

# MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

November 9, 2023

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

## MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison, Secretary

## STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Major Mike Moyer
Major Roby Rhoads	Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy	Major Ron Casey
Kalika Rogers	Major Jeff Drew
Susan Tedford	Jenna Castleberry
Karen Perry	Lieutenant Alex Krneta
Trooper Tyler Grant	Lieutenant Randall Murphy
Barry V. Roy	Cindy Ball-Dye
Captain Dustin Morgan	Captain Philip Hydron
Lieutenant Bobby Brown	Lieutenant Ted Jones
Sergeant Lagarian Cross	Sergeant Justin Nowlin
Dan Mack	Corporal Michael Bowman
Sergeant Ryan Jacks	Captain Jeff Sheeler
Lieutenant Joe Carter	Sergeant Roy Moomey
Captain Chris Goodman	Sergeant Dakotah Bailey
Janie Runkle	Lieutenant Michael Bain
Lieutenant Michael Gunnett	Corporal Matt Price
Donna Humphries	

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Jesi Feld, DPS	Ryan Roach, DPS
Samuel Bryan Dye	Tracy Nowlin
Becky Nowlin	Retiree Van Nowlin
Ryker Nowlin	Rhett Nowlin
Beth Carter	

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

## NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on November 01, 2023.

## MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated everyone was sent out the minutes of the October 12, 2023, regular monthly meeting and asked if anyone has any revisions or changes.

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

## 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 Mickey Strayhorn efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-one years, and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Mickey Strayhorn retired from this department September 30, 2023;

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 Mickey Strayhorn 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 09, 2023, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA315, 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 Basore seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Mickey Strayhorn efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-one years, and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Mickey Strayhorn retired from this department September 30, 2023;

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 Mickey Strayhorn 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 09, 2023 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC593103, that Corporal Mickey Strayhorn has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Mickey Strayhorn be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve the above weapon resolutions presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Larry Joe Carter promoting him to Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company C.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Michael Gunnett promoting him to Lieutenant in the Administrative Services Division, Training.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Dakotah Bailey promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Justin Nowlin promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company E.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next are Official Commendations.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Roy Moomey gave an overview of the nomination of Corporal Michael Bowman and Corporal Matt Price for Official Commendations. Sergeant Moomey stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners, I want to recognize a couple of troopers from Troop H for their actions on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Troop H had a call of a suspect walking up Highway 59 with a pistol in his hand, right up the middle of the highway. Every time a car would come by, he would point his pistol toward the cars. This is one of the most dangerous calls you can get as a trooper. Corporal Bowman immediately reacted, hit the gas headed that way. Corporal Price was not far behind him. They both pulled up on the scene and it was exactly as it was said on the radio. The suspect is armed walking up the highway, right down the middle stopping traffic, there is a convenience store and a house right beside this area, with civilians sitting out in the parking lot. Corporal Bowman gets out with his rifle, comes up from behind the suspect, stays a little distance waiting on Corporal Price to get there and is addressing the suspect to drop his weapon. He is ignoring Corporal Bowman and walking north right down the middle of the highway. Corporal Price showed up within a minute and met up with Corporal Bowman and they walked together a short distance behind the suspect, continuing to address him to put his weapon down. He is still walking, and he starts walking towards a house and there is a civilian sitting on the front porch. At that point they had decided to go ahead and take action and end this. Corporal Bowman drew his taser, Corporal Price covered him, they got closer to the suspect, and he was able to deploy his taser and drops the suspect and they arrested him. Nobody got hurt. This is one of those things that could have played out a lot of different ways and it is very courageous to answer a call like that on the radio with all of the emotions and danger ahead of you, just to still go and not even flinch, so I just wanted to recognize those two.

Colonel Hagar presented Corporal Michael Bowman and Corporal Matt Price with Official Commendation Awards.

Sergeant Lagarian Cross gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Tyler Grant for an Official Commendation Award. Sergeant Lagarian Cross stated good morning, Commissioners, good morning, Colonel, and good morning, Command Staff. Today I am here to give an overview of the actions that Trooper Tyler Grant did on May 22, 2023. On May 22, 2023, Trooper Tyler Grant was assisting the Dermott Police Department, the McGehee Police Department and the Desha County Sheriff's Department with locating an escaped inmate, who had escaped from the McGehee City Jail four days prior. A Dermott City police officer spotted the inmate riding in a passenger vehicle, that Dermott City police officer gave chase, and after a short vehicle pursuit, the inmate exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Trooper Grant gave chase and after a short foot pursuit, Trooper Grant was able to catch up with the inmate and when he did catch up to the inmate, he observed the inmate attempting to break into a private residence. After a short struggle, Trooper Grant was able to subdue the inmate and preform an arrest. I do believe if it weren't for Trooper Grant's actions that day, the inmate would have caused havoc in the City of Dermott. With that being said I feel like Trooper Grant should be commended for his work actions.

Colonel Hagar presented Corporal Tyler Grant with an Official Commendation Award.

Telecom Supervisor Vaughn Roy gave an overview of the nomination of Telecom Operator Cindy Ball-Dye for an Official Commendation. Telecom Supervisor Roy stated good morning, Commissioners, Colonel and Command Staff, on June 11, 2023, approximately 9:33 a.m. Telecom Operator Cindy Ball-Dye was contacted by Cross County Sheriff's Office dispatch, they were calling regarding a bolo for a vehicle that was stolen from the Harold's Corner area on U. S. Highway 64 near Wynne. Operator Ball-Dye collected as much information as was available and immediately broadcast the bolo to Troop D personnel. At several points prior to troopers locating the vehicle, Operator Ball-Dye updated the broadcasted bolo to include a possible abduction of a female and a juvenile and that the suspect was possible an escapee from the St. Francis County Jail who was a homicide suspect. At approximately 10:18 a.m. troopers located the stolen vehicle, and a pursuit was initiated. During the entire incident Operator Ball-Dye was the only telecom operator on-duty. She was able to undertake the stressful situation with a high degree of professionalism. She was able to continually maintain a descriptive account of the events in the CAD system and quickly and effectively complete all directives from the on-duty Sergeant, and continually

update five different police agencies. These tasks were all completed while continually answering all other calls that came into the communication center. In addition, Operator Ball-Dye was responsible for contacting two ambulances, a wrecker service, and assisted in calling in two helicopters. All while receiving calls for service from our other eight-counties in the troop. Operator Ball-Dye's actions during this incident are in keeping with the traditions of Arkansas State Police Telecommunications and she represented the agency well. I am asking for your consideration in awarding Operator Ball-Dye an Official Commendation.

Colonel Hagar presented Telecom Operator Cindy Ball-Dye with an Official Commendation Award.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated congratulations to everyone who received the awards.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next, we have our division reports, first is Fiscal by Karen Perry.

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry gave an overview of the monthly report. Ms. Perry stated good morning, Colonel, and Commissioners, you have the report in front of you and we are operating at about 33% or we should be at 33%, we are operating at just a little bit under that. We were able to pay the overtime for the troopers in October and that was about \$500,000.00. We are working on our method of finance for the new barracks and the security system update with our ARPA funding. We are also working on getting the order ready for the AWIN radios, those are the big-ticket items.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked who did we end up going with on the radios. Ms. Perry stated Kenwood.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month, on the uniformed noncommissioned side we had three new hires, two terminations both voluntary, and one lateral transfer. The commissioned transactions included sixty-seven new hires, three promotions, two demotions, twelve transfers, and sixteen terminations. We currently have three military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated we have 53 recruits in troop school and 53 applicants for the 2024A Troop School. We are doing okay on both of those.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan we had an even bigger month this month than we had last month, the paid claims were \$1,345,000.00 which is an increase of \$357,000.00 from last month and the fund balance is \$368,000.00 lower than last month, for a total fund balance of \$11,944,656.00.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated that is the lowest it has been in a while. Major Rhoads stated yes sir, I think we are staying pretty consistent on our claim's month to month, but it is a little lower.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked is the 2024A school a certified school? Major Rhoads stated yes sir.

Commissioner Basore asked what is the headcount in the current school? Major Rhoads stated 53. Commissioner Basore that is how many now and we started with? Major Rhoads stated yes sir, we started with 67.

Commissioner Teague stated and you said you had sixteen terminations. Major Rhoads stated yes sir. Commissioner Teague asked can you shine some light on that, as far as I am not asking for specific, but what are generally the reasons on some of those? Major Rhoads stated three of those are retirements and two were involuntary, one recruit and one commissioned trooper that were terminated and then eleven voluntary terminations and then two of the transfers were recruits transferring into another state position. He stated we have had eleven recruits; we have had twelve recruits quit total.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated so terminations are just people not with us anymore it is not terminations. Commissioner Teague stated it is not actually terminations. Commissioner Basore stated it is separations. Major Rhoads stated right it is separations, just kind of it is retirements, and resignations.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next, Crimes Against Children, Kalika Rogers.

Major Jeff Drew stated the CACD Hotline received 6,066 calls in October, with a total of 2,584 of those were accepted, and 496 of those went to our investigation's unit. The CACD investigations unit closed 497 cases, with 146 of those being true, so that gives us a substantiation rate of 29%. We had 9 child deaths reported, four of those were investigated, and five were assessed.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next is Lieutenant Randall Murphy, Criminal Investigations.

Lieutenant Randall Murphy stated for the month of October CID opened 133 cases and 107 tasks. Among these 16 were death investigations, eight of which were homicides and twelve were sexual assaults. We received twenty-five referrals to the Arkansas Department of Corrections, initiated eight fire investigations, conducted twenty-one background investigations and one officer involved shooting. No worthy cases are described in detail in the division report you were provided earlier.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next is Highway Patrol Division, Major Ron Casey.

Major Ron Casey stated in the Highway Patrol Division for the month of October, Troopers put in jail 1,271 criminals on criminal arrests, 6,809 citations were issued for hazardous arrests, 246 of those were DWIs, and three were underage DUIs. Troopers in October issued a total of 14,826 traffic citations. We had 54 pursuits in the month of October, investigated 1,716 crashes, 39 of those being fatalities. We are to date 33 fatalities less than what we had this same time last year and it shows those guys are out there working hard and enforcing traffic with citations for traffic violations. We had 15 aircraft missions for the month of October, we did have an issue with the King Air, we sent our pilots with two deputies from Ashley County to Maine to pick up a suspect that was wanted in some crimes in that county and had made threats against the Governor. They made it to Ohio and had to land, emergency landing, not crash landing, but they had some electrical issues, it was grounded, and they had to fly it back, it couldn't make it all the way. Mechanically it was fine, but the navigation was out and there was some bad weather up in Maine, so they decided to come back. Our Cessna is finally back in service. The total mileage that troopers dove in the month of October was 769,804 miles. Troopers recovered 11 stolen vehicles at an amount of \$105,00.00 and two stolen properties which was weapons. DL/CDL tests given by our civilian staff was 19,245. The drug seizures for October, there was 212,765 grams of marijuana, 1,526 grams of methamphetamine, 20,176 grams of cocaine, 1128 pills, all other drugs combined was 2,084 grams of other drugs. We only recovered \$950.00 in U.S. Currency.

Commissioner Reeves asked on the seizures, it just says number of pills, I assumed that is opioids. Major Casey stated probably so, we should be able to break this down a little better if you want it. Commissioner Reeves stated that is what I was going to ask, if you could break it down to say fentanyl. Major Casey stated it is possible. Major Casey stated that is probably going to be fentanyl pills, any kind of hydrocodone, and anything like that. If you want, we can break that down.

Commissioner Hinkle asked Major Casey on that precautionary landing in Ohio, did I understand you to say it was an electrical issue? Major Casey stated yes sir, it was a couple of switches, it was like 4 months out to get new ones and they ended up using some and when we got it back it still was not working right so they got an expert to come in and it is fixed now. It has made several flights since.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next is Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Major Mike Moyer.

Major Moyer stated during the month of October the Identification Bureau processed 23,872 civil background checks and 9,594 criminal background checks. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 363 dealer applications and 5 complaint investigations were

conducted. The PI Security section processed 619 applications, our ASP Bomb Squad handled 11 separate explosive calls and some of these explosive calls included civil war era canon balls, hand grenades, artillery rounds and grenade launchers. Fire Investigators conducted 3 origin and cause investigations.

Commissioner Basore stated grenade launchers huh. Major Moyer stated yes sir. Commissioner Basore asked how about the grenades? Major Moyer stated most of those are ones that have been modified.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Edwards asked Colonel, do we have any personnel matters we need to attend to?

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that we go to executive session to consider personnel matters.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I make a motion we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Basore seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting back to order at 11:18 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked Colonel, do you have any personnel issues for us?

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I recommend for reinstatement Zachary Rogers. Commissioner Reeves made a motion that Zachary Rogers be reinstated as a trooper. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated and on promotions, for the Sergeant position in the Director's Office, Executive Protection, my recommendation is Corporal Thomas Sweeney. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Corporal Thomas Sweeney be promoted to Sergeant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated for the Lieutenant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D, I recommend Sergeant Franklin McMillion. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Sergeant Franklin McMillion be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, scheduled at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated if there is no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. With no more business to come before the commission, Commission Chairman Edwards adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary