

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
April 13, 2023

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, April 13, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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
Major Stacie Rhoads	Kalika Rogers
Sherry Woods	John A. Smith
Sergeant Ryan Jacks	Captain Scott Russell
Captain Todd Shaw	Captain Kyle Drown
Captain John Carter	Captain Wesley Smithee
Captain Jeff Sheeler	Captain Rick Neill
TFC Darryle Hinton	Corporal Taylor Elkins
Lieutenant Jeremy Roberts	Sergeant Gregory McNeese
Sergeant Morris Knight	Captain David Moore
Lieutenant Jamie Gravier	Lieutenant Bobby Brown
Lieutenant Michael Bain	Captain Brad Lann
Captain Scott Joe	Captain David Williams
Sergeant David Forthman	Shelly Cantrell
Caitlin Teague	Captain Chris Goodman
Lieutenant Philip Hydron	Captain Paulette Ward
Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn	Donna Humphries
Jonathan Nettles	Sergeant Stephen Briggs

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nakosha McNeese	Camden McNeese
Retired Corporal Derrick Briggs	Nga Mahfouz, AG's Office
Milton Fine, AR Worker's Comp Commission	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on April 04, 2023.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated all of you were mailed out the minutes of the March 9, 2023 regular monthly meeting, I would entertain a motion to approve those.

Commissioners Basore/Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 09, 2023 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion, 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: Major Forrest Marks efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, and eight days;
- WHEREAS: Major Forrest Marks retired from this department February 28, 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: Major Forrest Marks 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, April 13, 2023, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA515, 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: Lieutenant Jeff Long efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, five months, and twenty-six days;
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant Jeff Long retired from this department February 28, 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: Lieutenant Jeff Long 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, April 13, 2023, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA320, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

- WHEREAS: Lieutenant Jeff Long efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, five months, and twenty-six days;
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant Jeff Long retired from this department February 28, 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: Lieutenant Jeff Long 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, April 13, 2023 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the

Remington shotgun, serial number D588754M, that Lieutenant Jeff Long has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Lieutenant Jeff Long be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Edward Greg Church efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, four months, and twenty-six days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Edward Greg Church retired from this department February 28, 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 Edward Greg Church 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, April 13, 2023, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA245, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Edward Greg Church efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, four months, and twenty-six days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Edward Greg Church retired from this department February 28, 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 Edward Greg Church 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, April 13, 2023 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D614547M, that Corporal Edward Greg Church has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Edward Greg Church be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

PROMOTION CERTIFICATE:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Jeremy Roberts promoting him to Lieutenant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection.

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

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Gregory McNeese promoting him to Sergeant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection.

Fiscal Section – John Smith

John Smith gave an overview of the monthly report. Mr. Smith stated we made it through the legislative session, I will get to that in a second. First of all, we have Legislative Audit still here, they usually join us in January and then leave mid-summer. They are doing the 2022 audit right now. I expect, we were supposed to be going before the audit committee of the legislature in April, but they postponed it to May, because we have two findings in 2021. All those are, are weapons stolen out of vehicles and we handled everything accordingly, so they are not a bad finding, they just have to report them.

Mr. Smith stated on our budget, we asked for \$5 million in overtime for the next two years and we got it. We got that funded, part of that funding is in category B and what that means is I can't access until later in the year, usually April or May, I have seen them wait to June. They are looking at a way to move that forward for us, so it doesn't hinder what we are trying to do for the agency. We have also got money for two additional troop schools, that is one time funding in restricted reserve, we can draw that as we need it. It will go into our main operations budget so we will be able to see it in all of the reports that you get, and we plan on having a certified troop school this fall. So, we will need some of that money then and we will need some of it for our additional troop school in January. Last our motor vehicle funding, we typically got about \$3 million a year to replace vehicles. This year they set aside \$20 million statewide. In the past the State Police always got 50% of that, I am going to ask for 100% of that. I don't know if I will get it, but I am going to ask. I anticipate getting at least \$5.2 million a year because that is what we talked about all during session. That is going to be a big increase, will let us replace vehicles sooner and it should really help the agency. I said that was the last thing. The very last thing is our average fuel for the year is \$3.27, so I still have savings there and as we get closer, which we are getting there, we will realize those savings and I will start moving to other projects.

Commissioner Hinkle stated John, this may not be your department, are we still having trouble getting vehicles. Mr. Smith stated they are coming in better than they were, we are getting Chargers. I can tell you we ordered 60 Tahoe's in December of 2021, and I am going to say we have gotten 5-8 of those and they are from an out of state vendor, which I had to do a special procurement and they promised those, which you can't hold anybody, we are starting to get back to normal. They are building Chargers and we are getting those faster, so I cancelled the Tahoe order, and we are getting chargers. So, they are coming in a lot better. Commissioner Hinkle asked is the Charger our number one request, is that what we want? Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, by far, that's the car of choice when we can get it. Lt. Colonel Kennedy can speak to that a little bit more. We had a certain number of Tahoes that were ordered, we had already bought equipment for those that cannot be returned. So, we are going to keep those Tahoes on order and we are going to equip them as they come in and all the rest of them, we have cancelled that order, now that it looks like we are going to be able to get Chargers and we have changed it try to buy some new Chargers that we can get our hands on. Commissioner Reeves stated I thought they were going to stop making the Charger. Colonel Hagar stated they will next year I believe is the last year they are going to make them.

Commissioner Hinkle asked if these Tahoes that we are getting are they two-wheel drive or four-wheel drive. Colonel Hagar stated they are two-wheel right. Commissioner Basore stated most of them are two-wheel. Commission Chairman Edwards asked do they have pursuit engines? Colonel Hagar stated they don't. Lt. Colonel Kennedy stated it is the same you buy at the dealer; they are just not speed limited to the 105 mph. Commissioner Teague stated it is 6.2 liter is what it is. Colonel Hagar stated I know, Durango's for instance, there are limitations more on them as far as their pursuit rating is it comes down to the wheel and tire that we put on that vehicle, that is more restrictive than the engine itself, so the manufacturer will only allow that vehicle to go as fast as that tire and wheel is rated for. So, they kind of put some limitations on us.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major 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, we had one new hire, and two voluntary terminations. The commissioned transactions included four

promotions, two transfers, and six terminations, three voluntary and three retirements. Currently we have four military deployments.

Major Rhoads stated our current troop school, we still have twenty-nine recruits. They are in week 10 and they are doing EVOC and defensive tactics training. The 2023B certified school we are currently up to 122 qualified applicants, that window is staying open until May 8, so hopefully we will have a lot of applicants to choose from.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, March paid claims were \$1,150,000.00 which was a decrease of \$168,000.00 from last month and the fund balance is \$134,956.00 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$12,175,398.00.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked did you say you have 120 something for the certified school? Major Rhoads stated 122 qualified, we have had probably 30 other people that weren't certified apply. Major Rhoads stated that is what is qualified currently.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next report is going to be Crimes Against Children.

Kalika Rogers stated the CACD Hotline received 6,609 contacts in March, 3,024 of those being accepted for investigation. There were 15 child deaths reported, seven were investigated, seven were assessed and one just documented. Our investigations unit accepted 600 new investigations and closed 598 investigations, 169 of those had true findings which gives us a substantiation rate of 28%.

Colonel Hagar asked Kalika if she would introduce herself. Kalika stated my name is Kalika Rogers, I am the Investigations Administrator in CACD.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated for the month of March CID opened 127 investigations, one of those was an officer involved shooting in White County. We are currently investigating two criminal misconduct investigations involving local police departments. We worked 22 death investigations, six of those were homicides across the state.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated I do want to highlight one adjudication we had. We recently had a jury trial in Stone County, it was investigated back in 2021. Initial reports were that it was a murder suicide. When agents arrived on scene, they quickly recognized that it had been a staged crime scene and they ultimately arrested the son of the victim and the victim's girlfriend. He received life without parole, which was a pretty substantial thing, because most people would have just recognized that, and moved on with a murder suicide because it is easy. Our agents did a tremendous job on that and got a really good conviction on that case.

Major Ron Casey stated in the Highway Patrol Division, troopers drove 765,653 miles in the month of March, they wrote 15,673 citations, 225 DWIs and 8 DUIs. Troopers worked 24 fatalities in the month of March. As of this morning, we are down 3 fatality rates from last year at this same time. We had 8 flight missions in our Aircraft Section. Interstate Criminal Patrol seized 97 pounds of marijuana, 44 pounds of methamphetamines, 10 pounds of cocaine, 56 pills which is probably fentanyl, 6 money seizures with a total of \$157,800.00. We did not have any ERT callouts nor SWAT callouts in the month of March.

Commissioner Reeves stated on page one where you show the monthly activity, look down at like hazardous arrests, first is DWI 214, then federal overtime 11. Does that mean you add those two together and there is a total of 225 or just 11 of the 214 were overtime. Major Casey stated no that is the total, so 225 is regular shift, 11 of those are on overtime. Commissioner Reeves stated so DWIs for the month of March is total of 225. Major Casey stated yes sir.

Major Mike Moyer, Regulatory and Building Operations Division, stated during the month of March the ID Bureau and AFIS processed 32,271 civil background checks and 9,843 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Division processed 436 dealer applications. PI Security processed 563 applications during the month of March. Concealed Handgun Licensing issued 4,347 and Fire and Explosive personnel responded to three separate fire scenes and two explosive recoveries. During this last legislative session one change for the state police, a bill was passed to move the State Fire Marshal's position over

to ADEM. The fire service industry wanted to basically consolidate some of the boards and fire services underneath one house, so that is one of the changes from the legislative session.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked from the concealed handgun, do we send out a notice when those things are going to expire. Major Moyer stated no we do not. Commission Chairman Edwards asked is that something we could do or is it worth doing. Commission Chairman Edwards stated I have let mine expire and had to go through it before and redo everything. Major Moyer stated we can do it, we used to do it in the past, years ago and found that the majority of cards we sent out were returned because people moved and so it was more financially, that we decided not to. Commission Chairman Edwards stated ok. Major Moyer stated we can look at that if you would like. Commission Chairman Edwards I just know several people that it has happened to, and they call me and ask can you help me, and I tell them yeah, you have to go back through the school.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Edwards do we have any new business, Colonel? Colonel stated no sir, I would recommend that we go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting back to order at 11:44 a.m.

Colonel Hagar stated on promotions and transfer requests, first, I will use the authority under state police policy to do a lateral transfer of Sergeant Chuck Lewis to the Sergeant position in the Department of Public Safety, Wellness Unit. Commissioner Reeves motioned to approve the reinstatement, Commissioner Hinkle seconded; Commissioner Basore stated wait a second, Commissioner Teague stated wait this is a lateral transfer, we don't vote. Colonel Hagar stated I am sorry I got that out of order I am sorry, imagine that I messed this up.

Colonel Hagar stated on the reappointments, we have two for consideration. The first is Joe Anderson, Jr. to be reinstated and assigned to Highway Patrol in Troop E. Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the reinstatement of Joe Anderson, Jr. Commissioner Reeves 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 second is Justin Cherry who will be, he has applied for reinstatement and will be assigned to Highway Patrol in Troop G. Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the reinstatement of Justin Cherry. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Now we will do the lateral transfer request for Sergeant Chuck Lewis who will be transferred to the Sergeant position in the Department of Public Safety, Wellness Unit.

I have recommendations for promotions when you are ready Mr. Chairman. First on Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B, my recommendation would be Special Agent Robert Stewart. Commissioner Hinkle made a motion that Special Agent Robert Stewart be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B. 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 will be Sergeant in Highway Patrol, Troop A, my recommendation would be Corporal Mark Blackerby. Commissioner Reeves made a motion that Corporal Mark Blackerby be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Next will be Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F, my recommendation would be Corporal Byron Curry. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Byron Curry

be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Next will be Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L, my recommendation would be Sergeant Jeffrey Plouch. Commissioner Teague made a motion the Sergeant Jeffrey Plouch be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Next will be Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B, my recommendation would be Sergeant Morris Knight. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Sergeant Morris Knight be promoted to Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. 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 is Lieutenant in the Administrative Services Division, Administration, my recommendation would be Sergeant Ben Hoyt. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Sergeant Ben Hoyt be promoted to Lieutenant in the Administrative Services Division, Administration. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

And last is Captain in the Administrative Services Division, Administration, my recommendation would be Lieutenant Craig Teague. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Lieutenant Craig Teague be promoted to Captain in the Administrative Services Division, Administration. Commissioner Hinkle seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked is there any other business?

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, scheduled at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated if there no other business, I will ask for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioners Basore/Teague seconded the motion. With no more business to come before the commission, Commission Chairman Edwards adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary