

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10TH, 11TH, 2024

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

9:00 A. M. Meeting called to order.

Commissioners present:

Chairman Doc Holladay
Vice Chair Barry Phillips
Sheriff Phillip Miller
Sheriff Lafayette Woods
Mr. James Montgomery
Chief Heath Helton
Chief Mike Reynolds
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Major Stacie Rhoads
Mr. Richard Wingard

Others Present:

Chris Chapmond, ADLEST Director
Eric Wacaster, ADLEST Deputy Director
Jason Lawrence, ADLEST Deputy Director
Taylor Reavis, ADLEST Attorney
Kreasha Williams, ADLEST Paralegal
Molly Wrigley, ADLEST Administrative Assistant
Barbara Varnell, ADLEST Education Coordinator
Sue Albritton, ADLEST Administrative Assistant
Coby Copeland, Court Reporter
Joshua Baxter, Hearing Officer
Kevin Smith, Lonoke County Sheriff's Office
Kevi Cooper, Traskwood Police Department
John Staley, Lonoke County Sheriff's Office
Glen Cook, Austin Police Department
Mike Blocker, Newton County Sheriff's Office
Glenn Wheeler, Newton County Sheriff's Office
Scotty Hodges, Benton Police Department
Patrick Baker, Benton Police Department
Jonathan Shay Cornwell, Austin
Curtis Wood, Benton Police Department

Jimmy Williamson, Beebe Police Department
Jackie McCool, Fairfield Bay Police Department
James Burroughs, Fairfield Bay, Police Department
Chris Goodrich, Fairfield Bay Police Department
James Moody, Tuckerman Police Department
Felipe Baiza, Maynard School District
Trent Melton, Maynard School District
Josh Helmert, Sebastian County Sheriff's Office
Rodney Perry, Marianna Police Department
Juan Reyes, CLEST
Stephen McDaniel, Jonesboro Police Department
Bobby Chapel, Camp Robinson Police Department
B. T. Carmical, Camp Robinson Police Department
Earnest Whitten, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Johnny Hicks, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Melinda Perkins, DPS, CVRB
Cardarious Walker, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Ryan Rose

Christopher Miller, Parkin Police Department
Michael Willaby, Jonesboro Sun
Floyd Parnell, Tuckerman Police Department
Adam Blackwell, Maynard School District
John Miller, Sebastian County Sheriff's Office
Orlando Brewer, Lonoke Police Department
Torrey Bradley, Lonoke Police Department
Rick Elliott, Jonesboro Police Department
Scott Luman, Union County Sheriff's Office
Erick Meadows, Union County Sheriff's Office
Kaylon Jones, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
David Parker, Stuttgart Police Department
Ricky Roberts, Union County Sheriff's Office
Laura Robbins, Department of Public Safety
Keshun Leon, Jonesboro
Brianna King
Scott Simmons, De Queen Police Department
Marcus Daniels, Arkansas State Police

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2024, meeting was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Maynard School District to establish their own police department under Act 629 of 2019. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Fairfield Bay Police Department for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002 for Officer Christopher Goodrich. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Parkin Police Department for a waiver of the two-year period under CLEST Rule 1005 for Officer Thomas Crutcher. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Tuckerman Police Department to employ additional Part-time officers under A.C.A. 12-9-124. A motion to grant the request and allow the department until October 1, 2024, to hire an additional Full-Time officer was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from Wyatt Varner for recertification under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a procedural update from the Office of Standards. A motion to accept and support the updated procedures was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was to establish the 2025 meeting dates. The dates for the 2025 are: January 7th and 8th, March 11th and 12th, May 13th and 14th, July 8th and 9th, September 9th and 10th, November 19th and 20th. All meetings will take place at ASP Headquarters in Little Rock. A motion to accept these dates was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Texarkana Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Alan Collins. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Jonesboro Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joseph Harris. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the England Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Timoth Holstein. A motion to require submission of additional documentation by requesting department before decision was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Prairie Grove Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Olivia Jentzsch. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Commissioner Reynolds recused. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Saline County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Shakora King. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Carlise Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Luka Lenderman. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Des Arc Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joshua Stringer. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Charles White. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Commissioner Woods recused. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Arkansas Department of Corrections, Division of Community Correction for the decertification of Sonny Word. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy James Waner. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion Carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Roy Williams. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Jasmine Mayfield. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Addendum:

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from Sebastian County for an extension under CLEST Rule 1002 for Deputy Steven Fairfield. A motion to grant the request stipulating that the necessary training must be completed by November 14, 2024 by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

A Suspension Hearing was held for Chief Kevin Cooper, of the Traskwood Police Department. A motion was made to lift the suspension stipulating that Chief Cooper must complete the 120 Refresher Course within 60 days by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

On September 10, 2024, Decertification Hearings were held. One Consent Agreement was presented for final vote on behalf of Jack Young. A motion to accept and decertify was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Jonathan Cornwell**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Helton and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Bartholomew Heft**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Montgomery. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Alfiya Mills**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried.

On September 11, 2024, decertification hearings were held. A hearing was held for **Keshun Leon**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Kenneth Broyles**. After hearing the evidence and testimony given Commissioner Miller made the motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and rose to the level of decertification. Commissioner Marsh seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A hearing was held for **James Reese**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Orlando Brewer**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Helton. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Joshua Luman**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Kaylon Jones**. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but did not rise to the level of decertification was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Kaylon Jones was not decertified. All hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Joshua Baxter and recorded by Court Reporter Coby Copeland. A total of **nine (9) officers** were decertified and **one (1)** was not decertified.

Directors' Report

Director Chapmond reported that the construction final phase design has been completed. We have lost time due to the review process but anticipate going to bid within the next few weeks. NW and Central are both in week 4/5 of their fall classes. The fall classes will be the first classes with the new expanded 640-plus-hour class schedule. Our advanced training catalog has been published and pushed out across the state. There are over 30 classes that have been designed to take on the road and teach at the regional level to save agencies time and money. We have more than a dozen classes already scheduled, and more being requested. Supervisor Scott Rosson is overseeing that section. We have had budget discussions on the departmental level and with the governor's staff. Executive meetings are scheduled for later in the week. We have requested 5-7 new sworn and civilian positions and approximately \$1.3 million in increased funding. I will update the commission as more information is gained. The new circuit ruling on contested hearings will increase costs that are not currently budgeted. We have spoken to the Governor's staff regarding one-time funding to help offset that cost and we are transferring a team member to the legal team to address the increased workload. We have secured \$138k grant from the Drug Director's office to fund officer wellness, crisis intervention training, resiliency and leadership training. That he signed the grant paperwork on that yesterday and funds appear to be immediately available. Jail Standards hosted a color of law class in conjunction with the US Attorney's office and it was well received. We anticipate this being a regular occurrence. Approximately 150 attendees. That he and the deputy directors spent last week in Eastern Arkansas, Clay County to Chicot County visiting with Chiefs and Sheriffs. This was the first time many of those individuals had a visit from senior staff. Several issues were discussed, and we will be working with many to solve a variety of issues. We were presented the opportunity to speak at the Kentucky Leadership Conference this past week. He and Dr. Chris Clem spoke with Kentucky State Police and others during their annual conference on the leadership program being developed here in Arkansas. We are one of three states that have implemented a law enforcement leadership development program. This was a huge honor and Dr. Clem has been a big part of our recent success in this area. Our first podcast has been recorded. We have two additional podcasts set for production. They will focus on training and legal updates, roundtable discussions, officer wellness, resiliency and leadership and critical debriefs. We have a number of guests lined up to participate. The Invictus Award for gallant service above and beyond what is called for daily has been designed and implemented. The first two recipients will be officers from the Hot Springs Police Department involved in a critical incident last year. A Poinsett County deputy has been scheduled to be presented as well as the officers involved in the Fordyce active shooter situation. Servant Leadership award has been implemented with two academy students receiving them at last month's graduations. These are voted on by the class and tie in directly with our leadership program being taught.