MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
September 10, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 10, 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 Steve Edwards
Commissioner Jeff Teague
Commissioner John Allison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Mike Akin

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Captain Randall Murphy
Sergeant Chase Melder
Captain Rick Neill
Karen Perry
Rindi Snow
Jesi Feld
Tanner Gill
Lieutenant Ben Hoyt
Lieutenant Franklin McMillion
Captain Seth Pinner
Corporal Chris Short
Phillip Warriner
Jonathan Nettles
Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Major Mike Moyer
Major Jeff Drew
Captain Brad Lann
Lieutenant Jason Martin
Alexis Winters
Susan Tedford
Eric Wacaster
Tess Bradford
Jenna Castleberry
Dan Mack
Captain Joe Carter
Lieutenant Matt Toon
Cindy Murphy
Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Luke Woolman, AG's Office

Commission Chairman Hinkle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

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

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on September 1, 2026.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated you will find in your packet or in your mailout, the minutes of the August 13, 2026, do we have any corrections. Commissioner Reeves motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion and second to approve, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is division reports, Ms. Perry.

Karen Perry stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners, you have the August report in front of you. Ms. Perry stated our expenses are still low for August and July, we are still learning the new system, and we think we have, finally. Ms. Perry stated September should look a lot better on expenses, we have not been able to pay any credit card bills for July or August, but we are starting to pay those this month.

Commissioner Allison stated are we getting past due fees? Ms. Perry stated no, not on the credit card bills. Ms. Perry stated it is a statewide problem, not just us. Commissioner Basore asked, so the entire state is in arrears? Ms. Perry stated yes. Commissioner Reeves asked, how does that happen? Ms. Perry stated with the new system the credit card data is just not feeding into the new system for us to pay. Commissioner Reeves stated so it is technological? Ms. Perry stated, yes, it is all technical.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is Lieutenant Ben Hoyt, Administrative Services.

Lieutenant Ben Hoyt stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar, thank you for your time. Lieutenant Hoyt stated last month we had five on military orders. Lieutenant Hoyt stated currently we have the 2027A Troop School application process going and from the initial 753, we are down to about 145 applicants. Lieutenant Hoyt stated we have 66 scheduled for oral board interviews starting next week, and then we have about 40 that are still going through the background phase, CID is working on those background investigations.

Lieutenant Hoyt stated for the ASP Health Plan the total claims were $1.4 million, which was a decrease of about $272,000.00 from July. Lieutenant Hoyt stated contractual savings were right at $1.5 million, and our current fund balance for the health plan is $10,887,110.00.

Commissioner Allison asked so we use a certain pharmacy that we get credits from, are we happy with that pharmacy operation? Lieutenant Hoyt stated the EBRX, I think we are right now, we have had meetings with them, and we continue to try to negotiate some of those terms, but I think that is something we are always open to looking at and making better. Commissioner Allison stated is there another one out there that supposedly has better terms. Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy stated there is always other ones out there, it is a very cutthroat business, and we are always open to discussing if someone is going to save us money. Lt. Colonel Kennedy stated we are constantly looking at that; they meet every month.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked how does this $10 million fund balance run, is that high, low or about average? Lieutenant Hoyt stated so the $10.8 million is pretty similar to the balance it was this time last year and some of that depends on how much money we put in on the back end, but from this point to where we were last year, we are about even.

Lieutenant Hoyt stated the last thing I have is the POLAR deployments, so they assisted 76 individuals this past month, they also traveled with Major Hydron to the troops, I believe they made it to ten separate troops, taught two classes and they were also able to attend the Arkansas Wellness Summit here in Little Rock.

Commissioner Basore asked if that number is going up, seems like it went from ten or fifteen up to 76, it seems like it is beginning to take hold. Lieutenant Hoyt stated it is gaining traction, I think the more we have it available, it is going to be utilized more and more when people feel comfortable approaching that program.

Commissioner Reeves asked on the Health Benefit Plan, the fund balance I think you said runs about $10 million pretty steadily, it shows $3.5 million invested in CDs, how is the rest of that invested, the other $7 million? Karen Perry stated it is not invested; it is just in the checking account to pay the claims. Commissioner Reeves stated well if it runs such a steady balance of $10 million, would it be wise maybe to put a little bit more earning money for the plan? Karen Perry stated we can.

Commissioner Allison stated that account goes up and down, we continue to fund that account from time to time. Commissioner Reeves stated it may go up and down too much to do what I am suggesting. Commissioner Allison stated it is a problem for us; it is something at some point in time for us here, we have fought the battle for many, many years it is not self-sustaining, we must have outside money, different things bringing cash in to help it sustain. Commissioner Allison stated retirement and insurance are two of the things we have had forever that we still have that separates us from the rest of the state agencies and we have fought to keep that.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman and Commissioners the Hotline received 5,852 contacts for the month of August, 2,532 of those were phone calls, 3,320 came through online reports, that is about a little over 1,000 more than reported last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated 2,759 of those contacts were accepted at a rate of 47% and of those 2,759 that were accepted, 604 were designated as severe maltreatment cases and were assigned to our CACD Division. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of August CACD closed 556 cases with 166 of those being found as true, and that gives us a substantiation rate of 30%.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is the Criminal Investigation Division, Captain Randall Murphy.

Captain Randall Murphy stated Colonel, Chairman, Commissioners good morning, in August CID opened 290 cases, with 26 being death investigations, deaths at the Arkansas Department of Corrections were the largest single category at nine, two in custody deaths occurred outside of ADC, one in the custody of Conway Police Department and one in the custody of El Dorado Police Department. The remaining deaths consisted of one negligent homicide, two suicides, three accidental, three where the cause of death is still pending, and six homicides, one of which involved the torture and murder of a 4-year-old child. Captain Murphy stated we conducted 75 pre-employment background investigations and thankfully had no officer-involved shootings. Captain Murphy stated our cybercrimes section conducted six residential search warrants resulting in 140 child exploitation charges being filed and I want to give special thanks to the SWAT Team, who were involved in all of the residential searches. Captain Murphy stated our Marshal Task Force officers tracked down and arrested 50 violent fugitives, and the human trafficking section participated with other agencies in the recovery of eight children who were safely recovered and returned home.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next is the Highway Patrol Division report, Captain Brad Lann.

Captain Brad Lann stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners for the month of August, Highway Patrol answered 33,425 calls for service, those were down just a little bit from July. Captain Lann stated the troopers made 2,759 criminal arrests, 612 were felonies. Captain Lann stated they made a total of 383 DWI arrests, issued 18,142 citations, in which 7,448 were for hazardous offenses, 21,358 warnings were issued, and we had 3,420 motorists assists. Captain Lann stated they recovered 14 stolen vehicles with a net worth of $156,021.00, engaged in 38 vehicle pursuits up just a little bit from July but pretty close to the same, completed 1,136 crash investigations with 41 resulting in fatalities. Captain Lann stated as far as statewide fatalities we are actually down a little bit, 2025 this time last year we had 365 fatalities and for 2026 right now we are at 332, so we are down a little bit on fatalities. Captain Brad Lann stated DL/CDL tested 21,232 individuals. Captain Brad Lann stated the ICP team seized $20,837.00 in U. S. Currency, 156 pounds of marijuana, 6.8 pounds of methamphetamine, 1,322 pounds of THC edibles/vapes, and quantities of Oxycodone, Percocet, Xanax, Mushrooms and Kratom.

Captain Brad Lann stated the ASP SWAT Team conducted twenty-three missions, the ASP Aircraft Section flew twenty missions, and the Emergency Response Team had a total of eight deployments.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Mike Moyer.

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar, during the month of August, the Identification Bureau processed 27,778 civil background checks and 10,051 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 293 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 907 applications.

The Fire Investigators conducted two origin and cause investigations, and the Bomb Squad handled three explosive calls, and also provided support on one SWAT mission.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I would like to welcome Sergeant Chase Melder to the podium.

Sergeant Chase Melder stated good morning, Colonel, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners seems like I was just up here talking about Corporal Chris Short not too long ago when you were giving him an Official Commendation and he was also awarded the Gulf Coast HIDTA Interdiction Officer of the Year, well since then Corporal Short has been named the National Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction (MVCI) Officer of the Year at a conference we had back in August. Sergeant Melder stated that in the past eighteen months Corporal Short has made, I have written down fourteen, but it is actually fifteen significant seizures now, because just this week on Tuesday, Corporal Short stopped another tractor trailer on Interstate 40 and found 60 pounds of methamphetamine, a controlled delivery was done here in Little Rock and two individuals were arrested, that is 60 pounds of meth just this week. Sergeant Melder stated Corporal Short's total numbers over the past eighteen months are: over $2 million in drug proceeds, 1,443 pounds of marijuana, 400 pounds of cocaine, 47 pounds of fentanyl, 41 pounds of THC wax and vapes, eight vehicles and two weapons. Sergeant Melder stated beyond the numbers, the intelligence gathered from Corporal Short's stops have directly supported federal law enforcement partners in identifying and arresting members of major drug trafficking organizations including drug cartel members across the nation, his proactive enforcement, and strong interagency collaboration have significantly contributed to larger ongoing investigations, and most importantly saved a bunch of lives. Sergeant Melder stated it is my honor to present this for Corporal Chris Short, again he was named National MVCI Officer of the Year for this past year.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated outstanding.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Executive Session?

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Basore 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 10:20 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you for your patience, I will call the meeting back to order, and report on Executive Session, we had numerous personnel items to discuss and no action was taken.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular monthly meeting will be held on October 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked are there any more items to discuss? Commissioner Teague stated I move we adjourn, Commissioner Basore seconded and Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, we are adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary