



THE OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION- OPOTC Meeting

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Route 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140

Minutes
November 12th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vernon Stanforth at 10:05 a.m. in the cafeteria of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, London, Ohio.

The following members attended the meeting:

Voting Members

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Sheriff Thomas Kochert
Chief Andrew Powers
Chief Robert Chabali
Colonel Charles Jones
Carol O'Brien
Wynette Carter-Smith
Leah Amstutz
SAC Gregory Nelsen

Non-voting Members

William Kovaleski, AG

Absent

Lieutenant James Fitsko

Staff

Erica Wilson Art DeLeon
Brittany Brashears Caty Abbott
Thomas Quinlan
Reverend Eddie Parker
Robert Graziano
Melissa Day
Anthony Traska
John Bates

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Prior to the Meeting the Commission Members all had updated portraits taken.

Chairman Vernon Stanforth moved to approve the August 12th, 2025, OPOTC minutes. Without objection, roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved with a vote of 9-0.

Chairman Vernon Stanforth welcomed new commission members Sheriff Thomas Kochert and Chief Andrew Powers. The new members introduced themselves to commission and staff, elaborating on their professional backgrounds.

Chair Stanforth spoke about subcommittees and wanted to elaborate on that later in the meeting.

Chairman Stanforth discussed the upcoming 119 hearing for the February 10th 2026 mtg at 1pm. Provided the explanation of the 119 hearing to the new members, asking that the Commission schedule an afternoon session for February 10th 2026 mtg.

Chair Stanforth asked for the CPT Committee report : Chair Chabali had no updates.

Chair Stanforth asked for the Curriculum Committee report: Chair Chabali had no updates

Chair Stanforth asked for the House Committee report:

Colonel Jones reported that the House Committee met at 9:30 am 11/12/25 to address three business items:

Recommendations for 2026 OPOTC Chair
Recommendations for 2026 OPOTC Vice Chair
Recommendations for 2026 OPOTC Meeting Dates

Colonel Jones Made a motion to keep Vernon Stanforth as the 2026 OPOTC Chairman, Motion carried, no opposition.

Recommendation made to keep Colonel Jones as the 2026 OPOTC Vice Chairman, motion carried. Chair Jones abstained from the vote. Unanimous vote to keep Vice Chair Jones for 2026.

Colonel Jones discussed the OPOTC 2026 commission meeting dates. The recommendation was made that the commission meetings remain on the second Tuesday of the month, Dates were as follows:

February 10, 2026
May 12th , 2026
August 11th , 2026
November 10th, 2026

The recommendation for the 2026 OPOTC dates was accepted, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chair Stanforth asked for the Legislative Committee Report:

There were no updates, Lt. Fitsko was not in attendance.

Chair Stanforth asked for the Commission and Academy Reports:

Director Quinlan Introduced new employees:

Andrea Harrison – Certification Specialist
John Bates - Legal Advisor
Caty Abbot – Legal Advisor

Robert Graziano – Director of Operations

Director Quinlan announced the retirement of Judith Wilson and thanked her for her service.

Director Quinlan addressed the process of Curriculum developing new material for training. He explained that “Subject matter experts” are used to propose what the instructors will need when teaching new material. Those recommendations are presented to the commission and voted on.

Director Quinlan stressed the importance of online training availability for officers.

Director Quinlan introduced Director of Operations Robert Graziano to speak about projects that are underway.

- Director Quinlan discussed CPT 2026 – 24 HRS minimum are required, only up to 32 hours will be reimbursable instead of 40 due to budget. This has been approved by the Commission already. The application to apply for 2026 CPT will be online and available December 1st 2025, this will give agencies time to get applications in and approved.
- Director Quinlan introduced CPT. Manager Brittany Brashears to provide a CPT update.

It was explained that there are agencies that wait until the deadline or beyond to submit CPT hours for their officers. Ms. Carol Obrien asked if that was still an issue or getting better and Brittany Brashears explained that the issue was getting better.

- Director Quinlan explained that CPT 2026 will change to 3 major categories as opposed to 14. The problem is that there are officers putting their hours in the wrong categories, the hours are not counted and then officers are being put in Cease Function because it looks in the system like they have not completed their CPT hours. We do have a portal for them to put their numbers in.

Reducing to 3 major categories. A total of 24 hours. 8 hours mandatory hours, agency directed hours and VR hours.

Having 3 categories instead of 14 we think it will be easier for officers to complete.

Director Quinlan stated that there are currently only 24 hours required of CPT and there are 32 hours available online.

Director discussed the New VR season that is in post-production as of now and that there will be VR videos that will be interactive.

OAC changes are moving forward and in progress. Master Certifications are being developed for Evidence investigators and tactical patrol officers. Certification levels that the commission approved are moving forward. Two motions were made:

- The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission approves an increase in the number of topics permitted for special subject instructors, expanding the limit from five to eleven topics.
- The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission approved and adopted the proposed modifications to the Peace Officer Basic Training Instructor Guidelines.

Director Quinlan spoke about changes in the refresher process. Officers with a one-year break in service used to have a year after being hired to take the course, now an officer may not be hired with a one-year break in service until they have completed the course. The courses are posted online and are available at regional and at OPOTA. If an agency appoints an officer and adds them to their roster after the refresher, then the training will count towards their CPT for that year. If the officer is not added to the roster, they will have to complete the CPT for the year.

Director Quinlan announced that we are getting a second shift Certification specialist, a third shift Administrative Professional 2 as well as an additional E-Learning specialist leading to the goal of re-opening our dorm rooms and having more availability for the students.

199 reciprocity applications approved in 2025

COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) Christmas Party 11/22/25

Fallen Officer Memorial is 5/7/26

LETO positions being posted

Discussion about why the Commission had their pictures re-taken. There will be a new display for the OPOTC wall and Commission pictures. There was a picture circulated to show the new design.

Chair Stanforth – New Business

Chair Stanforth brought discussion about the Sub-Committees and changes to two committee chairs.

Asking new commissioner Andrew Powers if he would take Lt. Fitsko's place on the legislative committee in lieu of Lt. Fitsko's retirement. Chair Stanforth said his goal is to provide our legal staff a chairperson to come to, concerning legislation that may impact the commission.

Chair Stanforth asked that Sheriff Kochert be the new chair for the CPT committee.

Chair Stanforth then asked that Chief Chabali remain a committee member.

Chair Stanforth – Old business, there was none.

Chair Stanforth invited guests to speak.

Guest forum: Captain Hart asked if the K9 Fentanyl pilot program could be extended beyond original one year end date?

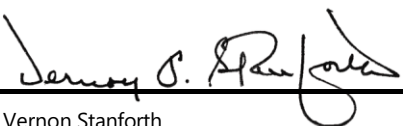
Director Quinlan suggested extending the K9 fentanyl pilot program to allow for time for fentanyl to be coded as a recognized imprint drug approved items to be used. Ms. Carol O'brien asked how long we would need the extension and our legal advisor Melissa day answered (recording dropped out).

Ms. Carol O'Brien moved to extend the K9 / Fentanyl pilot program beyond the original one year and add an additional year. Ms. Wynette Carter- Smith second the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved with a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Carol O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Wynnette Carter Smith.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

These minutes are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.

X 

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth

OPOTC CHAIR