

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL | |
|--|-----------|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
| Estimated average burden hours per response... | 0.5 |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | | | |
|---|---------|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * BELL RODNEY L | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FORWARD AIR CORP [FWRD] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ____ Director _____ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) VP & Controller | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/12/2006 | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| 430 AIRPORT ROAD | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | |
| GREENEVILLE, TN 37745 | | | | | |
| (City) | | | (State) | | (Zip) |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/12/2006 | | A | | 10,000 (1) | A | \$ 0 | 42,522 (2) | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number. SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BELL RODNEY L 430 AIRPORT ROAD GREENEVILLE, TN 37745 | | | VP & Controller | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|------------|
| By: /s/ Lera Doherty, Attorney-in-Fact | 02/14/2006 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person | Date |

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Award of time-vesting restricted stock under the Forward Air Corporation 1999 Stock Option and Incentive Plan in transaction exempt from Section 16(b) under Rule 16b-3. The stock vests equally in one-third increments over three years commencing February 12, 2007 and fully vesting on February 12, 2009.

(2) Includes 340 shares acquired under the Issuer's employee stock purchase plan in December 2005.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

