

► FROM NORTH STATE AVIATION

## TRIAD AIRPORT LEFT WITH \$1M HOLE

After North State Aviation began occupying the former Piedmont Airlines building at 4001 N. Liberty St. at Smith Reynolds Airport, the aviation maintenance firm eventually paid the airport commission about \$1 million worth of rent and utility payments.

That money was a huge revenue generator for the commission, which used the funding to help fund staff needs and improvements to aging infrastructure such as a runway that had been closed for months.

Now that North State Aviation is closing up shop and laying off 345 people, the company leaves behind a big financial hole, said Scott Piper, chairman of the Airport Commission of Forsyth County.

"It is lost, and so we will have to figure out some creative ways to adjust to the new world and try to get that (facility) marketed and filled as quickly as we can," Piper said. "Clearly our goal is to find another tenant for this turnkey operation."

Piper said he doesn't expect it to take long for another company to take over the facility, which features six maintenance bays and fully refurbished administrative offices.

"With the pace at which the aviation business is growing in the Triad, I can only imagine there's somebody who wants to find a situation like this where they could move right in," he said.



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*Smith Reynolds Airport is losing about \$1 million.*