

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
June 11, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy	Major Philip Hydron
Major Stacie Rhoads	Major Jeff Drew
Major Roby Rhoads	Captain Joe Carter
Sherry Woods	Dan Mack
Captain Dustin Morgan	Lieutenant Bobby Brown
Jesi Feld	Ryan Roach
Tess Bradford	Kerry Tabor
Rindi Snow	Susan Tedford
Laura Robbins	Cindy Murphy
Sergeant Scott Troy	Sergeant Tommy Fitzgerald
Phillip Housdan	Philicity Sivley
SA Paul Robson	Lieutenant Ted Jones
Sergeant Justin Nowlin	Sergeant Nathan Williams
Karen Perry	Captain Seth Pinner
Lieutenant Brant Tosh	Teresa Hardy
Captain Jeff Sheeler	Captain David Williams
Scarlett Taylor	Nick Genty
Captain Jeffrey Plouch	Joan Shipley
Philip Warriner	Lieutenant Brandon Bennett
Shelly Cantrell	Jonathan Nettles
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Luke Woolman, AG's Office	Robin Troy
Tina Quinn	Jada Price
Mathew Alvarado	Hannah Baker
Ken Allen	Owen Robson
Abe Reeves	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated will you join me in the pledge of allegiance.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Commissioner Reeves, I believe you have an introduction you would like to make. Commissioner Reeves stated I do, I wanted to let everyone know, my grandson is accompanying me today, stand up there Abe. Commissioner Reeves stated he is out of school so now he is my captive today, he had to listen to all of my old quail hunting and fishing stories on the way down here as we went through St. Joe and on the way back, we are going to visit a family cemetery.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you for coming Abe, we consider it an honor when family members attend these meetings, it means a lot to us.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Donna I see the press has been notified. Donna Humphries answered yes sir.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on May 4, 2026.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated on the minutes of the last regular meeting, May 14, 2026, I will accept a motion to adopt or amend. Commissioner Reeves stated I move we approve them as written. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, any discussion or questions, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next, we have weapons resolutions by Captain Dustin Morgan.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Captain Dustin Morgan presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Mike Dawson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty years, nine months, and eight days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Mike Dawson retired from this department April 30, 2026;

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: Sergeant Mike Dawson 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, June 11, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ797, 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 Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Mike Dawson efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty years, nine months, and eight days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Mike Dawson retired from this department April 30, 2026;

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: Sergeant Mike Dawson 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, June 11, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D596772M, that Sergeant Mike Dawson has carried be

affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Mike Dawson 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 Akin seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Hagar, we have some promotion certificates to present. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Brandon Bennett promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D, Forrest City.

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

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Scot Troy promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, ICAC.

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have some official commendations for presentation, the first is for Special Agent Paul Robson and the overview is being given by Sergeant Justin Nowlin.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Justin Nowlin stated Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel and Arkansas State Police Command Staff, my name is Justin Nowlin, I am a Sergeant in Company E in the Criminal Investigation Division. Sergeant Nowlin stated it is my pleasure to be here today to get to present this Official Commendation Award to Special Agent (SA) Paul Robson and thank you for having me.

Sergeant Nowlin stated SA Robson's actions in this case reminded me of Proverbs 28:1, "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as lions." Sergeant Nowlin stated I am here to tell you today that SA Robson is a lion and he pursues the wicked in every case that he works with professionalism and integrity, and you will see that in this case. Sergeant Nowlin stated on July 22, 2025, the Searcy County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a welfare check in Leslie, Arkansas where a deceased female was found in advanced decomposition. Sergeant Nowlin stated though no initial signs of trauma were observed by the Searcy County Sheriff's Office, an autopsy later revealed she had been shot in the back from a distance. SA Robson was then requested to lead the homicide investigation, despite challenges caused by the nearly weeklong delay in requesting assistance and the condition of the body, SA Robson worked tirelessly, executed multiple search warrants, analyzed digital evidence, reviewed surveillance footage and conducted numerous interviews. Sergeant Nowlin stated that through persistent investigative efforts, SA Robson identified the victim's brother as a primary suspect in this heinous crime. After nearly two months of rigorous investigation, SA Robson traveled to DeLand, Florida on September 29, 2025, in pursuit of justice, while in Florida he located and interviewed a key witness who later revealed the suspect had lured him to Arkansas, concealed a rifle in his vehicle and fatally shot the victim in the back before fleeing back to Florida. Based on the totality of evidence, a warrant was issued and on October 1, 2025, the suspect was arrested in Florida and charged with Capital Murder. This case was resolved solely due to the exceptional dedication and investigative tenacity of SA Robson. His work went far beyond the standard call of duty, SA Robson's performance in this case exemplifies the highest standard of law enforcement and reflects great credit upon itself, the Arkansas State Police and the entire justice system. His determination, skills, and unrelenting pursuit of the truth ensured that a dangerous individual was brought to justice and that the citizens of Searcy County, the State of Arkansas can feel safer because of his efforts.

Colonel Hagar presented Special Agent Paul Robson with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated next is Trooper Jackson Shumate with the overview given by Sergeant Nathan Williams.

Sergeant Nathan Williams stated Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners good morning.

Sergeant Nathan Williams stated during the calendar year 2025, Trooper Shumate demonstrated exceptional productivity, professionalism, and dedication to public safety. Troop A consists of approximately 65 troopers and recorded a little over 1,100 total DWI arrests during 2025. Trooper Shumate was responsible for 106 of these arrests for 2025 which accounted for nearly 10 percent of all DWI arrests within Troop A. In addition to his impaired driving enforcement efforts, Trooper Shumate was responsible for 73 felony arrests and 237 misdemeanor arrests during the same period. These arrests were achieved while Trooper Shumate was frequently away from routine Highway Patrol duties. During 2025, he attended and successfully completed Drug Recognition Expert training, becoming a certified Drug Recognition Expert, and also served multiple weeks as a Field Training Officer for the newly graduated troopers assigned to Troop A. Despite these additional responsibilities, Trooper Shumate continued to maintain an exceptionally high level of enforcement activity. Throughout the year, Trooper Shumate also received praise from North Little Rock District Court Prosecutor Rick Hogan for his professionalism, preparation, and credibility while testifying in multiple DWI trials. His clear articulation of facts and confident courtroom demeanor contributed to successful prosecutions and reflected positively on the Arkansas State Police. Trooper Shumate's proactive enforcement efforts undoubtedly prevented serious injury and fatal collisions by removing impaired drivers from Arkansas roadways. Trooper Shumate consistently embodies the image and mission of an Arkansas State Police Trooper by protecting human life and providing the highest quality of law enforcement services to the citizens of Arkansas.

Colonel Hagar presented Trooper Jackson Shumate with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated next is Telecom Supervisor Philicity Sivley, Telecom Specialist Phillip Housdan, Former Telecom Specialists Jada Price and Hannah Marshall Baker with the overviews given by Telecom Supervisor Maegan Elkins.

Maegan Elkins stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners and Chairman on July 26, 2025, a double homicide occurred at Devil's Den State Park when a couple was fatally attacked while hiking with their two daughters. Maegan Elkins stated at the time of the initial call Hannah Marshall was the sole Telecommunications Specialist on duty, she was faced with a rapidly evolving critical incident, and she remained calm and composed, ensuring vital information was accurately documented and relayed to responding personnel and partner agencies. As the investigation continued and gained national attention, Troop L's communications center received hundreds of tips from the public. Harlie Loftis provided leadership by establishing procedures to ensure incoming information was handled consistently and efficiently. Philicity Sivley enhanced the system used to organize and distribute those tips, helping investigators quickly review and prioritize the leads. Despite it being his final week of training, Phillip Housdan stepped up and applied prior dispatch experience to help manage the workload and staffing levels. Jada Price volunteered additional shifts and maintained the staffing levels and continued support throughout the investigation. Together these telecommunications specialist worked as a unified team to manage an extraordinary volume of information while meeting the daily commands of the communications center. They handled emotionally charged calls with professionalism, precision, and compassion exemplifying true servants hearts. Their efforts directly supported investigators, ensuring no detail was overlooked and ultimately contributed to the successful resolution.

Colonel Hagar presented Telecom Supervisor Philicity Sivley, Telecom Specialist Phillip Housdan, Former Telecom Specialists Jada Price and Hannah Marshall Baker with Official Commendation Awards.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated division reports, Ms. Perry.

Karen Perry stated good morning, you have the May report in front of you, we had a pretty good May. Ms. Perry stated that in May we turned in our FY27 budget that will start on July 1, it is \$130 million versus \$137 million we had for this fiscal year. Ms. Perry stated our legislative audit is about to wrap up, it should be done at the end of the month, and we will know if we have any audit issues then. Ms. Perry stated for your information, July 1 through

July 9 our accounting system will be down, it is going through an upgrade, we will not be paying any vendors for nine days, so we will come back up and be busy trying to play catch up. Ms. Perry stated I am not 100% sure if we will have a report for the next commission meeting.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is Major Roby Rhoads.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, last month we had three military deployments. For our 2027 Troop School, we currently have 517 applicants, which is a really good number, it is our second highest in the modern hiring process era and that is open until July 1, so we are going to get a lot more, they are trickling in every day. Last month the Polar Team assisted 42 individuals and made 17 follow-up visits.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the health plan, the total paid claims were \$1.3 million, our rebates totaled over \$412,000.00 and our contractual savings was over \$1.2 million, it was a good month for us.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Roby Rhoads can you give us a quick synopsis of what you go through on Troop School applications and what do you do next. Major Roby Rhoads stated so our application process is open until July 1. Major Roby Rhoads stated starting next week we are going to do PT testing and written testing, after that we will get the test results back from the written test company. Then we will put them through polygraph, background, interviews and then of course your approval, then medical and psychological, and then bring them on. Major Roby Rhoads stated that Troop School is supposed to start January 31, 2027.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked who are we using now for the psychological evaluation? Major Roby Rhoads stated we still use Conway Psychological, Kim Deilmann. Commission Chairman stated I knew it was at one time and I didn't know if it was still the same.

