

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
November 12, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Commissioner Neff Basore, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Steve Edwards  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague  
Commissioner Jim Hinkle

MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner Bill Benton, Secretary  
Commissioner John Allison

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Chairperson

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Forrest Marks
Major Jason Aaron	Sergeant Morris Knight
TFC Chris Short	Corporal Dwight Lee
TFC Josh Porter	Lieutenant Seth Pinner
Emma French	Captain Chris Goodman
Sergeant Brandon Margis	Corporal Adam Pinner
Captain David Lafferty	Lieutenant Scott Russell
Corporal Ryan Jacks	Sergeant Philip Hydron
Trooper Spencer Morris	Sherry Woods
Lieutenant Bobby Brown	Mary Claire McLaurin
Jonathan Nettles	Donna Humphries

OTHER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Sara Farris, Atty General's Office

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimber Knight	Sarah Short
Marilynn Lee	Kelsey Porter

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on November 09, 2020.

MINUTES:

Commission Vice Chairman Basore stated the minutes have been distributed to the commission, are there any changes or additions. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPONS RESOLUTIONS:

Major Forrest Marks presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Jeffrey S. Ricketts efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of fourteen years, eight months and one day;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jeffrey S. Ricketts retired from this department September 30, 2020;

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 Jeffrey S. Ricketts 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, November 12, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA014, 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

#### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Jeffrey Ricketts efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of fourteen years, eight months and one day;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jeffrey Ricketts retired from this department September 30, 2020;

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 Jeffrey Ricketts 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, November 12, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D588316M, that Corporal Jeffrey Ricketts has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Jeffrey Ricketts 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 Teague seconded and the motion passed.

#### PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Captain Chris Goodman promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Bobby Brown promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Seth Pinner promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Morris Knight promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B.

#### OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Philip Hydron gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Spencer Morris for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Philip Hydron stated on December 31, 2019 at approximately 12:09 a.m., the Memphis Police Department requested the assistance of the Arkansas State Police stating that they were in pursuit of kidnapping suspects traveling westbound on Interstate 40 coming into Arkansas. Additional information revealed that the kidnapping suspects were driving a Nissan Maxima, white in color with temporary tags and that the victim of the kidnapping was in the trunk of the suspect's vehicle. Trooper Morris positioned his marked unit on Interstate 40 at the 280 mile marker so that he could intercept the suspect's vehicle. A short time later, dispatch advised that the suspect exited Interstate 40 at the 281 mile marks and was now traveling eastbound on Interstate 40 back towards Memphis. Trooper Morris activated his emergency equipment and was able to obtain a visual of the pursuing Memphis Police Department units as well as the suspect vehicle. Trooper Morris quickly assumed primary unit responsibilities due to the other units being from Tennessee. Trooper Morris pulled up beside the suspect's vehicle to obtain a visual of the inside of the vehicle and observed one male driving and one male in the back seat. Trooper Morris moved into position to perform the PIT maneuver on the left side of the suspect's vehicle and conducted it successfully. The suspect's vehicle spun counter clockwise and hit the concrete barrier coming to rest facing westbound in the inside eastbound lane of traffic up against the concrete barrier. The driver was taken into custody by members of the Memphis Police Department without incident. The passenger exited the passenger's side of the suspect's vehicle, jumped the concrete barrier, crossed the westbound lanes of traffic and went into a wooded area. Trooper Morris and officers with the Memphis Police Department pursued the suspect into the wooded area. A short time later, officers with the Memphis Police Department used deadly physical force to apprehend the suspect. The kidnapping victim was located in the trunk of the suspect's vehicle and was taken to safety. EMS treated the victim on scene for minor injuries and later transported him to Regional One Medical Center for further evaluation. If it was not for the swift, decisive actions and the exemplary performance of Trooper Morris, the suspects could have eluded law enforcement and escaped apprehension, ultimately leaving the victims life in jeopardy. It is for these reasons that I nominated Trooper Spencer Morris for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper Spencer Morris.

Sergeant Brandon Margis gave an overview of the nomination of Corporal Dwight Lee for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Brandon Margis thanked the ASP Commissioners and Colonel Bryant for allowing him the time and opportunity to present the official commendation overviews for Corporal Dwight Lee and TFC Josh Porter. Both of these troopers have astounding work ethic and strive each day to show the community that they service that the Arkansas State Police is the premier law enforcement agency within this state.

During 2019, Corporal Dwight Lee entered into his 28<sup>th</sup> year of service with this department and that is in addition to the 4 years that he served as a deputy with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. He has over 33 years of service to this date. Corporal Lee transferred from the Criminal Investigation Division 11 years ago and immediately began pursuing impaired drivers throughout the River Valley. Since that time, Corporal Lee has arrested and removed over 1,000 impaired drivers from the roadways of Troop H. Keeping pace with his previous years, Corporal Lee arrested 57 impaired drivers in 2019. His superior work ethic in consistently arresting impaired drivers accounted for over 50% of the DWI/DUI arrests within his assigned post, which is Sebastian County. Compared to Troop H as a whole, his DWI/DUI arrest accounted for over 22% of the total arrests. In addition to arresting more impaired drivers than anyone within the troop, Corporal Lee is extremely well respected within the community, and still finds time to participate in community events such as the annual Special Olympics Torch Run and multiple career events at local elementary schools. He is a proud 20 year team member of the ASP Honor Guard where he served on multiple details in 2019. Even with the countless hours of events and details that take him away from the highway, he never lets his additional assignments interfere with his Highway Patrol duties. For his exemplary efforts in removing impaired drivers from the streets and dedicated service to the State of Arkansas, I recommend Corporal Dwight Lee receive an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Dwight Lee.

Sergeant Brandon Margis gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Josh Porter for an Official Commendation.

Everyday across the state, Troopers prepare themselves for the shift that lies ahead. While we all strive to fulfill the mission of the Arkansas State Police, a select few seek more. TFC Joshua Porter is one of those select few. Over his four and a half years of service, he has accumulated over 1,000 criminal arrests and over 5,000 total arrests. This past year alone, TFC Porter had a total of 345 criminal arrests, which accounted for over half of the total criminal arrest within his assigned post, which is Sebastian County. TFC Porter accounted for over 15% of the total criminal arrests within Troop H, second to only one other in the specific category of felony arrests. In 2019, TFC Porter worked a total of 205 days on the highway and averaged over one and a half criminal arrests per day. In addition to protecting human life and property by apprehending criminals, TFC Porter maintains an excellent relationship with the citizens he interacts with on a daily basis. He uses excellent judgment in issuing warning versus citations, and he never shy's away from a chance to help a motorist in need, which he did 127 times last year. Even with an overwhelming amount of activity, I rarely, if ever receive any complaints on TFC Porter, but words of appreciation are a common occurrence from citizens and other officers who work alongside him. It is evident that the Core Values of the Arkansas State Police are instilled within TFC Porter. TFC Porter submitted numerous Use of Force Reports and Pursuit Packets in 2019. He also submitted more incident reports and accident reports than anyone in his post. In addition, he submits his reports promptly and with little to no errors. While I may spend a great deal of time reviewing and approving the previously listed items, the time is made up for in terms of how independent and resourceful he is. TFC Porter rarely brings a problem without already finding a potential solution. His due diligence and perseverance on resolving issues and his overall independence allows me to focus on other supervisory tasks. There is no question, as to whether TFC Porter has displayed superior job performance since becoming an Arkansas State Trooper and this previous year is a testament to that. Whether he is apprehending criminals, working alongside other agencies or respectfully informing the citizens about the rules of the road, TFC Porter strives to live out the Mission of the Arkansas State Police on a daily basis. It is for these reasons that I recommend TFC Josh Porter receive an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Josh Porter.

Captain Chris Goodman gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Chris Short for an Official Commendation.

Captain Chris Goodman thanked the ASP Commissioners and Colonel Bryant for being given the opportunity to present the overview for TFC Chris Short. I want to first say also that Corporal Dwight Lee, TFC Josh Porter and TFC Chris Short, I am very blessed and appreciative of you allowing me to be their Captain and you won't find three finer troopers around the state.

For 2019, TFC Chris Short distinguished himself by outstanding achievement in the field of criminal interdiction. During this timeframe, he was assigned to Troop H, Crawford County, TFC Short made 41 significant seizures of illegal drugs and suspected money derived from illegal drug transactions. These seizures resulted in the confiscation of over 72.2 lbs. cocaine, 393 lbs. marijuana, 5.3 lbs. methamphetamine, 139 illegal pills, and over \$42,000.00 from our interstates and highways. He also recovered 2 stolen vehicles and through his hard work and dedication to catching criminals, he also led his post in criminal arrests with a total of 203 arrests, 130 of which were felonies. In addition to these criminal arrests and large seizures, he has worked over 70 crash investigations. TFC Short has an extremely impressive work ethic, you won't find any better in the state. TFC Short creates an infectious desire to work hard that spreads throughout his post and our troop. It is my opinion that TFC Short is worthy to be awarded an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Chris Short.

#### DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French stated we are operating at about 33% through the year right now. We are in a good position right now. The only other thing to mention is our budget hearing was rescheduled and it will be next Tuesday, November 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report. He began by reporting the Personnel transactions for the month. The uniformed noncommissioned transactions include four new hires, two demotions, and two terminations. The commissioned transactions include one new hire, one promotion, one termination, and five transfers. We currently have four military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, October paid claims were \$1,031,968 which was an increase of \$24,721 from last month. The fund balance is \$76,629 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$9,234,000.96. The discount savings for September was 77%.

A quick overview regarding the 2021A Troop School, we currently have 61 applicants that are scheduled for interviews beginning next week and once those are complete then the selection process will take place and then we will have the orientation day on January 5 and the first day of Troop School will be January 10.

Commissioner Edwards asked how many people are going to be in the school. Major Hubbard stated 40.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Vice Chairman Basore stated Colonel I believe we have some personnel matters today.

Colonel Bryant, yes sir, but before that I just want to congratulate all the award winners and these promotions we had. So very proud of you and I know I speak for all of the Commissioners, it is just great to hear all of these stories, you put your life on the line every day to make the State of Arkansas a safer place. I just want to congratulate you, am very proud of you and it is an honor to be Director of the Arkansas State Police when you hear stories like that.

Colonel Bryant stated we have a couple of personnel matters to discuss in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. Commission Vice Chairman Basore called the meeting back to order at 11:14 a.m. and stated Colonel Bryant you have some recommendations.

Colonel Bryant stated we have one promotion to consider today before the commission. It is an ASP Sergeant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B, Arkansas, Desha, Jefferson, and Lincoln Counties. Colonel Bryant stated my recommendation to the Commission is Corporal Mike Garlington for the Sergeant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. Commissioner Allison made a motion that Corporal Mike Garlington be promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Vice Chairman Basore stated the other agenda item, the reinstatement request of Kristopher McCrea K will be tabled until next month we are going to get some additional information. Colonel Bryant will report back next month at the December 10, 2020 meeting on that piece of business.

NEXT MEETING:

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Commission Vice Chairman Basore stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with the Chris Bussey Appeal Hearing starting at 10:00 a.m. or upon adjournment of the ASP Commission Meeting.

With no more business, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed. Commission Vice Chairman Basore adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

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Commission Chairperson

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Commission Secretary