



**Fiscal Year 2021  
Activities and Funds Report  
of the  
Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority**







**ASSISTANT CHIEF  
MIGUEL 'MIKE' RODRIGUEZ, JR.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER**

---

Law Enforcement Representative

**KATHERINE 'KIT' B. WHITEHILL**

---

Insurance Consumer Representative

**GILBERTO SALINAS**

---

Insurance Consumer Representative

**CHARLA BROTHERTON**

---

Insurance Representative

**DEAN SMITH**

---

Insurance Representative

**MVCPA DIRECTOR  
BRYAN WILSON**

---

Phone:

(512) 465-4012

Email:

[Bryan.Wilson@txdmv.gov](mailto:Bryan.Wilson@txdmv.gov)

**LIEUTENANT JULIO C. GONZALEZ**

---

Insurance Consumer Representative

**COLONEL STEVEN C. MCCRAW**

**DESIGNEE: MAJOR SHARON JONES**

---

Ex-Officio, Department of Public Safety



April 1, 2022



Dear Honorable Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Honorable Speaker Phelan,

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA or Authority) submits the following annual report, as required by statute, detailing the Authority's activities. The report shows that despite the ongoing pandemic and a 5%, mid-biennium funding reduction, the dedicated investigators in MVCPA taskforces across the state continued to recover stolen vehicles, make arrests, and protect Texans and their property.

The MVCPA grants issued during the year supported specialized investigators, equipment, and statewide coordination to combat motor vehicle crime. The MVCPA offers motor vehicle identification and investigation training to all law enforcement in Texas. These highly trained law enforcement officers recover stolen vehicles and prevent stolen vehicles and parts from entering the legitimate motor vehicle industry. MVCPA investigators are uniquely qualified to combat title and registration fraud (including temporary tags). They also support the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and county tax assessor collectors by performing tens of thousands of vehicle identity inspections that are crucial to Texans seeking vehicle title transactions. The Authority provides intelligence, coordination, and communication through the FBI virtual command center and with DPS fusion centers.

MVCPA taskforces maintained a presence in the state's ports and along the border to prevent stolen cars from being transported out of the state, but reduced funds resulted in fewer inspections of outbound vehicles this year. Authority taskforces along the border engaged gangs and cartels that use stolen vehicles for transporting narcotics and human trafficking. Despite reduced funding, the Authority was able to launch a new program of Rapid Response Strikeforce (RRS) grants using the small amount of unexpended balance funds from FY20. Three examples provided in the report highlight this need: 1) a tactical unit in the Laredo Police Department Taskforce to intercept stolen vehicles used to carry illegal immigrants and drugs; 2) purchases of automatic license plate readers (ALPR) for the Eagle Pass Police Department Taskforce to increase identification and recovery of stolen vehicles; and 3) funding to the Dallas Police Department Taskforce to increase investigations, surveillance, and coverage in high crime areas to recover stolen vehicles and shut down illegal chop shops. The MVCPA Board works to stretch available funds as far as possible for maximum impact, but some areas continue to be underserved, or even unserved. For example, the Midland and Odessa has been in the top ten areas of US per capita motor vehicle theft for more than five 5 years straight. We also continue to see vehicles stolen in Houston and Dallas being used for criminal activity and against law enforcement along our border with Mexico.

The MVCPA-related insurance fee generated almost \$105 million in state revenue for FY21 while the Authority was only appropriated \$12.8 million. This appropriation was \$8.1 million less than the 20% of the revenue collected that state law says shall be appropriated for Authority use.

Thank you for your attention to this report and for the support you have shown the MVCPA program. I look forward to continuing working with you to ensure this valuable law enforcement enterprise performs as expected and has the resources needed to protect the citizens of Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

**Laredo Assistant Chief of Police Miguel 'Mike' Rodriguez, Jr.**  
Presiding Officer MVCPA



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	1
MVCPA at a Glance.....	3
MVCPA Strategic Goals.....	7
FY 2021 Activities Report.....	9
Performance Measures.....	10
Investigator Safety.....	13
Law Enforcement Activities.....	14
Border Security.....	24
Rapid Response Strikeforce Grants.....	28
Training and Professional Development.....	29
Educating the Public.....	32
Insurer Refunds.....	37
FY 2021 Funds Report.....	39
Funds Collected.....	40
Funds Appropriated.....	41
FY21 MVCPA Total Funding.....	43
Funds Spent.....	44
Grants Awarded.....	45
Border Security Designated Grants.....	46
Grantee Expense and Obligation Detail.....	47
Rapid Response Strikeforce Grants.....	50
Law Enforcement Support Grants.....	51

Page intentionally left blank.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority or MVCPA- reports its activities and funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

By law, the MVCPA combats motor vehicle crime. First, it collects over \$100 million per year from insurers. Second, the MVPCA is best known for local law enforcement coordination. The agency provides support (grants, training, communication, intelligence sharing, and statewide and cross-jurisdictional networking) to local law enforcement agencies to create and maintain economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams. Economic motor vehicle theft describes the 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 (fraudulent claims), businesses and individuals (property losses and losing cash to illegal and fraudulent sales). Finally, the MVCPA is responsible to plan statewide operations, collect data on its activities, and report back to the Legislature its impact.

Texans incur financial losses of about \$2 billion per year from motor vehicle theft and burglary from a motor vehicle. They suffer disrupted lives, lost work and business, diminished feelings of safety, and sometimes physical violence from these crimes. Millions of state dollars are lost each year from fraud-related motor vehicle crime. Criminals and ignorant motorists use illegal plates to pollute our air, drive dangerous vehicles, cover the identities of stolen vehicles, and hide illegal activity such as human trafficking and robberies. The MVCPA and its 127-law enforcement and prosecutor agencies work diligently to reduce these losses.

Almost thirty years ago the 72nd Texas Legislature created MVCPA (its predecessor - the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority) - as a cost-effective method to engage local communities to work together to combat statewide mobile crime. Local police departments and sheriff offices use MVCPA grants to combat statewide motor vehicle crime while serving their cities and counties. The statute requires that 20% be dedicated to the MVCPA to help local law enforcement and prosecutors. Without it, many local communities are limited. MVCPA provides salaries, specialized equipment, supplies, and training for local sheriff and police investigators to 1) use confidential and proprietary manufacturer data to identify vehicles; 2) monitor and use ever-changing motor vehicle technology; 3) share intelligence and network with other local, state and federal law enforcement to combat these highly mobile crimes; 4) educate their citizens how to prevent these crimes; and 5) stop stolen vehicles from leaving Texas.