Commissioner Edwards stated I see the fund balance is below \$10 million for the first time in a long time. Major Roby Rhoads stated the money just didn't make it in the account last month, isn't that right Karen. Karen Perry stated not until the end of the month. Major Roby Rhoads stated it is just the way it came in, but it will be above \$10 million.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated Major Drew is passing out a bar graph, Chairman Hinkle wanted that to make it easier to compare month to month numbers and year to year numbers as far as our Hotline calls and investigations.

Commissioner Reeves asked that second bar, if you look at January, 4806, was the total contacts and the bar to the right was 509, that means that 509 of those were accepted to be investigated. Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated yes by CACD.

Commissioner Chairman Hinkle stated I am guessing of that 509 some would be handed on down to CID as a result of the investigation. Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated if it looked like criminal charges would be a result of it, typically it goes to the jurisdiction that the crime was committed in and if there was a conflict or if that CID Company covered that area and the local agency did not have the investigators to handle it, then our CID would get involved in it.

Commissioner Edwards asked of that 4806, are part of those sent to DHS? Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated yes, the 509 number, those were ones specifically assigned to CACD and they conducted those investigations.

Commissioner Reeves stated this is helpful, thanks.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated I will go ahead and read our normal monthly report. Good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners the Hotline received 5,683 contacts for the month of May, that was about 1,366 less than last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated

2,684 of those contacts were accepted, and of those 2,684 that were accepted, 600 were assigned to our CACD Division for severe maltreatment cases. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of May CACD closed 641 cases with 187 of those being found as true, and this is a substantiation rate of 29%.

Commissioner Akin asked once one of these investigations is opened by CACD, is there an average length of time to resolution? Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated yes there is an average length of time, I do not have that in front of me but can get that and give that to you. Commissioner Akin stated I am just curious, do you know how many are open currently, that are still being investigated? Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated I can pull that number and get it to you.

Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron stated kind of an explanation for the month of April, since we are a little over 1300 calls less than the month of April. Lt. Colonel Aaron stated April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month in which there is a lot of awareness, publicity, publications done on that and so it is front and center on everybody's mind and that is generally the explanation on such an increase of calls in April.

Commissioner Teague asked is it coincidental that of the total, there is about 10 to 10 1/2 percent consistently that are turned over to CACD, is that the norm in the industry or that coincidental number. Lt. Colonel Aaron stated I will have to get those numbers I am not sure what the nationwide numbers would be.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you Lt. Colonel and thank you for this graph, it makes it easier for us to look at.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated good morning for the month of May we initiated 150 investigations. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I passed out some numbers, I know every month I get up here, and I talk about the cases that we initiated, but I really don't do a full breakdown of those numbers, because honestly it is boring. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I like to tell you about the significant ones, homicides we actually worked 4 of those, we worked 4 officer involved shootings, but I kind of wanted you all to have a general idea, it is six pages long so it gives you an idea just the vast differences in the cases that we work, whether it be a deliver of methamphetamine, or a theft case, or failure to register as a sex offender, kind of runs a full gamut there. Major Stacie Rhoads stated so I just kind of wanted you all to have an idea of all the types of cases.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated the other thing that I wanted to talk to you all about, and it is so significant that SA Paul Robson is here this morning. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we worked 20 death investigations for the month of May and four of those as I mentioned were homicides, but what does not really get captured in any of the reports that I tell you all about are the amount of cases or the death cases that we have to approach from a perspective that we don't know what they are, sometimes you go there and it looks pretty easy that this is a homicide. Major Stacie Rhoads stated but we as the State Police and the award that SA Robson received that was a local agency had responded to a death scene, when they got there they just assumed that it was something that it wasn't, they assumed, it was an older woman she had died particularly of natural causes and when she got to the crime lab, she had been shot. Major Stacie Rhoads stated another particular case that SA Robson worked on, which he actually testified last week in the jury trial, was another such case. Major Stacie Rhoads stated they had arrived at a crime scene when they got there it would have been easy to go look it is a suicide; the husband we believe had actually staged the crime scene to make it look like this woman had shot herself when in fact she had not. But the initial approach to that crime scene was so vital and SA Robson's testimony ensured that the man that was responsible for the murder was actually convicted of that murder. Major Stacie Rhoads stated so it is very important when we approach these death scenes that we look at them with an open mind and not just assume what is there and SA Robson is particularly good at that.

Commissioner Reeves stated you mentioned failure to register as a sex offender and I know this happens a lot, say you have someone that is a convicted sex offender that lives in Baxter County and they move to Harrison, Boone County and does not register, is that in our bailiwick or is that the Sheriff's Office. Major Stacie Rhoads stated that is typically for the

local jurisdiction, but a lot of times when we work ICAC cases a lot of ICAC case offenders are also sex offenders so when we recognize that we will actually make sure that they get charged.

Commissioner Reeves stated thank you.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Hydron.

Major Philip Hydron stated Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, good morning, you are being given a handout that coincides with what I am briefing you on. Major Hydron stated the Highway Patrol Division answered 33,442 calls for service during the month of May. Major Hydron stated the troopers made 2,496 criminal arrests, with 502 of those being for felony offenses. Major Hydron stated they made 362 DWI arrests, issued 18,748 citations, 8,217 were for hazardous offenses, 22,089 warnings were issued, and we conducted 3,207 motorists assists. Major Hydron stated they recovered 11 stolen vehicles with a net worth of \$214,948, they engaged in 31 vehicle pursuits, completed 1,386 crash investigations with 30 resulting in fatality injuries. Major Hydron stated that the DL/CDL personnel tested 19,137 individuals. Major Hydron stated the ICP team had a good month, they seized \$331,601.00 in U. S. Currency, 346 pounds of marijuana, 88 pounds of methamphetamine and 8.8 pounds of cocaine. Major Hydron stated the Arkansas State Police SWAT Team conducted 12 missions, our ERT Team conducted four deployments last month, and our Aircraft Section flew 15 missions.

Major Philip Hydron stated I would like to tell you about an incident that our ERT Team members were involved in just last week. Major Hydron stated we received a call from Troop F that they had a missing elderly man who suffered from dementia and diabetes, the family was frantic, he was last seen at 8 pm the previous night. Major Hydron stated we get the call that morning, we deployed our ERT Search and Rescue members and they were able to get on the scene, several different agencies and personnel had already searched the area but there was a section of the search area that was very difficult to search, full of briar thickets and it was actually overlooked. Major Hydron stated our guys decided we cannot overlook that area, we have to get in that thicket, we have to be like a bunch of beagles and get in there and find this guy and they did. Major Hydron stated they were able to rescue him, get him medical attention and the family was so grateful and that is just one of many successes that our ERT members do for us monthly. Major Hydron stated you know a lot of times sadly whenever they do find the person that they are looking for, they find them deceased, this one they found alive and the family just was so grateful, so I wanted to share that with you.

Commissioner Reeves stated I love these graphs, I understand everything a lot better seeing these comparisons month to month and year to year. Commissioner Reeves stated on the criminal arrests on the misdemeanor side looks like we kind of have a steady increase going on this year, from January at 1400 to May at 1900, is this because we have more troopers on the road now than we did at the beginning of the year. Major Hydron stated so understand that when you see the criminal arrest it could be for misdemeanor or felony offenses that we catch them in the act of or it could be from outstanding warrants that are in the system for these individuals. Typically, during the summer months, you will see an uptick slightly in the criminal arrests, that time of year there is more people out doing things that they probably shouldn't be doing. Commissioner Reeves stated so we shouldn't read anything into that, it is just pretty typical. Major Hydron stated yes sir, there are more troopers out there and they are working their tails off and finding the criminals to arrest that is for sure.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Captain Dustin Morgan is next.

Captain Dustin Morgan stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar, during the month of May, the Identification Bureau and AFIS Section processed 23,926 civil background checks and 9,332 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 202 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 547 applications.

The Bomb Squad handled four explosive calls, and the Fire Investigators conducted six origin and cause investigations.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated under new business, Colonel I believe we have a promotion to discuss. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I ask we move to Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Edwards seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion and a second, all in favor say aye, all of those opposed. The Commission went into the Executive Session at 10:41 a.m.

At 11:29 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting back to order and stated Colonel Hagar, I believe you have a recommendations for us.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, the Captain in the Administrative Services Division, Training and my recommendation is Lieutenant Michael Gunnett. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Lieutenant Michael Gunnett be promoted to Captain in the Administrative Services Division, Training. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion, and a second, any discussion, all in favor say, aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we need to schedule an appeal hearing for former Trooper Cade Padgett for September 10, 2026. Commission Chairman Hinkle asked Ms. Tess Bradford if everything was on go for the appeal hearing as far as you know Tess? Ms. Bradford stated yes. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated ok, let us know of any status changes please. Ms. Bradford stated yes, I will.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular monthly meeting will be held on July 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated anybody have anything else before we dismiss. Commissioner Reeves stated I motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Akin seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, we are adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary