

HOOPER LAWRENCE L JR  
 Form 4  
 December 19, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 HOOPER LAWRENCE L JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 ADAMS EXPRESS CO [ADX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 7 ST PAUL STREET, STE 1140

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/16/2005

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

VP, Gen'l Counsel & Sec'y

(Street)  
 BALTIMORE, MD 21202

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Code V Amount Price                                    |   |  |                                    |
| Common Stock                    | 12/16/2005                           |  | M                              | 5,466 A \$ 9.065  | 5,466   | D  |                                    |
| Common Stock                    | 12/16/2005                           |  | M                              | 5,466 D \$ 12.79  | 12,479  | I  | Direct and Indirect <sup>(1)</sup> |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Stock option w/tandem SARs                 | \$ 9.065   | 12/16/2005                           |  | M                              | 5,466   | 01/09/2005 01/09/2013                                    | Common Stock  | 5,466                      |
| Stock option w/tandem SARs                 | \$ 9.065   | 12/16/2005                           |  | H                              | 5,466   | 01/09/2005 01/09/2013                                    | Common Stock  | 5,466                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| HOOPER LAWRENCE L JR<br>7 ST PAUL STREET<br>STE 1140<br>BALTIMORE, MD 21202 |               |           | VP, Gen'l Counsel & Sec'y |       |

## Signatures

Lawrence L.  
Hooper, Jr. 12/19/2005

\_\_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).

(1) This number reflects shares held directly (based on information as of 4/27/2005) and 11,219 shares held indirectly by the Issuer's Thrift Plan Trust (based on information as of 12/31/2004).

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

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