



2025

ACTIVITIES REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

APRIL 1, 2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Founded in 1991, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) has emerged as an essential resource for law enforcement. In 2025, the MVCPA marked the 32nd anniversary of its first grants, which were issued in 1993. The MVCPA aims to empower local law enforcement agencies and communities in an effort to combat and prevent motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle burglary, and fraud-related motor vehicle crimes, ensuring that all Texans are safeguarded from the damages and losses these crimes can inflict. The repercussions of motor vehicle crime are considerable, with a 2025 annual loss exceeding \$1.9 billion. To mitigate these losses, the MVCPA assisted in funding 30 law enforcement taskforces throughout the state, employing 313 law enforcement investigators, crime analysts, prosecutors, and other administrative professionals. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Activities and Funds Report has been prepared to inform the Texas Legislature about the status of MVCPA operations and the initiatives of the statewide network aimed at reducing motor vehicle crimes, as required by statute (see Transportation Code §1006.101).

Senate Bill 224 (SB224), enacted during the 88th Legislature's Regular Session, established stricter criminal penalties for offenses involving catalytic converters, as well as administrative penalties concerning regulatory measures for metal recycling entities (MRE). The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) was tasked with creating and executing a Plan of Operation to coordinate activities with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). In FY 2025, the MVCPA awarded grants to 82 law enforcement agencies and taskforces to combat catalytic converter crimes.

During FY 2025, MVCPA collected nearly \$145 million in fees from insurers and received just over \$55 million in appropriations. This increased funding enhanced the MVCPA's capacity to adequately support the growing needs of local police departments and sheriff's offices as criminal organizations continuously seek new methods to exploit individuals, businesses, and government agencies.


The additional funding for MVCPA allowed local police departments and sheriff's offices to increase resources available in communities to work together in combatting statewide motor vehicle and catalytic converter crime. The MVCPA grants provide for: salaries, specialized equipment, training to combat these crimes, ways to educate citizens on how to prevent these motor vehicle crimes, increased border security, and the tools necessary to prevent stolen vehicles from crossing the international border into Mexico or into other countries through seaports. For the second consecutive year, the State of Texas experienced a decrease in the number of stolen vehicles in Calendar Year (CY) 2025.


MVCPA AT A GLANCE


MVCPA \$4 Fee Collections and Appropriations


FY 2024

FY 2025

 Fee Collected by MVCPA
\$107,470,870

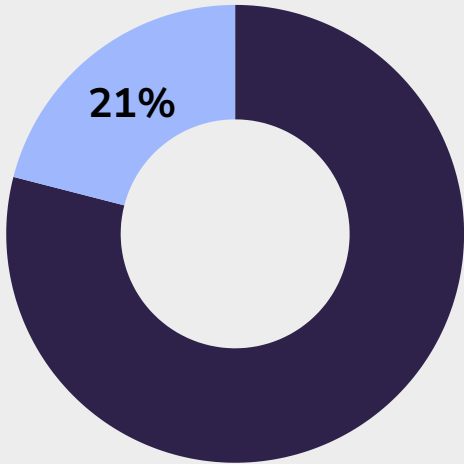
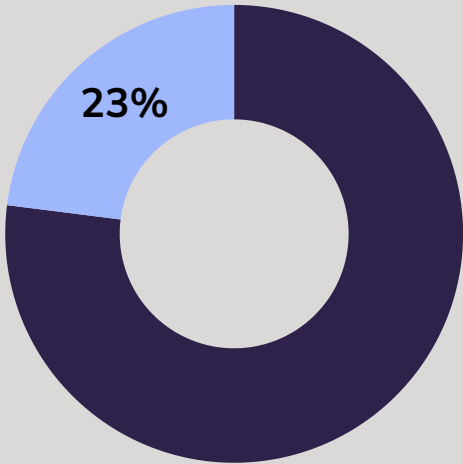
 Fee Collected by MVCPA
\$115,976,428

 Amount Appropriated to MVCPA
\$24,190,500

 Amount Appropriated to MVCPA
\$24,899,500

Amount Collected by MVCPA

Amount Collected by MVCPA



 Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

 Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

MVCPA \$1 Catalytic Converter Fee Collections and Appropriations

FY 2024



Fee Collected by MVCPA

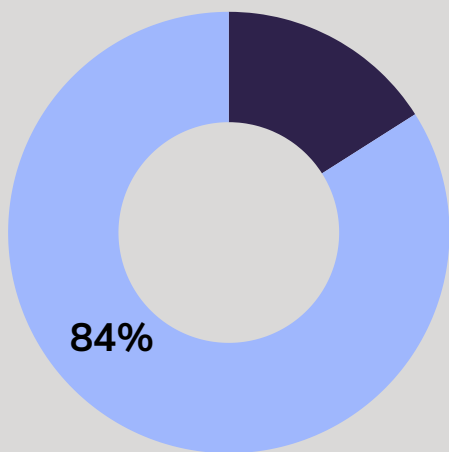
\$29,440,811*



Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

\$24,667,262

Amount Collected by MVCPA



Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

FY 2025



Fee Collected by MVCPA

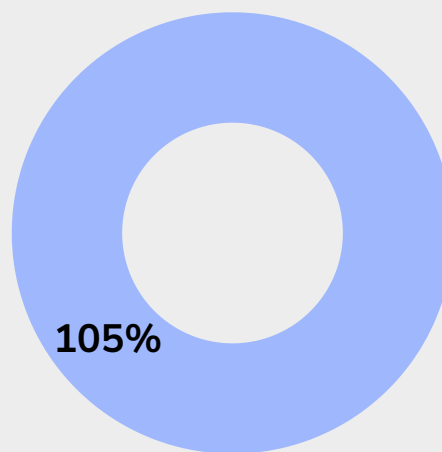
\$28,994,107*



Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

\$30,378,803**

Amount Collected by MVCPA



Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

* Reflects enactment of SB 224 that increased the MVCPA fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

** Additional amount in funding received due to FY 2024 surplus.

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

Mission Statement

All Texans are free from harm and loss caused by motor vehicle crime.



Philosophy

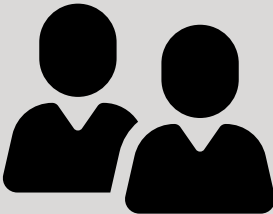
The Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority is an evidence-based, strategy-driven, and community-centric network that supports regional taskforces, improves coordination, deploys equipment, and provides clear messaging with a goal to combat and prevent motor vehicle crime. The Authority seeks to support regional and global law enforcement responses to obtain the best outcomes for Texas and its citizens.

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

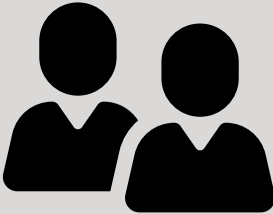
Governance

MVCPA is comprised of 6 Governor appointees and the Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The governor appoints 2 representatives from the following groups:

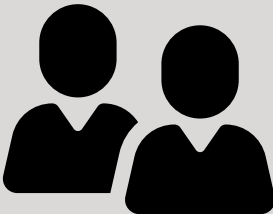
Consumers of Insurance



Writers of Insurance



Law Enforcement



MVCPA AT A GLANCE

15

TxDMV Full Time Employees (FTEs) for the MVCPA Program

FY25 Registered Vehicles as of 8/31/2025 - TxDMV

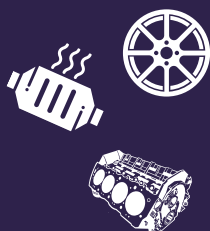
26,959,135

78,677

CY25 Motor Vehicle Thefts



CY25 Burglary from a Motor Vehicle and Theft of Parts



140,437

\$1.9 BILLION

CY24 Losses from Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft



MVCPA AT A GLANCE

FY25 Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft by grant funded investigators	2,996
FY25 Arrests for Burglary of Motor Vehicle by grant-funded investigators	837
FY25 Arrests for Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crimes by grant-funded investigators	172
FY25 Recovered Stolen Vehicles by grant-funded investigators	9,895
FY25 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (68A) Inspections for Texas title transactions by grant-funded investigators	30,153
FY25 Other VIN Verification Inspections to confirm identify of vehicles	23,758
FY25 Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges and outbound ports	8,015

MVCPA STRATEGIC GOALS



1

Performance-driven law enforcement.

2

Reduce crime through optimized services and innovation.

3

Community-centric.

4

Effective fee generation.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Performance Measures

Statutory Measures

Grants are issued from the appropriation to the MVCPA to help fund police and sheriff taskforces in their efforts to combat motor vehicle crime and the financial losses associated with these crimes to Texas, its residents, and businesses. Texas Transportation Code Section 1006.151 requires MVCPA to track performance metrics related to its grant program. The table below shows the statutory performance measures for FY 2021 to FY 2025 as reported by taskforces funded by grants:

Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)

Activity	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	2-year Change
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	11,540	12,497	13,446	15,071	9,895	-34% ↓
Cleared Motor Vehicle Theft Cases	15,835	9,373	9,990	11,577	10,919	-6% ↓
Arrests - Motor Vehicle Theft	3,171	2,655	2,592	3,186	2,996	-6% ↓

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)

Activity	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	2-year Change
Cleared Motor Vehicle Burglary Cases	1,762	2,315	7,530	6,336	7,224	14% ↑
Arrests - Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	663	632	599	535	837	56% ↑

Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC)

Activity	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	2-year Change
Cleared Cases - FRMVC	224	331	370	323	430	33% ↑
Arrests - FRMVC	78	119	127	131	172	31% ↑

The data in the above table shows the performance of the MVCPA taskforces in combating motor vehicle crimes. From FY 2024 to FY 2025, MVCPA taskforce investigators cleared more motor vehicle burglary cases, cleared more fraud-related motor vehicle crime cases, and had an increase in arrests for burglary of motor vehicle and fraud-related motor vehicle crime. The greatest increase seen was in the number of arrests for burglary of a motor vehicle.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Grant Activity Measures

In addition to the statutory performance measures above, the MVCPA collects additional grant activity measures to determine the effectiveness of funded taskforces. Most of the grant funds are used to hire, train, and retain specialized motor vehicle crime investigators. Taskforces report grant-funded activities to demonstrate their progress and success in combatting motor vehicle crime in their communities and across the state of Texas. The following is a snapshot of the reported activity conducted by the police and sheriff taskforces in FY 2025:

Fiscal Year 2025 MVCPA Taskforce Performance Measures

Investigation

Motor Vehicle Theft cases presented to prosecutors	3,299
Burglary of Motor Vehicle cases presented to prosecutors	772
Fraud Related Motor Vehicle Crime cases presented to prosecutors	276
Other felony cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	2,428
Other misdemeanor cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	807
Number of cases of insurance fraud identified	1,211
Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	4,961

Human Trafficking

Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	4
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MVCPA TASKFORCES

Drugs

Number of arrests for Motor Vehicle Crime where drugs were present	205
Pounds of drugs and controlled substances seized	60

Illegal Weapons

Number of weapons recovered	491
Arrests for weapon smuggling	3
Value of weapons recovered	\$329,454

Equipment ¹

Number of units of equipment recovered	330
Value of equipment recovered	\$12,214,333

¹ Equipment is construction, farm tractors, excavators, compressors, lift machines and other items that are vehicles or are transported on trailers.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination

Taskforce investigators assisted outside agencies in conducting 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	17,885
Assists within their own departments/office	7,615
Assists for other agencies within the grant coverage area	10,034
Assists to TxDMV and Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) investigations	1,486
Assists to DPS and other state law enforcement criminal investigations	1,050
Assistance to federal law enforcement investigations	665

Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination

Criminal conspiracies organized by groups and repeat offenders account for a high volume of motor vehicle crime. Taskforce investigators conduct covert operations and provide regional communication on these groups and repeat offenders.

Groups (criminal networks) of motor vehicle crime offenders identified operating in taskforce communities	937
Offenders with three or more MVT arrests identified operating in communities	1,561
Number of covert operations conducted	5,130
Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by investigators	2,345
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by taskforce investigators	3,595
Number of Border Incident Assessment Reports submitted by taskforce investigators to a Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center	953

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Vehicles Inspected

Vehicles inspected using confidential means (Required for the public to complete certain title transactions at the TxDMV or Tax Assessor-Collector)

30,153

Vehicles inspected at businesses, dealerships, other transactions or looking for stolen vehicles

23,758

Local Business Operations Support

Number of inspections of licensed businesses related to vehicle enterprise (salvage yards, repair shop, used parts recyclers, used car dealership, etc...)

926

Technology Dependent Investigations

Bait Vehicles and Bait Equipment²

Bait vehicle deployments

1,445

Number of arrests from bait vehicle deployments

153

License Plate Readers

Number of LPR Deployments by taskforce investigators

42,878

Number of vehicles recovered from LPR detection

1,963

Number of arrests from LPR detection

569

² Bait refers to a vehicle used by law enforcement agencies to capture car thieves or property thieves who steal items from cars. Bait cars are normally purchased and owned by law enforcement agencies and are typically modified with audio/video surveillance technology which can be remotely monitored and controlled. They also use geo-fences and tracking technology.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Law Enforcement Activities

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) addresses motor vehicle crime throughout the state by providing funding for auto theft criminal investigators within local law enforcement agencies. MVCPA provides targeted training on vehicle-related crimes, facilitates communication between local and state law enforcement agencies, shares intelligence, and promotes networking to effectively bolster the statewide system. Additionally, the grants encompass data collection and reporting.

The MVCPA-funded investigators, along with support from their local agencies, are highly effective in tackling motor vehicle crime. Most local law enforcement agencies do not have specialized investigators or the necessary equipment and depend heavily on MVCPA grant-funded programs. The combination of MVCPA grants and local agency support results in local law enforcement having access to highly trained investigators who conduct specialized motor vehicle crime investigations for their jurisdictions and the State of Texas.

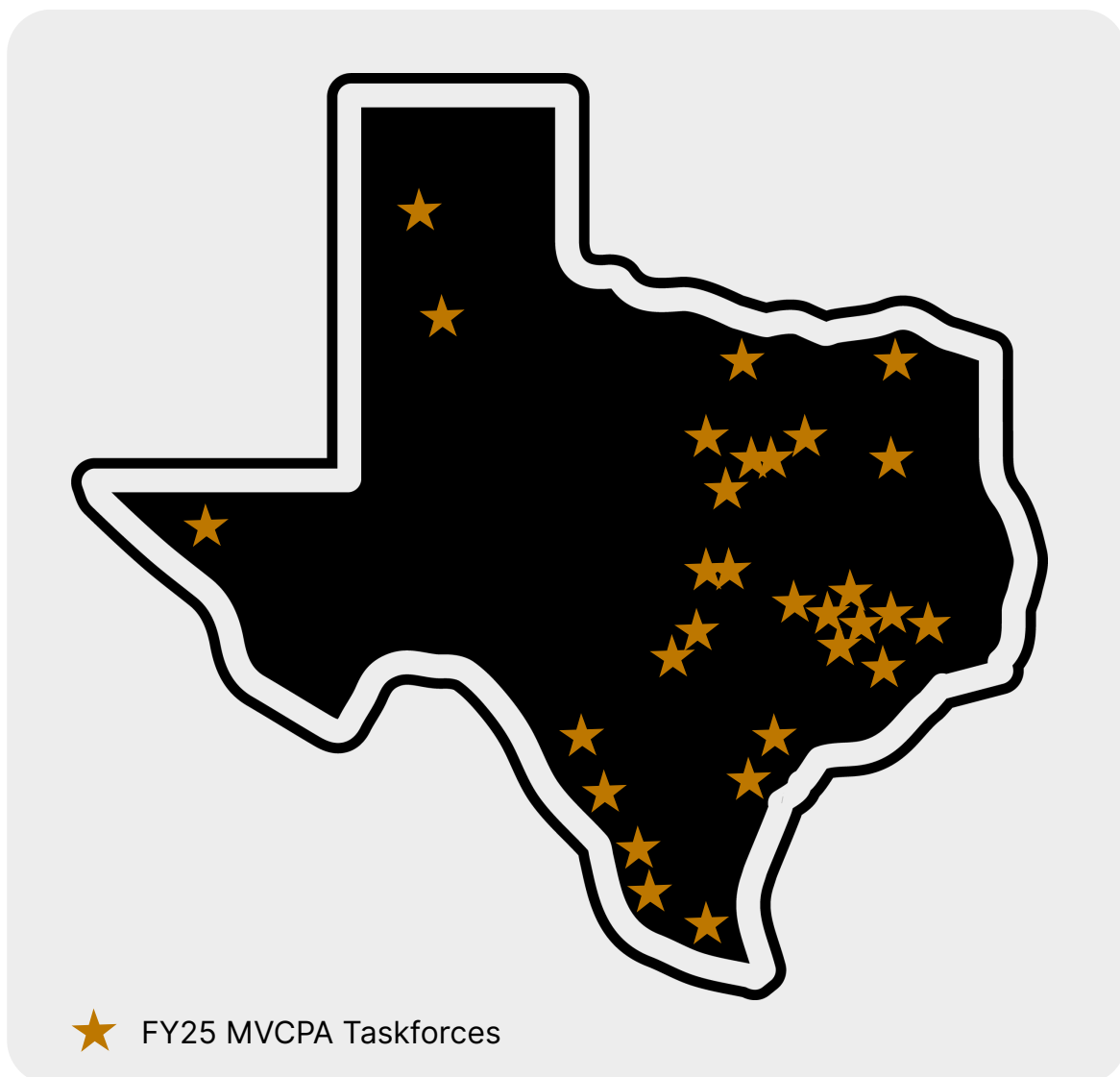
In FY 2025, the MVCPA funded 30 taskforces, with 15 operating with single jurisdictions and 15 as multi-jurisdictional operations. According to current MVCPA rules, taskforces are required to provide a minimum cash match of 20% for all MVCPA grants they receive. However, due to past stagnant or reduced funding for the program, many taskforces exceed this minimum cash match requirement. The MVCPA grants encourage taskforces to leverage their investigators and equipment in a coordinated manner, benefiting both their region and the entire state. Taskforce investigators regularly collaborate across the state, sharing valuable intelligence during monthly MVCPA webinars. They also conduct regional law enforcement meetings to discuss criminal intelligence related to emerging trends and technologies used in vehicle theft.

The MVCPA taskforces directly assisted other law enforcement agencies more than 17,000 times to investigate cases tied to motor vehicle crimes. Additionally, taskforce investigators supported other units within their own agencies—such as robbery, homicide, and narcotics—in more than 7,000 instances. Law enforcement agencies funded by the MVCPA collaborate beyond their city or county borders to effectively address the mobile nature of motor vehicle crimes.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Taskforce Intelligence Sharing

The MVCPA holds a mandatory monthly webinar for law enforcement grant recipients to exchange intelligence regarding trends associated with motor vehicle crimes. Participants in these webinars include all MVCPA grant-funded taskforces, agencies funded by SB 224 grants, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Attendees discuss emerging trends, newly identified criminal techniques, and recognized criminal actors. Additionally, the NICB provides intelligence on stolen motor vehicles crossing borders. This exchange of information is critical due to the mobility of criminals engaged in motor vehicle crimes. Sharing insights and criminal trends has proven to be vital on numerous occasions, as crime patterns often start in one jurisdiction and migrate to others.



MVCPA TASKFORCES

Techniques of MVCPA Taskforces

The MVCPA law enforcement taskforces use various methods to prevent and combat motor vehicle crime. Below is a summary of taskforce techniques and examples to illustrate their application in FY 2025:

Investigations

MVCPA-funded law enforcement officers investigate motor vehicle crimes reported by the public in two main ways: reactively and proactively. Reactively, they respond to reports of crimes, while proactively, they monitor and address community vulnerabilities to reduce the incidence of such crimes.

Investigators focus on recovering stolen vehicles, making arrests, and resolving open criminal cases in accordance with state statutes. Their responsibilities also include writing reports, conducting covert operations, sharing intelligence, and coordinating efforts with other law enforcement agencies that are sometimes not funded by MVCPA.

Collaboration among taskforces is paramount in helping to identify criminals and their networks, developing leads amongst different law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, and assisting with locating witnesses in ongoing investigations. Additionally, collaboration provides opportunities for training other law enforcement officers, supports state and federal agencies in ongoing investigations, assists prosecutors, and establishes resources for victims and community members.

*The **City of El Paso** taskforce was assigned to investigate the burglary of a building from which four high-value collectible Porsche vehicles were reported stolen. Taskforce officers immediately responded to the surrounding area and successfully located two of the stolen vehicles abandoned. They established surveillance on another stolen vehicle and observed a male driver and a male passenger entering it. A tactical approach was initiated, and all individuals were taken into custody. Within six hours of being reported stolen, all four vehicles, valued at \$975,000, were recovered.*



MVCPA TASKFORCES

After the **Potter County** taskforce recovered a stolen vehicle, further investigation and information obtained from FLOCK License Plate Reader data allowed the officers to identify a primary suspect. They determined that the suspect had been committing multiple motor vehicle burglaries in residential neighborhoods over a two-day period. Investigators found that the suspect would carry out these offenses during thunderstorms to mask the sound of forced entries and gunfire used during the commission of the crimes.



A traffic stop was conducted on the suspect's vehicle, resulting in the arrest of two individuals. Firearms were recovered during the stop. Additional search warrants obtained by investigators led to the recovery of additional stolen firearms, evidence of Glock conversion devices (known as "Glock switches") used to convert semi-automatic pistols into fully automatic weapons, and evidence related to a residential burglary reported in Randall County. They also recovered wheels and tires belonging to a previously stolen Ford Raptor.

The suspect was linked to over 30 motor vehicle burglary cases across Potter County, Randall County, and the city of Amarillo. Investigative intelligence suggests that the stolen firearms were being transported to Mexico and sold to cartel-affiliated individuals, establishing a direct connection between local vehicle burglaries and transnational organized crime.



MVCPA TASKFORCES

Identify Vehicles

In most countries, vehicle manufacturers are required to permanently engrave a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the chassis or engine for identification purposes. Manufacturers of trailers, equipment, and certain components generally comply with national and industry standards for marking and preserving identification of their products. Records of these marks and identifications are kept in databases overseen by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Law enforcement investigators who are appropriately credentialed and trained by MVCPA access these databases to identify and recover vehicles from which criminals attempt to remove, conceal, or modify the VIN markings.

*In March 2025, investigators from the **Harris County** taskforce collaborated with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on an ongoing inquiry into stolen vehicles. They identified a vehicle that was believed to have undergone a VIN swap. Detectives met with investigators at the vehicle's location, confirming that it had been reported stolen in August 2023 and had indeed been VIN swapped, marking the 73rd stolen vehicle recovered during this investigation. The Harris County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Unit played a significant role in identifying many of these vehicles.*

The investigation has been nicknamed "Ferrous Feline" due to the ferrous metals often found in catalytic converters. This ongoing effort builds upon the work of the Harris County taskforce, HSI, and TxDPS, and it stems from the catalytic converter theft investigation that began following the murder of taskforce investigator Darren Almendarez in 2022.



MVCPA TASKFORCES

Communicate and Collaborate

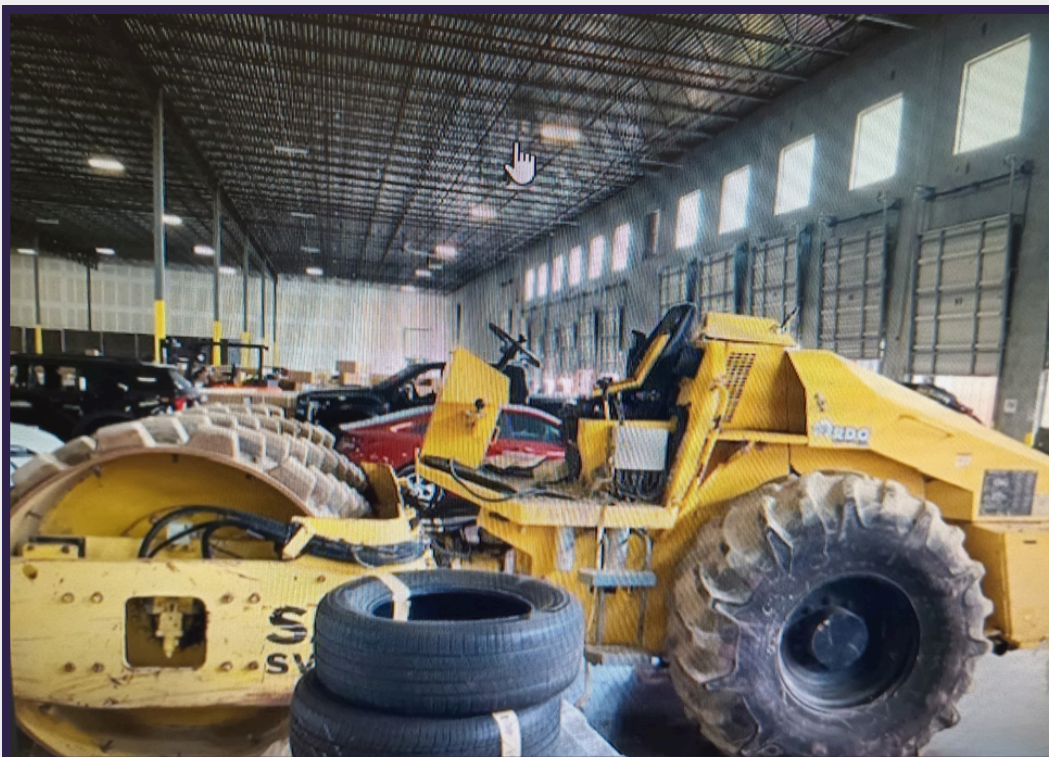
Motor vehicle crime frequently crosses multiple counties and state lines. To effectively address this type of crime and prevent the unlawful use of stolen vehicles, taskforces depend significantly on communication and collaboration. The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) taskforces conduct their investigations in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies across various jurisdictions. Some MVCPA-funded investigators are assigned to anti-gang or violent crime units, given that these crimes are often associated with motor vehicle crime. This connection is particularly relevant when investigators aim to identify and disrupt criminal enterprises. Taskforce investigators communicate with other taskforces, law enforcement agencies, motor vehicle manufacturer representatives, insurance professionals, and the communities they serve, including motorists and their families. They gather, share, and analyze intelligence data through the MVCPA monthly webinars. When taskforces identify criminal patterns or suspects, they share that information across jurisdictions, often extending beyond state lines. For instance, the taskforces in Beaumont, El Paso, Lubbock, Paris, and Potter County frequently coordinate with taskforces in neighboring states such as Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

*Taskforce investigators from the **City of San Antonio** were contacted by East patrol officers to assist in investigating a flatbed truck that was transporting stolen cars to an apartment complex. Officers found the truck unoccupied at a nearby residence and upon further investigation, discovered that it had fictitious plates and had been reported stolen in Bexar County. While surveying the area, officers also observed several other vehicles in plain view that were reported stolen. A search warrant was obtained and detectives successfully located and recovered nine stolen vehicles that had been reported missing from Comal County, Bexar County, Universal City, and other jurisdictions.*



MVCPA TASKFORCES

During a recent investigation conducted in cooperation with Customs and Border Protection (CBP), **City of Houston** taskforce investigators identified a stolen John Deere combine valued at over \$140,000. The efforts of the investigators and CBP officers successfully prevented this valuable piece of machinery from being illegally exported out of the United States.



In another collaboration with CBP, **City of Houston** taskforce investigators identified a Saki padfoot roller that was listed as stolen. After an extensive investigation, they were able to reach out to the owner and the original reporting agency.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Criminal Gangs

The MVCPA taskforces operate both independently and collaboratively to disrupt organized crime networks and enterprises. Many taskforces consider organized crime to be a significant factor in motor vehicle theft within their communities. They often identify economic criminal groups, gangs, and cartels involved in these theft operations. Taskforces report that their department's narcotics and gang units frequently seek assistance from the auto theft taskforce, leveraging the expertise of motor vehicle investigators. Stolen vehicles are commonly used by gangs for drug trafficking, human trafficking, and violent criminal activities.

***Hidalgo County** taskforce investigators executed a search warrant at a suspect's residence. Mexican license plates and a key-programming device were discovered at the location, establishing a connection between the criminal organization and multiple other thefts. This organization was comprised of a family engaged in human smuggling activities. During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that the family initially stole older model vehicles for human trafficking purposes, but their operations later expanded to include the theft of newer vehicles for the cartels in Mexico. The stolen vehicles were transported into Mexico, bearing Mexican license plates, which complicated tracking efforts by law enforcement. Approximately 50 vehicles were taken by the criminal organization, with around 30 being recovered thanks to the prompt actions of the task force officers. The organization specifically targeted GM trucks (1500 and 2500 models), as well as Camaros and Corvettes. 18 arrests were made in relation to this prolific group. Thousands of dollars were recovered, and most significantly, many victims were able to reclaim their property back.*

*Investigators from the **Dallas County** taskforce addressed a series of vehicle burglaries in the far southern parts of their coverage area. They collaborated with various agencies to identify five suspects associated with vehicle burglaries and multiple motor vehicle thefts throughout North Texas. The thefts were perpetrated by a faction of Tren De Aragua members. This group resided in that area while committing vehicle burglaries across 11 counties in northern and eastern Texas. On some occasions, this group targeted vehicles at the same residences multiple times. This case involved a multitude of agencies from across the state of Texas, along with federal partners.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Business Support

Economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime impacts legitimate local businesses. Motor vehicle crime offenders either steal business property or set up illegal competition, reducing or eliminating profits from legitimate local businesses. Taskforces help by conducting inspections of salvage yards, parts recycling centers, salvage rebuilders, and other motor vehicle-related businesses. When stolen vehicles and parts are identified, the taskforces either work with local businesses to identify and interrupt the criminal network that brought the stolen items into the system, or they stop the illegal business through arrests and recoveries.

*The taskforce from the **City of Dallas** conducted an investigation into a semi-truck that was connected to a trailer reported stolen by the Benbrook Police Department. A driver and two suspects were found in possession of tire cargo at a car repair garage. Investigators from the taskforce arrived at the scene, interviewed the three suspects, and concluded that both the shop owner and the shop manager were also involved, leading to their subsequent arrests. Taskforce investigators established that the location was storing additional stolen cargo. The investigators obtained a search warrant and recovered approximately \$1 million in stolen goods, believed to be linked to at least ten cargo theft incidents in the metroplex dating back to 2022. Additionally, \$32,553 in US currency was confiscated. All five suspects were charged with first-degree felonies for Cargo Theft exceeding \$200,000.*



MVCPA TASKFORCES

Technology

Motor vehicle crime investigators utilize specialized equipment that includes high-tech surveillance and recording devices, vehicle identification cameras, Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR), bait trackers, and parts marking technology. Most of this equipment is so specialized that local law enforcement agencies rarely purchase it without funding from the MVCPA grants.

ALPRs are devices that can read license plates and connect to state and national databases of reported stolen vehicles, allowing investigators to quickly identify stolen vehicles in their vicinity, which is referred to as a “hit.” Additionally, ALPRs provide valuable location intelligence to investigators, helping them analyze patterns related to where cars are stolen and recovered. Detections made by ALPRs have accounted for a significant portion of the vehicles recovered by investigators funded through the MVCPA.

With the advancement of technology, criminals have also adopted more sophisticated methods to illegally profit from motor vehicle crimes. In response, investigators have developed advanced techniques to identify and apprehend offenders involved in these crimes. Taskforces apply various tools, including software, computer skills, social media, bait cars, bait trailers, bait equipment, license plate readers, surveillance equipment, and, when authorized by the courts, tracking devices.

To reduce losses, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) and its taskforces regularly collaborate with NICB and manufacturers to identify vulnerabilities in motor vehicles that can lead to theft. Across the state, taskforces have noticed an increase in the use of programming devices by criminal organizations to steal high-end vehicles and trucks. Criminals are employing programmers and high-tech printers to create functional key fobs and counterfeit identification labels, which disguise the vehicles' identities and allow them to sell the stolen cars to unsuspecting buyers.

Identify Prolific Offenders

Many motor vehicle crimes are committed by the same individuals or groups. These prolific offenders, defined as having three or more arrests, are identified by taskforce investigators who analyze various sources of information. They review offense reports, witness statements, and participate in MVCPA intelligence briefings to help pinpoint these offenders.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime

Fraud-related motor vehicle offenses result in significant financial losses for Texans, amounting to millions of dollars lost annually. One of the costliest forms of this fraud is the illicit sale of motor vehicles to unsuspecting purchasers. In these cases, there are frequently multiple victims involved. The initial victim is the individual whose vehicle has been stolen, while the subsequent victim is the person who buys the stolen vehicle, mistakenly believing it to be legitimate due to counterfeit VIN labels and a forged Certificate of Title. Criminals typically target individuals who lack knowledge about the legal procedures associated with buying and registering vehicles. This form of fraud can lead to devastating financial repercussions for Texas families. When weaknesses in the system are identified and corrected in an effort to reduce fraud, criminals often adapt and find new methods to continue their schemes.

Tarrant County taskforce investigators were contacted by a Customs and Border Protection Agent (CBP) for assistance. CBP had intercepted packages originating from Kazakhstan that contained counterfeit VIN labels, Nader Stickers, emission stickers, and tire/load labels. These labels were of high quality and were likely intended for VIN-switched stolen vehicles that were to be resold. The assigned investigator commenced collaboration with CBP to compile a list of potential vehicles in this area and conducted research on the provided VIN numbers. The investigator discovered that one of the VINs was associated with a probable VIN-switched stolen vehicle in the Austin area. Another vehicle of interest was believed to be in Vancouver, BC, Canada. A comprehensive list was generated for vehicles in the region, ultimately containing 44 vehicles. The investigator reached out to several law enforcement agencies to locate and inspect the affected vehicles. Many of the individuals receiving these packages have been identified and are involved in Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity (EOC). Another individual identified received labels for 12 vehicles over three months. Jurisdictions affected included Canada, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas. To date, every vehicle on the list that has been located, inspected, and been confirmed as a VIN-switched stolen vehicle with fraudulent labels. The taskforce has maintained communication with CBP and the newly established collaboration is expected to bolster law enforcement efforts to combat this criminal activity.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Border Security

The MVCPA taskforces designated as border security grant jurisdictions collaborate with various agencies along the US-Mexico border and at Texas seaports. These taskforces diligently work to reduce the number of stolen vehicles being used for human trafficking, as well as the smuggling of narcotics and weapons. Their efforts include surveillance operations, criminal intelligence briefings, identifying criminal actors and gangs, and disrupting criminal enterprises. Border security taskforces regularly collaborate and conduct joint investigations with local, state, and federal agencies.

***City of Brownsville** taskforce investigators assisted with the investigation of a vehicle that was reported stolen out of South Texas Buick GMC, located in McAllen, Texas. The stolen vehicle, a 2025 GMC Sierra, was discovered missing from the dealership's lot. Customs Agents at the port of entry stopped the vehicle and contacted the dealership to verify if it had been sold. Upon checking, the dealership confirmed that the vehicle had not been sold, and both key fobs were still accounted for. Valued at \$90,000, the vehicle was confirmed to be the dealership's stolen unit. At the port of entry, two female suspects driving the truck were detained. Evidence recovered from the scene included the truck's key fob and fraudulent paper plates, which were traced back to another auto sales lot that had no knowledge of their misuse. The vehicle was subsequently returned to the custody of South Texas Buick GMC. The following day, auto theft detectives continued their investigation and were alerted to two additional vehicle thefts from the same dealership. Detectives met with the dealership manager, who revealed discrepancies in the dealership's key inventory. Several keys were found to be missing or switched, indicating potential inside assistance. Detectives requested a complete list of personnel with key access. During interviews, one of the female suspects disclosed that an individual inside the dealership was providing keys to vehicles, which were then delivered to criminal contacts in Mexico.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Fiscal Year 2025 MVCPA Border Security Taskforces Statutory Performance Measures³

Number of stolen motor vehicles recovered	4,468
Number of motor vehicle theft cases	7,132
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft	1,407
Number of motor vehicle burglary cases cleared	6,780
Number of arrests for motor vehicle burglary	725
Number of Cleared Cases – FRMVC	241
Number of Arrests – FRMVC	122

Legislative Budget Board Border Security Performance Measures for Designated Taskforces

Intelligence referrals	271
Lbs. of drugs seized	21
Arrests for smuggling	3

³ The measures in this table are subsets of prior reported statutory and MVCPA performance measures.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

MVCPA Additional Border Security Performance Measures

Number of vehicles inspected at outbound international bridges and ports	8,015
Value of vehicles recovered at border (and ports)	\$116,075,723
Number of arrests resulting in cases charged	2,699
Number of vehicles recovered from Mexico	218
Value for vehicles recovered from Mexico	\$10,570,313
Number of cases with one or more persons identified as transnational actors	322
Number of groups, gangs or associates identified as transnational	195
Number of arrests – transnational	218
Collaborations with US Customs and Border Patrol	1,202
Collaborations with other federal agencies (DHS, FBI, DEA, ICE, etc.)	594
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft or burglary where drugs were present	78

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Performance Measures

Grant Activity Measures

MVCPA collects grant activity measures from SB 224 grant recipients. Grantees report grant-funded activities to demonstrate their progress and success in combatting catalytic converter crimes in their communities and across the state of Texas. Below is a snapshot of the reported activity conducted by law enforcement agencies in FY 2025:

Fiscal Year 2025 MVCPA SB 224 Performance Measures⁴

Investigation

Number of identified/documented prolific ⁵ catalytic converter theft offenders	266
Number of Catalytic Converter Theft bait operations	236
Number of times an ALPR was deployed.	61,875
Number of Cleared Cases – Catalytic Converter Theft	1,658

Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination

Assists within their own departments/office for Catalytic Converter theft	2,025
Assists with other agencies and organizations that assist in the reduction of Catalytic Converter Theft	1,996

⁴ The measures in this table are snapshots obtained on March 22, 2026. Totals for measures utilizing FY 2025 funds may significantly increase due to SB 224 Catalytic Converter grant extensions.

⁵ Prolific is defined as “linked to Catalytic Converter Theft offenses three or more times.”

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination

Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by grantees	1,192
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by grantees	2,040
Number of times collaborated with other MVCPA taskforces to assist in the reduction in Catalytic Converter Theft	980

Local Community Support

Number of etching events (including catalytic converters)	1,155
Number of educational presentations to the public conducted	10,103
Number of postings in social media outlets	1,896
Number of advertisements purchased or provided free of charge	132

Law Enforcement Activities

The MVCPA combats catalytic converter crime across the state by providing funding for local law enforcement agencies and partner state agencies. With the addition of SB 224 funding, MVCPA awarded 82 grants to support agencies in tackling catalytic convert thefts across the state. Many of the new MVCPA grantees received heavy support from their local agencies, as many of them do not have specialized investigators or the necessary equipment to tackle the rise of catalytic converter crimes. The collaboration between MVCPA taskforces and new SB 224 grant recipients has resulted in a broader network of specialized investigations for their jurisdictions and the State of Texas. For FY 2025 Catalytic Converter grants, applicants were required to provide a minimum cash match of 20% for grants they received.

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

The **Castle Hills Police Department** utilized its grant-funded license plate reader (LPR) technology to assist in identifying suspects connected to a series of vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts occurring across the San Antonio metropolitan area. The investigation began when detectives analyzed an LPR capture of a vehicle linked to suspects in multiple vehicle burglaries in Castle Hills. In several of these incidents, suspects were observed on residential surveillance videos burglarizing vehicles while armed with firearms and pointing those weapons toward nearby homes. Further investigation revealed that the vehicle identified by the LPR system had been reported stolen in San Antonio. Additionally, investigators discovered that several other vehicles had been stolen during the same period in the nearby Alamo Heights area. By collaborating with neighboring law enforcement agencies, investigators confirmed that the same suspects, along with similar clothing descriptions and the stolen vehicle captured by the LPR system, were connected to multiple offenses throughout the region. The estimated value of the stolen vehicles, parts, and property damage ranges from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This case demonstrated how grant-funded license plate reader technology can serve as a force multiplier for smaller agencies, enabling investigators to quickly identify suspect vehicles, coordinate with regional partners, and link crimes occurring across multiple jurisdictions.

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Support

In FY 2024, the prices of catalytic converter precious metal components increased and the prevention of the theft of catalytic converters became a high priority. With the funding received in FY 2024, the MVCPA Board of Directors approved the first SB 224 Plan of Operation during the MVCPA Board meeting in Houston, Texas on December 8, 2023. An advisory committee meeting convened in El Paso, Texas on January 18, 2024, with participation from law enforcement officers, industry representatives, and partner agencies.



In FY 2024, inter-agency cooperation contracts were implemented with partner agencies including the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). In FY 2025, those inter-agency cooperation contracts were renewed. The below agencies added the following additional staff to assist with the fight against catalytic converter crimes:



- The Texas Department of Public Safety Regulatory Services Division added 16 Program Investigators and 2 Case Support Specialists
- The Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division added license plate reader cameras throughout the state
- The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation added 6 Program Specialists/Inspectors
- The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles added 2 Program Specialists, a Systems Analyst, a Business Analyst, and 3 Application Architects

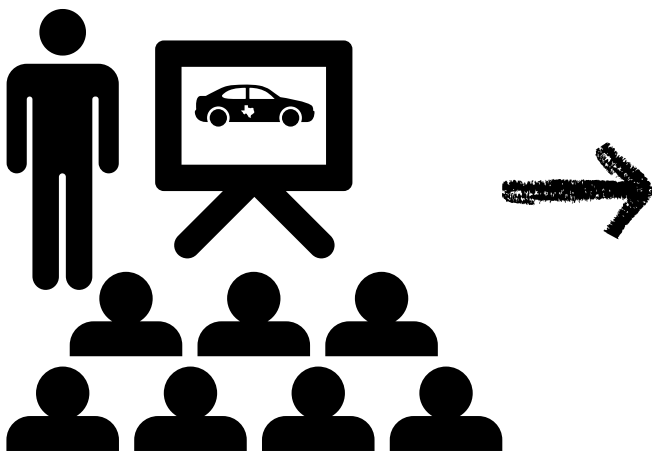


All partner agencies met on a quarterly basis to discuss intelligence information and updates related to Catalytic Converter Crime Prevention.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MVCPA provides and assists with specialized motor vehicle theft investigator training to law enforcement officers. Local businesses provide sites where newly trained investigators can practice their skills on various types of vehicles. The trainings facilitated by MVCPA feature instructors from the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and the Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators (TAVTI). MVCPA provides both beginner and advanced auto theft training classes, covers travel expenses, manages registration, purchases training materials, and provides electronic educational resources.

The training delivers comprehensive, skill-based instruction for motor vehicle crime investigators. This is achieved by engaging knowledgeable instructors, subject matter experts, and the latest crime investigation techniques and technology. The training meets the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) continuing education credit requirements for law enforcement officers who complete the course. Most importantly, the training is offered at no cost to law enforcement agencies. Agencies are only responsible for covering their employees' travel expenses. The training curriculum is developed based on current trends and procedural changes affecting law enforcement statewide.



In FY25,
MVCPA trained a
total of **2,469**
law enforcement
officers and staff.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2025 MVCPA Trainings

Date	Course	Host	Location	Attendees
9/18/24	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	55
9/18/24	Overview of MVCPA	TxDMV	Austin	59
10/7/24	Intermediate Auto Theft Investigator (Part 1)	MVCPA	Lubbock	24
10/11/24	Overview of MVCPA (TAVTI Conference)	TAVTI	Lubbock	213
10/22/24	Title Fraud	TxDPS	San Antonio	32
10/31/24	Fraudulent Documents / Overview of MVCPA	MVCPA	Hidalgo County	19
11/7/24	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	S. Padre Island	64
11/7/24	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	NICB	S. Padre Island	64
11/18/24	Light Trailers Identification	TxDPS	Comal County	30
11/20/24	Title Fraud	TxDPS	Comal County	30
12/3/24	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	73
1/7/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	63
2/4/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	69
2/4/25	Intermediate Auto Theft Investigator (Part 1)	MVCPA	Laredo	44
2/20/25	Vehicle Finance Fraud	MVCPA	Dallas	25
3/4/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	111
3/4/25	Title Fraud	TxDPS	New Caney	31
3/7/25	Basic Auto Theft	TPWD	Hamilton	35
3/13/25	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Wichita County	39
3/13/25	Overview of MVCPA	NICB	Wichita County	39
4/1/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	113
4/1/25	Intermediate Auto Theft Investigator (Part 1)	MVCPA	Hays County	37
4/2/25	Title Fraud	Comptroller	Austin	33

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2025 MVCPA Trainings Cont.

Date	Course	Host	Location	Attendees
4/10/25	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Southlake	74
4/10/25	Overview of MVCPA	NICB	Southlake	74
5/6/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	102
5/7/25	Light Trailers Identification	TxDPS	El Paso	24
5/7/25	Title Fraud	TxDPS	El Paso	24
5/15/25	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Jersey Village	32
5/15/25	Overview of MVCPA	NICB	Jersey Village	32
5/20/25	Advanced Auto Theft Investigator (Part 2)	MVCPA	Dallas	36
6/3/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	118
6/5/25	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	MVCPA	Alpine	30
6/11/25	Fraudulent Documents	TxDPS	Refugio	26
6/11/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	TxDPS	Refugio	26
7/1/25	Title Fraud	TxDPS	San Antonio	53
7/14/25	2025 MVCPA Conference (Multiple Classes)	MVCPA	Ft. Worth	248
7/29/25	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	MVCPA	Sulphur Springs	31
7/30/25	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	MVCPA	Sulphur Springs	27
8/5/25	Law Enforcement Teams Meeting	MVCPA	Virtual	101
8/6/25	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	MVCPA	Gainesville	13
8/26/25	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	MVCPA	Edinburg	96

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Investigators from the **Maverick County** taskforce assisted U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers at the Port of Entry with “Operation Outbound.” During their operation, they encountered a truck towing a trailer that was carrying a mini excavator, which was attempting to cross into Mexico. During the inspection, the driver's explanation raised concerns, and he was unable to provide the proper documentation for the mini excavator. The Auto Crimes Taskforce officers immediately began using their previous training to verify the equipment. They contacted the manufacturing company, which confirmed that the excavator had been sold in Houston. Investigators then reached out to the dealership to obtain information about the purchaser. When they contacted the buyer, he stated that he had leased the mini excavator to a local plumbing company and confirmed that it was not supposed to be near Eagle Pass, let alone heading into Mexico. He was unaware that the equipment was being transported toward Mexico and expressed his gratitude to the Auto Crimes Unit for intervening before it left the country. Thanks to proactive enforcement, training, and strong partnerships, the equipment was stopped before crossing the border, preventing a significant financial loss. The Maverick County taskforce remains committed to protecting property and preventing stolen vehicles and equipment from leaving the country.*



EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

MVCPA leverages various web-based tools to enhance motor vehicle crime prevention efforts. MVCPA frequently shares information about preventing motor vehicle crime on social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and the MVCPA website. Additionally, the program provides links to taskforces across the state, including promotional materials like commercials and YouTube videos, to remind the public to protect their vehicles.

Funds allocated for MVCPA initiatives are also used to conduct educational programs designed to inform motor vehicle owners about methods to prevent motor vehicle burglary, theft, and fraud-related crimes, in accordance with Transportation Code §1006.154(a)(3). MVCPA produces print materials for public education. In previous years, funds were used to create and distribute printed materials statewide, which remain relevant and are still in circulation. These materials include brochures in English and Spanish, reminder magnets, and coloring books for children and are designed to remind people of how to prevent motor vehicle crimes. MVCPA collaborates with taskforces, state agencies, community organizations, business groups, and insurance industry stakeholders, such as NICB, to promote and expand the message of motor vehicle crime prevention across Texas.

MVCPA also utilizes social media to share motor vehicle crime prevention strategies with the public. MVCPA maintains accounts on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn, coordinating posts with many local taskforces who also have their own social media pages. MVCPA links to the taskforces' social media accounts throughout the state. Taskforces are encouraged to use their social media platforms to enhance the reach and effectiveness of motor vehicle crime prevention messages.

[Click here to view the MVCPA Facebook page.](#)

[Click here to view the MVCPA Instagram page.](#)

[Click here to view the MVCPA X page.](#)

[Click here to view the LinkedIn page.](#)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY MVCPA GRANTEEES

Taskforces plan their educational activities throughout the year, utilizing grant-funded personnel and MVCPA print and promotional materials to create community-based educational programs. When possible, taskforces communicate their messages in both English and Spanish. Collaboration between taskforces on educational programs is encouraged whenever possible. Information is frequently shared during monthly webinars hosted by MCVPA, in which taskforces actively participate.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Laredo Police Department Community Relations Unit has been a partner with McDonald's of Laredo for several years now. The two have been bringing the community and the department together during the monthly Coffee with a Cop event.

During the event this month, ATTF Inv. Jaqueline Sigfreud distributed MVCPA bags containing an Auto-burglary/ Auto Theft crime prevention pamphlet and additional crime prevention promotional items to attendees.

A total of twenty bags were distributed and the events success was posted on the Laredo PD Facebook page.



COFFEE WITH A COP

The Laredo PD ATTF resumed our partnership with Gregory's Driving School this month. A total of 36 students were giving a 1-hr crime prevention class where the new drivers learned about purchasing vehicles safely, registration, e-tags, and the importance of LOCK, TAKE, HIDE.



GREGORY'S DRIVING SCHOOL

CAREER DAY



The Laredo PD ATTF shared MVCPA crime prevention material with 10th and 11th graders at Martin High School's Career Day. Approximately 75 students stopped by the display where they were able to interact with officers.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY MVCPA GRANTEEES

On October 2024, the **City of Eagle Pass** taskforce proudly participated in the Law Enforcement National Night Out event, hosted by the Eagle Pass Police Department. This community-oriented event provided an opportunity for taskforce personnel to engage directly with residents and strengthen public partnerships in the fight against motor vehicle crime.

During the event, Task Force members shared important information about emerging trends in vehicle theft and catalytic converter crimes, along with practical prevention strategies that community members can implement to protect their vehicles.

The outreach efforts focused on:

- Educating the public about common vehicle theft methods
- Promoting awareness of the risks associated with catalytic converter theft
- Providing tips for preventing vehicle crime
- Encouraging the community to report suspicious activity

By fostering open dialogue and increasing awareness, the Task Force empowered residents with the knowledge needed to reduce opportunities for theft while strengthening trust between law enforcement and the community.



INSURER REFUNDS

State law mandates that insurance companies pay a fee based on the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for policies delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in Texas (see [Transportation Code §1006.153](#)). The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) rules (28 T.A.C. § 5.205) authorize insurers to recover this fee from their policy holders or customers. Insurers are required to pay the fee every six months, as specified in the statute. Occasionally, insurance companies may request refunds due to misapplied payments, which could be attributed to errors such as assigning the payment to the wrong tax type, the wrong tax year, or the wrong taxpayer.

In FY 2025, twelve refund requests were received. The MVCPA Board approved eleven refund requests and one refund request was approved by the MVCPA Director. Twelve refunds were made.