

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
February 12, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jim Hinkle, Chairman
Commissioner Neff Basore, Secretary
Commissioner Mike Akin
Commissioner Steve Edwards
Commissioner Jeff Teague

MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner Ken Reeves, Vice Chairman

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy	Major Philip Hydron
Major Mike Moyer	Captain Randall Murphy
Sherry Woods	Major Jeff Drew
Dan Mack	Captain Rick Neill
Lieutenant Jason Martin	Captain Jeff Plouch
Lieutenant Darren Austin	Lieutenant Matt Toon
Captain Joe Carter	Sergeant Russ Rhodes
Captain Brad Lann	Major Roby Rhoads
Special Agent Mark Fallis	Special Agent Kevin Hrabal
Shelly Cantrell	Scarlett Taylor
Sergeant Dustin Arnold	Karen Perry
Nick Genty	Eric Wacaster
Captain Jeff Sheeler	Captain David Williams
Captain Marcus Daniels	Susan Tedford
Bridget White	Captain Kyle Drown
Dempsie Coffman	Ashley Easterly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Olivia Arnold
Tawnie Hughes – AG's Office

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Hinkle join me in the pledge of allegiance, please.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on February 2, 2026.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated minutes of the previous meeting, if anyone has had a chance to look at those. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated by the way before we do that, is Commissioner Reeves on the phone? Ashley Easterly stated yes sir he is. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you for joining us Commissioner Reeves, we appreciate it, understand you are out of state. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated also Commissioner Allison extends his regrets, he had a business commitment in another state today, that he could not get out of.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Commissioner Reeves is usually our watch dog on minutes, have you had an opportunity to look at these Commissioner? Commissioner Reeves stated I sure have, and I move that we approve the minutes of January 8, 2026, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioners Edwards/Basore seconded the motion. Commission

Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, any discussion, all in favor say aye please, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Weapons Resolutions by Major Philip Hydron.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Philip Hydron presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Scott Ellis efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, five months, and seven days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Scott Ellis retired from this department December 31, 2025;

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 Scott Ellis 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, February 12, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA064, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Scott Ellis efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, five months, and seven days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Scott Ellis retired from this department December 31, 2025;

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 Scott Ellis 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, February 12, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D585901M, that Corporal Scott Ellis has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Scott Ellis 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 Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Promotion Certificates, Colonel.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Dustin Arnold promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Colonel Hagar stated we have an Official Commendation presentation with the overview given by Sergeant Russ Rhodes for Special Agent Kevin Hrabal and Special Agent Mark Fallis.

Sergeant Russ Rhodes stated good morning, Colonel Hagar, Chairman, Commissioners, I am here today as it is my honor to recommend Special Agent Mark Fallis and Special Agent Kevin Hrabal from Company C for the Arkansas State Police Official Commendation Award. This recommendation is based on their outstanding work during a very sensitive human trafficking investigation. On April 30, 2024, the agents responded to a case in Clark County involving two women from Michigan who were soliciting for money. One of the females was a 16-year-old girl, they were taken across state lines and left behind after refusing to take part in sexual activity. Through careful and patient interviews Agents Fallis and Hrabal gathered important information that showed this was a case of interstate sex trafficking and identified the person responsible. They acted quickly and collected evidence ensured the juvenile victim received proper care and worked closely with law enforcement in Michigan. Their efforts helped move cases to the Federal level, the investigations for Operation Restore Justice, a nationwide effort that rescued 115 children and led to more than 200 arrests related to child sexual exploitation. One of those arrests was a trafficker identified in the Clark County case. Because of this compassion, professional and strong commitment to do what is right, victims were rescued, a dangerous offender was removed from the streets, and future crimes were prevented. Special Agents Fallis and Hrabal exemplified the highest standards of the Arkansas State Police, and it is my honor to recommend them for this commendation.

Colonel Hagar presented Special Agent Mark Fallis and Special Agent Kevin Hrabal with Official Commendation Awards.

PRESENTATION FOR 50 PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE:

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have a presentation from Captain Kyle Drown.

Captain Kyle Drown stated good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission and Colonel Hagar, today we are here to recognize a member of our agency that we are blessed has called Troop J his home most of his career. A member that has dedicated almost as many years to this agency as I have been alive. That member is CDL Examiner Dempsie Coffman. Dempsie was hired by the Arkansas State Police and commissioned as a Trooper on October 7, 1973. In 1979, he was recognized as the Arkansas State Police Trooper of the Year. He worked in five of our 12 troops, retiring in April 2004 as Lieutenant Coffman and the Assistant Commander of Troop J. That same year, he was rehired as a Commercial Driver's License Examiner, he continued in that position for 17 years, until some family health issues caused him to have to retire to take care of his family. In October of 2023, knowing the family member who he retired to take care of had been called to heaven and we had an opening and we really wanted him back, I reached out to him and asked him if he would ever consider coming back. Fortunately for our agency, he said yes. This year marks 50 years of service to the Arkansas State Police. According to all of the records that we could locate, his 50 years of service marks being the longest serving employee in the ASP's 90 years of history. To say Dempsie is proud to work for this agency is an understatement, but nothing is more important to Dempsie than his family. Dempsie has been married to his wife Diane for 57 years, they have two sons, Chad and Rusty, and today we had to do a ruse to get him down here. Captain Drown stated and that ruse goes a little bit further as in that ruse we brought your family in. Captain Drown stated today we have Diane, Chad, Rusty, Penny, Amanda, his sister-in-law Lisa, Cannon, Michael, and Colby. Captain Drown asked Dempsie to please come up to be recognized with this historic milestone in our agency.

Colonel Hagar presented Dempsie Coffman with a certificate for 50 plus years of service to the Arkansas State Police.

Dempsie Coffman stated I just want to say what a great honor it has been to work for the Arkansas State Police over the many years and if I had to do it over, I would do it again in the same style, same fashion. As great as the state police has been to me, this has been my support system right here, my wife. She has done everything to support my career, been a sweet wife, a good Christian woman and I thank God for her and the state police.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated to the family exiting back there, again thank you for coming, it means a lot to us up here, we really appreciate it, honoring such a fine man.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated division reports, Ms. Perry.

Karen Perry stated we actually had plenty of money for the month of January, and we did receive DHS money for the CACD transfer. Ms. Perry stated legislative audit has arrived and they are working on the FY2025 audit report. Ms. Perry stated we are also working on our budget request for the new fiscal session that is starting in April.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Roby Rhoads.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, the Administrative Services report for last month, we currently have three military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated our POLAR Team last month assisted 63 individuals, made 17 follow-up visits and had two debriefs with nine individuals.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan; we had a carryover of over \$352,000.00 from 2025 so it elevated our claims for the month just a little. Major Roby Rhoads stated we had several high dollar claims last month and our contractual savings were \$1.6 million and some change so that was pretty good. Our total fund balance now is \$11,048,000.00.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Crimes Against Children, Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, Commissioners, last month you were provided with an information packet on our Crimes Against Children Division, hopefully it was able to maybe answer some questions or maybe give you some information to refer back to down the road. If any of you guys have any questions, when you step out afterwards, I will try to answer those question or you know how to get ahold of me, I will try to get you an answer or answer those questions. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated the Hotline received 4,806 contacts for the month of January, 2083 of those were received by telephone calls and another 2,723 were reported online. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated it is about 500 fewer than last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated 2,230 of those contact were accepted at 46%. Of those 2,230 contacts, 509 fit the severe maltreatment and were assigned to our CACD Investigators. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of January CACD Investigators closed 542 cases with 173 being found as true, which gave us a substantiation rate is 32%, a little bit higher than last month but that ebbs and flows and it was still fit with the national average of between 25 and 35% for substantiation rates.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Captain Joe Carter.

Captain Joe Carter stated Colonel, Chairman, Commissioners, for the month of January the Criminal Investigation Division conducted 119 investigations of those 11 were death investigations, one homicide, two natural deaths, a negligent homicide and a couple of deaths that we are waiting on the Crime Lab to get back with us on whether they were overdoses or not. Captain Carter stated we had an attempted murder, a couple of batteries, eight child pornography investigations, we also assisted in 67 other investigations ranging from aggravated assault to drug investigations. Captain Carter stated in the month of January as you all remember it was human trafficking awareness month; our human trafficking team conducted four media interviews and gave five presentations about human trafficking. Captain Carter stated they also had one operation, it was called Operation NOVA which stood

for New Beginnings, Outreach Driven, Victims Centered Action, during that operation they came in contact with six females, gave them a choice that they had not had in a while and one accepted.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Highway Patrol, Major Philip Hydron.

Major Philip Hydron stated Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners good morning the Highway Patrol Division answered 28,383 calls for service during the month of January. Major Hydron stated we had 2,041 criminal offenses, with 1,294 persons being arrested. Major Hydron stated we had 266 DWI arrests, with 6 DUI arrests, we issued 15,487 citations with 6,367 for hazardous violations, and we arrested 445 individuals. Major Hydron stated we conducted 3,168 motorist assists and we engaged in 36 vehicle pursuits during the month of January. Major Hydron stated we investigated 1,017 crash investigations, unfortunately 20 of those resulted in fatalities. The men and women recovered 12 stolen vehicles with a net worth of \$233,950.00. Major Hydron stated that the Highway Patrol Division drove 959,336 miles, the DL/CDL examiners tested 14,141 individuals during the month of January. Our SWAT Team conducted seven missions this past month. Major Hydron stated this is something that I am going to start reporting because I think it is worthy of it with the amount of calls they have been answering lately, but our Emergency Response Team they do several things, civil unrest, search and rescue, many different things that they do for us, but during the month of January they conducted three missions. Probably one of the most notable missions came at the request of Johnson County, they had been searching for a subject that was suicidal and had gone off in a wooded area there in Johnson County, he was from the State of Iowa. They had searched for six days with no luck of bringing closure to this family. Our ERT members went to the location at their request and on the first pass, they were able to recover the remains of this 22-year-old male subject bringing closure to the family. That is very commendable and I wanted to bring that to your attention. Major Hydron stated our Aircraft Section flew 15 missions, and our ICP Team seized \$701,314.00 in U. S. Currency, 1,011 pounds of marijuana, 3 pounds of methamphetamine, right at ¼ pound of cocaine, as well as quantities of MDMA, amphetamines, hydrocodone, oxycodone, THC Vapes and edibles. Major Hydron stated great month.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I was questioning the Colonel about your pursuits and how many of them end up in a TVI, do you know that number? Major Hydron stated I do not sir, but I can get that for you for the month of January. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated it's okay, but it is something that you might start including in your report, for one I would like to hear how many. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the public does confront us at times at the gas station or wherever about the process that we are going through, so many times the public only reads the bad side, and we want to be able to project how many people we were able to get off the street by doing this. Major Hydron stated yes sir, I will be glad to include that in the future.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Regulatory and Building Operations, Major Mike Moyer.

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, during the month of January, the Identification Bureau and AFIS Section processed 20,066 civil background checks and 7,467 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 204 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 332 applications. Our Fire Investigators conducted two origin and cause investigations, one of those ended up being a triple fatal, it was a woman that was pregnant and also a 1-year-old that did not get out of a house, and our Bomb Squad handled four separate explosive calls.

Commissioner Edwards stated I don't know if it is for you or Major Roby Rhoads, but what is the status on the new barracks? Major Moyer stated they are scheduled to be completed probably in May.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked Colonel do we have a necessity for some new business I believe. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we move to Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Basore stated I move that the commission enter into Executive Session for the purpose of considering promotions. Commissioner Akin seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated motion and a second, all in favor say aye, all of those opposed. The Commission went into the Executive Session at 10:28 a.m.

At 11:52 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting back into session and I appreciate your tolerance of our long session, we had a lot of personnel related issues to discuss, but we are back in session now, Ashley. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel you have some recommendations from us I believe.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, first is a recommendation for reinstatement to Trooper, it would be for Bryan Rose and upon reinstatement, he would be assigned to Highway Patrol, Troop I, Boone County. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the reinstatement of Bryan Rose. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, opposed, motion carries.

Colonel Hagar stated second is a recommendation for Sergeant in the Regulatory Services, Bomb Squad and the recommendation is Corporal Josh Berry. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Josh Berry be promoted to Sergeant in the Regulatory Services, Bomb Squad. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion, and a second, any discussion, all in favor say, aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated the next is Sergeant in the Highway Patrol, Troop A and the recommendation is Corporal Brandon Love. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Corporal Brandon Love be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion, and a second, any discussion, all in favor say, aye, all of those opposed, so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated the only other one was the lateral transfer that has already been made with Sergeant Jacob Farnam to Executive Protection. Colonel Hagar stated that is all I have Mr. Chairman.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle with that I thank you for your attendance, I apologize again for the long meeting, and I will accept a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Edwards stated I motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, we are adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary