

FORWARD AIR CORP  
Form S-3/A  
October 31, 2003

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2003

Registration No. 333-110015

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

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**Amendment No. 1 to**  
**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
**UNDER**  
**THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

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**FORWARD AIR CORPORATION**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Tennessee**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**62-1120025**  
*(I.R.S. employer  
identification number)*

**430 Airport Road**

**Greeneville, Tennessee 37745**  
**(423) 636-7000**

*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,  
of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Matthew J. Jewell**

**Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary**

**Forward Air Corporation**  
**430 Airport Road**  
**Greeneville, Tennessee 37745**  
**(423) 636-7000**

*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including  
area code, of agent for service)*

**Copies of communications to:**

**Leigh Walton**  
**Todd J. Rolapp**  
**Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**  
**315 Deaderick Street, Suite 2700**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37238**  
**(615) 742-6200**

**Richard C. Tilghman, Jr.**  
**Jason Harmon**  
**Piper Rudnick LLP**  
**6225 Smith Avenue**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21209**  
**(410) 580-3000**

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**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  \_\_\_\_\_

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

**The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement is being filed to file an exhibit to the Registration Statement, as set forth in the exhibit index. Accordingly, Part I is not being filed herewith. Part II is being filed in its entirety, as amended.

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**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The expenses to be paid by the Registrant and the selling shareholder in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered are as set forth in the following table:

Registration Fee under Securities Act of 1933	\$ 6,187
NASD Filing Fee	\$ 8,150
Legal Fees and Expenses	\$ 125,000
Accounting Fees and Expenses	\$ 125,000
Printing Expenses	\$ 100,000
Transfer Agent and Registrar Fees	\$ 5,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,000
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Total	\$ 384,337
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**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The Tennessee Business Corporation Act ( TBCA ) provides that a corporation may indemnify any of its directors and officers against liability incurred in connection with a proceeding if (i) the director or officer acted in good faith, (ii) in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity with the corporation, the director or officer reasonably believed such conduct was in the corporation's best interest, (iii) in all other cases, the director or officer reasonably believed that his or her conduct was not opposed to the best interest of the corporation, and (iv) in connection with any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. In actions brought by or in the right of the corporation; however, the TBCA provides that no indemnification may be made if the director or officer was adjudged to be liable to the corporation. In cases where the director or officer is wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding instigated because of his or her status as an officer or director of a corporation, the TBCA mandates that the corporation indemnify the director or officer against reasonable expenses incurred in the proceeding. The TBCA also provides that in connection with any proceeding charging improper personal benefit to an officer or director, no indemnification may be made if such officer or director is adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the TBCA provides that a court of competent jurisdiction, upon application, may order that an officer or director be indemnified for reasonable expenses if, in consideration of all relevant circumstances, the court determines that such individual is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, whether or not the standard of conduct set forth above was met.

The Registrant's bylaws provide that, to the fullest extent permitted by the TBCA, as amended from time to time, directors shall not be liable to the Registrant or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, and that to the extent permitted by the TBCA, the liability of a director to the Registrant or its shareholders shall be further limited or eliminated. Additionally, the Registrant's Charter provides that the Registrant shall indemnify from liability, and advance expenses to, each present or former director or officer of the Registrant to the fullest extent allowed under Tennessee law, as now or hereafter in effect.

The Registrant has obtained directors' and officers' liability insurance, the effect of which is to indemnify the directors and officers of the Registrant against certain damages and expenses because of certain claims made against them caused by their negligent act, error or omission.

**Item 16. Exhibits.**

A list of exhibits filed herewith is contained in the Exhibit Index that immediately precedes such exhibits and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Amendment No. 1 to the registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Greeneville, State of Tennessee, on October 30, 2003.

FORWARD AIR CORPORATION

By: /s/ MATTHEW J. JEWELL

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Matthew J. Jewell  
*Senior Vice President,  
General Counsel and Secretary*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Amendment No. 1 to the registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<hr/> *	Chairman of the Board	October 30, 2003
Scott M. Niswonger		
<hr/> *	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	October 30, 2003
Bruce A. Campbell		
<hr/> *	Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Director (Principal Financial Officer)	October 30, 2003
Andrew C. Clarke		
<hr/> *	Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	October 30, 2003
Rodney L. Bell		
<hr/> *	Director	October 30, 2003
James A. Cronin, III		
<hr/> *	Director	October 30, 2003
Hon. Robert Keith Gray		
<hr/> *	Director	October 30, 2003
Ray A. Mundy		

\*By: /s/ MATTHEW J. JEWELL

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Matthew J. Jewell  
*Attorney-in-fact*

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

- 1 Form of Underwriting Agreement.
  - 2 Distribution Agreement between the Registrant and Landair Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 1998, filed with the Commission on November 16, 1998).
  - 4.1 Restated Charter of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on May 28, 1999).
  - 4.2 Bylaws of the Registrant, as amended (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 1998, filed with the Commission on November 16, 1998).
  - 4.3 Form of Forward Air Corporation Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 1998, filed with the Commission on November 16, 1998).
  - 4.4 Rights Agreement, dated May 18, 1999, between the registrant and SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, N.A., including the Form of Rights Certificate (Exhibit A) and the Form of Summary of Rights (Exhibit B) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on May 28, 1999).
  - 5.1 Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC regarding the legality of the shares being registered.\*
  - 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.\*
  - 23.2 Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1).
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Filed herewith.

\* Previously filed.