

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
May 09, 2024

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, May 09, 2024, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jeffery Teague, Chairman
Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Jim Hinkle, Secretary
Commissioner Ken Reeves
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Mike Akin
Commissioner Steve Edwards

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron	Major Roby Rhoads
Major Ron Casey	Captain Randall Murphy
Captain Rick Neill	Captain Dustin Morgan
Kalika Rogers	Sherry Woods
Susan Tedford	Captain Brady Gore
Lieutenant Michael Exum	Karen Perry
Lieutenant Michael Bain	Sergeant Jason Martin
Shelly Cantrell	Veronica King
Sonja Burns-Easley	Lieutenant Marcus Daniels
Captain David Williams	Captain Brad Lann
Bridget White	Lieutenant Jay McAllister
Donna Cox	Cindy Murphy
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah DeBusk – Attorney General’s Office	Kayci Thessing, DPS
Hugh Finkelstein, DPS	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on April 30, 2024.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Teague stated Commissioners you have before you the minutes of April 11.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposed and the motion passed.

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

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Gabriel Monroe promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have weapons resolutions and first 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: Captain Scott Russell efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of eighteen years, eight months, and twelve days;

WHEREAS: Captain Scott Russell retired from this department March 31, 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: Captain Scott Russell 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, May 09, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA282, 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 Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Captain Scott Russell efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of eighteen years, eight months, and twelve days;

WHEREAS: Captain Scott Russell retired from this department March 31, 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: Captain Scott Russell 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, May 09, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D588272M, that Captain Scott Russell has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Captain Scott Russell 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 Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton Richardson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, one month, and nineteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton Richardson retired from this department March 31, 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 Clayton Richardson 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, May 09, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA015, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Akin 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 the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton Richardson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, one month, and nineteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton Richardson retired from this department March 31, 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 Clayton Richardson 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, May 09, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC536074, that Corporal Clayton Richardson has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Clayton Richardson be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Akin 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 the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have Captain Randall Murphy.

Captain Randall Murphy presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Captain Paulette Ward efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-six years, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Captain Paulette Ward retired from this department March 31, 2024;

WHEREAS: Her 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: Captain Paulette Ward has made formal request that her service weapon be retired with her and remain in her 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, May

09, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards her, her Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ724, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Basore 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 passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Captain Paulette Ward efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-six years, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Captain Paulette Ward retired from this department March 31, 2024;

WHEREAS: Her 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: Captain Paulette Ward has made formal request that her shotgun be retired with her and remain in her 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, May 09, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC614075, that Captain Paulette Ward has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Captain Paulette Ward be permitted to purchase the shotgun for her personal use.

Commissioner Basore 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 passed.

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

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners, you have the April report in front of you, we have two more months to go in the Fiscal Year, so we are trying to get that closed out with no problems. Karen Perry stated we received a \$193,000.00 insurance check and that was a claim on the Roosevelt building we had some wind damage from July 2021, and they just now gave us the money for it. We are finished with the Fiscal Session, and we will now operate under Act 138 as of July 1. Out of that we received 50 new Corporal positions, and we received funding and appropriation for a new Quartermaster System. We are also working on our budget for FY25 which will start July 1. Karen Perry stated she would be happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Allison asked did you say damage to the building in July 2021? Karen Perry stated yes sir 2021. Commissioner Allison stated that is amazing just now getting the proceeds. Commissioner Allison asked did we have to take legal action there. Karen Perry stated no, but we had to pay for all of the expenses up front and we are now getting the money back, just takes time.

Commissioner Reeves asked did you say that was State Farm? Karen Perry stated no, it is through the state insurance.

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, the Administrative Services report for April includes the following personnel transactions, on the uniformed noncommissioned side we had three new hires, one promotion, two retirements, one voluntary resignation, and one transfer. The commissioned transactions

included one new hire which was a reinstatement, two terminations, six transfers, and four promotions. We currently have five military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated tomorrow we will wrap up the written and physical fitness testing for the 2024B Troop School and we are hopeful that we will have about 150 applicants make it through that process.

Major Roby Rhoads stated in our Wellness Unit, we had 27 visits last month and our nurse practitioner had 29 patients.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan, the April paid claims were a little over \$1.5 million for an increase of \$647,781.00. Our fund balance was \$115,905 lower than last month and our total fund balance is \$11,330,223.00.

Commissioner Allison asked so when do we run out of money? Major Roby Rhoads stated when, hopefully never, I think we are doing okay.

Commission Chairman Teague stated the last graduation class, all of the class got deployed to their particular troops, is that going well, I am assuming they are assigned FTOs? Major Roby Rhoads stated they are taking a couple weeks off to burn some comp time and then report to their troop, and they will be in the FTO Program. Commission Chairman Teague stated so they are still on comp time off for now, most of them? Major Roby Rhoads stated yes sir. Commission Chairman Teague stated they needed some time off for what those guys go through and then they will be assigned an FTO, and how long is that? Major Roby Rhoads stated it could be fast tracked for a quicker process, but typically it is 12 weeks. Commission Chairman Teague asked how are the FTOs chosen? Major Roby Rhoads stated usually the Troop Commanders recommend them and then we will put a class on and train everybody in what we expect, everything that they need to know about how to train people, and how to document to keep us out of lawsuits. Major Roby Rhoads stated it is an in-depth program.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Crimes Against Children and this is one I wish was not on our agenda, not because we do not need to hear about it, but because we have to hear about it unfortunately.

Ms. Kalika Rogers stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners, the CACD Hotline received 6,154 contacts in the month of April, with 2,465 of those being accepted for investigation. Ms. Rogers stated 10 of those were child deaths, we investigated three child deaths, we had five death assessments, and two of those were only documented, which there was no investigation. Ms. Rogers stated the CACD Investigations Unit accepted 526 new investigations and we closed 512 cases, with 148 of those being found true and that gave us a substantiation rate of 29% for the month of April.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Criminal Investigations.

Captain Randall Murphy stated good morning again, in April CID opened 160 cases that are broken down into broad categories; five robberies, one arson, three rapes, two human trafficking, 10 child pornography, 21 ADC cases, 28 narcotics, three officer involved shootings, and three homicides. Captain Murphy stated one of the cases involved Company A investigating a mass shooting incident in the city of Wynne that resulted in 10 victims being shot and two being run over by vehicles. Captain Murphy stated agents from various counties stayed in Wynne for four days with only a few hours' sleep each night. Over 100 people present during the shooting were interviewed, many claimed not to have seen anything while others admitted witnessing the event but refused to provide information. By the fourth day enough evidence had been gathered to lead to the arrest of four gang members who were charged with murder and given \$1 million cash bonds. Afterwards, I received calls from the Chief of Wynne and the Sheriff of Cross County praising the work of our agents and the leadership of Sergeant Jason Martin.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Highway Patrol Division.

Major Ron Casey stated in the Highway Patrol Division report for April we had 2,725 criminal arrests, 1,797 physical persons put in jail. Troopers arrested 295 DWIs, six DUIs, and issued 8,504 citations for hazardous violations and they had 19,850 total citations issued

for April. Troopers were in 49 pursuits and investigated 1248 crashes with 42 fatalities. Sadly, to say Troop C ended up having 10 fatalities, six of those were killed in one vehicle crash. Fifteen stolen vehicles were recovered with an estimated value of \$290,000.00 and troopers drove 920,347 miles in April. CDL and DL testers gave 19,117 tests, dispatchers received 31,768 calls for service, and we had five aircraft missions. Major Casey stated I want to brag on the Highway Patrol, CID, Regulatory, and Training for helping us, we all know about the Eclipse event that took place on the 8th. We started a five-day saturation period from the 5 – 9 of April and Troopers issued 7,872 citations during that five-day period. These were saturations from every troop around the state. I do want to thank the other divisions for their help, they helped us with crashes, they helped us with roadblocks or whatever we needed so I do want to thank them for that help.

Commissioner Reeves stated all of those arrest will show up on, are they on this report right here all of these citations you mentioned during the saturation? Major Casey no sir, I gathered that off of activity that was sent into me, so I compiled it to add to this report.

Major Casey stated our Criminal Interstate Patrol seized 718 pounds of marijuana, 11.7 pounds of methamphetamine, ½ pound of cocaine, 404 pills, and 8.82 pounds of other drugs and I am really not sure what that is broken down to, and they confiscated \$94,640.00 cash.

Commissioner Allison stated looks like the drug interdiction people have been doing a really good job. Major Casey stated it is amazing and actually for the month of May in the June report is going to be outstanding too. Commissioner Allison stated I have been reading those clips that is a pretty outstanding job.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Captain Morgan.

Captain Dustin Morgan stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning. During the month of April, the Identification Bureau and AFIS Section processed 24,328 civil background checks and 8,987 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 118 dealer applications. The PI Security Section processed 601 applications. The ASP Bomb Squad handled five separate explosive calls, and the Fire Investigators conducted five origin and cause investigations. Captain Morgan stated Corporal George Summerlin conducted 72 hours of accelerant training with his K9. Bomb Squad members accumulated 248 hours of explosives training throughout the month including recertification at the bomb school in Huntsville, Alabama.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Teague asked Colonel do we have any new business? Colonel Mike Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we move to Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Edwards 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 10:20 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:17 a.m. and stated Colonel, I believe you have some recommendations.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, recommendations for promotion. The first position for consideration is Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, and my recommendation is TFC Jackson Dorman. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to accept the recommendation that TFC Jackson Dorman be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated the next one is Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B, my recommendation is Corporal Billy McCradic. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Corporal Billy McCradic be promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman

Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

The last one for consideration is Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L, my recommendation is Lieutenant Jeffrey Plouch. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Lieutenant Jeffrey Plouch be promoted to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated that is all I have Mr. Chairman. Commission Chairman Teague stated thank you Colonel. Commission Chairman Teague asked if there was any other business to come before the commission from any of the commissioners.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, June 06, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I have nothing else, if there is nothing further, we stand adjourned. Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary