

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Minutes

April 24, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Chair John McAlpine convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, 1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR.

Commissioner(s) present: Ken Bragg, David Cawein, George Dunklin, Miles Goggins, John McAlpine, Peter Prutzman

Commissioner(s) present via Zoom: Mary Clapp, Ray Dillon

Commissioner(s) absent: Frank Wilson

Chair McAlpine called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

The Commission considered the Arkansas Forestry Commission meeting minutes of February 20, 2026.

1. Call to order

Chair McAlpine welcomed all in attendance and called roll.

2. Consider meeting minutes of February 20, 2026

Moved by Dunklin, seconded by Prutzman to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

3. Financial report

Kyle Cunningham, State Forester, presented the financial report, covering operating funds, cash funds, Baucum Nursery, timber severance tax, and fire protection/acreage tax fiscal year receipts. **Attachment 1.**

Cunningham introduced Kara Maack, the new Registered Forester Coordinator.

4. Registered Forester Committee (RFC) report

David Cawein, RFC Chairman reported on the meeting held April 20, 2026.

The committee recommends approval of five Registered Foresters for licensure. Brandon Bennett, Sammy Kirksey, Daniel Moore, Samantah Stephens, and Clayton Whitaker.

Moved by Cawein, seconded by Gammill to approve the licensures as presented.

Motion carried. George Dunklin abstained.

The committee recommends approving one hour of Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) for the March 17, 2026, training, title “2026 Northeast Forest Products Industry Outlook Webinar”.

Moved by Cawein, seconded by Prutzman to approve the request for one CFE hour as presented.

Motion carried.

The committee recommends approval of the Arkansas Registered Forester Seal.

Attachment 2

Moved by Cawein, seconded by Bragg to approve the Arkansas Registered Forester Seal as presented, and that the new seal be required to be used by Arkansas Registered Foresters by the end of 2027.

Motion carried.

Two applicants were approved to take the Registered Forester exam, Drew Parish and Andrew Wall. The next exam will be May 13, 2026, in Little Rock.

Discussion on Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Forester’s Annual Meeting. Arkansas will host the meeting on September 29-30, 2026, at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock.

5. Law enforcement report

Billy Black, Chief of Law Enforcement, provided a timber theft update. Year to date, there have been 44 timber cases and 23 fire cases.

6. Quarterly reports

Emergency Services

Robert Murphy, Emergency Services Director

- Wildfire totals for spring fire season were provided. 725 wildfires for 22,088 acres. The total was 121 more fires that totaled 1,570 more acres compared to Spring 2025 fire season.
- Technology improvements implemented at Dispatch were presented.
- Forestry Division ordered four bulldozers, eight transport trucks, and thirteen pickup trucks.
- The Rural Fire Program financed four interest-free loans for volunteer fire departments through the revolving fund totaling \$46,299.82. Loans will be used for equipment and equipment repairs.

Forest Management

Jim Jolley and Chandler Barton, Division Foresters

- Spring genetic improvement operations take place at the Bluff City Orchard.
- Families selected for controlled pollination of flowers on loblolly pine
- Expansion work continues at Baucum Nursery.
- Abatement request for Oklahoma seedling invoice approved by Commission.
- Free Tree Friday events concluded. There will be one final event located at the Department of Agriculture. Thirty events were conducted in 2026. Over 3,000 attendees and over 11,000 seedlings were provided.
- Urban Foresters were recognized by Nashville, TN mayor and TN State Forester for storm damage assistance following ice storm occurrence in 2026.
- Best Management Practices (BMP) for Water Quality analysis complete. BMP operations fulfill the Departments forestry role in control of nonpoint source pollution from forestry activities. Surveys showed a 92 percent statewide implementation rate.

Districts and State Forests

Darren Spinks, Deputy State Forester

- New District 2 office construction project in Howard County is currently being reviewed at the Division of Building Authority.
- Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF) annual fixed plot inventory complete.
- Timber sales for State Forests all contracted. Total sales were 750 acres, 23,731 tons of pine sawtimber estimated. PSSF averaged \$30.00 per ton, Hot Springs State Forest sale brought \$24.00 per ton.

7. State Forester's report

Kyle Cunningham, State Forester/Director of Forestry Division

- Personnel – staffing for all seven districts is currently at 70 percent or higher. The Division is working on filling key positions in aviation, state forests, and Baucum Nursery.
- Marketing – social media has developed into a significant component of wildland fire mitigation. This spring the Department reached 660,000 viewers. The reach provides a tremendous pathway to share forestry and wildfire response information to the general public audience.
- Fiscal – The Forestry Division is operating within budget for FY26. The Division currently has a cash balance of \$4,450,303 as of March 31, 2026. Baucum Nursery is currently at a break-even standpoint and will be in the black once all receivables are collected for FY26.

The Department is very proud of our forestry and wildfire response efforts for January through March. We experienced a long fire season that taxed our foresters and rangers. Staff were required to stage across the state to fulfill high demand areas.

8. Other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Adjourn.

The next Arkansas Forestry Commission quarterly meeting will be held July 24, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman John McAlpine

Date

State Forester Kyle Cunningham

Date

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FORESTRY DIVISION
OPERATING FUNDS
FINANCIAL REPORT**

FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

	General Revenue	Rural Fire Protection Program	Forestry Special Revenue/Operating Fund	Forestry Trust Fund	Federal Funds	Foresters for Future Scholarships	Total	Fiscal Year 26 Budget	Percentage of Budget Received or Consumed
Cash Resources Provided (Receipts)									
Cash Beginning Balance, July 1, 2025	-	-	4,157,415	472,015	1,935,322	-	6,564,753	6,564,753	
General Revenue	8,096,025	10,000	-	-	-	-	8,106,025	10,972,371	74%
Special Revenue:									
Timber Severance Tax	-	-	2,919,766	-	-	-	2,919,766	3,781,658	77%
Acreage Tax	-	-	2,421,013	-	-	-	2,421,013	3,122,797	78%
Fire Protection/Suppression	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Timber Sales	-	-	401,464	-	-	-	401,464	518,194	77%
Seedling Sales	-	-	1,564,097	-	-	-	1,564,097	1,641,806	95%
Less: Treasurer of State Service Charges	-	-	(137,450)	-	-	-	(137,450)	-	
Net Special Revenue	-	-	7,168,891	-	-	-	7,168,891	8,702,029	82%
Federal Grant Reimbursements	-	-	2,007,171	-	1,213,810	-	3,220,981	4,699,737	69%
Sales of Goods and Services	-	-	67,243	-	-	-	67,243	76,448	88%
Marketing & Redistribution Sale Proceeds	15	-	1,866	-	-	-	1,881	1,107	170%
Other Refunds	-	-	4,706	-	-	-	4,706	121,616	4%
Per Card Incentive Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,173	0%
Motor Vehicle Program Proceeds	-	-	91,612	-	-	-	91,612	247,320	37%
Miscellaneous Revenue (Fines, Rents, Donations)	1	-	172,311	180,100	1,300	-	353,713	162,541	218%
Transfers In	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	24,000	1,024,000	539,802	190%
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Resources Provided	8,106,041	10,000.00	14,671,214	652,115	3,150,432	24,000.00	26,603,804	39,756,278	67%
Cash Expenditures									
Salary and Personnel Expense	7,133,085	-	6,252,822	-	114,584	-	13,500,491	17,222,500	78%
Maintenance & Operations:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Communication & Transportation of Commodities	40,809	-	32,858	-	886	-	74,554	-	
Printing & Advertising	228	-	3,563	-	3,465	-	7,256	-	
Repairing & Servicing	339,401	-	499,746	560	5,923	-	845,630	-	
Utilities & Rent	132,617	-	162,123	7,824	1,042	-	303,606	-	
Travel & Subsistence	14,102	-	59,744	-	6,507	-	80,353	-	
Professional Services & Fees	150	-	83,113	32,285	277	-	115,825	-	
Insurance & Bonds	117,844	-	118,979	-	-	-	236,823	-	
Other Expenses & Services	11,192	-	335,262	-	71	-	346,526	-	
Commodities, Materials, & Supplies	368,297	-	1,239,145	-	61,879	-	1,669,322	-	
Refunds Taxes & Claims	-	-	34,316	-	-	-	34,316	-	
Subtotal Maintenance & Operations	1,024,491	-	2,568,850	40,669	80,050	-	3,714,210	14,670,906	25%
Assistance, Grants, & Aid	-	140	349,008	-	471,435	24,000	844,582	2,194,563	38%
Capital Outlay	-	-	256,872	-	520,335	-	777,208	10,023,605	8%
Other Expenses	(159,212)	-	(6,077)	91,810	(4,098)	-	(77,577)	-	
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Expenditures	7,998,364	140	9,421,475	132,479	1,182,306	24,000	18,758,915	44,613,086	42%
Other Items that Affect Cash Balance:									
Transfers for Claims	97,522	-	2,255,275	-	-	-	2,352,797	-	
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Receivable Balance	-	-	(1,062,804)	-	-	-	(1,062,804)	-	
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Payable Balance	-	-	-	-	21,015.40	-	21,015	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash Ending Balance, March 31, 2026	5	9,860	1,931,661	519,636	1,989,141	-	4,450,303		

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

CASH FUNDS

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

	Cash Reg Foresters Operation	Total	Fiscal Year 26 Budget	Percentage of Budget Received or Consumed
Cash Resources Provided (Receipts)				
Cash Beginning Balance, July 1, 2025	141,568	141,568	141,568	
General Revenue				
Special Revenue:				
Application Fees	430	430	1,150	37%
Testing Fees	60	60	120	50%
Registration Fees	255	255	440	58%
Renewal Fees	24,664	24,664	11,210	220%
Interest	3,741	3,741	908	412%
Penalties	36	36	240	15%
Less: Treasurer of State Service Charges	-	-	-	
Net Special Revenue	29,186	29,186	14,069	207%
Other Fees	-	-	3	0%
Federal Grant Reimbursements	-	-	200	0%
Marketing & Redistribution Sale Proceeds	-	-	21	0%
Pcard Incentive Proceeds	-	-	-	0%
Motor Vehicle Program Proceeds	-	-	-	0%
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	10	0%
Transfers In	-	-	-	0%
Total Resources Provided	170,754	170,754	155,871	110%
Cash Expenditures				
Salary and Personnel Expense	-	-	40,064	0%
Maintenance & Operations:				
Communication & Transportation of Commodities	-	-		
Printing & Advertising	-	-		
Repairing & Servicing	-	-		
Utilities & Rent	-	-		
Travel & Subsistence	-	-		
Professional Services & Fees	-	-		
Insurance & Bonds	-	-		
Other Expenses & Services	100	100		0%
Commodities, Materials, & Supplies	-	-		
Refunds Taxes & Claims	-	-		
Subtotal Maintenance & Operations	100	100	6,104	2%
Debt Service	-	-		
Capital Outlay	-	-		
Assistance, Grants, & Aid	1,000	1,000		
Other Expenses	-	-		
Total Expenditures	1,100	1,100	46,168	2%
Other Items:				
Transfers for Claims	254	254		
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Receivable	-	-		
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Payable	-	-		
Cash Ending Balance, March 31, 2026	169,400	169,400		

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FORESTRY DIVISION
BAUCUM NURSERY
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

	Baucum Nursery FY26 Actual Revenue & Expenses	Baucum Nursery FY25 Actual Revenue & Expenses	Fiscal Year 26 Budget	% of FY25 Actual
Cash Resources Provided (Receipts)				
Cash Beginning Balance, July 1, 2025	55,653	191,835	55,653	
General Revenue				
Special Revenue:				
Timber Severance Tax				
Acreage Tax				
Fire Protection/Suppression				
Timber Sales			21,310	
Seedling Sales	1,564,097	1,420,945	1,641,806	110%
Less: Treasurer of State Service Charges	(23,461)	(21,314)		
Net Special Revenue	1,540,636	1,399,631	1,663,116	110%
Federal Grant Reimbursements	-	-	-	
Sales of Goods and Services	-	-	-	
Marketing & Redistribution Sale Proceeds	-	436		0%
Other Refunds	-	143		0%
Pcard Incentive Proceeds	-	-		
Motor Vehicle Program Proceeds	-	-		
Miscellaneous Revenue	(2)	44		-4%
Interest				
Total Resources Provided	1,596,287	1,592,090	1,718,769	106%
Cash Expenditures				
Salary and Personnel Expense	339,319	462,324	-	73%
Maintenance & Operations:				
Communication & Transportation of Commodities	1,933	1,677		115%
Printing & Advertising	169	1,764		10%
Repairing & Servicing	50,174	114,600		44%
Utilities & Rent	34,814	38,201		91%
Travel & Subsistence	1,071	281		381%
Insurance & Bonds				0%
Other Expenses & Services	266,281	330,738		81%
Commodities, Materials, & Supplies	843,851	574,501		147%
Refunds Taxes & Claims	39,266	10,681		368%
Subtotal Maintenance & Operations	1,237,558	1,072,444		115%
Professional Services & Fees	20,000	-	-	0%
Assistance, Grants, & Aid	-	-	-	0%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	0%
Other Expenses		143	-	0%
Total Expenditures	1,596,878	1,534,911	-	104%
Other Items that Affect Cash Balance:				
Transfers for Claims	-	-	-	
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	
Net Effect of Change in Accounts Payable	-	-	-	
Cash Ending Balance, March 31, 2026	(591)			

**TIMBER SEVERANCE TAX
FISCAL YEAR RECEIPTS
MONTH BY MONTH RESULTS**

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	\$361,696	\$377,606	\$335,301	\$329,615	\$359,483	\$350,347	\$289,359	\$306,904
August	\$381,730	\$382,023	\$355,485	\$390,611	\$364,226	\$298,540	\$358,218	\$333,493
September	\$402,102	\$405,931	\$312,875	\$392,007	\$376,213	\$377,223	\$350,148	\$366,952
October	\$373,475	\$381,546	\$352,954	\$379,946	\$387,172	\$343,183	\$340,088	\$323,807
November	\$395,515	\$398,117	\$384,846	\$401,437	\$368,942	\$319,509	\$364,531	\$333,588
December	\$301,903	\$323,056	\$374,456	\$345,675	\$347,060	\$346,236	\$281,861	\$231,884
January	\$268,683	\$395,064	\$357,037	\$402,170	\$282,698	\$326,994	\$317,079	\$472,854
February	\$332,401	\$300,787	\$282,426	\$354,937	\$279,719	\$231,317	\$252,339	\$259,644
March	\$339,267	\$474,022	\$250,950	\$298,685	\$244,275	\$308,245	\$277,500	\$290,638
April	\$337,157	\$273,601	\$322,151	\$318,797	\$297,819	\$300,569	\$344,953	
May	\$286,053	\$262,455	\$303,996	\$275,210	\$254,434	\$291,981	\$268,184	
June	\$314,208	\$307,437	\$288,481	\$276,600	\$320,630	\$287,517	\$276,646	
TOTAL FOR YEAR	\$3,156,772	\$3,438,152	\$3,006,330	\$3,295,084	\$3,009,789	\$2,901,592	\$2,831,123	\$2,919,766

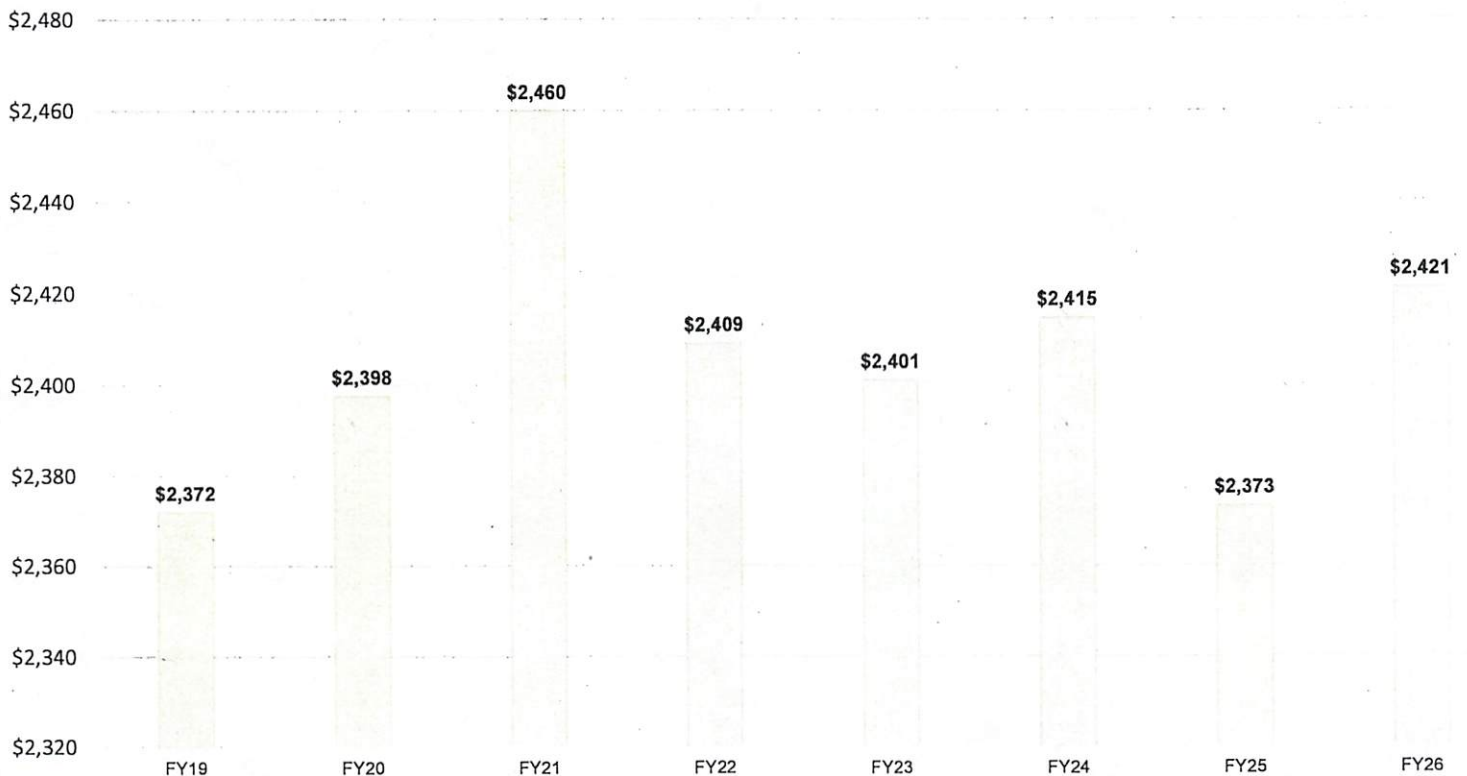
**TIMBER SEVERANCE TAX COLLECTIONS EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS
YTD JULY THROUGH MARCH**



**FIRE PROTECTION/ACREAGE TAX
FISCAL YEAR RECEIPTS
MONTH BY MONTH RESULTS**

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
July	\$103,334	\$125,612	\$140,637	\$133,592	\$139,258	\$141,691	\$120,696	\$121,301
August	\$39,389	\$33,581	\$59,485	\$59,891	\$44,685	\$59,734	\$39,681	\$49,328
September	\$84,007	\$55,125	\$80,827	\$85,343	\$81,690	\$68,993	\$72,671	\$68,432
October	\$206,724	\$282,782	\$244,113	\$268,485	\$259,243	\$232,475	\$327,355	\$237,227
November	\$824,079	\$667,351	\$799,986	\$649,492	\$508,895	\$657,753	\$619,884	\$540,673
December	\$646,537	\$536,199	\$456,052	\$428,228	\$590,027	\$686,795	\$711,455	\$703,785
January	\$417,770	\$665,841	\$643,964	\$750,229	\$563,604	\$495,657	\$393,241	\$587,089
February	\$33,340	\$14,476	\$11,329	\$13,052	\$194,143	\$28,374	\$53,596	\$87,115
March	\$16,818	\$16,589	\$23,448	\$20,751	\$19,474	\$43,150	\$34,596	\$26,064
April	\$140,485	\$118,505	\$134,900	\$147,186	\$169,015	\$195,755	\$182,387	
May	\$168,228	\$135,186	\$184,718	\$208,325	\$192,402	\$159,428	\$154,677	
June	\$122,471	\$117,403	\$113,667	\$127,315	\$114,688	\$162,991	\$159,248	
TOTAL	\$2,371,997	\$2,397,557	\$2,459,840	\$2,409,064	\$2,401,020	\$2,414,622	\$2,373,175	\$2,421,013

**ACREAGE TAX COLLECTIONS -EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS
YTD JULY THROUGH MARCH**





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

February 13, 2026

Arkansas Registered Forester Seal

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval to submit to the Arkansas Forestry Commission an updated Arkansas Registered Forester's seal.

Background

The registered forester's seal of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture represents the authority, professionalism, and public trust associated with the practice of forestry in the State of Arkansas. The seal is used by Registered Foresters to authenticate professional documents, such as forest management plans, reports, and maps, confirming that the work has been prepared or reviewed by an individual who is licensed under Arkansas law to practice forestry.

Under Arkansas Code § 17-31-306, the law provides that:

Each registered forester may obtain a professional seal of a design authorized by the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

The seal must contain:

1. The forester's name
2. Their serial (license) number
3. The legend "Registered Forester, Arkansas."

The statute further requires that:

All registered foresters engaged in the practice of forestry must sign and seal any plans, specifications, maps, reports, or documents they prepare or supervise.

The statute also establishes legal consequences for misuse of the seal. Using a seal after a forester's license has expired or been revoked constitutes a misdemeanor offense. This provision ensures that only currently licensed professionals can certify forestry work.

Key Points

- Proposed (sample) update for seal:



Recommendation

The Forestry Division respectfully requests authorization to seek final approval of the proposed updated registered forester's seal by the Arkansas Forestry Commission.