

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
October 10, 2024

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 Stacie Rhoads
Major Jeff Drew	Major Roby Rhoads
Major Mike Moyer	Major Ron Casey
Lieutenant Aaron Easley	Sergeant Michael Reed
Captain Scott Joe	Sherry Woods
Captain Todd Shaw	Sergeant Greg Dycus
Jenna Castleberry	Susan Tedford
Dan Mack	Kalika Rogers
Shelly Cantrell	Karen Perry
Bridget White	Captain David Williams
Captain Brad Lann	Lieutenant Michael Bain
Captain Kyle Drown	Donna Cox
Corporal Joseph Todd Harris	Captain Craig Teague
Captain Jeff Plouch	Sergeant Matt Foster
Lieutenant Jay McAllister	Cindy Murphy
Nick Genty	Laura Robbins
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hugh Finkelstein, DPS	Joan Shipley, DPS
Sarah DeBusk-Griffith, Attorney General's Office	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

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

Commission Chairman Teague asked is Captain Plouch here, I don't think I saw him. Commission Chairman Teague stated I wanted to acknowledge Captain Plouch and Troop L for hosting our meeting last month in Lowell. I appreciate Captain Plouch and the staff there for doing that and we had a good turnout and meeting. Well received, so thank Troop L for hosting our meeting there last month.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Teague stated you have the minutes before you and I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Reeves stated before that I have two or three questions. Commissioner Reeves stated under the Fiscal Section, Karen Perry's report it says for August we went to PEER and received \$2.4 million for vehicles for Troop School, is that accurate? Vehicles for troop school \$2.4 million? Karen Perry stated well so we need vehicles because we are having a troop school, so we need vehicles for our fleet. Ms. Perry stated now the troop school, I think they will receive used vehicles from other troopers, I don't really know how the rotation is, but those specific vehicles will not be for troop school, it is just we need more vehicles because we are having a troop school. Commissioner Reeves stated okay, so we did get \$2.4 million to use to buy new vehicles, but they are not just for the troop school. Ms. Perry stated correct. Commissioner Reeves stated then the next sentence, our Legislative Audit is almost complete, he has moved out, just waiting on the

final paperwork from supervisors, so we will know what will come of that next month, that sentence just doesn't make any sense to me. Ms. Perry stated so Legislative Audit audited our books for FY24, also they did a special audit on our Executive Protection Detail expenses, and they stay here on location while they are doing that audit. So, the auditor moved out. Commissioner Reeves stated so we had a male auditor here, the audit was almost complete, he has moved out, that being the auditor, oh okay. Commissioner Reeves then stated the next sentence, next week we are going and asking for the \$3.2 million for troop school, is that for troop school or vehicles. Ms. Perry stated that \$3.2 million is for us to have a troop school. Commissioner Reeves stated okay, it cost that much money to do a troop school? Ms. Perry stated it actually cost more but that is what they give us. Commissioner Reeves stated thank you.

Commissioner Reeves stated now to Administrative Services, Captain Teague gave that report. The second paragraph, and I know minutes, I have read a lot of minutes in my career as a lawyer, and these are very neutral because they are literally verbatim, so I am not questioning the accuracy but this particular part of it seems out of sync. The second paragraph talks about the 59 applicants have gone through the psychological and medical screening, that is to begin October 13, 2024, and will graduate March 27, 2025. Then we talk about the Wellness Unit and Baptist Health Nurses, then we talk about the Health Plan and then we come back, and Commissioner Edwards stated that's a pretty good school. All I am suggesting is that those two paragraphs talking about the Wellness Unit and the Health Plan somehow got in the middle of the conversation about the troop school and I am just suggesting that they be moved down. Donna Humphries stated Commissioner Reeves, I can answer that for you, because when Major Roby Rhoads gets up and he addresses and gives his report, it is not until the end of that report that the commissioners have a chance to ask their questions. So that is why Commissioner Edwards question/statement is after, at that time, Captain Teague had given the report. Commissioner Edwards question/statement is at the very end, because that is when all the commissioners can ask questions, after the report has been given. Commissioner Reeves stated okay then that fits.

Commissioner Reeves stated there is a couple of typos down under Major Stacie Rhoads, in like the third sentence she stated one of the things that I want to know, I believe she said I want you to know, because then she proceeds to tell us, so we might want to insert the word you there. Commissioner Reeves states then in the next sentence, I don't tell you about all, Commission Chairman Teague asked what page are you on there? Commissioner Reeves states that is on page 3 very bottom, last sentence on page 3. That I want to know, I think she said I want you to know, then the next sentence says, I don't tell you about all of the thefts, all of the furnishing cases that we deploy to ADC to work. Commissioner Reeves asked is the word furnishing, is that accurate? Major Stacie Rhoads stated yes, yes, because that is the actual charge when people are bringing illegal stuff in, it is called furnishing. When people are caught bringing contraband into the prison it is furnishing. Commissioner Reeves stated okay, well very good you have taught me something else.

Commissioner Reeves stated with that one correction, add the word you, I move we approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Akin 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 presented by Colonel Mike Hagar.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

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

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have Weapon Resolutions by 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 Jason Paul Hutcheson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of ten years, seven months, and twelve days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Paul Hutcheson retired from this department August 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 Jason Paul Hutcheson 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, October 10, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA592, 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 the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Paul Hutcheson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of ten years, seven months, and twelve days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Paul Hutcheson retired from this department August 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 Jason Paul Hutcheson 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, October 10, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number R535815P, that Corporal Jason Paul Hutcheson has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Jason Paul Hutcheson 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 the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated that brings us to our division reports and first is our Fiscal Report, Ms. Perry.

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners, we should be operating at 25% and we are operating at a little bit below that. We did receive our \$3.2 million in restricted reserve for our Troop School, and we got \$450,000 for our Quartermaster System and the Quartermaster System is up and running. We started our new contract with vendors and so far, it is running pretty smooth. Our special audit with Legislative Audit will go to the committee meeting tomorrow, it will be presented. Commissioner Mike Akin stated Fiscal

Year starts in June. Ms. Perry stated July. Commissioner Edwards asked with the Quartermaster System will there not be anything for sale back in the store? Ms. Perry stated so uniforms for State Police will be here, the uniform shop is still ordering uniforms for Game and Fish, and Highway Department, but for the most part all our uniforms will be furnished through our Quartermaster System. Colonel Hagar stated Commissioners all novelty items like t-shirts, golf shirts, coasters and things like that will all still be for sale at the store.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Administrative Services, Major Roby Rhoads.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning, the Administrative Services report for September includes the following transactions. For the uniformed noncommissioned we had one new hire, one rehire, three voluntary resignations, one disciplinary, and two transfers. The commissioned transactions included three voluntary resignations, two disciplinaries, two transfers, one voluntary demotion, one extra help rehire, and one promotion to Sergeant. We currently have five military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Troop School starts this Sunday and graduates on March 27, 2025. We have 53 recruits in that school right now.

Major Roby Rhoads stated the Wellness Unit in September assisted 48 individuals, they had five follow-up visits, they had three debriefs with 49 participants. Dr. Lackey processed four Act 537 patients, and the nurse practitioner saw 79 patients.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan, paid claims for September were \$1,090,162.00, that is a decrease of \$317,238.00 from the previous month. Our ending fund balance was \$14,492,431.00.

Commissioner Hinkle stated Major this maybe part your area and part Fiscal, trying to get my hand around this \$3.2 million. If you pull a Sergeant from, let's say, North Arkansas to come in and teach a class during this process, is that person's expenses, travel, time down here, is that part of this \$3.2 or do we just absorb that in his regular job? Major Roby Rhoads stated not that I am aware of. Commissioner Hinkle stated he answered my question, thank you.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Crimes Against Children, Major Drew.

Major Jeff Drew stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, and Commissioners, the CACD Hotline received 6,193 calls in September, with 2,668 of those being accepted for investigation. Major Drew stated there were fifteen child deaths reported with four of those being investigated, ten assessed, and one documented. Major Drew stated our investigations accepted 574 cases and closed 429 cases, with 143 of those being found true which gave us a substantiation rate of 34%.

Commissioner Allison asked how do you close a maltreatment, if somebody is suspected of maltreatment how do you close that case, what do you do, what action do you take? Major Drew stated when it is closed, the investigation is complete, it will either be unsubstantiated or true, if it is true there is a potential that they could go on the maltreatment registry which once a background is run, it will come back on them. In some situations, where they may not, an unsubstantiated is pretty much done with, once the investigation is complete. We may have a preponderance of 51%, we didn't believe that there was enough evidence to prove that the person actually committed the allegation. Commissioner Reeves asked would an arrest be closure for purposes for this report. Major Drew stated for our report no sir, our part is for the civil part and of course law enforcement does the criminal. Commissioner Reeves stated this is strictly civil on this end. Major Drew stated yes sir, there are some situations where we may find true, and law enforcement chooses not to pursue criminal charges because our levels are different, and they have to have a little bit more for prosecution.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Criminal Investigations, Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads good morning, Colonel, Chairman, Commissioners for the month of September, we initiated 129 cases, 68 of those were primary investigations, 47 were for

agency assists, and we opened 15 secondary cases. We initiated 18 death investigations, six of which were homicides, and we opened two officer misconduct investigations. Major Rhoads stated we did have 157 felony arrests during the month of September. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I want to highlight an area of CID that most people do not realize is a part of CID and it is our Arkansas State Fusion Center. Our Fusion Center has seven civilian analysts, and most people are like what is a fusion center, it is a network that goes across the country, just about every state has one and they provide investigative support to law enforcement and in a variety of ways. They send be on the lookouts, BOLOs, from locals to other entities, other law enforcement agencies, they do facial recognition so if someone sends in a surveillance video they can capture a screen shot and use facial recognition software, they do major threat assessments across the state, like they do a threat assessment for the Arkansas State Fair, they do one for the Little Rock Marathon and they always do one for the very first Razorback game of the season. Major Stacie Rhoads stated they also do it on a lower magnitude as well, when we get threats to politicians, particularly the Governor, they dig into that persons history, background, and kind of give us an idea of the actual level of the threat, so we will know how to approach that situation. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I kind of want to highlight one thing they did most recently, most of you are aware of the murder suspect that was on the loose in Morrilton back in June. How he was able to be identified was Alabama had a murder and they had surveillance video, but they didn't know who the person was that had committed the murder. So, the Fusion Center in Alabama distributed a picture of this guy trying to get him identified. Our Fusion Center took that photo and identified him through a booking photo from Fort Smith in 2000. So, it was our Fusion Center that helped identify him and unfortunately, he was on the run for quite some time and was able to commit several other murders in Oklahoma. I just wanted you all to be aware of the folks that are in the background, the unsung heroes that give us support every day, I want to make sure that I give them recognition.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I have a question, in the dialogue for Company A there is a situation where a Corvette was being pursued by the West Memphis Police Department, a stolen Corvette and it struck a worker and killed the worker. In the print here it says the suspect is still at large and the U. S. Marshals are still pursuing him, do you know who it is and have they captured him. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we actually made an arrest on that, that vehicle was stolen, it was found burned and they used surveillance in the area to identify a particular person that was known to be in that vehicle prior and so he was actually a juvenile and lived in Memphis and through him we identified the driver and have made an arrest. Commissioner Allison stated I can't imagine a high-speed chase through that area in West Memphis, there is construction everywhere, the roads are terrible, unbelievable. Major Stacie Rhoads stated as cops we are in danger all the time, but those highway workers just to stand there, I can't even imagine the fear.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Major Casey, Highway Patrol Division.

Major Ron Casey stated the September report for Highway Patrol Division, on the criminal arrest side there was 2,505 arrests made, with 1,581 people arrested. There were 282 DWI arrests, nine DUI arrests, total of 7,229 hazardous arrests including speeding violations, with 506 people physically arrested for violations and 17,855 citations issued by troopers in September. We had 47 pursuits which was down just a little bit from last month, but our fatalities increased quite a bit, we had 37 and troopers investigated 1,308 crashes. They recovered 16 stolen vehicles at an estimated value of \$590,000.00. Troopers drove 871,266 miles. We had ten aircraft missions, DL/CDL gave 18,190 tests and there were 27,010 calls for service through our dispatch centers in the state. Troopers including ICP confiscated 810 pounds of marijuana, 241 pounds of methamphetamine, 10.5 pounds of cocaine, 240 units of pills, that is various pills of hydrocodone, fentanyl, and so forth, all other drugs were 4.5 pounds and troopers confiscated \$563,154.00 in drug cash. Major Casey stated it was a pretty good month, it was up quite a bit, and I got on to them because last month was pretty low. Major Casey stated we did complete our mission with the US Marshals Service this month, their Fiscal Year ended and starts again October 1, so we have got some future ones around the state set for later on. State Fair starts Friday, we have approximately 30 troopers assigned to the State Fair. We have identified around 18 troopers to assist if approved, we are probably not going to be able to send them to Florida because of we have the fair, troop school and a lot of stuff going on here. In case they are needed we have about 20 identified to go for mutual aid to Florida due to the hurricane.

Commissioner Reeves asked this \$563,154.00 in cash seized, was that one really large seizure or several different ones. Major Casey stated it was several different ones. Commissioner Reeves stated that is higher than normal for a month isn't it. Major Casey stated well we have a few months that stay pretty steady, some months, last month was pretty low, I don't know the reason why, but it fluctuates, it was a good month.

Commission Chairman Teague stated as far as the tickets that are written and the monies, and drugs that are seized and so forth, does the State Police get any of that at all? Major Casey stated citations issued goes to the courts where they are sent and that is distributed between the judges fees, fines and court costs. State Police gets \$5.00 off of every ticket for retirement, but we don't see a lot of money off citations. The seized cash money goes in asset forfeiture monies and the prosecutor's office divvies that money up as they see fit. We might get a pretty good chunk from some place and other places we don't get much. Chairman Teague stated in the past how has that gone? Major Casey stated well again, it has been good in some places and some place not so good. Commissioner Reeves asked does the prosecutor truly have discretion in doing that, I mean are there some statutes to guide them on it or are they audited on it, do you know, on these confiscated funds? Lt. Colonel Aaron stated I am sure they are audited on it, but there is no set percentage when it comes to our State Prosecutors, they have sole discretion. Commissioner Akins stated so the cash that was seized obviously that is from all over the state, various places, so it is divvied up by county and that prosecutor. Major Casey stated right and realistically that's no way close to what we will get from those seizures. Commissioner Akin stated you mean what was seized you will get a small percentage maybe. Major Casey stated yes sir. Commissioner Akin stated but that is their discretion. Major Casey stated yes sir. Commission Chairman Teague stated it seems, this is one person's opinion, but it seems there should be some legislation to change that, I don't know, I guess there is some reasoning that I am not privy to. Major Casey stated honestly, we have never understood it. Commissioner Akin stated but feasibly at least \$3 - \$4 million a year. Major Casey stated yes sir and stated some places are really good to us.

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

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, during the month of September, the Identification Bureau processed 24,718 civil background checks and 8,817 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 266 dealer applications. The PI Security Section processed 665 applications. The Fire Investigators conducted three origin and cause investigations. Major Moyer stated to give you a quick update on our barracks building project, we are in the final design phase and looking to start actually moving dirt on it sometime around December of this year, they have a projected completion date of May of 2026.

Commissioner Reeves stated I do have questions, maybe it was last month but we had this situation where we had explosives, the Saline County explosives deal, how did we find out about that, it has got to be some kind of tip, I guess wouldn't it to find that lab. Major Moyer stated so yes, I am trying to remember details on that now, if I remember that was a home check, I cannot remember if he was on parole. Commissioner Reeves stated seems like it was a guy with a record and his son and maybe his daughter, kind of a family operation, but some pretty serious explosives. Major Moyer stated yes, most of those come in the form of a tip or a lot of the bomb calls we get could be a farmer that passes away and the family finds crates of dynamite that has been in there for 50 years and we have to go and dispose of it. Most of those come in from a tip or they are a parolee that has a home check, something like that. Colonel Hagar stated Commissioner that one in Saline County that you are referring to, that actually resulted from local jurisdiction responding to a shots fired call. They went into the house to see; I believe the son had fired rounds inside the house. The local agency had walked around the house looking at where the bullet strikes were, and they started noticing materials that they were suspicious of. I think originally, they thought that it could be some type of drug manufacturing and then someone with some type of DOD experience recognized that it could be more than that and our agency was called. The only reason I am familiar with that one is I had some dialogue back and forth with the FBI SAC on that particular case.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Teague asked do we have any new business? Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. 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 10:34 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:42 a.m. and stated I think Colonel Mike Hagar has some recommendations. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, for the Captain position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Special Investigations Unit, my recommendation is Lieutenant Larry Joe Carter. Commissioner Reeves made a motion that Lieutenant Larry Joe Carter be promoted to Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Special Investigations Unit. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve and a second, all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated for the Troop L Lieutenant position that is going to be a lateral transfer and that lateral is going to be Lieutenant Jeff Whitlock.

Colonel Hagar stated for Troop E Sergeant my recommendation is Corporal Joseph Todd Harris. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Joseph Todd Harris be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated for the Sergeant position in the Director's Office, Auto Shop that is also going to be lateral transfer and it will be Sergeant Alan Johnson.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague stated if there is nothing else, we stand adjourned. With no further business, Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary