

Hornish Bros. Acquires Cowen Truck Line

New Partnership Expected to Grow 52 Year-old Perrysville Business

April 24, 2024

Ashland, OH—Cowen Truck Line, a family-owned, full-service transportation and logistics company based in Perrysville, OH announced this week that they have been purchased by Hornish Bros., Inc. of Defiance, OH.

Founded by Bob and Lavone Cowen in 1972, Cowen Truck Line started as a two tractor, three trailer operation with a single route hauling Hoover vacuums from Ohio to Mississippi. Since that time, the company has grown to its present size of 60 tractors, 315 trailers, 70 employees and nearly 20,000 sq. ft. of office and maintenance facilities.

“Hornish Bros. is a perfect match for Cowen Truck Line in many ways,” says Cowen Truck Line President Tim Cowen, who will remain in his current role of company president. “Our companies share many of the same guiding principles, and both have outstanding safety records with award-winning drivers.”

Established in 1946 in Defiance, OH, Hornish Bros. is also a family-owned and operated trucking and logistics company with over 100 tractors and 300 trailers, operating primarily throughout the Great Lakes area.

Hornish Bros. Chief Executive Officer Chad Baer is excited about their new acquisition, and sees a natural alignment of company principles and goals.

“This is a tremendous strategic fit for Hornish Bros. as Cowen Truck Line shares our commitment to providing jobs and cultivating local talent in small and mid-size towns throughout Ohio and the Midwest,” said Baer. “Like Cowen, Hornish Bros. is committed to excellent customer service, employee development, and being a true community partner.”

Remaining in Ashland County and expanding their company’s operational footprint were two key factors that Hornish Bros. considered when deciding to acquire Cowen Truck Line.

“We intend to have a permanent presence in the Perrysville community, and as we continue to develop our 1-3-5-year plan, we are also considering adding another location in Ashland County depending on how quickly we achieve our growth goals,” says Baer.

Hornish Bros. plans to keep all of the current Cowen Truck Line employees and hopes to add additional positions as the company grows.

“We would like to double the number of drivers based in Perrysville over the next three years and are eager to grow the freight brokerage division,” said Hornish Bros. Chief Financial Officer

Chris Kothe. "We would like to hire and train 2-3 local students this year as freight brokers and will be creating a leadership development rotation program for new graduates."

The transition from Cowen Truck Line to Hornish Bros., Inc. began on April 5, 2024 and will continue throughout the year.