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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Edwards Robert Leon Jr</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>1915 SNAPPS FERRY ROAD</u> <u>BUILDING N</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>GREENEVILLE TN</u> <u>37745</u> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/25/2024</u> | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FORWARD AIR CORP [FWRD]</u> | |
| | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 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 |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

No securities are beneficially owned.

/s/ Michael L. Hance, Attorney-in-Fact 02/05/2024

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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).

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

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 Number.

Power of Attorney

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned (the "Reporting Person") hereby constitutes and appoints Thomas Schmitt, Michael L. Hance, and Rebecca J. Garbrick, and each of them, as the Reporting Person's true and lawful Attorneys-in-Fact to:

- (1) execute for and on behalf of the Reporting Person, in the Reporting Person's capacity as an officer or director of Forward Air Corporation (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules thereunder;
- (2) do and perform and all acts for and on behalf of the Reporting Person which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4 or 5 and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and
- (3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such Attorney-in-Fact, may be of benefit to, and in the best interest of, or legally required by, the Reporting Person.

The Reporting Person hereby grants to each such Attorney-in-Fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the Reporting Person might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such Attorney-in-Fact, or such Attorney-in-Fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by the virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The Reporting Person acknowledges that the foregoing Attorneys-in-Fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the Reporting Person, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the Reporting Person's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the Reporting Person is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the Reporting Person's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the Reporting Person in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing Attorneys-in-Fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Reporting Person has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 28th day of September, 2023.

/s/ Robert Leon Edwards, Jr.

Robert Leon Edwards, Jr.