In FY21, MVCPA collected almost \$105 million in fees from insurers and received \$12.6 million in appropriations. This is 12.1% of the amount collected by MVCPA. This is well below the 20% or \$20.9 million required under Transportation Code §1006.153 (e). This has diminished MVCPA's capacity to support the local police and sheriff investigators that operate the taskforces. Despite the state's funding reduction to many General Revenue-funded agencies ordered by state leadership in May 2020, the city and county law enforcement agencies continued to support the MVPCA program. The COVID-19 pandemic sickened many of the investigators, but they all continued to provide their essential law enforcement services and protection to their communities and Texas.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## MVCPA FEE COLLECTIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS 2020 TO 2021

Fiscal Year	Fee Collected By MVCPA	Amount Appropriated to MVCPA	Difference
2020	\$91,785,970	\$12,020,975*	\$79,764,995
2021	\$104,926,218	\$12,835,851*	\$92,090,367
<b>Period Total</b>	<b>\$196,712,188</b>	<b>\$24,856,826</b>	<b>\$171,855,362</b>

\* reflects 5% reduction mandated by state leadership.

# MVCPA AT A GLANCE

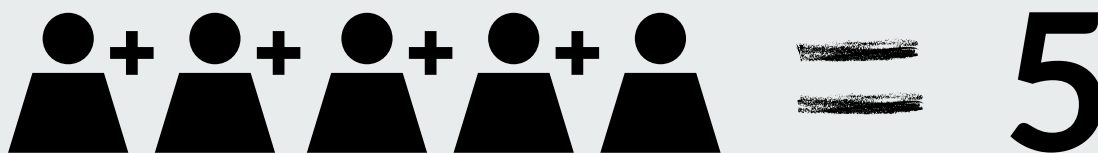
## VISION STATEMENT

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority exists to empower local law enforcement agencies and communities to combat and prevent statewide motor vehicle crime.

## GOVERNANCE

MVCPA is comprised 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. MVCPA is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). MVCPA has an agreement with TxDMV to separate the policymaking responsibilities of the authority and the management responsibilities of the department.

## TXDMV FULL TIME EMPLOYEES FOR MVCPA PROGRAM



## PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

3.1%

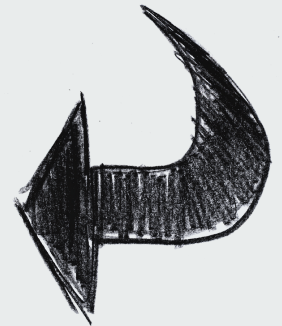
# MVCPA AT A GLANCE

**FY21 FUNDS COLLECTED BY THE MVCPA FROM \$4 FEE ON MOTOR VEHICLES COVERED BY INSURANCE.**



**\$104.9 million**

**FY21 APPROPRIATION**



**\$12 million**

**FY21 REGISTERED VEHICLES – TXDMV**



**25 million**

# MVCPA AT A GLANCE

## CY20\* MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS



84,351

## CY20 BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE AND THEFT OF PARTS



191,152

## CY20 LOSSES FROM MOTOR VEHICLE BURGLARY AND THEFT



\$1.4 Billion

\*CY=Calendar Year

# MVCPA AT A GLANCE



FY21 Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft by grant funded investigators	3,171
FY21 Arrests for Burglary of Motor Vehicle by grant-funded investigators	663
FY21 Arrest for Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crimes by grant-funded investigators	78
FY21 Recovered Stolen Vehicles by grant-funded investigators	11,540
FY21 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (68A) Inspections for Texas title transactions by grant-funded investigators	23,590
FY21 Other VIN Verification Inspections to confirm identify of vehicles	28,279
FY21 Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges and outbound ports	5,184

# MVCPA STRATEGIC GOALS

## MISSION STATEMENT



## PHILOSOPHY

The Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority is an evidence-based, strategy-driven and community-centric network to support regional taskforces, improve coordination, deploy equipment and provide clear messaging to end motor vehicle crime. The Authority seeks to support regional and global law enforcement responses to obtain the best outcomes for Texas.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Goal 1: Performance-Driven Law Enforcement.**
- Goal 2: Reduce crime through optimized services and innovation.**
- Goal 3: Community-centric.**
- Goal 4: Effective Fee Generation.**

Page intentionally left blank.





**FY 2021  
ACTIVITIES REPORT**

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

## STATUTORY MEASURES

Grants are issued from the appropriation to the MVCPA to fund police and sheriff taskforces to combat motor vehicle crime and the financial losses associated with these crimes to Texas, its citizens, and businesses. State law (Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006.151) requires MVCPA to track performance measures associated with its grants. The table below shows the statutory performance measures for FY21 reported by grant-funded taskforces:

### SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE STATUTORY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

<b>Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	11,038	11,678	12,860	11,540	-10.26%
Cleared Motor Vehicle Theft Cases	14,617	13,491	19,258	15,835	-17.77%
Arrests - Motor Vehicle Theft	3,295	3,257	3,593	3,171	-11.75%
<b>Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Cleared Motor Vehicle Burglary Cases	3,425	2,565	2,419	1,762	-27.16%
Arrests - Burglary of Motor Vehicle	974	930	736	663	-9.92%
<b>Fraud-related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC)</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020*</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Cleared Cases - FRMVC	NR	NR	134	224	67.16%
Arrests - FRMVC	NR	NR	51	78	52.94%

\*FRMVC was included as a performance measure by the 87th Legislature.

