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

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Commissioner Jeffery Teague, Chairman
Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Jim Hinkle, Secretary
Commissioner Ken Reeves
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Steve Edwards

MEMBER ABSENT:
Commissioner Mike Akin

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:
Colonel Mike Hagar
Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Major Roby Rhoads
Major Jeff Drew
Captain Dustin Morgan
Lieutenant Coty Williams
Susan Tedford
Sergeant Jason Martin
Corporal Scott Troy
Jenna Castleberry
Captain Jeff Plouch
Captain Jeremy Roberts
Sergeant Christopher Davenport
Donna Humphries

Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Major Ron Casey
Major Stacie Rhoads
Captain Randall Murphy
Lieutenant Aaron Easley
Sherry Woods
Sergeant Chuck Lewis
Sergeant Billy McCradian
Shelly Cantrell
Sergeant Callie Dacus
Caitlin Teague
Sergeant Greg Dycus
Cindy Murphy

OTHERS PRESENT:
Sarah DeBusk – Attorney General’s Office
Hugh Finkelstein, DPS
Hudson Humphries, DPS Intern
Cooky Williams
Kathy Grissom
Joan Shipley, DPS
Phillip Warriner, DPS
LeAnn Williams
James Grissom
Ret. Major Kathy Sparks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:
The media was notified of this meeting on May 28, 2024.

MINUTES:
Commission Chairman Teague stated Commissioners you have before you the minutes of June 6 meeting. Commissioner Reeves stated there is a correction on page 4 at the bottom, the word exuberant should be changed to exorbitant. Commissioner Reeves stated with this correction, I make a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioners Basore/Edwards 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 promotion certificates presented by Colonel Hagar.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:
Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Captain Jeremy Roberts promoting him to Captain in the Director’s Office, Executive Protection.
Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Coty Williams promoting him to Lieutenant in the Director’s Office, Executive Protection.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Callie Dacus promoting her to Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Training.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Christopher Davenport promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Billy McCradic promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have Weapon Resolutions.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Captain Jeremy Roberts presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

RESOLUTION
WHEREAS: Senior Corporal Willie Robinson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-seven years, five months, and twenty-five days;
WHEREAS: Senior Corporal Willie Robinson retired from this department May 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: Senior Corporal Willie Robinson 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, July 11, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA323, 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 Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposition, and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION
WHEREAS: Senior Corporal Willie Robinson 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, July 11, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the
Remington shotgun, serial number PC541752, that Senior Corporal Willie Robinson has
carried be affixed at $100.00, and that Senior Corporal Willie Robinson 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 Allison 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 the first one
up is the Fiscal Report.

Fiscal Section – Jenna Castleberry

Jenna Castleberry stated good morning, Colonel, Mr. Chair, and Commissioners, we ended
the month of June well, and closed out the Fiscal Year. It was a busy month, but we finished
that up. We received our biennial budget packet for FY26 and 27 planning and that is due
this month. We are working on new year start up processes which includes setting up all of
our purchase orders for the year. We ended the year with June fuel averages of $2.83 a gallon.

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

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning,
the Administrative Services report for June includes the following personnel transactions, on
the uniformed noncommissioned side we had five new hires, one re-hire, two resignations,
one termination, and one retirement. The commissioned transactions included seven
retirements, two resignations, one suspension, and seven transfers. We currently have five
military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for our troop school that is coming up this fall, we have 93
applicants left in the process and they are in the background phase right now. We are
finishing up those backgrounds and they should move on to oral interviews soon. That Troop
School should start on October 13, 2024.

Major Roby Rhoads stated the Wellness Unit had 90 individuals that we assisted and that
included the Fordyce incident. Dr. Lackey assisted three individuals with Act 537, and our
nurse practitioner saw 59 patients.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan, the June paid claims were $1.2 million
last month and that was a decrease of almost $269,000.00 from the month before. Our fund
balance total is $14,314,116.00.

Commissioner Reeves stated I do have a question Major Roby Rhoads, these career fairs that
we participate in, who sponsors those, are those aimed strictly at law enforcement or are they
general? Major Roby Rhoads stated they could be either one, some of them are specific for
law enforcement and others are just any career field. Commissioner Reeves stated okay,
thank you.

Commission Chairman Teague stated the Fordyce event was mentioned, can you enlighten
us any, is there anything else we don’t know that you can enlighten us on about that
unfortunate event. Colonel Hagar stated no sir not really. Major Stacie Rhoads may be able
to speak to more specifics, but everyone is out of the woods as far as their medical conditions,
the two that were critical are now stable. I think one specifically will have a long road ahead
of her. Unfortunately, we still know nothing about motive at this time whatsoever. Don’t
even have a guess unless there has been something uncovered in the last 24 hours, that I have
not been aware of.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Crimes Against Children.

Major Jeff Drew stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, and Commissioners, the CACD
Hotline received 4,119 calls in June, a drop from 4,300 this time last year, 2,443 are being
accepted for investigation. Major Drew stated we had fifteen child deaths reported, three
were investigated, and twelve were assessed. Major Drew stated the investigations accepted by CACD were 454 cases and we closed 460 cases, with 134 of those being found true which gave us a substantiation rate of 27%.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Criminal Investigations.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, Commissioners, CID for the month of June we initiated 179 cases. Nineteen of those were death investigations, four were homicides, three of those deaths were in custody jail deaths, and we opened one criminal misconduct investigation for a police officer. As the other Major Rhoads mentioned we initiated 102 background investigations for the Administrative Services, I think we are right at having 44 that are still left outstanding. Major Stacie Rhoads stated you mentioned the Fordyce incident, you know while I can’t speak, I don’t know who is in the room, so I am not allowed to get into full details about what happened. Major Stacie Rhoads stated but I will say this, a lot of times what we do in law enforcement is reactionary, especially for us in CID. It is predominantly reactionary whether it is an interstate shooting, or investigating a child porn case it is reactionary, we don’t get to choose the time, the place or frankly the working conditions, Fordyce was extremely hot. But what I tell our folks all the time, it is our greatest privilege is to be ready when we are called. I think what came out of the Fordyce incident is everybody that showed up that day was prepared from the sheriff to the officers that eliminated the threat, to the emergency room personnel, to our CID folks, to our Highway Patrol folks, just getting there and getting the scene secured. I think that was the greatest thing that came out of that, and I just really want to, you know especially from my side of the house, Company B got down there, they handled business, we did have to recruit some other folks from other CID Companies. Our hard work did not end that day, the folks in Company B are going to be dealing with this until it is adjudicated and that could take two years. They are still going through cell phone data, trying to figure out what a motive was, and of course we may never know, but it is still being investigated, still have a lot of crime scene evidence to be processed. Overall, just an exceptional response to that situation down there.

Commissioner Hinkle stated Major, Sheriff Knoedl told me on the phone that whenever I got the opportunity to please express to the ASP Team what an outstanding job they did. He said it was unbelievable how quick you all got there and that all of our people no doubt what division, I don’t like to use that word, what part of the ASP Team you play on, please know that those people down there really, really, really appreciated your response, and your dedication to that job. Commissioner Hinkle stated Major to your people, please give them that comment. Major Stacie Rhoads stated absolutely and thank you, even some, Sergeant McCradic just got his certification, he was a brand-new Sergeant, and can you imagine going and trying to maintain that crime scene and making sure every little, because ultimately our goal is a conviction, justice for those families who lost loved ones. So that is a huge responsibility, but everybody handled business and I am really proud of everybody.

Commission Chairman Teague stated unfortunate situation, but we are proud of our men and women in blue and thanks.

Commission Chairman Teague stated all right, Major Casey, Highway Patrol Division.

Major Casey stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, and Commissioners, the division report for Highway Patrol for the month of June was 2,637 total criminal arrests, with 1,716 total persons arrested. There were 268 DWI arrests, five DUls arrests, with 7,234 hazardous arrest for the month of June. There was a total of 18,509 citations issued for the month of June, and there were 52 pursuits across the state. Troopers investigated 1,197 traffic crashes, 37 of those being fatalities. There were 14 stolen vehicles recovered at an estimated cost of $316,000.00 and six handguns recovered were around $52,200.00. Troopers drove a total of 861,791 miles in the month of June. We had nine aircraft missions. Dispatch took 30,354 calls for service and we had 21,013 DL/CDL tests given. Drug seizures and money seizures for the month of June were 217.4 pounds of marijuana, one pound of methamphetamine, 15 pounds of cocaine, 775 pounds of other illicit drugs, 682 of that being THC edibles and the other was promethazine. Troopers confiscated $849,486.00 in drug money. Major Casey stated one thing that wasn’t mentioned, just a few days before the shooting in Fordyce, both Highway Patrol and CID did an outstanding job investigating a crime scene in Morrilton where a murder suspect out of Alabama and Oklahoma was apprehended after about a 24-hour manhunt, so they did an excellent job.
Commissioner Reeves asked is the $849,486.00 literally cash that was seized? Major Casey stated yes sir. Commissioner Reeves stated sounds awfully high for a month. Major Casey stated yes, we had a real good month.

Commissioner Hinkle asked did the helicopter get back from annual inspection? Major Casey stated yes sir it did and then the fuel gauge went out, but we do have that fixed, we are in good shape.

Commissioner Allison stated so pursuits, is that up or down, can you tell is the word getting out that it is a felony now, did that slow it down? Major Casey stated well it did, they were kind of reduced last month, but this month we have shot back up again. We probably had 15 over this past weekend. I think and one yesterday, one the day before, but it is just up and down, they are staying pretty steady. Commissioner Allison stated but it is not taking hold. Major Casey stated well you are dealing with felons who don’t care, so they don’t care about catching another. Commissioner Allison stated they already are felons. Major Casey stated yes, most of them don’t care about catching another charge.

Commission Chairman Teague asked did I read that most of them are motorcycles? Major Casey stated we don’t have a whole lot of motorcycles, there is a few. A majority of them are cars, we have had a few pickups.

Commissioner Allison stated I can’t imagine running 140 mph on a motorcycle, that just, I know ya’ll have seen it.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Regulatory and Building Operations Division.

Captain Dustin Morgan stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning. During the month of June, the Identification Bureau and AFIS Section processed 23,733 civil background checks and 8,961 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 317 dealer applications. The PI Security Section processed 655 applications. The ASP Bomb Squad handled three explosive calls and fire investigators conducted seven origin and cause investigations.

Commission Chairman Teague stated the Bomb Squad handled three calls. Captain Morgan stated three explosives calls. Commission Chairman Teague asked can you elaborate on those? Captain Morgan stated one of them they responded to Dallas County, Fordyce because they suspected that there could have been some booby-trapped residences. So, the bomb squad did respond to that, they breached the houses, thankfully there were no explosives found. They also responded to Conway County with the SWAT Team and the other call would have just been various, probably explosives found, and the bomb squad responded and rendered them safe.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m. and stated Colonel do you have anything. Colonel Hagar stated this will be a lateral transfer so there will be no action by the Commission. Colonel Hagar stated I will laterally transfer Sergeant Dakotah Bailey into the vacant Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, August 08, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
Commission Chairman Teague stated he did want to mention in September the ASP Commission Meeting will be held at Troop L in Lowell, so mark your calendars in September we are going to travel up to Troop L.

Commission Chairman Teague asked if there was anything else from the Commissioners, if not then we stand adjourned. Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

____________________________
Commission Chairman

____________________________
Commission Secretary