FASI		1.6	2.2	2.2	3.0	(0.6)	(27.3)		
Total		8.8	1.6	8.4	1.7	0.4	4.8		
Fuel expense									
Forward Air		4.4	0.9	3.8	0.9	0.6	15.8		
FASI		5.6	7.6	4.7	6.5	0.9	19.1		
Total		10.0	1.9	8.5	1.8	1.5	17.6		
Other operating expenses									
Forward Air		32.6	7.0	29.8	7.2	2.8	9.4		
FASI		6.2	8.5	6.5	9.0	(0.3)	(4.6)		
Intercompany eliminations		(0.1)	7.7	(0.2)	13.3	0.1	(50.0)		
Total		38.7	7.2	36.1	7.5	2.6	7.2		
Income (loss) from operations									
Forward Air		76.5	16.5	53.9	13.1	22.6	41.9		
FASI		0.6	0.8	(0.2)	(0.3)	0.8	(400.0)		
Total	\$	77.1	14.4 %		11.1 %		43.6 %		
10111	Ψ.	. , , , 1	1 70		1111 /0		.5.0 70		

Forward Air Corporation Forward Air Inc. Operating Statistics

Three months ended

			ınree	months ended	
	D	ecember 31,	De	ecember 31,	Percent
		2011		2010	Change
Operating ratio		82.9%		84.8%	(2.2)%
-					
Business days		63.0		63.0	_
Business weeks		12.6		12.6	_
Airport-to-airport:					
Tonnage					
Total pounds 1		458,773		437,977	4.7
Average weekly pounds 1		36,411		34,760	4.7
Linehaul shipments					
Total linehaul		649,152		623,211	4.2
Average weekly		51,520		49,461	4.2
Forward Air Complete shipments		104,143		85,917	21.2
As a percentage of linehaul shipment	ts	16.0%		13.8%	15.9
Tis a percentage of michael simplifies.		10.0 / 0		121070	10.7
Average linehaul shipment size		707		703	0.6
Revenue per pound ²					
Linehaul yield	\$	16.83	\$	16.70	0.6
Fuel surcharge impact	Ψ	1.67	Ψ	1.28	2.0
Forward Air Complete impact		2.25		1.97	1.4
Total airport-to-airport yield	\$	20.75	\$	19.95	4.0
Logistics:					
Miles					
Owner operator ¹		8,472		7,179	18.0
Third party ¹		4,093		3,617	13.2
Total Miles		12,565		10,796	16.4
Revenue per mile	\$	1.71	\$	1.61	6.2
~ "					
Cost per mile	\$	1.28	\$	1.25	2.4 %

¹ - In thousands

² - In cents per pound; percentage change is expressed as a percent of total yield.

Forward Air Corporation Forward Air Inc. Operating Statistics

Year e	nded
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	D	ecember 31, 2011	December 31, 2010	Percent Change
Operating ratio		83.5%	86.9%	(3.9)%
Business days		255.0	254.0	0.4
Business weeks		51.0	50.8	0.4
Airport-to-airport:				
Tonnage				
Total pounds 1		1,735,409	1,655,075	4.9
Average weekly pounds 1		34,028	32,580	4.4
Linehaul shipments				
Total linehaul		2,419,350	2,308,468	4.8
Average weekly		47,438	45,442	4.4
Forward Air Complete shipments		374,116	314,203	19.1
As a percentage of linehaul shipments	S	15.5%	13.6%	14.0
Average linehaul shipment size		717	717	_
Revenue per pound ²				
Linehaul yield	\$	16.80	\$ 16.40	2.1
Fuel surcharge impact		1.80	1.21	3.0
Forward Air Complete impact		2.27	1.86	2.1
Total airport-to-airport yield	\$	20.87	\$ 19.47	7.2
Logistics:				
Miles				
Owner operator ¹		30,885	27,086	14.0
Third party ¹		13,798	12,943	6.6
Total Miles		44,683	40,029	11.6
Revenue per mile	\$	1.67	\$ 1.64	1.8
Cost per mile	\$	1.26	\$ 1.25	0.8 %

¹ - In thousands

² - In cents per pound; percentage change is expressed as a percent of total yield.

Important Information

This press release contains "forward-looking statements," as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements are statements other than historical information or statements of current condition and relate to future events or our future financial performance. Some forward-looking statements may be identified by use of such terms as "believes," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "estimates," "projects" or "expects." Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The following is a list of factors, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements: economic factors such as recessions, inflation, higher interest rates and downturns in customer business cycles, our inability to maintain our historical growth rate because of a decreased volume of freight moving through our network or decreased average revenue per pound of freight moving through our network, increasing competition and pricing pressure, surplus inventories, loss of a major customer, the creditworthiness of our customers and their ability to pay for services rendered, our ability to secure terminal facilities in desirable locations at reasonable rates, the inability of our information systems to handle an increased volume of freight moving through our network, changes in fuel prices, claims for property damage, personal injuries or workers' compensation, employment matters including rising health care costs, enforcement of and changes in governmental regulations, environmental and tax matters, the handling of hazardous materials, the availability and compensation of qualified independent owner-operators and freight handlers needed to serve our transportation needs and our inability to successfully integrate acquisitions. As a result of the foregoing, no assurance can be given as to future financial condition, cash flows or results of operations. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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