

Meeting Minutes of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

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

January 21, 2026

MEETING ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION CHAIR:	Joy Blankenship
COMMISSION MEMBERS:	Michael Johnson Jerel Saeler Scott Wood Jimmy Jones Michael Moix Clay Maxey (Virtual)
AR. MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION DIRECTOR:	Daniel Pace
AR. MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION STAFF:	Alexus Dunlap Margie Sexton John Aquilino
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:	Aaron Lowrey
VISITOR:	Mark Phillips – ADLL IT Greg Kirkpatrick - AADA President Miranda McEntire – Court Reporter Cameron Coker – Hearing Officer Bill Holifield – Hearing Respondent (Virtual) Trevor Hawkins – Visitor (Virtual) Bobbie Johnson – Visitor

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission was called to order on January 21, 2026, at 9:32 a.m. by Commission Chair Joy Blankenship.

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PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the Wednesday, October 15, 2025, regularly scheduled Commission meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission, following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Michael Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization of Commissioner (Board Member) Expense Reimbursements, pursuant to Ark Code Ann. § 25-16-902, and authorization of Commissioner (Board Member) Stipends, pursuant to Ark Code Ann. § 25-16-903, for the 2026 Calendar Year were reviewed and unanimously approved by vote of the Commission, following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Jimmy Jones.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Director Pace presented the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2026. Fiscal year 2026 reflects a revenue deposit total of \$379,609.46 to date, with an additional \$1870.00 in funds pending deposit. Following a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2026.

Director Pace presented the Monthly License Activity Report, License Renewal Report, Manufacturer & Distributor License Renewal Summary, Late Fee Invoice Report, and Voluntary License Surrender Report. Director Pace noted the addition of nine new licenses (listed below) since October 15, 2025. AMVC staff are working to ensure all licenses are properly renewed for the 2025-2026 licensing period.

Business Name	License Type	License #	County
Tracker Boats & ATVs	New Franchise Dealer - Cycle	F4600	Arkansas
Bale GMC	New Franchise Dealer – Auto	F5581	Yell
Bradford Marine & ATV	New Franchise Dealer – Cycle	F4601	Baxter
Beachman America Inc.	Distributor	D10471	Fulton - GA
Kaptain, Chris & Pup's Outdoors	New Franchise Dealer – Cycle	F4602	Garland
Dino Equipment & Outdoors	New Franchise Dealer – Auto	F5582	Faulkner
Chris Crain CDJRF	New Franchise Dealer – Auto	F5583	Garland
BLP Motor Inc.	Distributor	D10472	Cobb – GA
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Lessor Branch	LB61551	Benton

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The Investigation Summary Reports compiled by Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino included the time frame of October 2025 through January 2026. There have been investigations into title issues, unlicensed dealers, warranty disputes, and advertising complaints. In addition, 16 dealer visits have been conducted from October 2025 through January 2026. The Commission received 238 complaints (Formal & Non-Formal) for the 2025 calendar year. The Commission has received 11 complaints (Formal & Non-Formal) since January 1, 2026.

Director Pace provided the Commission with a brief explanation of several open and closed, Formal and Non-Formal Complaints. He discussed NF#25-167, a non-formal complaint against Walmart in **Batesville**, which involved the sale of regulated vehicles at an unlicensed location. Director Pace spoke with Corporate Legal Counsel at Walmart, and the issue is currently being addressed. Director Pace provided an update on the licensing of Tractor Supply locations across the state, the licensing team for Tractor Supply is working with AMVC staff to license all locations as Franchise Cycle dealerships.

Investigator Aquilino, provided the Commission with a brief update on his work on C#26-002, a formal complaint filed by Tedder Equipment against American Landmaster regarding dealer termination and repurchase of product inventory.

Director Pace also provided the Commission with a summary of the resolution of NF#25-181 and NF#25-183, both complaints involved relevant market area disputes and the addition of a new franchise cycle dealer into the territory of existing franchise dealers. AMVC staff worked with all parties involved to resolve each relevant market area dispute, and no further action will be required by the Commission at this time.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey provided an update on H#25-040 Gentry Chevrolet vs. General Motors. A formal hearing was set for October 15, 2025, at the request of both parties, in anticipation of a final sale of the dealership and resolution by early October. The dealership was damaged by fire in September. During the October 15, 2025, meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the undisputed Gentry Chevrolet request to cancel the scheduled hearing. Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowery presented a letter, received January 16, 2026, from Gentry Chevrolet's legal counsel requesting that the Commission dismiss the formal complaint C#24-027. The request to dismiss formal complaint C#24-027 was unanimously approved by the Commission following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Moix.

Director Daniel Pace provided the Commission the status of H#26-012 Arkansas Yamaha vs. Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA, a dispute regarding the establishment of a new Yamaha dealer into the relevant market area of Arkansas Yamaha. Commission Chair Blankenship previously authorized Director Pace to schedule the Formal Hearing for February 18, 2026, corresponding with the regularly scheduled meeting date. AMVC staff sent out the proper Notice of Hearing to all parties in November of 2025. The Commission unanimously approved the Formal Hearing date of February 18,

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2026, (the next Commission Meeting date), for H#26-012, following a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Jerel Saeler.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Daniel Pace presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Internal Control and Compliance Assessment for the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing compiled by Arkansas Legislative Audit to the Commission for review pursuant to Ark Code Ann. §10-4-418. Following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Jimmy Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the motion that the Internal Control and Compliance Assessment for the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing for Fiscal Year 2024 has been reviewed and accepted by the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission.

Director Pace presented four (4) Voluntary License Surrender Agreements from license holders no longer conducting business in the state of Arkansas (listed under Section 7B on the agenda). The listed license holders 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 motion to approve the four (4) Voluntary License Surrender Agreements listed under Section 7B on the Agenda by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Johnson, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

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 second ATEGP Accounting Report was due for submission to the Commission on January 11, 2026, for all 11 programs that were awarded funding, and all 11 programs turned in Accounting Report 2 to AMVC staff. Following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Scott Wood, the Commission unanimously approved the second ATEGP Accounting Reports received from all eleven (11) education programs that were awarded funding for Fiscal Year 2025.

Director Pace then provided an update to the Commission regarding the AMVC ATEGP Grant Report which is required to be submitted to the Arkansas Legislative Council pursuant to ACA 23-112-207(k). The required report was accepted and approved by the Arkansas Legislative Council on November 21, 2025.

Director Pace provided a reminder to the Commissioners that the annual Statement of Financial Interest is required to be filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State Office no later than February 2, 2026, pursuant to Ark Code Ann. § 21-8-701.

HEARINGS

The Commission conducted Hearing H#26-011 AMVC vs. White River ATV pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act. Bill Holifield (Respondent) appeared virtually for the Hearing. The Commission Hearing Exhibits Packet was entered into evidence and Commission Director Daniel Pace, Investigator John Aquilino, and Respondent Bill Holifield were sworn in and

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offered witness testimony to the Commission for the record. No other witnesses were called for this Hearing. After deliberations by the Commissioners, a proper motion was made by Michael Moix and seconded by Jerel Saeler, finding the allegations of fact presented to the Commissioners in exhibits F1 through F15, are determined to be true and the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission. Additionally, a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Michael Moix was unanimously approved by the Commission finding charges C1 and C2 were determined to be true. A proper motion was made by Michael Moix and seconded by Jimmy Jones, to issue a letter of reprimand to Bill Holifield as owner of White River ATV, stating that all operations and the sale of motor vehicles must cease no later than February 20, 2026, all product orders must be cancelled with all manufacturers and distributors, and going forward no regulated motor vehicles can be sold, displayed, or distributed to the public by White River ATV. The Commission unanimously approved the proper motion. Hearing Officer Cameron Coker concluded the hearing and closed the record January 21, 2026, at 11:47 A.M.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Commissioner Michael Johnson presented a topic for future discussion to the Commission regarding Online Ordering of regulated motor vehicles wherein the customer never comes to the dealership in-person, and the vehicle is ultimately delivered directly to the customer off-site.

Commissioner Scott Wood presented a topic for future discussion to the Commission regarding direct-to-consumer sales of regulated vehicles by Manufacturers in the state, specifically with respect to online transactions and the final delivery point of the vehicle to the customer.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Jerel Saeler, Commission Chair Joy Blankenship thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:54 A.M. on January 21, 2026, and the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Minutes Submitted By:

Alexis Dunlap and Daniel Pace 18 February 2026

Alexis Dunlap and Daniel Pace

Date

Minutes Approved By:

Joy Blankenship 18 February 2026

Commission Chair Joy Blankenship

Date