

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

April 11, 2024

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jeffery Teague, Chairman
Commissioner Jim Hinkle, Secretary
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Mike Akin
Commissioner Steve Edwards

MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Ken Reeves

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron	Major Mike Moyer
Major Roby Rhoads	Major Ron Casey
Major Stacie Rhoads	Captain Rick Neill
Dan Mack	Kalika Rogers
Jenna Castleberry	Sherry Woods
Susan Tedford	Captain Brady Gore
Sergeant Steven Chad Maness	Lieutenant Michael Exum
Captain John Carter	Andrea M. Carter
Lieutenant Morris Knight	Cassie Johnson
Janai Kennedy	SA Joe Pickett
SA David Moss	Lieutenant Brad Spurlin
Lieutenant Brant Tosh	Lieutenant Robert Middleton
Lieutenant Frank McMillion	Shelly Cantrell
Sergeant Jason Martin	Lieutenant Ted Jones
Captain Chris Goodman	Captain Philip Hydron
Bridget White	Captain David Williams
Lieutenant Dennis Overton	Lieutenant Alex Krneta
Captain Brad Lann	Lieutenant Darran Austin
Captain Wesley Smithee	Captain Jeff Sheeler
Lieutenant Mike Bain	Captain Randall Murphy
Lieutenant Jay McAllister	Captain Dustin Morgan
Sergeant Matt Foster	Corporal David Smothers
Mary Pifer	Ashley Easterly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cheryl Johnson	Jesi Feld, DPS
Tess Bradford, DPS	Ryan Roach, DPS
Retired Major Mike Foster	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on April 01, 2024.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Teague stated Commissioners you have before you the minutes of last month's meeting, what is your pleasure?

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Reeves stated I would like to make that motion. Commissioner Reeves stated I would also like to compliment whoever transcribed those minutes, our meeting last time we had a lot of questions from the commission and a lot of very comprehensive answers from our staff and the longest, most extensive set of minutes we have had since I have been on the commission and whoever transcribed those did an

outstanding job and I would like to compliment them on that. Commission Chairman Teague stated alright that was Commission Reeves, he and Commissioner Allison have joined us via phone conference. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion from Commissioner Basore, and we will take a second by Commissioner Reeves if that is okay with Commissioner Reeves, Commissioner Reeves stated sure. Commission Chairman Teague stated all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have promotion certificates by Colonel Hagar.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Captain Randall Murphy promoting him to Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Jay McAllister promoting him to Lieutenant in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Administration.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Matt Foster promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, SIU.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Steven Chad Maness promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next on the agenda, we have Official Commendations.

Colonel Hagar stated first we have Corporal David Smothers and Sergeant Matt Foster with the overview given by Sergeant Chase Melder.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Melder stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman and Commissioners, I appreciate the opportunity to present the facts that went into awarding this official commendation. It is a little bit long, there is not a quick way to tell this story but on July 10, 2023, at approximately 9:16 a.m. Senior Corporal David Smothers was traveling westbound on Interstate 40 at the 63 mm when he observed a white Nissan Altima traveling west on Interstate 40. The Altima did not display a rear license plate and had a paper tag in the rear window that could not be read. Senior Corporal Smothers stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation, while talking to the occupants of the vehicle Senior Corporal Smothers noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Senior Corporal Smothers identified the occupants, one male driver 20 years old from California and one female passenger 21 years old from Fort Smith, Arkansas. The driver stated he now lived in New Orleans and had recently purchased the vehicle in New Orleans and he and the passenger were enroute to Las Vegas and planned to stop in Fort Smith, where the driver stated the passenger had a small child residing. When Senior Corporal Smothers confronted the occupants about the odor of marijuana, the driver stated there was marijuana in the vehicle. Senior Corporal Smothers requested a second unit. Upon searching the vehicle Senior Corporal Smothers located a black Glock 26 pistol, that had an aftermarket 3D printed sear in place of the regular mechanism, this rendered the pistol fully automatic. The driver stated he purchased the pistol from a subject in New Orleans and the passenger stated she didn't know anything about the pistol. Further searching of the vehicle revealed a glass mason jar with 42.7 grams of marijuana inside of it and other THC products, an Apple phone box was located with .8 grams of methamphetamine and 12 syringes inside. Senior Corporal Smothers turned the firearm over to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) where the driver is facing a minimum of twenty-five years in prison for that pistol. Additional items located during the search included sex toys, lotions, creams, lubricants, and there was more female lingerie than regular clothes in the vehicle. Multiple cell phones were found in the vehicle. This led Senior Corporal Smothers to suspect the female was possibly being sex trafficked. Senior Corporal Smothers contacted Special Agent, now Sergeant Matt Foster. On July 11, 2023, Sergeant Matt Foster executed a search warrant on the vehicle and collected a journal and multiple phones, he later executed search warrants on the phones which contained critical information. On the same date, Sergeant Foster interviewed the female passenger with a victim advocate for approximately 4 hours. The female passenger started to be sex trafficked in February of 2023 and gave information about her previous trafficker and information of fraud and coercion by her previous trafficker. She was trafficked in Washington State, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Her trafficker received all the proceeds, and her quota was \$3,700 dollars a week, she was allowed to keep \$700 over that amount for food and other means. She stated she would testify against her previous trafficker in court. During the interview she spoke little about the driver, they met in mid-June and were leaving Atlanta headed to Las Vegas. In Atlanta she was on escort ads and meeting sex buyers. She gave the driver some of the money but not all of it. She was going to do the same thing in Las Vegas before Senior Corporal Smothers stopped them and prevented that from happening. She didn't want anything to happen to the driver because he was nice to her. The journal located in the car painted a relationship where he was her trafficker, her cell phone showed that he reviewed her escort ads, and she sent him over \$2,000 via cash app. There were multiple pictures of her sending him pictures of currency after she met sex buyers. On this same date Sergeant Foster interviewed the driver with a Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent. The driver stated he thought she was a prostitute when they first met in June, and he didn't know she was meeting sex buyers in Atlanta and didn't know about the ads in Las Vegas. The driver stated he traveled the country refereeing basketball games and she just tagged along. The driver would not provide a passcode to his phone. HSI took three phones and put them on GreyKey to be unlocked and HSI dumped the passengers three phones. In December of 2022, the females previous trafficker was charged with sex trafficking in Springdale, he was arrested with another female, who was identified as another girl that was being trafficked by the females former trafficker. The driver has been federally indicted and charged with the gun charges and is awaiting sentencing. The females previous trafficker is awaiting charges from Federal Prosecutors on trafficking of persons. The females previous trafficker was charged and is awaiting trial in Northwest Arkansas for sex trafficking of a child. The weapon that Senior Corporal Smothers located was linked to four shootings in New Orleans by ATF agents. On July 17, 2023, Sergeant Foster was notified the passenger was admitted into a facility specializing in recovery from human trafficking and drug use, this is a yearlong program. When the female was interviewed by Sergeant Foster, she stated that all she wanted or what she wanted most was to have a normal life, being at home and watching television with her child. Senior Corporal Smothers went above and beyond with this stop, even though Senior Corporal Smothers located a fully automatic weapon and drugs in the vehicle, Senior Corporal Smothers did not lose focus on why we do our job and that is to protect our citizens who are victims of crime. Senior Corporal Smothers recognized that even though the passenger was in a car with drugs and a fully automatic weapon she was still a victim, and he recognized the signs of her being a victim and acted on what he saw. By his actions on this stop and knowing who to contact to get additional help, Senior Corporal Smothers contributed to saving the life of another sex trafficking victim and hopefully putting away two terrible criminals. To do something like this it usually takes a team effort and that is where Sergeant Foster comes in, he went above and beyond on this case as well and the results speak for themselves. The time it takes to write multiple search warrants, execute those warrants, and conduct multiple interviews can be exhausting but what is most impressive about what Sergeant Foster does is, what makes his work stand out is the training, the expertise he has and the relationships he has developed over time in Human Trafficking. His training and expertise in Human trafficking no doubt made this case, and he knew exactly what to do and who to contact to make this case successful. This is a huge case for Arkansas State Police and is possible because by Senior Corporal Smothers and Sergeant Foster, they put the victim first and did what was necessary to save a life.

Colonel Hagar presented Sergeant Matt Foster and Corporal David Smothers with Official Commendation Awards.

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have Special Agent Joe Pickett with the overview given by Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent Joe Pickett for an Official Commendation. Major Rhoads stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman and Commissioners, I love when we get to get up here and brag about some of the great work that our folks are doing, that really just touched my heart hearing the specifics behind that commendation. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I am going to share with you one for Special Agent Joe Pickett. Special Agent Joe Pickett is a member of our Special Investigations Unit, he is assigned to an FBI Public Trust Task Force and back in 2020 we received a request to investigate an embezzlement for the City of Dierks, Arkansas and it was a pretty significant amount that had been embezzled, about \$500,000. Special Agent Pickett quickly recognized that this was obviously an internal matter and to be able to delineate from one city employee to another becomes very, very difficult. During his investigation, he recognized that one of the city employees had a gambling problem so that became the focus of his investigation and

he obtained numerous search warrants, subpoenas, and dealt with the Choctaw Gambling Commission over in Oklahoma. Over the course and this was a lengthy investigation, well over two years and he was able to determine that the City Manager had embezzled that \$500,000.00 to support her gambling habit. In 2023 she pled guilty and was sentenced to repay that \$500,000.00. Major Stacie Rhoads stated when you think about \$500,000.00 that was over a five-year period for a town of 900 people and can you imagine what kind of tipped this off was that they were going to have to increase the rates because they were bleeding money, and they couldn't understand why. When the new Mayor took over, he got to looking and they hadn't had an audit done in seven years, so that kind of was the catalyst that kicked this investigation off. Because of Special Agent Pickett's actions, the little town of Dierks is going to be able to recoup some of that money. So that is why I am honored to present Special Agent Joe Pickett for this award.

Colonel Hagar presented Special Agent Joe Pickett with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have Special Agent David Moss with the overview given by Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent David Moss for an Official Commendation. Major Rhoads stated in July of 2013, Company A responded to a homicide investigation where the body of a 32-year-old Hispanic female was found floating in a creek in Saline County. Autopsy revealed she had been strangled; she was here illegally. Her friends and coworkers didn't speak English, it was a very, very difficult case to work, being able to find connections and who would have committed this murder. Early on they had developed a male suspect, he fled the state before agents were able to garner enough evidence to support an arrest warrant. The case went cold and in 2018, let me back up, during the autopsy the medical examiner was able to pull DNA from under her fingernails. Fast forward to 20218 we got a DNA hit for the DNA that was under her fingernails that actually was able to tie the male suspect to the crime. The suspect had been arrested for sexual assault in Mecklenburg, North Carolina and that is why they had pulled his DNA, and we were able to get that CODIS hit. He was arrested there and while we were trying to get extradition, Mecklenburg Jail actually released him. At the time, the agent that was in charge of the case wasn't really staying on top of the investigation and so he was released, and he was just out there, and we didn't realize that we had this case open. Special Agent David Moss who was in Company A at the time of this homicide, remembered it and realized that hey, nobody has resolved that case. So, Special Agent Moss picked the case up and realized that there had been an arrest made but that the suspect was floating out there in the wind. So, Special Agent Moss immediately picked up the case and dove in, to hey, I have got to find this guy. Special Agent Moss got with the US Marshals, one of the other steps that he did is recognizing that part of the problem with him being released in North Carolina is that there was a problem with extradition, so he immediately obtained a Governor's Warrant. What that means is when they are picked up it can be immediate extradition. So, he got with the US Marshals and actually had the suspect picked up. We made arrangements to have our aircraft section fly to North Carolina, pick him up, and brought him back here. We have seen that people may be put in jail but then they are released and once again the suspect was released from the Saline County Jail. Once again, he was up in the wind and for several months, nobody knew where he was, he had actually committed other felonies there in Mecklenburg. Again, Special Agent Moss was keeping tabs on this suspect and realized that he was committing other crimes and as part of his bond release, Special Agent Moss said hey let's get a bond revocation and that is what he did. So, once again, we flew out there, we picked him up, brought him here, we did not release him and early last year this suspect actually pled guilty to murder and is now in the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Major Stacie Rhoads stated the part that I want to tell ya'll about this, as I told you the female was here illegally, there was nobody banging on doors, nobody was here calling saying hey what are you doing to solve this case, nobody was having protest at the Capitol demanding answers for the female, except for Special Agent David Moss. Special Agent Moss was her champion, regardless of whether somebody cared that she was dead or not, he did and the fact that somebody had committed that heinous murder, he was not going to allow that to happen. So, he picked this case up, he carried it, and it was a pretty hefty load, considering dealing with the jurisdictions there in North Carolina. Special Agent Moss is one of our Cold Case Unit agents and he is one of the reasons we actually developed this and are building it, it is because of his determination and not allowing these cold cases to remain cold forever and with that I would like to present Special Agent David Moss for his award.

Colonel Hagar presented Special Agent David Moss with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have Mary Pifer and Cassie Johnson with the overview given by Andrea Carter.

Andrea Carter gave an overview of the nominations of CACD Senior Investigators Mary Pifer and Cassie Johnson for Official Commendations. Andrea Carter stated good morning, I am Andrea Carter, I am an Area Manager for Crimes Against Children here at ASP. A lot of you guys don't know exactly what we do and hopefully this will give you a little bit of an insight. Andrea stated we had a previous commendation award that went to another investigator of ours for helping with a sexual assault, that eventually led to an arrest. Andrea stated this one has to do with no arrest however but shows and proves that we continue to work to do some of the behind the scenes of protecting children. Unfortunately, a lot of the crimes that we are seeing that are the most heinous include children and we know that officers need other people to come in to respond immediately to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children is continued, so they can continue their investigation. A lot of times criminal investigations take time, unfortunately these kids don't get enough time to adequately feel safe and feel secure in their homes or out on the streets. This actually includes two of the investigators that work with me, one is Investigator Cassie Johnson, and the other is Investigator Mary Pifer, they are both Senior Investigators. Mary actually started before I did and started at the Hotline. Andrea stated on this particular incident, it happened on Halloween, this was about 9:30 at night, I was contacted by Little Rock Police Department in reference to an Amber Alert that involved a three-day old. The alert was issued only minutes prior to me getting notified from Little Rock Police Department that they needed assistance. A lot of times in our system, we have a system that is a database that checks any history dealing with any family whether it deals with abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, or death. They wanted us to help out, see if we could find out who these people are, where they are, the mother had reported to Little Rock that she believed her child had been abducted by her partner. Investigators Johnson and Pifer were not on call at the time, again this is 10 o'clock at night but both volunteered to assist Little Rock Police Department in this matter. At approximately 10:00 p.m. Investigator Cassie Johnson contacted Lieutenant Gurley and Sergeant Lundy at the Little Rock Police Department over at the 12th Street Station and she was informed that the biological mother alleged that her girlfriend kidnapped her baby. The biological mother stated she did not give permission for her son to be taken out of the home. The girlfriend had received the Amber Alert and returned to the home. Investigator Johnson informed Sergeant Lundy that she and Investigator Pifer would be heading to the residence. At approximately 10:30 p.m. both of them showed up at the residence where the mother was. Investigators Johnson and Pifer performed an assessment to determine there was no food in the home, there was scattered clothing all over the floor, and only 1 bedroom in the studio apartment, keep in mind there was three people and a young baby. The home was untidy and had a foul smell, there was no baby formula found in the home and the mother denied breastfeeding the baby at the time and it was unknown when the baby had eaten last. Investigator Pifer observed the 3-day old to have no visible injuries, but requested he be transported to Arkansas Children's Hospital for further examination. Investigator Pifer followed the ambulance and stayed with the baby and accompanied the baby at bedside until we could get a hold of someone with the Division of Children and Families to respond. At approximately 11:00 p.m. the child's mother was interviewed and adamantly contended that her baby was taken by the girlfriend without her permission. During the course of the interview, the mother appeared to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol due to her erratic behavior and her inconsistent statements. Investigator Johnson performed a urine drug screen and the mother tested positive for Methamphetamines, Amphetamines, and Oxycodone. The mother stated she had a prescription for the Oxycodone but was unable to provide said prescription to the investigators. At approximately 11:38 p.m. the girlfriend was interviewed and contended the mother knew that the baby had been with her the entire time, and she also had 3 children of her own, they were ages 17, 16, and 15, but that she had already lost custody of them to DHS. Investigator Johnson administered a urine drug screen on the girlfriend as well, who also tested positive for Methamphetamines and Amphetamines, and she also admitted to using PCP. When we contacted the Pulaski County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to request a health and safety assessment due to the circumstances in the home and the drug use, DCFS decided to take the child into custody. There were no arrests this night, and if we did not respond, this baby would still be in this home if this said baby would still be alive. I commit and am proud of my team for what we do. DCFS did take a hold and a probable cause hearing was held and these children are still in the foster care system, which is not always the best system, but it is better than where the baby was. As stated, both of the investigators were not on call and they were not expected to drop what they were doing but they did, they left their families in the middle of the night and did not return home until around 2:00 a.m. the following morning. We later finally got

a report from the Child Abuse Hotline and the reason why it took a while is because we responded before, thanks to local law enforcement we work with that we have a good relationship with. I received letters from Sergeant Lundy from Little Rock Police Department regarding Cassie's work while she was at the Little Rock Police Department, and I also received a letter from an Arkansas Children's Hospital social worker who wrote on behalf of Mary Pifer and the fact that she stayed with the baby at bedside not leaving the baby alone until someone responded. We appreciate all of the work that you guys do, and you do help us out especially in other areas around the state and we hope to continue to grow that relationship so we can, like I said unfortunately help and assist in matters that directly deal with our children during these unfortunate criminal matters. So, Investigator Johnson and Investigator Pifer will you please come forward.

Colonel Hagar presented CACD Senior Investigators Mary Pifer and Cassie Johnson with Official Commendation Awards.

Commission Chairman Teague stated at this time, I would like to recognize Hugh Finkelstein, the Chief of Staff with the Department of Public Safety, he has a special guest I think he wants to introduce this morning. Hugh Finkelstein stated thank you, Colonel, Chairman and Commissioners I am proud to introduce Sarah Debusk, she is an Assistant Attorney General, she will be representing the Commission at our future hearings, and she happens to be one of my former students in law school.

Sarah Debusk stated thank ya'll for having me and I am excited to be here and work with ya'll and looking forward to being at all the meetings.

Commission Chairman Teague stated so you are anticipating future hearings, is that what I am hearing you say? Hugh Finkelstein stated one or two. Commission Chairman Teague stated welcome, thank you so much and good to have you here.

Commission Chairman Teague stated that brings us to weapons resolutions and first up we have Major Ron Casey.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Ron Casey presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-nine years, and four days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware retired from this department February 29, 2024;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, April 11, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA527, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and it carries.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-nine years, and four days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware retired from this department February 29, 2024;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Freddy Ware has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, April 11, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D591239M, that Corporal Freddy Ware has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Freddy Ware be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and it carries.

Commission Chairman Teague stated then next is Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, seven months, and twenty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters retired from this department February 29, 2024;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, April 11, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA415, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion carries.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, seven months, and twenty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters retired from this department February 29, 2024;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Christopher Waters has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, April 11, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D588780M, that Corporal Christopher Waters has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Christopher Waters be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion carries.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next up is division reports and first is the Fiscal Report.

Fiscal Section – Jenna Castleberry

Jenna Castleberry stated good morning, Karen Perry is representing us at budget committee this morning so I will be presenting for you. Ms. Castleberry stated we are 75% through the fiscal year and we are gearing up with our year end processes as well as starting budget prep for FY25, so those are well under way. Fiscal Session has started so we will be monitoring our bills as they go through that process, and we are also beginning preparations for year-end timelines.

Commission Chairman Teague asked Commissioner Reeves and Commissioner Allison if either of them has any questions, and their response was no sir.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Administrative Services.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning, I am going to jump right into Troop School, we have eighteen recruits left in this class and they are set to graduate April 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the rotunda at the Capitol. The 2024 B, we opened that up April 1 for applications and we already have 172 applicants in that process. We had twenty-three wellness visits last month and three Act 537 referrals. On the ASP Health Plan we ended a little higher than the last time with \$333,000 and some change higher and our total fund balance is \$11,446,136.00.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, Crimes Against Children.

Ms. Kalika Rogers stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners, the CACD Hotline received 5,262 contacts in the month of March, with 2,106 of those being accepted for investigation. Ms. Rogers stated there were twelve child deaths reported, three of those were investigated, six of those were assessed and three were just documented. Ms. Rogers stated the CACD Investigations Unit accepted 432 new investigations and they closed 494 cases, 156 of those were founded to be true and that gave us a substantiation rate of 32% for the month.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Highway Patrol Division.

Major Ron Casey stated for the month of March there were 2,869 criminal arrests made, 1,899 physical arrests, people put in jail. Troopers arrested 285 DWIs and five DUIs. A total of 8,043 hazardous arrests including speeding, reckless driving, and so forth. Troopers issued 19,713 citations for March. We had eight aircraft missions, dispatch took 31,804 calls for service, DL/CDL tests given was 21,371, and there were 41 pursuits for the month of March. Troopers investigated 12,039 crashes, seventeen of those were fatalities. For the ICP report, I didn't break this down in pounds, we had 251,004 grams of marijuana, 2,935 grams of methamphetamine, 1,501 grams of cocaine, and 526 units of pills confiscated, and troopers confiscated \$1,214,500.00 in drug cash.

Major Casey stated at this time I would like to show a video that Jonathan Nettles put together that is pretty cool, I think you all will enjoy it. Major Casey stated it is some video of arrests

by our ICP Team. Major Casey stated I thought ya'll would enjoy that; it was the 2023 seizures which obviously it is not everything that they got. Lieutenant Overton told me a few weeks ago, at this time last year, I think they had 9 seizures, they are up to almost thirty this year already. Heck of a good job by our guys, everyone in Highway Patrol is doing a great job.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I asked about the money last month, what about the drugs that are seized are they lawfully incinerated. Major Casey stated yes sir, a lot of it is held for court purposes that is a requirement, they are stockpiled in places, but whenever they get through court it is destroyed.

