FORM 4

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

| OMB APPR | ROVAL |
|-------------------|-----------|
| DMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
| Estimated average | e burden |
| ours per respons | e 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

| | pe Response | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person * MADDEN DOUG | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FORWARD AIR CORP [FWRD] | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner | | | | | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1915 SNAPPS FERRY ROAD, BUILDING N (Street) GREENEVILLE, TN 37745 | | | | Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/10/2017 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | | | elow) | | |
| | | | 4. If Ame | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) X_Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City | | (State) | (Zip) | | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acqui | | | | ired, Dispo | osed of, or l | Beneficially | Owned | | | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if | | f Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | of | Beneficial | lly Owned Following Transaction(s) | | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
| | | | | | | Code | V | Amoun | (A) or (D) | Price | | (1 | | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | (Instr. 4) |
| | Stock | | 05/10/2017 | | | A | | 1,686 (1) | A | \$ 0 | 4,745 | | | D | |
| Common | | | | | | | | | | | ı | | | | |
| | | separate line f | or each class of sec | urities bene | ficially o | wned di | Pers | ons wh | n this fo | rm ar | e not req | uired to re | formation espond un etrol numb | less | EC 1474 (9- 02) |
| Reminder: | | separate line f | Table II - | Derivative ! | Securitio | es Acqui | Persont cont the f | ons wh ained in orm dis | n this fo splays a of, or Ben | rm ar curre eficia | e not requently valid | uired to re I OMB cor | spond un | less | , |
| Reminder: indirectly. | Report on a | 3. Transactio | Table II - n 3A. Deemec Execution I | Derivative (e.g., puts, c | Securition also saction e | es Acqui rrants, o 5. Numb | Personnt the formation of the formations. er 6. Dand (Mossis | ons wh ained in orm dis | of, or Bendible securities on Date | eficia rities) 7. T Am Und Sec | e not requently valid | uired to re I OMB cor | espond un ntrol numb | of 10. Ownersl Form of Derivati Security Direct (l or Indire | 11. Natural of Indire Beneficio Ownersl (Instr. 4) |

Reporting Owners

| D | Relationships | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|
| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| MADDEN DOUG 1915 SNAPPS FERRY ROAD BUILDING N GREENEVILLE, TN 37745 | X | | | | | |

Signatures

| /s/ Michael P. McLean, Attorney-in-Fact | 05/10/2017 |
|---|------------|
| **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).
- Represents restricted stock awarded under the Forward Air Corporation Amended and Restated Non-Employee Director Stock Plan in a transaction exempt from Section (1) 16(b) under Rule 16b-3. The stock fully vests on the earlier of (a) the day immediately prior to the first Annual Meeting that occurs after the grant date or (b) the first anniversary of the grant date.

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

| Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB nu | mber. |
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