Texas Department *of* Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year 2019 Activities and Funds Report

for the

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

**Prepared for the
Texas Legislature
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

In accordance with Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (formerly known as the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority) reports on its activities and funds for fiscal year (FY) 2019.

The predecessor of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) was established by the 72nd Texas Legislature in 1991 as the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA). It was one of the nation's first statewide efforts to reduce auto theft. The 80th Legislature expanded the ATPA mission to include combating motor vehicle burglary and changed the name to the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority. The 86th Legislature changed the name to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority and added fraud-related motor vehicle crime to its mission. To better align the operation and improve coordination with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), the enabling statute for the MVCPA was codified in the Texas Transportation Code. Under the recodification the MVCPA is required to:

1. Collect a $4 fee for every motor vehicle insured in Texas.
2. Issue grants to law enforcement agencies and other statutorily designated groups to combat motor vehicle crime.
3. Develop, collect and monitor performance data on arrests, recovery of vehicles and cases cleared and other performance measures for motor vehicle crime.
4. Report annually to the Texas Legislature fiscal and program data.
5. Develop a biennial statewide Plan of Operation to combat motor vehicle crime.
6. Examine and make determinations for refunds to insurers that overpay the $4 per vehicle fee.

The MVCPA collected more funds than ever in 2019. The funds are collected by calendar year but this report provides all information by fiscal year. Texas saw motor vehicle theft incidents increase in number and loss values. Motor vehicle burglary incidents and losses decreased for 2019. The local law enforcement investigators funded through the MVCPA protect and serve their communities while carrying out the state program activities. They innovate and strategize with national, state, regional and local stakeholders to provide this unique style of investigation. These investigators must constantly renew their knowledge of vehicle operating systems, criminal enterprise tactics, and fast-evolving on-line and automotive technologies. Without state funding for local governments to combat this highly mobile criminal activity the activity and losses would be much greater.

MVCPA Fee Collections and Appropriations 2015 to 2019

Fiscal Year	Fee Collected By MVCPA	Amount Appropriated to MVCPA	Amount Remaining in General Revenue
2015	$44,563,043	$14,904,340	$29,658,703
2016	$46,068,858	$14,920,849	$31,148,009
2017	$46,436,967	$14,920,849	$31,516,118
2018	$49,083,185	$12,835.851	$36,247,334
2019	$50,042,957	$12,835,851	$37,207,106
Total	**$236,195,010**	**$70,417,740**	**$165,777,270**

MVCPA at a Glance

Vision Statement	
The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority exists to empower local law enforcement agencies and communities to combat and prevent statewide motor vehicle crime.	
Governance	
The MVCPA is comprised of a of 6 governor appointees and the Director of Public Safety of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The governor appoints 2 representatives from the following groups: consumers of insurance, writers of insurance and law enforcement. The MVCPA is administratively attached to the TxDMV. The MVCPA coordinates with TxDMV to separate policymaking responsibilities of the authority and the management responsibilities of the department.	
TxDMV Full Time Employees (FTEs) for MVCPA Program	5
Total Administrative Costs Percent	3.6%
FY 19 Appropriation	$12.8 million
FY 19 Funds Collected by the MVCPA from $2 auto theft fee on motor vehicle insurance policies	$50 million
FY 2019 Registered Vehicles – TxDMV	25.1 million
CY18 Motor Vehicle Thefts	69,730
CY18 Burglary from a Motor Vehicle and Theft of Parts	185,540
CY18 Losses from Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft	>$1 Billion
FY 19 Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft by grant funded investigators	3,257
FY 19 Arrests for Burglary of Motor Vehicle by grant funded investigators	930
FY 19 Recovered Stolen Vehicles by grant funded investigators	11,678
FY 19 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (68A) Inspections for Texas title transactions by grant funded investigators	17,165
FY 19 Other VIN Verification Inspections	26,423
FY 19 Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges and outbound ports	5,359

Losses to Texans from Motor Vehicle Burglary & Theft[1] in CY 2018[2]

Type of Crime	Number	Value of Loss	Average Loss
Burglary from a Motor Vehicle and Theft of Parts	185,540	$196,882,102	$1,061
Motor Vehicle Theft	69,730	$840,298,502	$12,051
CY 2018 Total Loss		**$1,037,180,604**	

Source: The Crime in Texas Report for 2018, Texas Department of Public Safety, **CY= calendar year**

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[1] For Fiscal Year 2019, the MVCPA was charged only with combatting motor vehicle burglary and theft. Starting in Fiscal year 2020, combatting motor vehicle related fraud will be also be a responsibility of the MVCPA.

[2] Due to data reporting timeframes, crime data for CY 2019 is not available in time to use in this report.

Sunset Legislation (SB 604)

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles sunset bill (SB 604) from the 86th Legislature's regular session made several changes to the MVCPA (authority).

The most noticeable change was changing the name of the authority from the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. The name change required several rules in the Texas Administrative Code to be amended. Those proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register on August 30, 2019. The name-change also required changing all the materials, publications, logos, etc., of the authority. Almost all those tasks were completed when the name change went in effect on September 1, 2019.

The sunset bill also expanded the scope of the authority's responsibilities to include combating fraud-related motor vehicle crime. The expanded scope went into effect on September 1, 2019. The authority developed and implemented grant performance measures for the expanded scope.

Lastly, the sunset bill codified the governing statute of the authority from the old, Vernon's Revised Texas Civil Statues to the new Chapter 1006 of the Texas Transportation Code. There were also minor wording updates and standard Sunset Commission management language added to the Transportation Code.

Fee Change Activities

The 86th Legislature enacted House Bill 2048 which, among many other things, increased the MVCPA fee on motor vehicle insurance from $2 to $4 effective September 1, 2019. While dedicating 60 percent of the total fee to trauma center funding, the law also now requires that 20 percent of the total fee be appropriated for MVCPA purposes. However, that requirement did not impact the MVCPA-related appropriations for the 2020-2021 biennium.

To prepare for the fee change prior to the September 1, 2019 effective date, the MVCPA provided written requests to the Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Texas Department of Insurance for them to examine rules, forms, and website information and make any needed changes and updates. MVPCA staff combed through publications and instructional material and made updates. The MVCPA published the rate change in the Texas Register on August 30, 2019 and notified insurance associations and insurer compliance publications.

FY 2019 MVCPA Activities

Performance Measures

Statutory Measures

Grants from the MVCPA fund police and sheriff taskforces to combat motor vehicle burglary and theft. Taskforces also combat the financial losses associated with these crimes to Texas citizens and businesses. State law requires the MVCPA track performance measures (Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006.151) associated with its grants. The table below shows the specific statutory performance measures for FY19 reported by grant-funded taskforces:

Summary of Statewide Statutory Performance Measures

Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)			
Activity	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**Percent Change**
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	11,038	11,678	5.80%
Cleared Motor Vehicle Theft Cases	14,617	13,491	-7.70%
Arrests - Motor Vehicle Theft	3,295	3,257	-1.15%
Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)			
Activity	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**Percent Change**
Cleared Motor Vehicle Burglary Cases	3,425	2,565	-25.11%
Arrests - Burglary of Motor Vehicle	974	930	-4.52%

MVCPA Measures

In addition to the statutory measures above, the MVCPA sets additional grant performance measures. These measures help determine the effectiveness of taskforces. Most grant funds are used to hire, train and retain specialized motor vehicle crime investigators. By law, the priority of the MVCPA is to combat motor vehicle burglary and theft and economic auto theft. Economic auto theft constitutes many methods used by criminals to convert the stolen property into an economic gain. It also includes activities that defraud the state of Texas (taxes and fees), insurers (false claims) and individuals (fraudulent sales). Taskforces report their activities related to the measures to demonstrate their effectiveness at combatting motor vehicle crime in their communities and statewide. Below are many significant activities that the taskforces reported in FY 2019:

Fiscal Year 2019 MVCPA Taskforces Performance Measures	
Measure Description	**Total Number**
Investigations	
MVT cases presented to prosecutor	3,399
BMV cases presented to prosecutor	1,080
Other felony cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	1,271
Other misdemeanor cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	490
Number of cases of insurance fraud identified	517
Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	4,493
License Plate Readers (LPR)	
Number of LPR Deployments by taskforce investigators	3,487
Times that investigators were provided an alert from an LPR. (Note: some agencies have access to third-party LPR data providers to get alerts)	4,259
Number of vehicles recovered from LPR detection	1,769
Number of arrests from LPR detection	78

Bait Vehicles and Bait Equipment[3]	
Bait vehicle deployments	1,467
Number of arrests from bait vehicle deployments	114
Other types of bait and tracked device deployments targeting vehicle burglary offenders	1,821

Human Trafficking	
Number of arrests for human trafficking while investigating MVT/BMV	21

Drugs	
Number of arrests for MVT/BMV where drugs were present	246
Amount of drugs and controlled substances seized	13.88 pounds

Weapons	
Number of weapons recovered	197
Arrests for weapon smuggling	3
Value of weapons recovered	$131,112

Equipment[4]	
Number of units of equipment recovered	210
Value of equipment recovered	$4,227,589

Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination	
Taskforce investigators assisted outside agencies conduct their investigations by performing part of the investigation or using specialized motor vehicle crime investigative skills as resource. (# of times)	
Assists to all outside agencies	21,200
Assists within their own agencies	5,069
Assists for other agencies within the grant coverage area	6,614
Assists to TxDMV and Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) investigation	673
Assists to DPS and other state law enforcement criminal investigations	524
Assists to federal law enforcement investigation	368

Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination	
Taskforce investigators have unique operations in law enforcement to combat economic motor vehicle crime. Usually groups and repeat offenders account for a disproportionate volume of crime. Additionally, taskforce investigators conduct covert operations and then provide regional communication.	
Groups (criminal networks) of auto theft offenders identified operating in communities	425
Offenders with three or more MVT arrests identified operating in communities	1,920
Number of covert operations conducted	3,054
Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by investigators	993
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by taskforce investigators	1,505
Number of Border Incident Assessment Reports submitted by taskforce investigators to a Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center	850

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[3] Bait refers to a vehicle owned by and utilized by law enforcement agencies to capture car thieves or property thieves who steal items from the car. Bait cars are normally purchased and owned by law enforcement and are typically modified with audio/video surveillance technology which can be remotely monitored and controlled.

[4] Equipment is construction / farm tractors, excavators, compressors, lifts and other items that are vehicles or transported on trailers.

Vehicles Inspected	
Vehicles inspected using confidential means (Required for the public to complete certain title transactions at TxDMV or TAC	17,165
Vehicles inspected at businesses, dealerships, other transactions or looking for stolen vehicles	26,423
Number of vehicles inspected to check if they were stolen at international bridges and out-bound ports	5,359
Local Business Operations Support	
Number of inspections of licensed businesses related to vehicle enterprise (salvage yards, repair shop, used parts recyclers, used car dealership, salvage rebuilders, etc…)	670

Grant Management and Tracking System

The MVCPA operates a Grant Management and Tracking System (GMTS) for grant management and data collection. The GMTS is a web-based application used by MVCPA staff and grantees. The system manages the grant lifecycle from the application to closeout. It allows for and tracks grant adjustments, inventories, grantee fiscal/progress reporting, and compliance tracking. Grantees enter their activities or requests and receive approvals through the system. The staff of the MVCPA have on-demand status and summary reports and can access real-time data on budgets, personnel, expenditures, inventory, recovered vehicles, arrests and more. The GMTS allows grantees to manage their grants in a streamlined system that is accountable, transparent and meets paper use reduction goals of the state.

Law Enforcement Activities

Statewide Collaborative Law Enforcement Efforts

The greatest resources for the MVCPA to combat statewide motor vehicle burglary and theft are MVCPA trained, funded, and experienced investigators in local law enforcement agencies. The MVCPA funded investigators coupled with the support that their local agencies provide are extremely effective. Local law enforcement agencies rarely would have specialized motor vehicle crime experts or the corresponding equipment without an MVCPA grant-funded program. The MVCPA grants allow local communities to develop highly trained investigators performing specialized motor vehicle crime investigations for themselves and the state of Texas.

The MVCPA provides grants to local law enforcement agencies to fund motor vehicle burglary and theft law enforcement taskforces. Of the 24 taskforces funded in FY 2019, 10 are single jurisdiction and 14 are multijurisdictional. Taskforces must provide a minimum of 20 percent cash match for all MVCPA grant funds received. The MVCPA funds incentivize taskforces to use their resources in a coordinated effort for the benefit of the entire state. For instance, taskforce investigators routinely contact each other across the state directly and monthly through the MVCPA webinar. They also hold regional criminal intelligence sharing meetings about trends and technology used to steal vehicles.

In addition to their direct sworn duties, the MVCPA taskforces directly assisted other law enforcement agencies almost 30,000 times to investigate crimes tied to motor vehicle burglary or theft. The taskforce investigators assisted other units within their agencies a further 6,600 times. Law enforcement agencies funded by the MVCPA collaborate beyond their city or county limits to confront the highly mobile nature of motor vehicle crimes.

Investigators

In FY 2019, MVCPA grants provided funds to support about 250 highly trained and specialized law enforcement investigators in communities across the state of Texas. Most MVCPA grant program expenditures are law enforcement personnel-related costs. Local jurisdictions use MVCPA grants to cover much of their investigators' salaries. The MVCPA funded investigators are trained on advanced investigative techniques and the latest automotive technological trends.

Specialized Equipment and Supplies

Specialized equipment used by motor vehicle crime investigators includes high-tech surveillance and recording devices, vehicle identification cameras, License Plate Readers (LPR), bait trackers, and bait marking technology. Most equipment purchased with MVCPA grant funds is so specialized that it would rarely be purchased by local law enforcement agencies without state funding. Even when equipment is purchased without MVCPA funds, most law enforcement agencies coordinate with MVCPA taskforces to receive training to operate it.

LPRs are devices that can read license plates, connect to state and national lists of reported stolen vehicles and quickly inform investigators of a stolen vehicle in their vicinity. LPRs are also used to provide location intelligence to investigators about patterns where cars are stolen and recovered. LPR detections accounted for about 50% of the vehicles recovered by MVCPA funded investigators.

Techniques of MVCPA Taskforces

The MVCPA law enforcement taskforces use many techniques to prevent and combat motor vehicle burglary and theft. Below is a partial list of techniques used by taskforces and, a summary of taskforce usage in FY 2019:

Investigations
The MVCPA funded investigators investigate motor vehicle crimes reported by the public (reactive investigations) and monitor and reduce community vulnerabilities to such crimes (proactive investigations). All funded investigators work to recover stolen vehicles, arrest perpetrators, and clear open criminal cases as required by the MVCPA statute. Investigators write and examine reports, operate covert investigations, review and provide intelligence briefings, develop leads and witnesses, identify criminals and their networks and organizations, train/inform other law enforcement officers, support state/federal agencies, coordinate with prosecutors, and develop sources of information from victims, informants and community members.

As an example, coordination between DPS and the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Auto Theft Unit prompted several investigations. Those investigations resulted in the recovery of commercial vehicles, trailers, and heavy equipment. They used various technological tools including GPS trackers and LPRs to recover many stolen vehicles. At the end of August 2019, investigations with coordination between DPS and the HCSO Auto Theft Unit resulted in 77 Arrests (71 felonies and 6 misdemeanors) and 66 recovered stolen vehicles, with an approximate value of $1,167,000.

Identify Vehicles
Motor vehicle burglary and theft investigators receive specialized training to identify motor vehicles and certain parts of motor vehicles. Manufacturers of vehicles, trailers, equipment and certain parts follow national and industry standards for marking and maintaining identification of their produced items. Records of these marks and identifications are maintained in limited access, confidential proprietary databases most of which are managed by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Properly credentialed and trained law enforcement investigators use these databases to identify vehicles, certain vehicle parts and most equipment. This proper identification is required to perform certain Texas title transactions, to establish the elements of motor vehicle crime for prosecution purposes, and to recover vehicles where criminals have worked to remove, conceal or change the vehicle identity markings. This specialized skill in vehicle identification is also used to assist other law enforcement agencies in critical instances of shootings and human trafficking.

Communicate and Collaborate Across Jurisdictions
To effectively combat motor vehicle crime, taskforces depend on communication and collaboration. The MVCPA taskforces perform their investigations with and across local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions. Some agencies embed their MVCPA funded investigators, or coordinate them closely, with anti-gang or violent crime units because of the close connection between these crimes and motor vehicle crime. This is especially true when investigators work to identify and interrupt criminal enterprises. Taskforce investigators communicate with other taskforces, other law enforcement agencies, vehicle manufacturer representatives, insurance industry professionals, as well as motorists and families in the communities they serve. They receive and analyze intelligence data that is provided through DPS Crime Information Centers. When taskforces identify criminal patterns or suspects, they disseminate that information across jurisdictions.

The MVCPA and its taskforces communicate and collaborate with international, national and state organizations such as the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, Auto Theft Prevention Authorities Committee, and the Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators. These organizations provide the MVCPA and its funded investigators with direct access to communicate with motor vehicle manufacturers about vulnerabilities. Investigators regularly receive information about new trends across the world and nation. Best practices are used to solve and prevent motor vehicle crime and promote coordination.

Identify Prolific Offenders

Many motor vehicle burglaries and thefts are committed by the same individuals or groups. These prolific offenders are identified by taskforce investigators who spend time analyzing multiple streams of information. They review offense reports, witness statements, and intelligence briefings to identify these offenders. Taskforces identified almost 2,000 individuals with 3 or more offenses of stealing cars. The information is coordinated throughout the taskforces, agencies, and criminal intelligence networks (regional fusion centers). The MVCPA taskforces also report high volumes of weapons charges, credit card thefts, and other fraud cases committed by these prolific offenders.

Business Support

Taskforces conduct inspections of salvage yards, parts recycling centers, rebuilders and other motor vehicle-related businesses. When stolen vehicles and parts are identified, the taskforces work with local businesses to identify and interrupt the criminal network that brought the stolen items into the system. Taskforces also work to shut down illegal operations that dismantle stolen motor vehicles and parts, often referred to as "chop shops". Such illegal operations undermine legitimate businesses throughout the state.

Technology

The methods criminals use to illegally reap economic gain out of a stolen motor vehicle or parts have become more technologically sophisticated. To keep pace with those methods, investigators develop more sophisticated techniques to identify and arrest offenders who burglarize and steal motor vehicles. The taskforces use bait cars, bait trailers, bait equipment, license plate readers, surveillance equipment, and when authorized by courts, tracking devices. The MVCPA and its taskforces regularly work with the NICB, insurance industry, and manufacturers to identify vulnerabilities that result in theft to mitigate losses. Taskforces communicate with each other and the entire network to implement prevention and loss containment strategies. For example, a discovery of a manufacturer's vulnerability by a taskforce led to the manufacturer modifying its operating software. Taskforces provide important input to industry for prevention. Investigators use a broad array of software and databases to prevent crime or to increase recoveries of stolen vehicles, increase clearance rates, and arrest criminals.

Criminal Gangs

The MVCPA taskforces interrupt organized crime networks and enterprises. Many taskforces indicated organized crime was a major cause and influence of motor vehicle theft in their communities. Taskforces often identify economic criminal groups, gangs and cartels operating motor vehicle theft operations. The City of Dallas identified more than 386 gangs with 6,109 documented members. Taskforces report narcotic and gang investigators routinely find stolen vehicles being used by gangs and drug traffickers.

Gangs and Cartels Using Stolen Vehicles Identified by Taskforces		
18th Street	Barrio Central	Mexican Mafia
415 bloods	Cartel Del Noreste	North Dallas Vagos
457 bloods	Chuco Tango	Sinaloa Cartel
65 Groveside	Eastside Homeboys	Surenos 13
Artistas Asesinos	Ferguson 64	Tango Blast
Aryan Nation	Juarez Cartel	Texas Syndicate
Bandidos MC Gang	La Linea	Local Juvenile Gangs
Barrio Azteca	Los Mexicles	

Border Security

The 85th Legislature in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 17.07, designated $5.6 million of the biennial appropriation for MVCPA uses for border security. The GAA, Article IX, Section 7.11: (1) provides agency reporting requirements; 2) defines border security as deterring crime and enforcing state laws related to offenses listed in Texas Government Code 772.0071, and; 3) defines border as counties adjacent to an international border or the Gulf Intercostal Waterway. Using this definition, the MVCPA designated specific grant-funded taskforces as "border security grants." This designation covered the following taskforces: City of Brownsville, City of Eagle Pass, City of El Paso, City of Laredo, City of Beaumont, City of Corpus Christi, Galveston County, Harris County, City of Houston, City of Pasadena and City of Victoria.

The new requirement provided the MVCPA taskforces with increased opportunities and improved reporting. The agencies at the ports and/or along the Texas / Mexico border conducted specialized activities to meet the requirements. Below is a summary table of the activities of the taskforces border and port operations:

Fiscal Year 2019 MVCPA Border Security Taskforces Performance Measures[5]	
MVCPA Statutory Performance Measures for Border Security Taskforces	
Number of stolen motor vehicles recovered	3,868
Number of motor vehicle theft cases cleared	7,021
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft	935
Number of motor vehicle burglary cases cleared	2,002
Number of arrests for motor vehicle burglary	617
Standard Legislative Budget Board Border Security Performance Measures	
Intelligence referrals	204
Lbs. of drugs seized	5.54
Arrests for smuggling	16
Arrests resulting in cases charged	2,115
MVCPA Additional Border Security Performance Measures	
Value of vehicles recovered at border (and ports)	$40,753.883
Number of arrests resulting in cases charged	2,115
Number of vehicles recovered from Mexico	77
Value for vehicles recovered from Mexico	$1,505,252
Number of cases with one or more persons identified as transnational	98
Number of groups, gangs or associates identified as transnational	35
Number of arrests - transnational	54
Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges/out-bound ports	5,359
Collaborations with US Customs and Border Patrol	717
Collaborations with other federal agencies (DHS, FBI, etc.)	299
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft or burglary where drugs were present	125

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[5] The measures in this table are subsets of prior reported statutory and MVCPA performance measures

Multi-Regional Border Operation

The MVCPA taskforces designated as border security grants collaborate with multiple agencies along the US border and in the seaports. Taskforces work diligently to reduce the number of stolen motor vehicles being used for human trafficking and smuggling of narcotics and weapons. These include surveillance observations, providing criminal intelligence briefings, identifying criminal actors and gangs and disrupting criminal enterprise. Examples include:

- **Eagle Pass Auto Burglary & Theft Taskforce** in collaboration with Border Patrol Intel Unit and the Maverick County Sheriff's Office conducted surveillance of a stolen vehicle. This led the taskforce to a community where the stolen vehicle was used for human trafficking. The driver of the stolen vehicle tried to evade the police and that led to a chase through Maverick, Kinney, and Uvalde counties. Two U.S. citizens who were the traffickers were arrested together with several undocumented immigrants.

- **Laredo Auto Theft Taskforce (ATTF)** and **Border Patrol-Joint Task Force (JTT)** identified and successfully disrupted a criminal organization that was using stolen truck-tractors and trailers for human trafficking. The taskforce coordinated constant communication and collaboration among JTT members and issued alerts. The stolen truck-tractors and trailers were stopped at the IH-35 checkpoint with 18 undocumented immigrants inside the trailer. This criminal organization was also linked to the theft of five other truck-tractors and two trailers.

Training and Professional Development

Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft Investigator Training

The MVCPA provides specialized motor vehicle theft investigator training to law enforcement officers. This training is approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) through the TxDMV TCOLE Training Advisory Board. MVCPA taskforces host the events in training facilities around the state. The MVCPA facilitates collaboration for curriculum development among the DPS, TxDMV, the NICB, and the Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators.

The training provides comprehensive skills-based training to motor vehicle crime investigators in Texas. This is accomplished by using the most knowledgeable instructors, subject matter experts, and the latest crime investigation methods and technology. The training meets TCOLE continuing education credits for the law enforcement officers completing the course. Training is provided by MVCPA at no cost to the law enforcement agencies. The agencies only pay for employees' travel.

The classes are only available to law enforcement officers designated by their agencies as motor vehicle theft investigators. All DPS investigators and some other auto theft unit investigators are authorized to attend these classes. The training allows officers to qualify for access to manufacturers' and insurance industry confidential, proprietary databases used to identify vehicles. Since state law requires a confidential vehicle identification number inspection by an auto theft unit to complete certain title transactions, access to those proprietary databases is vital to correctly identify vehicles to combat motor vehicle crime.

The MVCPA worked with its broad base of stakeholders—including DPS—to ensure that training resources are available. The MVCPA coordinates facilities and instructors, reimburses travel, manages registration, purchases training supplies, and provides electronic materials.

In FY 2019, the MVCPA conducted three Intermediate Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft Investigator training classes and two Advanced Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft Investigator training classes. The intermediate classes qualified for 32 TCOLE approved hours and were held in Galveston, Houston and Conroe. There were 89 graduates who are now eligible to get access to the confidential databases to conduct vehicle identification number inspections. The two advanced classes qualified for 24 TCOLE approved hours and the trainings were held in Fort Worth and Humble. There were 78 graduates.

MVCPA Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft Investigator Training Summary	
Training Classes	5
Funds Spent for Instructor Travel and Class Materials	$11,106
Investigators Completing Classes	167
Number of Trainers	20
Number of Different Agencies Represented in Classes	60

The staff of the MVCPA also conducted presentations at two NICB TCOLE approved auto theft training classes.

Local law enforcement training is also conducted by taskforces to expand awareness and provide skills, establish local policies and procedures, and teach steps other law enforcement officers can take to increase the probability of case filing and identifying stolen vehicles. Taskforces in Mansfield, San Antonio and Tarrant County conducted auto theft recognition and identification training for other law enforcement officers to focus on auto theft trends and increased arrest. The Corpus Christi Auto Theft Taskforce held a training on the identification of altered and stolen vehicles including trailers.

Motor Vehicle Crime Analyst Training
The MVCPA worked with NICB to establish a motor vehicle crime analyst training class for investigators and civilians in MVCPA taskforces. A total of 26 students attended the classes representing 12 different agencies. The classes were also available to DPS Crime Intelligence Analysts. The training focuses on navigating the ISO ClaimSearch (a proprietary analytical database for law enforcement). Three classes were held in FY 2019. The classes are taught by NICB analysts.

Educating the Public

Funds appropriated for MVCPA purposes are used to conduct "educational programs designed to inform motor vehicle owners of methods of preventing motor vehicle burglary or theft…" in accordance with Transportation Code § 1006.154(a)(3). The MVCPA educates the public through purchasing material for statewide distribution, including funds in grants for local law enforcement taskforces to communicate coordinated prevention messages. The MVCPA also awarded a grant to develop educational content and purchase media. In FY 2019, the MVCPA used a one-time authorization of unexpended balance authority to fund public education and public awareness activities.

The MVCPA purchased printed materials and promotional items that provide clear messages on the steps the public can take to reduce the risk of being a victim of motor vehicle crime. The printed materials included brochures in English and Spanish, magnets to store vehicle identification information at home, and coloring books for children to remind their parents about motor vehicle crime prevention. The promotional items purchased are items normally placed in or near a car such as key rings, tire gauges, and pens to serve as reminders for people to lock their cars.

The taskforces used the MVCPA printed materials and promotional items to communicate with their communities to reduce motor vehicle burglary and theft. The taskforces and the MVCPA communicate and collaborate with state agencies, community organizations, business groups and insurance industry stakeholders like NICB and Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) to promote and expand the MVCPA prevention message.

"If You Like, Lock It" Campaign
In FY 2019, the MVCPA awarded a $200,000 grant to NICB to conduct a statewide multimedia campaign to educate Texans on vehicle theft and vehicle burglary mitigation activities. The NICB is a national non-profit organization that collaborates with insurers, law enforcement, government, and other non-profit agencies to prevent, detect and deter insurance fraud and vehicle theft. NICB contracted with a Texas-based partner, ICT, to carry out many aspects of the campaign. ICT has broad experience in Texas with vehicle loss, fraud and theft prevention. They perform hurricane loss mitigation campaigns every year, have worked with Texas Department of Insurance on fraud prevention and have provided MVCPA taskforces with "*Lock, Take, Hide"* parking lot signs.
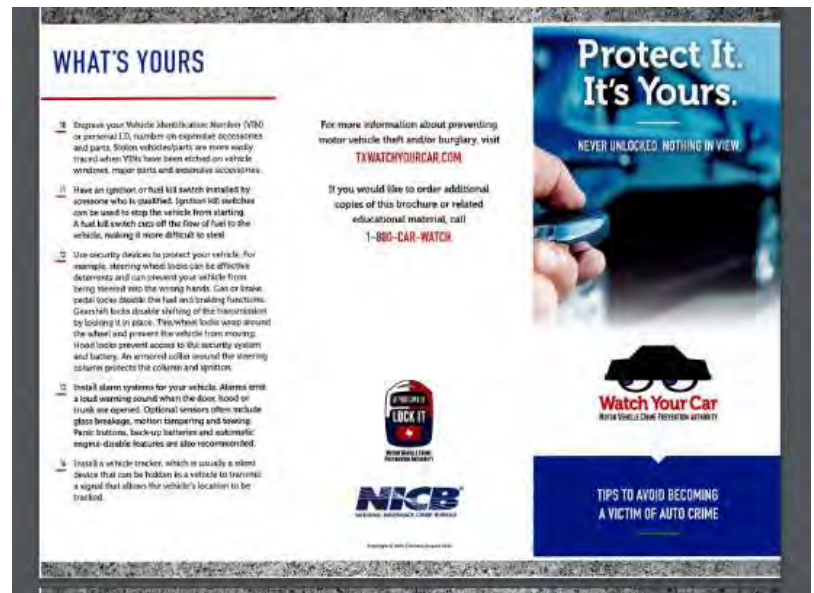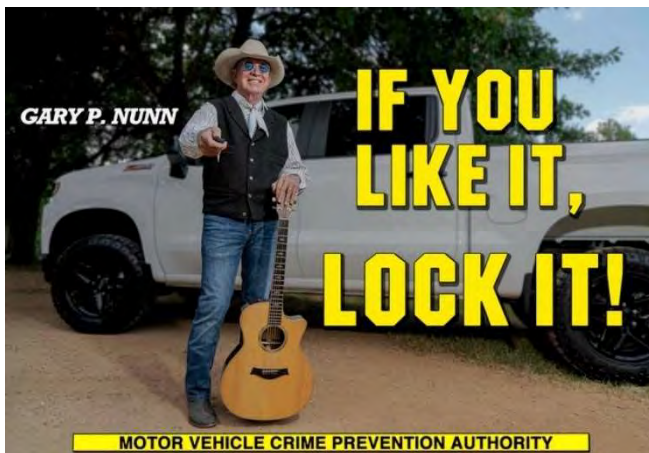

NICB and ICT with the MVCPA developed and launched a new statewide anti-theft public awareness campaign called "If You Like It, Lock It.". Original Texas-themed radio and television public service announcements (PSA) in Spanish and English were produced. The PSAs were developed with nationally acclaimed recording artist Gary P. Nunn in English and Austin artists Grupo Aztex (Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox) in Spanish. The PSAs played on radio and TV stations through a public service contract with the Texas Association of Broadcasters. The PSAs aired

more than 22,000 times, resulting in an earned media value of more than $1.4 million. The PSAs can be viewed at:
https://vimeo.com/337388240

https://vimeo.com/339372901

In addition to the broadcast efforts, ICT produced two new print items labeled "*Tips to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Auto Crime*", one with 5 tips and one with 25 tips. Nine public awareness billboards were placed around Texas in heavily trafficked areas outside of major metropolitan areas.

The MVCPA also as part of the public education and awareness grant with NICB launched a pilot project to provide crime prevention and protection products and devices to the public. The products were provided to the MVCPA taskforces as a part of two-prong communication and education strategy. First, the products had immediate value for the recipients to learn and implement steps to protect their own property; and second, they communicate with others around them to take prevention and protection steps. Taskforces used community events such as fairs, stock shows, rodeos, trade shows, car shows, and other similar events to distribute the products. While the MVCPA maximizes its impact using its limited resources, there continues to be a need to pilot ideas, increase communication and promote effective tools as required by statute. The MVCPA will be evaluating the impact of the product distribution pilot project to determine the impact of the program. The following products and education materials were distributed to taskforces across the state:

Items	Concept	Quantity
Trailer hitch locks	Provided to the public at community events to encourage locking trailers	500
License plate fasteners	Provided to the public at community events to prevent license plate theft	955
DNA labels	Provided to the public at community events to mark and register tailgates	7000
Car shaped pens	Provided to the public at community events to remind of locking behavior	6000
"Lock, Take, Hide" signs	Provided to businesses to remind people of locking behavior	2,000
25-tip brochure	Provided to the public at community events to remind of locking behavior	30,000
5-tip brochure	Provided to the public at community events to remind of locking behavior	30,000

Examples of pilot program products and devices:

Rotech DNA labels

LICENSE PLATE SECURITY SCREWS
Peace of Mind · Tamper Resistant · Reduce Theft
Ultra 5 Lobe Security

Trailer Locks

LOSS PREVENTION FASTENERS

Educational Activities by MVCPA Taskforces

The MVCPA develops and distributes educational material and other promotional material to the MVCPA funded taskforces. The MVCPA works with taskforces to maintain a consistent message about what the public can do to prevent motor vehicle crime throughout the state. Taskforces plan their own activities throughout the year and use grant funded personnel and MVCPA print and promotional materials to develop their own unique approach to educating their community. Taskforces are encouraged to collaborate on their educational programs whenever feasible. This information is often shared during monthly MCVPA-hosted webinars in which taskforces participate. The following table provides a summary of the educational activities conducted by MVCPA taskforces during FY 2019. Activities are tracked monthly via progress reports, which are completed as a condition of the grant.

Law Enforcement Action	Measure	Quantity	# of Taskforces Performing
Conduct media outreach, including public service announcements, press releases, and interviews	# of outreaches	558	24
Conduct educational outreach events (include trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, vehicle displays, brochures, etc.)	# of outreaches	438	24
Operate trade show exhibits/booths at community events	# of events	768	23
Conduct vehicle identification number (VIN) etchings	# of etching events	109	19
Purchase advertisements in local outlets	# of advertisements	38	3
Provide assistance and/or information to individual citizens (phone/e-mail/ other media)	# of citizens requesting assistance	39,551	22
Conduct vehicle report card initiatives	# of report cards issued	17,473	20
Utilize social media outlets	# of postings	2,062	24
Deploy outdoor public notification signage	# of deployments	2,603	20
Conduct law enforcement training (TCOLE)	# of classes	240	19
Conduct vehicle crimes presentations to law enforcement agencies (non-TCOLE)	# of classes	148	22

Social Media

The MVCPA uses social media tools to educate, inform, and disseminate information based on report data, verifiable and reliable news sources, grantees, stakeholders, and community's members across the state.
In August 2019, after the name change to MVCPA, the "Ask ABTPA" Facebook page transitioned to "AskMVCPA" and a new Facebook page was established.

Watch Your Car month
The MVCPA worked with the Office of the Governor to have Governor Greg Abbott declare July 2019 as "Watch Your Car" Month. The summer months are the busiest time for car thieves, and the proclamation reminded the public to take precautions to reduce motor vehicle burglary and thefts in Texas. Many cities and counties also followed the Governor's lead with similar ordinances and resolutions.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
GOVERNOR

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to all observing:

Watch Your Car Month
July 2019

Motorists and businesses in Texas have estimated nearly 1 billion in losses due to motor vehicle burglary and theft every year. According to Texas law enforcement officials, motorists run the greatest risk of having their car stolen during the summer months.

Unlocked vehicles, forgotten keys, and exposed valuables contribute to a large percentage of these crimes. To combat motor vehicle-related crimes the Texas Legislature established the Texas Motor Vehicle Crimes Prevention Authority, which has created the "If You Like It – Lock It" campaign to raise awarenss and reduce motor vehicle burglary and theft.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to take the necessary steps and precautions to reduce motor vehicle burglaries and thefts throughout the Lone Star State.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in wishing you the best.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 14th day of June, 2019.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

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Insurer Refunds

Another statutory duty of the MVCPA is to make determinations as to the sufficiency of payments when insurers claim that they have overpaid the statutory fee on motor vehicle policies sold. The determination to issue a refund is based on the insurer notifying MVCPA of the overpayment, requesting the amount to be reimbursed, providing amended returns and providing information on how the overpayment was made. The MVCPA staff validate the payment made, the account to which it was made, and make a recommendation to the MVPCA. Below is a summary of requests and actions taken by the MVPCA regarding insurer refunds.

Insurance Company	Date of Refund Request	Amount of Request	Results
BITCO General Insurance Corp	7/22/2019	$15,818	Rejected. No period specified, No tax license number.
BITCO National Insurance Co	7/22/2019	$3,308	BITCO National owes MVCPA, sent demand letter 7/25/2019.
Integon National Insurance Co	4/17/2019	$25,588	Request withdrawn by Integon 5/3/19
National Liability & Fire Insurance Company	5/3/2019	$23,460	Refund approved 7/11/19
National Liability & Fire Insurance Company	4/10/2019	$23,460	Request rejected for not having valid TDI license number
Electric Insurance Company	4/4/2019	$3,328	Request rejected for not having valid TDI license number
State National Insurance Co.	5/2/2019	$4,574	Request rejected, TDI license number provided not valid
State National Insurance Co.	4/1/2019	$4,574	Request rejected, does not tie to returns provided
Elephant Auto Insurance Company	7/23/2018	$35,386	Refund approved
Integon National Insurance Co	7/22/2016	$82,320	Denied 1/10/19
	Total	**$221,816**	

FY2019 MVCPA Refund Activity		
	Number	**Value**
Number of Requests processed	10	$221,816
Number of requests rejected	8	$80,650
Number denied	1	$82,320
Number approved	2	$58,846

FY 2019 Funds Report

Funds Collected

State law requires insurance companies to pay "…to the authority a fee equal to $2 multiplied by the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed by the insurer…" in Texas (see TRCS. Art. 4413(37), Sec. 10 (b)). Each insurer is authorized by Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) rule (28 T.A.C. §5.205) to recoup the fee from the policyholder/customers. Insurers pay the fee every six months as provided in statute. In Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), MVCPA collected $50.0 million, a 1.9% increase over FY 2018. The funds are not deposited into a dedicated account. They are deposited into the General Revenue (GR) fund under revenue account 3206. Funds Report-Chart 1 shows the total amount collected each fiscal year since FY15.

MVCPA continued working with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to coordinate and improve collection efforts in FY19. MVCPA reviewed collection reports with CPA staff. The reports listed property and casualty insurers and their payment status. Collection efforts and coordination are continuing with CPA. The TDI is notified when insurers fail to pay the fee.

Funds Report- Chart 1: Revenue Collected from the MVCPA Fee

Year	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Amount Collected	$44,563,043	$46,068,858	$46,436,967	$49,083,185	$50,042,956

Funds Appropriated

The General Appropriations Act (SB 1, 85R), appropriated $12,835,851 for MVCPA purposes for FY19. Appropriated biennium funding for the FY 2018-2019 biennium for MVCPA was reduced by over $4.1 million as compared to the FY 2016-2017 biennium.
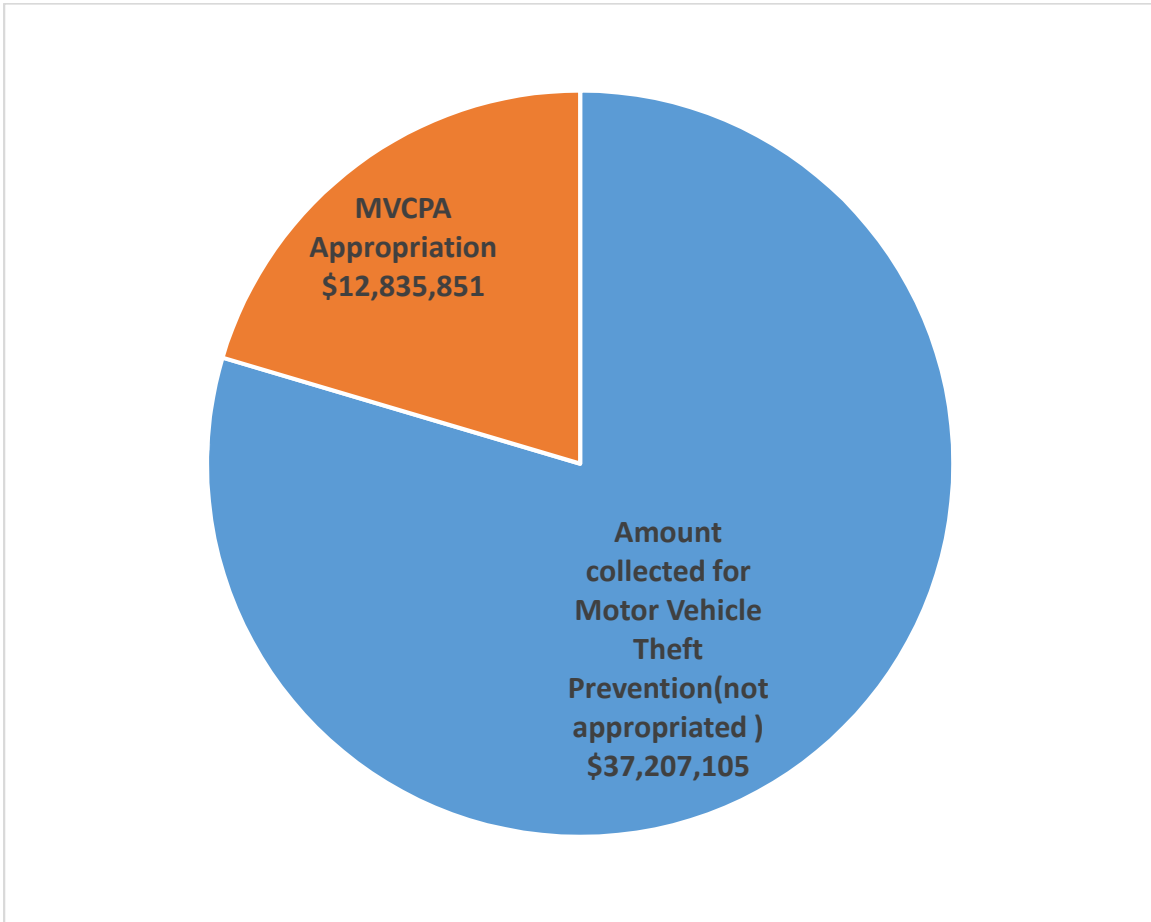
Funds Report-Chart 2 provides a history of MVCPA appropriations.

Funds Report- Chart 2: MVCPA Appropriations

Year	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Appropriation	$14,904,340	$14,920,848	$14,920,849	$12,835,851	$12,835,851

Just over one-quarter of the MVCPA fees collected are appropriated to MVCPA. The amount of MVCPA fees collected that are not appropriated for MVCPA purposes remain in GR. Funds Report- Chart 3 illustrates the ratio between fees collected by MVCPA and the amount appropriated to MVCPA.

Funds Report- Chart 3: FY19 MVCPA Revenues vs. Appropriation

MVCPA Appropriation $12,835,851

Amount collected for Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention(not appropriated) $37,207,105

FY19 MVCPA Total Funding

	Amount
FY19 Appropriation	$12,835,851
FY 19 Carry Forward of Unexpended Balance from FY 2018	$360,679
Total Available Funds	$13,196,530

Funds Spent

Out of FY19 appropriations, MVCPA will expend a total of $12,955 million. Currently, there is $7,011 (administrative) encumbered for outstanding obligations. A portion of the outstanding obligations is projected to lapse later.

State law (TRCS Art. 4413(37), Sec. 8(b)) limits the MVCPA's administrative expenses, including salaries, travel, marketing and other overhead expenses, to not more than 8% of total expenditures. MVCPA administrative expenses in FY19 were 3.6%; less than half of the maximum allowed by statute.

The specifics of MVCPA's FY19 expenditures are in Funds Report- Chart 4.

Funds Report- Chart 4: FY19 MVCPA Expenditures

Expenditure Category	FY19 Expenditures
Administration	
Salaries and Wages	$371,628
Consumable Supplies	$1,620
Travel (Board and staff)	$10,700
Advertising and Promotion	$20,990
Other Operating Expenses	$62,827
Administration Subtotal	$467,765
Grants	
Law enforcement (reimbursement grants)	$12,487,230
Total Expenditures	**$12,954,955**

Grants Awarded

In accordance with FY18-FY19 GAA, Article IX, Section 4.02 Grants, the MVCPA distributes grants on a reimbursement basis. Of the total FY19 MVCPA expenditures, 96.3% were spent on law enforcement activities through 24 law enforcement agency grants. The law enforcement agencies received grant award funding in amounts ranging from $76,000 to $1,272,403. Fourteen of the law enforcement grant recipients served as the administrative grantee for multi-jurisdictional taskforces. Two grants were awarded to support the law enforcement programs: 1) NICB grant for Public Education and Public Awareness- $200,000; and, 2) TAMU Bait Car Research Program-$35,000. Funds Report- Chart 5 identifies, for FY19, each grant recipient, the amount of the grant awarded, and the actual amount of funds disbursed.

Funds Report- Chart 5-A: FY19 Grant Recipients and Utilization Amounts*

Grantee	Multi / Single Jurisdiction	Grant Amount	Expended	Lapse
Austin, City of	S	$430,685	$430,325	$360
Beaumont, City of	M	$528,714	$528,714	$0
Brownsville, City of*	M	$924,350	$924,350	$0
Burnet County	M	$276,734	$270,260	$6,474
Corpus Christi, City of	S	$410,973	$410,973	$0
Dallas County	M	$840,697	$789,586	$51,111
Dallas, City of	S	$555,204	$555,204	$0
Eagle Pass, City of	S	$151,222	$151,222	$0
El Paso, City of	S	$929,465	$929,465	$0
Galveston County	M	$469,183	$463,790	$5,393
Harris County	S	$1,162,403**	$1,162,403	$0
Houston, City of	M	$809,496	$809,496	$0
Laredo, City of	S	$637,768	$637,768	$0
Lubbock County	M	$404,523	$403,137	$1,386
Mansfield, City of	M	$360,058	$357,335	$2,723
Montgomery County	M	$337,464	$319,635	$17,829
Paris, City of	S	$106,709	$106,709	$0
Pasadena, City of	S	$76,000	$76,000	$0
Potter County	M	$361,705	$352,541	$9,164
San Antonio, City of	M	$792,617	$730,368	$62,249
Smith County	M	$332,792	$330,944	$1,848
Tarrant County	M	$1,145,500	$1,115,668	$29,832
Travis County	M	$631,137	$610,533	$20,604
Victoria, City of	S	$154,719	$154,719	$0

**Harris County original grant amount was $1,272,403 but $110,000 was de-obligated at Harris County's request, they requested to change grant match commitments.

Funds Report- Chart 5-B: FY19 Grant Recipients and Utilization Amounts*

Grantee	Multi / Single Jurisdiction	Grant Amount	Expended	Pending
Texas A&M University	S	$35,000	$3,000	$32,000
National Insurance Crime Bureau	S	$200,000	$199,820	$80
City of Houston Strikeforce	M	$4,999	$1,295	$3,704
TOTALS	M=15 S=12	$13,180,117	$12,825,260	$35,784

*Chart 5A and B FY 19 Grant Recipients and Utilization Amounts reflects data from the MVCPA records including GMTS as of March 18, 2020

Border Security Designated Grants

A subset of the grants above is designated as border security grant funded programs. Beginning in the FY18-FY19 biennium, the GAA, Article IX, Section 17.07, set an earmark of $5.6 million for the biennium for border security funding. GAA, Article IX, Section 7.11 provides agency reporting requirements, defines border security as deterring crime and enforcing state laws related to offenses listed in Texas Government Code 772.0071 and defines border as counties adjacent to an international border or the Gulf Intercostal Waterway. The MVCPA board designated as border security grants as those listed above that operate along the Texas border with Mexico (City of Brownsville, City of Eagle Pass, City of El Paso and City of Laredo) and in the Texas seaports (City of Beaumont, City of Corpus Christi, Galveston County, Harris County, City of Houston, City of Pasadena and City of Victoria). Funds Report - Chart 6 shows the amounts of expenditures by border security grantees.

Funds Report- Chart 6: FY19 Border Security Expenditures by Grantee*

Grantee	Border / Port Jurisdiction	Amount Expended
Eagle Pass, City of	B	$151,222
El Paso, City of	B	$929,465
Laredo, City of	B	$637,768
Brownsville, City of	B & P	$924,350
Beaumont, City of	P	$528,714
Corpus Christi, City of	P	$410,973
Galveston County	P	$463,790
Harris County	P	$1,162,403
Houston, City of	P	$810,791**
Pasadena, City of	P	$76,000
Victoria, City of	P	$154,719
TOTALS	11 of 26 total grants	$ 6,251,490

*Chart 6 FY 19 Border Security Expenditures by Grantee reflects data from GMTS on TAMU as of March 18, 2020 and utilizes a grant-year tracking basis
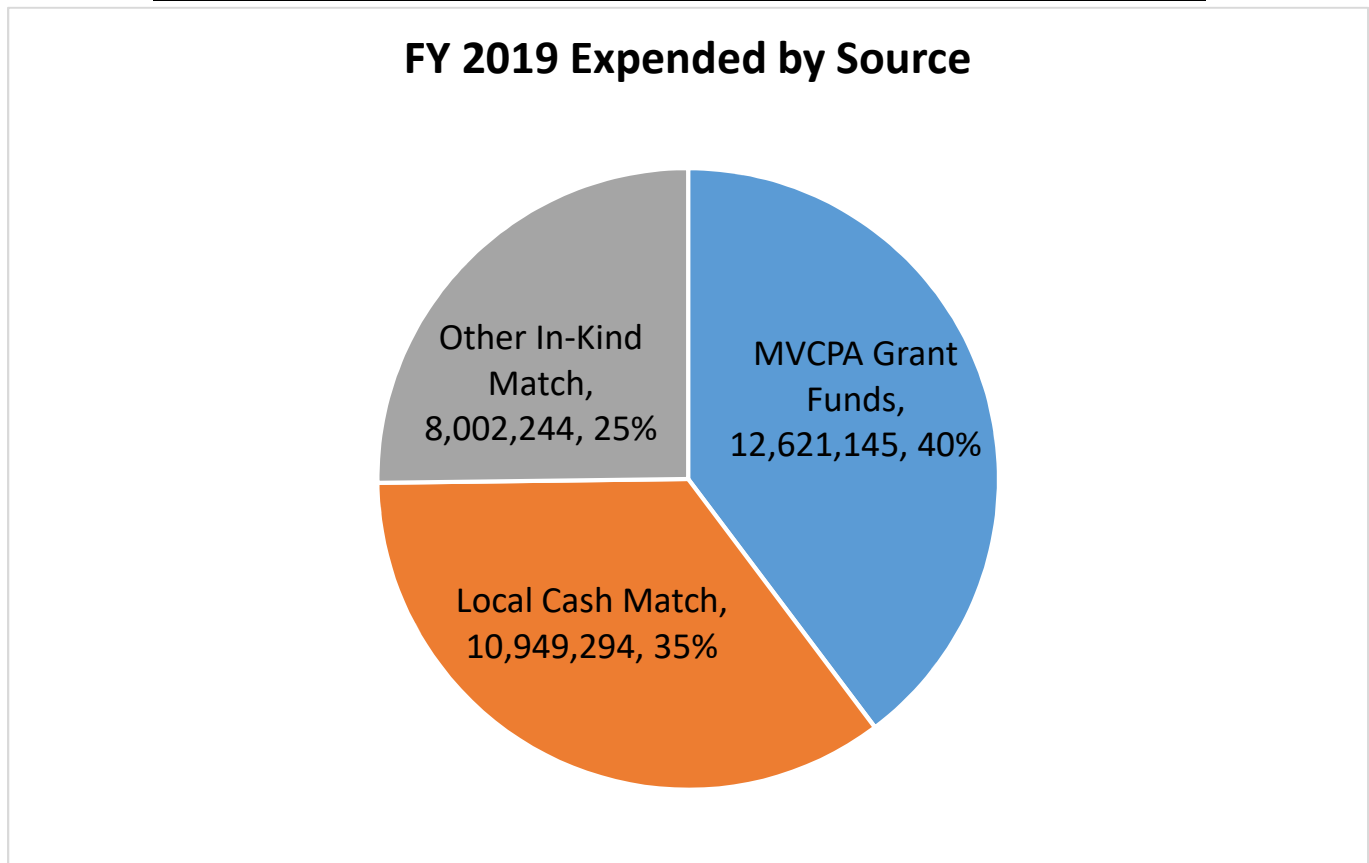
** Houston total includes $1,295 in rapid response grant funds from CAPPS

Grantee Expense and Obligation Detail –
Source and Category

During the FY19 grant year (September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019), the grant programs reported program operation costs of over $31 million dollars combating motor vehicle burglary and theft. Local jurisdictions provided a total of over $10.9 million in direct cash match contributions. Examples of cash match include paying direct program costs such as personnel, equipment, travel, and other direct operational expenses as agreed to in the grant award. MVCPA's Grant Rules (Title 43, Texas Administrative Code Chapter 57) require all grant recipients to provide a minimum twenty percent (20%) cash match toward grant funded activities. Most law enforcement agencies funded by MVCPA provide additional cash well above their minimum cash match. The total program cash match contribution is 35%.

Additionally, local programs provided resources in the form of in-kind contributions above their MVCPA grant funding and cash match. Grant funded jurisdictions and their sub-grantees provided an additional $8.0 million of in-kind contributions. Examples of "In-kind match" include jurisdictions or third parties paying for additional personnel, rent, fuel and other direct operational expenses from all sources to combat motor vehicle burglary and theft in the state.

Funds Report- Chart 7: FY19 MVCPA Grant Expenditures by Source *

FY 2019 Expended by Source

Other In-Kind Match, 8,002,244, 25%

MVCPA Grant Funds, 12,621,145, 40%
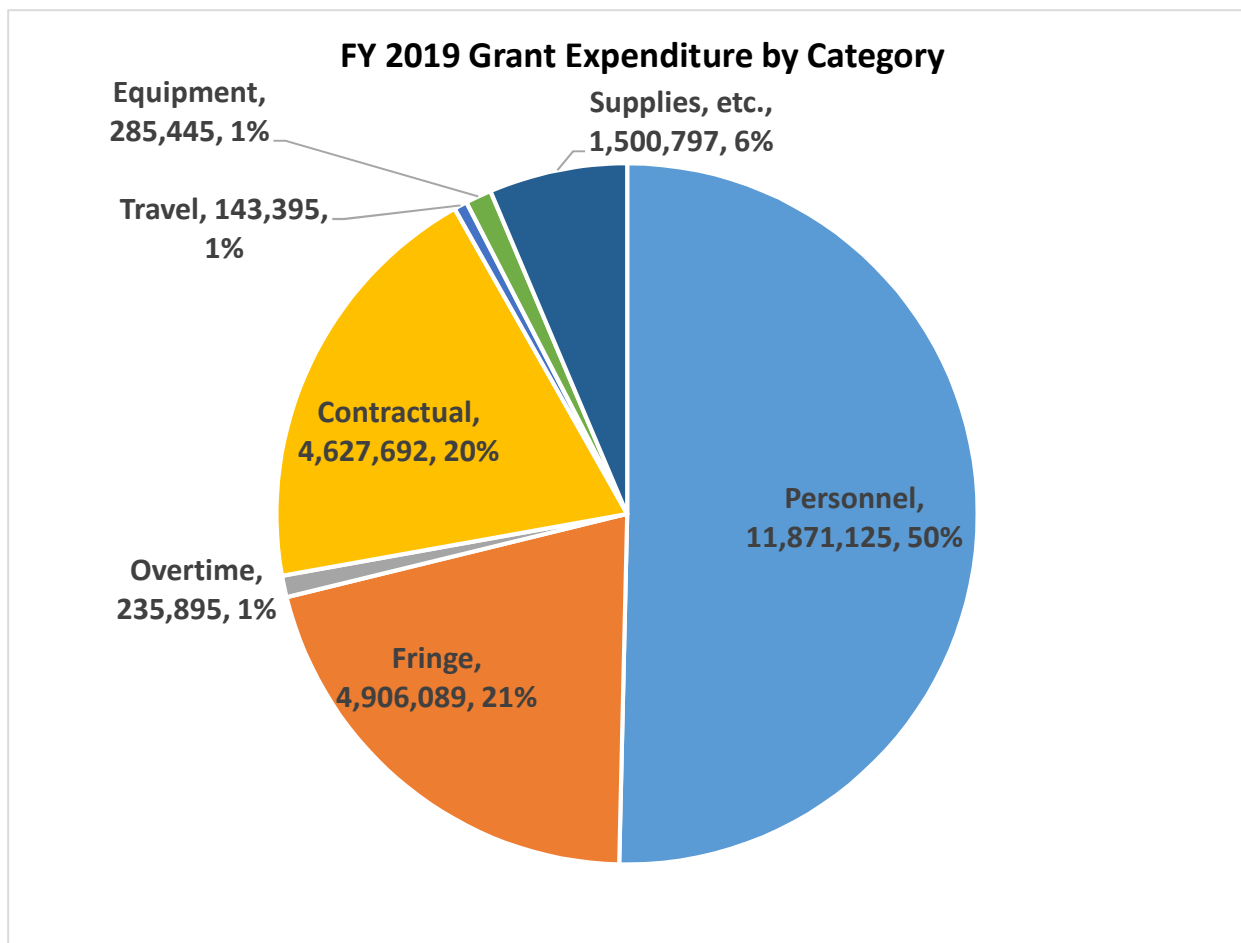
Local Cash Match, 10,949,294, 35%

*Chart 7 FY 19 Grant Expenditures by Source reflects data from the GMTS on TAMU as of March 18, 2020 and utilizes a grant-year tracking basis.
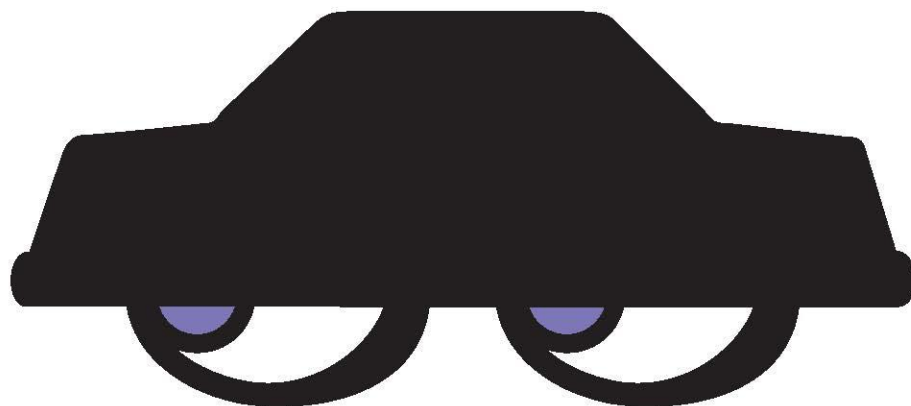
The majority of grant funds (91.8%) are spent on motor vehicle burglary and theft investigators in the Personnel, Fringe, Overtime, and contractual categories (this includes contract investigators).

Funds Report- Chart 8: FY19 Grant Expenditures by Category

Category		Total	Percent
Personnel	$	11,871,125	50.4%
Fringe	$	4,906,089	20.8%
Overtime	$	235,895	1.0%
Contractual*	$	4,627,692	19.6%
Travel	$	143,395	0.6%
Equipment	$	285,445	1.2%
Supplies, etc.	$	1,500,797	6.4%
Totals	$	23,570,439	100.00%
In-Kind	$	8,002,244	
Total	$	31,572,683	

* Contractual is predominately funds used for law enforcement investigators salary & fringe for multi-jurisdiction programs. These investigators are assigned to a taskforce from subgrantee jurisdictions.

FY 2019 Grant Expenditure by Category

- Equipment, 285,445, 1%
- Travel, 143,395, 1%
- Supplies, etc., 1,500,797, 6%
- Contractual, 4,627,692, 20%
- Overtime, 235,895, 1%
- Fringe, 4,906,089, 21%
- Personnel, 11,871,125, 50%

Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

4000 Jackson Avenue

Austin, Texas 78731

512-465-1485

www.txwatchyourcar.com