Colonel Hagar stated Mr. Chairman if I could, I would like to make a real quick comment. Jonathan Nettles put the video together for us that you just saw and if you look at our ASP website, any of the social media platforms that we have, constantly you see videos that are produced that are for recruiting and things like that, special presentations. We have actually been asked by the Governor's Office who is doing our productions, our marketing and all of that and it is Jonathan Nettles. So, to say we are blessed to have him and his talent in this agency is an understatement, I just want to make sure and recognize him, he doesn't get the recognition he deserves so often. So, thank you Jonathan, you do an outstanding job. Commission Chairman Teague stated thanks Jonathan.

Commission Chairman Teague let me digress just a minute, I really did not do it on purpose. I missed Major Stacie Rhoads here, so let me digress and go back to Criminal Investigations.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated it seemed planned. Major Stacie Rhoads stated that really is a hard act to follow, that was an awesome video. I know ya'll are sick of hearing me talk because I have been up here so much today. Major Stacie Rhoads stated so for the month of March, we initiated 138 investigations, 26 of those were death investigations, four were primary homicide investigations. We also investigated four officer involved shootings and I think that has got us right at 10 for the year for officer involved shootings. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I know I typically get up here and brag a little bit about some of the work that our agents and our Sergeants are doing but I often forget to recognize the leaders who keep those ships afloat out there in the field. All of our Company Commanders and Special Investigations Commander are here today, and I just want to recognize the hard work that they have especially considering they report to me, and they tolerate me. Any time a new agent comes into CID the one message that I give them is that I do not tolerate mediocrity. You know many of ya'll have commented on some of the great work that we are doing in CID with the arrest and the convictions and that is a reflection of the commanders that run our companies out there in the field and I wanted ya'll to know just how much I appreciate them for making us look so good.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Major Moyer, Regulatory and Building Operations Division.

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning. During the month of March, the Identification Bureau and AFIS processed 21,449 civil background checks and 8,819 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 241 dealer applications. The PI Security Section processed 549 applications, our ASP Bomb Squad handled three separate explosive calls, and the Fire Investigators conducted three origin and cause investigations during the month of March.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Teague asked Colonel do we have any new business?

Commissioner Hinkle stated Mr. Chairman before that may I make a quick introduction. Commission Chairman Teague stated yes sir. Commissioner Hinkle stated Commissioner Reeves, who is not here today but is on the phone, and I have a good friend here today. He is a good friend to enforcement; he has had a long career with AGFC and retired as Director of AGFC and didn't have enough so he ran for Sheriff and was elected. Mike Knoedl thank you for being here and for your long career. Commission Chairman Teague stated welcome sir, good to have you with us today.

Colonel Hagar stated I will be in trouble if I don't introduce his Chief Deputy, Retired Major Mike Foster, father of Sergeant Matt Foster, we appreciate him being with us.

Commission Chairman Teague stated welcome both of you.

Commission Chairman Teague asked Colonel do we have anything else? Colonel Mike Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we go into Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Hinkle stated Mr. Chairman I move that the commission enter into Executive Session for the purpose of considering promotion, demotion, and employment. Commissioner Basore seconded, and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:58 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:43 a.m. and stated Colonel, I believe you have some recommendations.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, first we have a recommendation for a reinstatement of former trooper James Garrett Byrd and the pleasure of the commission. Commissioner Basore made a motion that James Garrett Byrd be reinstated. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion passes unanimously.

Colonel Hagar stated the next for consideration is Lieutenant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection, my recommendation is Sergeant Brian Coty Williams. Commissioner Allison stated it is my pleasure to make a motion that we promote one of our future leaders Sergeant Coty Williams for Lieutenant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, and it is so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated the next one is Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C, my recommendation is Corporal Christopher Davenport. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Christopher Davenport be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and it is so ordered.

The last one for consideration is Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, my recommendation is Corporal Cleyton McDonald. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Corporal Cleyton McDonald be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioners Basore and Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and it is so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated that is all I have Mr. Chairman. Commission Chairman Teague stated thank you Colonel. Commission Chairman Teague stated I have nothing else on my agenda and asked is there anything else from any of the commissioners?

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 09, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I have nothing else, if no one else has anything, then we stand adjourned. Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary