

Meeting Minutes of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

Business Meeting
900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

August 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission was called to order on August 20, 2025, at 9:37 a.m. by Commission Chair Joy Blankenship.

ATTENDEES

The commissioners in attendance included Commission Chair Joy Blankenship, Jerel Saeler, Michael Johnson, Scott Wood, Jimmy Jones, Michael Moix, and Clay Maxey. Staff present included Director Daniel Pace, Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap, and Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino. Other attendees included Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey, Greg Kirkpatrick, and Bobbie Johnson. This Commission meeting was broadcast on AR-CAN, Arkansas PBS.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the Wednesday, June 18, 2025, regularly scheduled Commission meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Scott Wood.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Director Pace presented the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal years 2025 & 2026. Fiscal year 2025 reflected a revenue deposit total of \$429,622.49, and fiscal year 2026 reflected a revenue deposit total of \$301,718 to date. Following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026.

Director Pace presented the Monthly License Activity Reports, License Renewal Reports, Manufacturer & Distributor License Renewal Summary, and Voluntary License Surrender Reports. Director Pace noted the addition of two new licensed franchise dealers: Bill White Ford in Booneville and Timberland Outdoors in Malvern. In addition, one new manufacturer was licensed, Sierra LSV LLC, and one new distributor, Solana EV, LLC. AMVC staff are working to ensure all manufacturers and distributor-related licenses are properly renewed for the 2025-2026 licensing period.

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The Investigation Summary Reports compiled by Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino included the time frame of June 2025 through August 2025. There have been investigations into title issues, unlicensed dealers, warranty disputes, and advertising complaints. In addition, 38 dealer visits have been conducted from June to August 2025. The Commission has received 126 complaints (Formal & Non-Formal) since the first of the year. Director Pace provided the Commission with a brief explanation of several open and closed Ad-Hoc, Formal, and Non-Formal Complaints. Director Pace and Investigator Aquilino addressed several Rule 3 advertising complaints involving Franchise Auto Dealerships. Commission Investigators are diligently contacting dealers and working with them to ensure online advertising practices are in compliance with Commission Rule 3.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey provided an update on H#25-040 Gentry Chevrolet vs. General Motors. A formal hearing was set to present the dispute before the full commission on July 23, 2025; however, both parties requested a continuance for the hearing due to a potential resolution of the matter. It is anticipated that the final sale of Gentry Chevrolet will be approved and completed in early October of 2025, at which point the formal complaint would be dismissed at the request of Gentry Chevrolet. Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Johnson, the commission unanimously approved a continuance for the hearing of H#25-040 and set a new Hearing Date for October 15, 2025.

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey provided an update on H#25-038 AMVC vs. Icon of Hot Springs/Golf Cart Elite. The owner of Icon of Hot Springs/Golf Cart Elite, Scottie Walbeck, has completed all requirements set forth in the consent agreement approved by the Commission during the June 18, 2025, Meeting, and has remained in compliance with the terms of the consent agreement up to present. Commission staff will continue to monitor and work with Mr. Walbeck to ensure his business remains in compliance with Commission rules and statutes.

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey provided an update on H#24-088 Bradford Marine & ATV vs. BRP US Inc. A formal hearing is set for September 30, 2025, through October 3, 2025. Director Pace and Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey are working to schedule a hearing officer to cover each day of the hearing and have already scheduled a court reporter to cover the full hearing.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Pace presented one (1) Voluntary License Surrender Agreement from a license holder no longer conducting business in the state of Arkansas (listed under Section 6A on the agenda). The listed license holder requested that the license presented be terminated, and they acknowledged that if they wish to engage in business in the state of Arkansas after the license has been terminated, they must apply for a new license through the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission. After a proper

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motion to approve the Voluntary License Surrender Agreement listed under Section 6A on the Agenda by Michael Johnson and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Director Pace introduced a Complaint (NF#25-096) against White River ATV, owned by Bill Holifield, a company that is currently selling regulated motor vehicles without renewing its cycle dealer license through the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission (AMVC). Information on the complaint was presented to the Commission by Director Pace, Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap, and Investigator John Aquilino. Mr. Holifield has been visited at his business on two separate occasions in 2025 by Investigator Aquilino to inform him that the license has not been renewed, and for a compliance inspection pertaining to a former complaint regarding facility requirements, which was closed in 2024. On August 7, 2025, Mr. Holifield was found to no longer be in compliance with AMVC statutes, as Investigator Aquilino confirmed White River ATV was selling regulated vehicles at his furniture store and not his currently licensed location in Batesville. AMVC staff communicated with him in person, over the phone, and through email regarding his expired license and his resumption of sales at the furniture store, requesting that he renew in a timely manner and that he maintains full compliance with AMVC facility requirements and licensing statutes. Mr. Holifield has had regular communications with AMVC staff since the middle of November 2024 regarding license renewal and has been provided with detailed instructions on renewal requirements. AMVC staff have attempted to assist with the renewal of White River ATV's license with the Commission through the ELP system. As of today, Mr. Holifield has not properly completed an application to the Commission for the renewal of White River ATV's license. After discussion, the Commission unanimously approved the motion for Director Pace and Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey to present a consent agreement to Mr. Holifield and White River ATV, which will bring the business into full compliance, require the payment of a penalty, and require Mr. Holifield to appear before the Commission to discuss his license, following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and a second by Michael Moix.

Director Pace provided an update and explanation to the Commission with respect to the Automotive Technologist Education Grant Program (ATEGP). The Commission previously approved funding for 11 education programs, and the total amount awarded was \$250,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2025. The grant fund warrants were issued to all 11 programs before the end of Fiscal Year 2025. Commission staff confirmed that all 11 grant fund warrants were received and properly deposited by each education program. The first ATEGP Accounting Report is due for submission to the Commission in September for all 11 programs that were awarded funding.

Director Pace requested approval by the Commission for updates that were recently made to Enterprise Licensing and Permits (ELP) franchise auto and franchise cycle license applications to accommodate the recent changes in requirements for ATV and LSV dealers under Act 233 of 2025. The Commission unanimously approved the language and application updates to the ELP franchise

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auto and franchise cycle license applications for ATV and LSV dealers, following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Jimmy Jones.

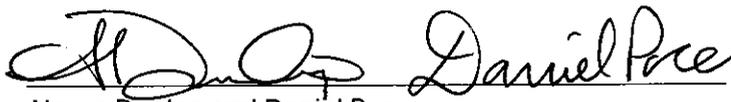
North Arkansas College (ATEGP SFY25-003) requested an adjustment for the allocation of funds originally awarded by the Commission under the ATEGP for fiscal year 2025. The adjustment is to cover a Refrigerant Recovery System Model change, which has a lower price, and the correct reflection of sales tax for the 3D Frame Measuring System for the collision repair program. Following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and a second by Michael Moix, the Commission unanimously approved North Arkansas College to adjust the allocation of funds as provided in their official request.

The Commission unanimously approved to reschedule the next regularly scheduled commission meeting from September 17, 2025, to September 30, 2025, following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Johnson.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Johnson, Chair Joy Blankenship thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 A.M. on August 20, 2025, and the Commission unanimously approved of the motion.

Minutes submitted by:


Alexis Dunlap and Daniel Pace 30 September 2025
Date

Minutes Approved by:


Commission Chair Joy Blankenship September 30, 2025
Date