The data in the table above show that funding constraints and the 5% cut last biennium eroded the effectiveness of the taskforces ability to pursue criminal investigations. Less funds resulted in fewer investigators, less overtime, fewer covert operations, less fuel and investigation supplies, and aging or outdated equipment. MVCPA grant programs had to prioritize more serious and usually more dangerous motor vehicle theft over the other grant allowable activities. The table above shows decreases in most categories despite increases in these crimes. The only increase has been the relatively new category added in the 86th Legislative session - FRMVC.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

## MVCPA GRANT ACTIVITY MEASURES

In addition to the statutory performance measures, the MVCPA collects additional grant activity measures to determine the effectiveness of taskforces. As seen later in the FY21 Funds Report, almost all grant funds are used to hire, train, and retain specialized motor vehicle crime law enforcement investigators. Taskforces report grant-funded activities to demonstrate their progress at combatting motor vehicle crime in their communities and statewide. Below are the numbers reflecting the activity of the police and sheriff taskforces reported in FY 2021:

### FISCAL YEAR 2021 MVCPA TASKFORCES PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Measure Description	Total Number
<b>Investigation</b>	
MVT cases presented to prosecutors	2,872
BMV cases presented to prosecutors	765
FRMVC cases presented to prosecutors	150
Other felony cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	1,456
Other misdemeanor cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	428
Number of cases of insurance fraud identified	681
Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	3,969
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	
Number of arrests for human trafficking while investigating Motor Vehicle Crime	17
<b>Drugs</b>	
Number of arrests for Motor Vehicle Crime where drugs were present	240
Pounds of drugs and controlled substances seized	229 pounds
<b>Illegal Weapons</b>	
Number of weapons recovered	290
Arrests for weapon smuggling	9
Value of weapons recovered	\$129,900
<b>Equipment <sup>1</sup></b>	
Number of units of equipment recovered	239
Value of equipment recovered	\$7,390,305

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

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

<b>Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination</b>	
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	18,650
Assists within their own departments/office	5809
Assists for other agencies within the grant coverage area	5830
Assists to TxDMV and Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) investigations	788
Assists to DPS and other state law enforcement criminal investigations	540
Assistance to federal law enforcement investigations	332
<b>Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination</b>	
<i>Usually, 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.</i>	
Groups (criminal networks) of motor vehicle crime offenders identified operating in taskforce communities	569
Offenders with three or more MVT arrests identified operating in communities	1,333
Number of covert operations conducted	2,668
Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by investigators	1,389
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by taskforce investigators	2,262
Number of Border Incident Assessment Reports submitted by taskforce investigators to a Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center	458
<b>Vehicles Inspected</b>	
Vehicles inspected using confidential means (Required for the public to complete certain title transactions at the TxDMV or Tax Assessor-Collector)	23,590
Vehicles inspected at businesses, dealerships, other transactions or looking for stolen vehicles	28,279
<b>Local Business Operations Support</b>	
Number of inspections of licensed businesses related to vehicle enterprise (salvage yards, repair shop, used parts recyclers, used car dealership, salvage rebuilders, etc....)	546
<b>Technology Dependent Investigations</b>	
<b>Bait Vehicles and Bait Equipment <sup>2</sup></b>	
Bait vehicle deployments	445
Number of arrests from bait vehicle deployments	66
Other types of bait and tracked device deployments targeting vehicle burglary offenders	658
<b>License Plate Readers (LPR)</b>	
Number of LPR Deployments by taskforce investigators	2,631
Times those investigators were provided an alert from an LPR. (Note: some agencies have access and get alerts from third-party LPR data providers)	2,845
Number of vehicles recovered from LPR detection	1,598
Number of arrests from LPR detection	80

<sup>2</sup> Bait refers to vehicles, trailers and other items used by law enforcement agencies to capture car thieves or property thieves who steal vehicles or items from cars. Bait cars are normally purchased and owned by law enforcement agencies and are typically modified with tracking and audio/video surveillance technology which can be remotely monitored and controlled.

# INVESTIGATOR SAFETY

## MVCPA GRANT ACTIVITY MEASURES

The MVCPA supported the local police and sheriff investigators in the taskforces as they continued to perform operations that brought them into potential high contact with pathogens during vehicle recoveries and arrests of criminals. They also persisted in performing confidential VIN inspections needed by their citizens for certain title transactions during the pandemic. Departments that encountered temporary personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages were able to request assistance from the MVCPA to help protect their officers from these high contagion events. The table below provides a summary of the material that the MVCPA sent out to protect officer safety in FY21:

### LUBBOCK DA TASKFORCE

"COVID-19 created several issues for the Taskforce. Community groups and events have largely been cancelled."

### SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL TASKFORCE

"Due to COVID19 all public education/information events have been cancelled."

### SAFETY MATERIALS PROVIDED

6,300  
Vinyl gloves



225  
Hand sanitizer  
(8oz bottles)



68  
Clorox disinfecting spray  
(32oz bottles)



2,850  
Face masks



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

MVCPA combats statewide motor vehicle crime by funding experienced criminal investigators in local law enforcement agencies. MVPCA provides the training, communication, intelligence sharing, and networking needed to manage the statewide system. The grants also include data collection, intelligence sharing and reporting. The MVCPA funded investigators coupled with the support that their local agencies provide are extremely effective. Local law enforcement agencies rarely have specialized motor vehicle crime investigators or the equipment that they need without an MVCPA grant-funded program. The MVCPA grants along with the other support activities result in local law enforcement agencies having highly trained investigators performing specialized motor vehicle crime investigations.

Of the 24 taskforces funded in FY 2021, 10 are single jurisdiction and 14 are multijurisdictional. Taskforces must provide a minimum of 20 percent cash match for all MVCPA grant funds received. However, after years of stagnant and reduced funds, most grant programs provide more than 60% cash match. The MVCPA state grants incentivize taskforces to use their investigators and equipment in a coordinated effort for the benefit of their region and the entire state. Taskforce investigators routinely work with each other across the state directly and through the monthly MVCPA webinar. They also hold their own regional law enforcement criminal intelligence sharing meetings about trends and technology used to steal vehicles.

The MVCPA taskforces directly assisted other law enforcement agencies over 18,000 times to investigate crimes tied to motor vehicle crime. The taskforce investigators assisted other units (robbery, homicide, narcotics, etc.) within their own agencies an additional 5,800 times. Law enforcement agencies funded by MVCPA collaborate beyond their city or county limits to confront the mobile nature of motor vehicle crimes.

In FY21, the MVCPA grants supported 236 highly trained and specialized law enforcement investigators in taskforces across the state of Texas. The biennial 5% funding reduction ordered by state leadership in May 2020 for many General Revenue funded agencies, resulted in one investigator being removed from the program and many programs reducing overtime and other costs to meet the reduction. Almost all MVCPA grant program expenditures are law enforcement personnel-related costs. Local jurisdictions use MVCPA grants to cover much of their investigators' salaries.



## TRI-COUNTY (MANSFIELD) TASKFORCE

“The Tri-County Taskforce has seen an increase in the number of cases/self-initiated and as a result is in dire need of another full-time investigator. However due to the lack of grant funds available we are unable to afford another position or increase our overtime.”

# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## VIRTUAL COMMAND CENTER AND TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE SHARING

The MVCPA Board committed to improving the coordination of the taskforces in February 2020. In FY21, the Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator Virtual Command Center (VCC) on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) had statewide user access and activity. The FBI staff and contractors trained the taskforce commanders and MVCPA staff on the platform and application. The use, participation, and activity on system has increased steadily. All taskforces and several other jurisdictions are represented. A good example of other jurisdictions participating was a College Station Police Department investigator arrested a person in the possession of many fraudulent driver's licenses with real people's identifying information. He shared that arrest and details on the secure application. Some of the fictitious images displayed on the fraudulent driver's licenses were discovered by MVCPA taskforce investigators to have been used in fraudulent vehicle purchases from Houston area vehicle car dealers.

Additionally, the MVCPA hosts a Motor Vehicle Crime law enforcement intelligence sharing webinar each month. All taskforces, other jurisdictions, and National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) also participate and share trends, methods discovered, and criminal actors identified. NICB provides stolen vehicle border crossing intelligence. The MVCPA law enforcement specialist also provides weekly summaries from the VCC, border security reports, and other bulletins.

## EL PASO POLICE AUTO THEFT TASKFORCE



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## TECHNIQUES OF MVCPA TASKFORCES

The MVCPA law enforcement taskforces use many techniques to prevent and combat motor vehicle crime. Below is a summary of taskforce techniques and examples to show their activities in FY2021:

### INVESTIGATIONS

MVCPA funded law enforcement officers investigate motor vehicle crimes reported by the public (“reactive”). The officers also monitor and reduce community vulnerabilities to such motor vehicle crimes (“proactive”). 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. The **City of Dallas Auto Theft Taskforce** assisted their financial crimes division in an investigation where a suspect had previously sold a vehicle online that was stolen by fraudulent means. Detectives were able to set up an undercover buy, arrest the suspect, and recover a second stolen vehicle. The **Dallas County Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators identified an abandoned late-model pickup. The follow-up investigation revealed the victim of the theft was found deceased in his home. Two suspects were identified and arrested for the motor vehicle theft and murder.

## DALLAS COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASKFORCE

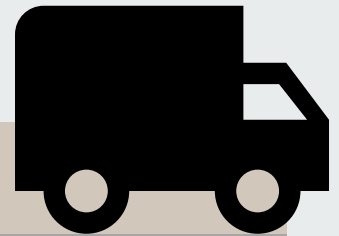




# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## IDENTIFY VEHICLES

Motor vehicle crime 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 the 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 NICB. Properly credentialed and MVCPA 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 under Transportation Code §501.032 and §501.321, 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 VIN markings. This specialized skill in vehicle identification has been used to assist other law enforcement agencies in critical instances of shootings and human trafficking. In one example, the **Galveston County Auto Crimes Taskforce** was called to assist the Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector Office to inspect a vehicle where a citizen was attempting to renew registration and the vehicle was not showing to be owned by the citizen. The investigation determined another party had stolen a similar vehicle, replaced the identification numbers with those from the citizen's vehicle, and had obtained a bonded title on the stolen vehicle. The taskforce investigation led to exact vehicle identification by officers and allowed the citizen to get his vehicle registered. The **Lubbock County Auto Theft Taskforce** recovered a stolen trailer that someone had removed all obvious markings. They used the confidential proprietary databases to confirm the trailer's identity and the restore it to the rightful owner.



## L A R E D O

"Our officers have booked up in March the Confidential Vehicle Identification Inspections until the end of the year. Our citizens need these inspections to complete title transactions."

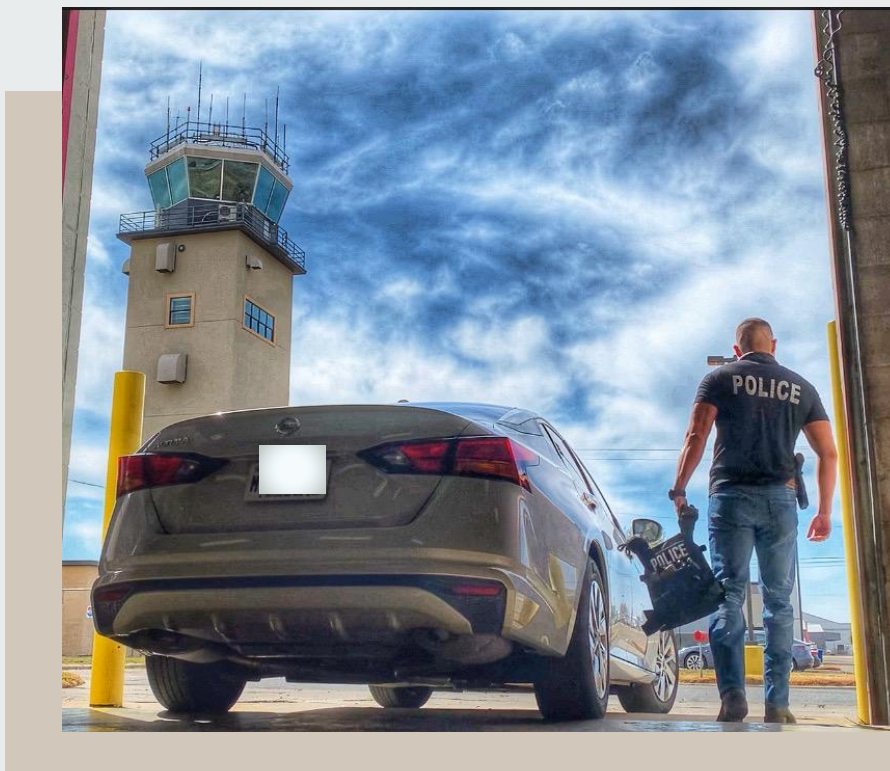
## T A R R A N T

"Each month the number of inspections increase. Following the current trend this Taskforce will be completing over 200 inspections a month with no potential for increase in staffing."

# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## COMMUNICATE AND COLLABORATE ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

Unlike most crimes, motor vehicle crime is highly mobile and crosses county and state jurisdictions. To effectively combat motor vehicle crime and illegal uses of stolen vehicles, taskforces depend on communication and collaboration. The MVCPA taskforces perform their investigations with and across local, state, and federal jurisdictions. 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, provide, and analyze intelligence data through DPS Crime Information Centers. When taskforces identify criminal patterns or suspects, they disseminate that information across jurisdictions. This often includes across state lines, where Beaumont, El Paso, Lubbock, Paris, and Potter taskforces routinely coordinate with Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. One good example of collaboration is between **Pasadena Auto Theft Taskforce** and the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, after receiving information that a reported stolen vehicle was in Caldwell County. This cross-collaboration resulted in the recovery of five stolen trucks and evidence of an illegal alien stash house and human trafficking operation. This led to additional collaborations and investigations involving US Homeland Security. The **Potter County Auto Theft Taskforce** adopted a case from the Hartley County Sheriff's Office about a group of suspects that were committing thefts of vehicles. Taskforce investigators were able to identify multiple suspects who were stealing vehicles in three states. Multiple suspects were charged and indicted for organized crime involving stolen vehicles.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## IDENTIFY PROLIFIC OFFENDERS

Many motor vehicle crimes are committed by the same individuals or groups. These prolific offenders (3 or more arrests) 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. **Corpus Christi Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators identified a burglary of a motor vehicle suspect as a prolific offender linked to the theft of firearms and an aggravated robbery. **Paris Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators collaborated with other agencies to identify and arrest multiple prolific offenders committing burglary of motor vehicles where 90 firearms were stolen from multiple jurisdictions.



## BUSINESS SUPPORT

Illegal economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime strike legitimate local businesses hard. The crimes either steal their property or set up illegal competition thereby reducing or eliminating legitimate profits. Taskforces conduct 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 shut down the illegal business through arrests and recoveries. **Dallas PD's Taskforce**, **Harris County Sheriff's Taskforce**, and the **Northeast Texas (Paris PD) Taskforce** all found stolen cars being chopped (dismantled) in illegal business operations in their communities. In Dallas and Harris County, investigations revealed that thieves were using advanced technology to steal the cars and chop them up before any signals could be produced. In Paris, many of the trucks were determined stolen with the keys left in them by owners and quickly dismantled.

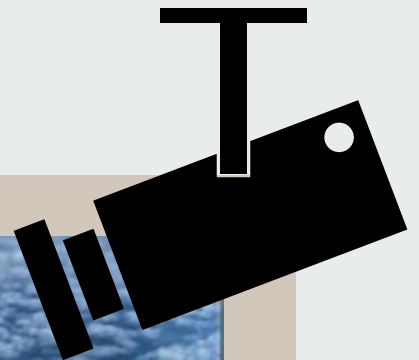
Additionally, **Southeast Texas Auto Theft Taskforce (Beaumont)** investigated a case that led back to a burglary of a used car dealership business during the evacuation of Hurricanes Laura and Marco. The actors stole over 60 folders from the business, which contained the spare keys to vehicles that had been sold, along with the personal information of the buyers. The actors used the duplicate key and owners' addresses to steal three vehicles. The investigation into a group of suspects, based in Port Arthur, was developed through an informant with multiple arrests. The El Paso PD Taskforce reported four different used car dealerships experienced burglaries and theft of vehicles. During the criminal episodes, the offender would break into the used car business office, acquire multiple keys to vehicles and ram the business fence with the first vehicle. Six of the ten vehicles stolen were recovered and the suspects were arrested.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## TECHNOLOGY

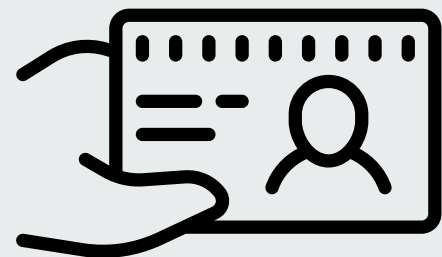
Specialized equipment used by motor vehicle crime investigators includes high-tech surveillance and recording devices, vehicle identification cameras, Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR), bait trackers, and bait marking technology. Most equipment purchased with MVCPA grant funds is so specialized that it would rarely be purchased by local law enforcement agencies without the assistance of state funding.

ALPRs 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 (called a “hit”) 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 a significant portion of the vehicles recovered by MVCPA funded investigators.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The methods criminals use to illegally reap economic gain out of motor vehicle crimes have become more technologically sophisticated. To keep pace with those methods, investigators develop more sophisticated techniques to identify and arrest offenders who commit motor vehicle crimes. The taskforces use software, computer skills, social media, 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. The **Burnet County Sheriff's Office (Heart of Texas) Auto Theft Taskforce** received a LoJack GPS System (owner-installed tracking system) alert to recover a stolen vehicle at a body shop. The investigation led to the identification and recovery of 10 additional stolen vehicles in multiple jurisdictions. **Harris County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators received information on the location of a stolen Lamborghini and two other VIN switched vehicles which were recovered along with high-tech evidence such as laser etching equipment and vehicle computer programmers used to change a vehicles vehicle identification number. **Tarrant County Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators were called by their patrol division to a scene where various parts of vehicles were located. Investigators were able to identify through confidential means that multiple parts belonged to five General Motors pickups that were reported stolen in Dallas. These trucks had been stolen by switching out the engine control modules. Arrest warrants were obtained for the two suspects identified in the investigation responsible for using this technology.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## FRAUD-RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

Fraud-related motor vehicle crime costs taxpayers millions of dollars through lost revenues. Federal Clean Air Act nonattainment areas are forced to undertake costly air quality mitigation efforts due to motor vehicle fraud. Taskforces have identified many reasons that criminals commit fraud-related motor vehicle crimes. Taskforces report that frequently illegal and stolen plates are used to cover criminal activity such as stolen vehicles and predatory theft (bank and gun juggings). Some taskforces worked cases where huge profits were made creating tags illegally from the TxDMV systems or illegally counterfeiting tags. The **City of Houston Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators identified suspects using fraudulent identification and credit cards to obtain vehicles from dealers and car rental businesses. Investigations resulted in the recovery of multiple vehicles, counterfeit titles, checks and credit cards, and equipment read/write credit cards. The **San Antonio Auto Theft (ReACT)** Taskforce detectives were called out by patrol officers who thought they found a possible stolen vehicle. The stolen vehicle was covered by a VIN swap (illegally placing a VIN plate from one vehicle on another) out of Houston. The suspect had a title for the vehicle. The detectives determined the title had been altered to make it appear that it was the title for the stolen vehicle. This recovered vehicle belonged to a rental car agency that had reported it stolen.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 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. Taskforces report that narcotic and gang investigators routinely request expertise and assistance from their motor vehicle theft investigators. Stolen vehicles are used by gangs for drug trafficking, human trafficking, and violent criminal activity. One example is a case where **Smith County East Texas Auto Theft Taskforce** investigators seized a vehicle stolen from El Paso that was displaying a fraudulent vehicle identification number and had been used in a homicide. The suspect was identified as a gang member.

The vehicle would have been released if not for the existence of MVCPA investigators trained in the identification of stolen vehicles. In another case, **City of Dallas Auto Theft Taskforce** Investigators seized multiple weapons, methamphetamine, and identified multiple offenders as being connected to the Gulf Cartel.



# BORDER SECURITY

The 86th Legislature in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 17.07, designated \$10.4 million of the biennial appropriation for MVCPA to be used for border security. No additional funds were provided under this designation. 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 Intercoastal Waterway. Using this definition, MVCPA designated specific grant-funded taskforces as "border security grants." This designation covered the following taskforces: the 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 the City of Victoria.





# BORDER SECURITY

The border security requirement provided the MVCPA taskforces no additional funds but increased reporting. The agencies at the outbound seaports and along the Texas / Mexico border conducted specialized activities to meet these requirements. Below is a summary table of the activities of the taskforces border and port operations:

## FISCAL YEAR 2021

<b>MVCPA Border Security Taskforces Statutory Performance Measures</b>	
Number of stolen motor vehicles recovered	3,546
Number of motor vehicle theft cases cleared	4,569
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft	805
Number of motor vehicle burglary cases cleared	1,494
Number of arrests for motor vehicle burglary	477
Number of Cleared Cases - FRMVC	81
Number of Arrests - FRMVC	54
<b>Standard Legislative Budget Board Border Security Performance Measures Designated Taskforces</b>	
Intelligence referrals	207
Lbs. of drugs seized	35
Arrests for smuggling	15
<b>MVCPA Additional Border Security Performance Measures</b>	
Number of vehicles inspected at outbound international bridges and ports	5,184
Value of vehicles recovered at border (and ports)	\$49,642,297
Number of arrests resulting in cases charged	1,726
Number of vehicles recovered from Mexico	47
Value for vehicles recovered from Mexico	\$1,233,504
Number of cases with one or more persons identified as transnational actors	149
Number of groups, gangs or associates identified as transnational	38
Number of arrests – transnational	102
Collaborations with US Customs and Border Patrol	337
Collaborations with other federal agencies (DHS, FBI, etc.)	290
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft or burglary where drugs were present	126

# BORDER SECURITY

## 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 the smuggling of narcotics and weapons. This work includes surveillance operations, providing criminal intelligence briefings, identifying criminal actors and gangs and disrupting criminal enterprises. Examples include:

**Brownsville South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement Taskforce (STATE):** In February 2021, **STATE** Investigators recovered a stolen vehicle reported stolen from Pennsylvania. The investigation revealed that the driver abandoned the vehicle while in line at the international bridge crossing into Mexico. Also, in March the **STATE** investigators responded to a spike in catalytic converter thefts by using warrant roundups and increased surveillance. The efforts produced numerous arrests and cleared cases. Many of these actors were responsible for multiple thefts.

**Laredo Auto Theft Taskforce (ATTF):** In February 2021, ATTF investigators personnel received information from a Laredo Police Department (LPD) FBI Taskforce (TFO) Investigator that a male subject, identified previously by ATTF personnel as a stolen vehicle crosser had crossed a stolen vehicle into Mexico via International Bridge #2 by ramming through the AVI lane. Several hours later the subject was detained by U. S. Customs at while crossing International Bridge #1 back into the United States. On duty ATTF personnel coordinated with the LPD/FBI TFO and U. S. Customs to interview the subject. During the interview the male subject confessed to crossing stolen vehicles into Mexico.

**Eagle Pass Taskforce:** During FY21, Eagle Pass recovered eleven stolen vehicles heading into the Republic of Mexico. The estimated value of the vehicles recovered by this collaboration is \$200,075 and thirteen arrests have been made. Additionally, the taskforce initiated increased collaboration activity with other agencies and units which has led to the successful identification of individuals involved in motor vehicle thefts and theft from vehicle incidents. The identification of one prolific offender living in Eagle Pass produced the clearance of cases in Eagle Pass, Maverick County, Del Rio, and Uvalde. The offender had 18 arrests within FY21 by the Eagle Pass Police Department alone. The arrests were made for UUMV, Burglary of Vehicle, Burglary of Habitation/Building, Theft, and possession of narcotics.

**El Paso:** While conducting southbound bridge operations, with United States Customs and Border Protection Agents to prevent stolen vehicles from leaving the country, El Paso taskforce investigators identified a Ford F-250 truck which was pulling a trailer loaded with a Kubota Excavator. It was determined the truck, trailer and excavator were stolen out of New Mexico.

# BORDER SECURITY

**Harris County:** In August 2021, the **Harris County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Taskforce** was notified of a recently stolen vehicle. Investigators contacted the complainant and began to track the vehicle using GPS as it moved. Investigators assembled sufficient resources and waited for a safe and opportune time to attempt an arrest and recovery. The stolen vehicle eventually stopped in a parking lot and marked units moved in. Two suspects fled on foot but were quickly captured with the assistance of air support. Both occupants were armed and had violent criminal records. An AR-15 rifle was observed in the driver's seat and the passenger had a revolver in his pocket. One suspect was on bond for five robberies and the other was on probation for robbery. The vehicle owner arrived, and the vehicle was returned.

**Houston PD Taskforce:** In 2021, the taskforce performed over 3,000 vehicle identify inspections on out-bound vehicles at the Port of Houston.

**Travis County (Sheriffs' Combined Auto Theft Taskforce):** While not on the border, the **Sheriffs' Combined Auto Theft Taskforce**, covering most of south central and southeast Texas recognized that the cars stolen in their jurisdictions were being used in human trafficking and transporting narcotics into the United States. They set up a covert operation, "Déjà vu," using undercover informants to target organized crime rings. The operation conducted undercover purchases of stolen vehicles and coordinated multijurisdictional investigations.

**Montgomery County Auto Theft Taskforce:** In another example of border related activity far from the border, the **Montgomery County Auto Theft Taskforce** identified a trend where stolen vehicles were being used in human trafficking operations. The stolen vehicles were used to transport illegal aliens into East Montgomery County. The investigators worked the cases and recovered four stolen vehicles with a connection to human trafficking.



# RAPID RESPONSE STRIKEFORCE GRANTS

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) implemented a new type of law enforcement grant called Rapid Response Strikeforce Grants (RRS). The RRS allows targeted funding based on real time criminal activity. The funding is based on emergency and exigent needs occurring within jurisdictions of MVCPA taskforces and other Texas law enforcement agencies. These RRS grants are intended to prevent or disrupt organized criminal activity to help make Texas and our communities safer. One of the top priorities for this type of grant is to prevent stolen vehicles from being exported into Mexico and to stop stolen vehicles from being used in human trafficking.

One grant was awarded to the **Houston PD Auto Theft Taskforce**. The taskforce interrupted and apprehended individuals stealing vehicles from dealerships using synthetic and stolen identities. They also stopped fraudulent sales of vehicles sold to innocent buyers. Overtime activities were funded to disrupt chop shop operations by the **Dallas PD Auto Theft Taskforce**. The **Laredo PD Auto Theft Taskforce** used overtime to detect and apprehend individuals and groups using stolen vehicles to transport illegal aliens into Texas and the United States. RRS equipment grants for the purchase of license plate readers were awarded to detect stolen vehicles to increase the recovery rate and reduce the number of stolen vehicles being used in other crimes.

RRS Grant funded operations have allowed intelligence information to be gained and shared between MVCPA taskforces and other law enforcement jurisdictions across Texas. Much of the intelligence involve organized criminal organizations with cartel and gang involvement. Seven RRS grants were awarded to vehicle crime taskforces in Texas for a total of \$207,850 during FY21.

During the RRS Operations, 74 vehicles were recovered with an estimated value of \$950,604. This is almost a 5 to 1 return on investment in the four months of operations. The LPRs are expected to last 3 to 5 years with continued returns.



# TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 law enforcement training facilities around the state. Local businesses usually provide sites where newly trained investigators practice their vehicle identification skills on many different types of vehicles. MVCPA facilitates collaboration for curriculum development among the DPS, TxDMV, the NICB, and the Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators. MVCPA coordinates facilities and instructors, reimburses travel, manages registration, purchases training supplies, and provides electronic education materials.

The training provides comprehensive skills-based training to motor vehicle crime investigators. 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 law enforcement agencies. The agencies do pay for employees' travel.

The training is only available to licensed peace officers designated by their agencies as motor vehicle theft investigators. All DPS investigators are authorized to attend these classes. Other designated auto theft investigators from non-MVCPA funded agencies also attend as space if available. The training allows investigators to qualify for access to manufacturers' and insurance industry's confidential, proprietary databases used to identify vehicles. Since state law requires a confidential vehicle identification number inspection by auto theft investigators to complete certain title transactions, access to those proprietary databases is vital to correctly identify vehicles to combat fraud-related motor vehicle crime.

In FY 2021, due to COVID-19 illness and various local preventative restrictions, setting classes was challenging. MVCPA received a waiver from TCOLE to conduct the live training online. MVCPA conducted one Intermediate Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator training class. The in-person training was held at the Tarrant County Junior College following all local pandemic safety protocols. Six law enforcement agencies agreed to host additional remote training sites. Each of these locations provided a qualified motor vehicle investigator instructor to proctor attendance, monitor their location, answer questions, and to provide oversight to the practical exercise instruction with the student investigators. As a result of the training, 59 investigators became eligible to get access to the confidential databases to conduct motor vehicle crime investigations and perform confidential VIN inspections.



# TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The intermediate class was shortened to provide 28 TCOLE approved hours. One training module, Restoring Altered and Obliterated Identification Numbers by Chemical Means, required extensive supervision, safety considerations, supplies and hands-on practice. The MVCPA training partner, NICB offered to send agents to all students' locations after the class to provide that training module.

## MVCPA MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME INVESTIGATOR TRAINING SUMMARY

Training Classes	1
Locations (live and online)	7
Investigators Completing Training	59
Number of Trainers	9
Number of Different Agencies Represented in Training	15



# TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MVCPA funded taskforces support their agencies, participating agencies, and their regions by providing TCOLE and other local law enforcement training. These taskforce training sessions expand awareness of motor vehicle crime and provide skills on recognizing patterns. They also inform and help departments establish local policies and procedures. The taskforces teach methods to other law enforcement officers to increase the probability of case filing and identifying stolen vehicles. Taskforce investigators trained other officers in and around their communities as follows:

## TASKFORCE INVESTIGATOR TRAINING COMPLETIONS

TCOLE approved law enforcement training classes	144
Investigators Trained	2,049
Number of time vehicle crimes information disseminated to law enforcement agencies (non-TCOLE training includes written materials bulletins, electronic roll call documents, shift change intel briefings)	331
Number of Participants	11,072



# EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

MVCPA uses a variety of web-based tools to promote motor vehicle crime prevention efforts to the public. MVCPA frequently uploads motor vehicle crime prevention information on social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, MVCPA TxDMV website, and links to taskforces across the state (commercials, YouTube videos, etc.) to remind the public to protect their vehicles.

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 and fraud-related motor vehicle crime” per Transportation Code §1006.154(a)(3). MVCPA also educates the public with printed materials. Funds were used in previous years to produce and procure printed materials for statewide distribution. These materials are still relevant and are still being distributed. Materials include brochures in English and Spanish, “Lock, Take and Hide” signs, reminder magnets and coloring books for children to remind their parents about motor vehicle crime prevention. MVCPA uses these materials to promote Texans to join us in efforts to reduce motor vehicle crime. The taskforces and MVCPA communicate and collaborate with state agencies, community organizations, business groups and insurance industry stakeholders like NICB to promote and expand the MVCPA crime prevention message. The MVCPA distributed the following materials in FY21.

## EDUCATION MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED TO TASKFORCES AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT

MATERIALS	NUMBER
Printed material (brochures and coloring books)	10,450
Promotional material	7,822
Parking lot signs	130
Trailer hitch locks and steering wheel locks	22



# EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

## SOCIAL MEDIA

MVCPA also uses social media to communicate motor vehicle crime prevention methods to the public. MVCPA has both social media Facebook and Twitter platforms. Many of the taskforces also have social media accounts. MVCPA links to these taskforces' social media pages across the state. MVCPA encourages all taskforces to use their social media to increase the coverage and impact of motor vehicle crime prevention messages.

Facebook analytics for FY21 shows that MVCPA's outreach had its highest increase at 871% and new Facebook page likes on the site increased by 289%. This increase was because of MVCPA's "Holiday Watch Your Car Tips" outreach to remind Texans the most effective way to prevent burglary and theft of vehicles is to lock vehicles and take the keys. This campaign reached almost 9,000 people while reminding Texans to protect their investment while shopping and travelling during the holiday season.

Toward the end of FY21, Facebook analytics showed a second dramatic social media uptick when MVCPA featured a "Catalytic Converter Awareness" outreach in May due the increased number of catalytic converters stolen for the precious metals inside them. The campaign reached almost 8,000 people and offered tips for Texas to protect their vehicles from rising catalytic converter thefts. Click here to view the MVCPA Facebook page.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Watch Your Car**  
TEXAS MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

**IF YOU LIKE IT  
LOCK IT**  
MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME  
PREVENTION AUTHORITY

**Texas Motor Vehicle Crime  
Prevention Authority**  
426 followers · 31 following

Follow  
Message

# EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY MVCPA TASKFORCES

Taskforces plan their activities throughout the year and use grant-funded personnel and MVCPA print and promotional materials to develop their local approaches to educating their community. Many use both English and Spanish print materials and advertisements to get their messages out. Taskforces are encouraged to collaborate on educational programs whenever feasible, and information is often shared during monthly MCVPA-hosted webinars in which taskforces participate.



# EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

The COVID-19 Pandemic reduced taskforces ability to engage directly with the public. Events that required direct contact with the public (stock shows, festivals and community event booths, etc.) fell from the previous year by around 30%. Efforts that did not require contact (like purchased media, social media postings, etc.) increased by around 30%. Activities are tracked monthly via progress reports, which are completed as a condition of the grant. One example is that the Laredo PD Taskforce was also able to obtain access to digital marquees located in high traffic areas that reminded people to secure their vehicles.



# EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

The following tables provide a summary of the educational activities conducted by MVCPA taskforces during FY21.

## TASKFORCE INVESTIGATORS SHOW UP AT COMMUNITY EVENTS TO TEACH HOW TO AVOID MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION	NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Number of educational outreach events (includes trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, stock shows, vehicle displays/demonstrations, brochures deliveries [i.e. HOAs, Apts] etc.)	1,875

## TASKFORCE INVESTIGATORS TEACH THE COMMUNITY HOW TO AVOID MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

Number of media outreach (includes public service announcements, press releases, and interviews)	1,471
Number of purchased advertisements in local outlets	16
Number of social media postings	1,732
Number of vehicle report card initiatives	23,926
Number of outdoor public notification signage deployed	4,159

## TASKFORCE INVESTIGATORS TEACH THE COMMUNITY HOW TO AVOID MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

Number of vehicle identification number (VIN) etchings conducted	133
Number of direct contacts to people needing assistance and/or information (phone/e-mail/ other media)	59,842

# INSURER REFUNDS

A statutory duty of the MVCPA is to make determinations regarding the sufficiency of payments made by an insurer of fees that they paid. Insurers may claim that they have overpaid the fee based on the number of motor vehicle years covered by policies that they sold. Insurers have up to four years to make a claim. The insurer notifies MVCPA of the claimed overpayment and the amount requested to be reimbursed. The insurer provides amended returns and explains how or why the overpayment was made. MVCPA staff validate the payment(s) made and the insurers' accounts claimed to be overpaid. Staff often request additional supporting documentation to support the claims. Once confirmed the staff make a recommendation to the MVCPA Board based on the material. Below is a summary of requests and actions taken by the MVCPA regarding insurer refunds in FY 2021.

## FY21 REFUNDS REQUEST SUBMITTED

INSURANCE COMPANY	DATE OF REFUND REQUESTED	AMOUNT OF REQUEST	DATE OF DISPOSITION	RESULTS
Direct General Insurance Co	1/29/2021	\$67,994.00	2/3/2021	Rejected by staff - submission incomplete
<b>Number Approved</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

Page intentionally left blank.



**FY 2021  
FUNDS REPORT**

# FUNDS COLLECTED

State law requires insurance companies to pay a fee based on the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for insurance policies delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed by the company in Texas (see Transportation Code 1006.153). Insurers are authorized by Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) rule (28 T.A.C. § 5.205) to recoup the fee from their policyholder/customers. Insurers pay the fee every six months as provided in the statute.

The 86th Legislature enacted HB 2048 which increased the MVCPA insurance fee and changed how the fees are distributed. In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), the fee increased from \$2 to \$4. Out of each fee collected, 20 percent shall be appropriated for the purposes of MVCPA, 20 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund to be used only for criminal justice purposes, and 60 percent shall be deposited to the credit of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account.

In FY21, MVCPA collected \$104.9 million, a 14.3% increase over FY20. The collection total for FY20 represents a six-month period that required insurers to pay \$2 for policies issued or renewed for July and August 2019 and \$4 for policies issued or renewed from September to December 2019. Both MVCPA and the Comptroller of Public Accounts FY22-23 Biennial Revenue Estimate show that future collections at the \$4 fee should continue to exceed \$100 million per fiscal year.

The fees are deposited into the General Revenue (GR) fund under revenue object code 3206. Funds Report-Chart 1 shows the total amount collected each fiscal year since FY17.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 1: REVENUE COLLECTED FROM THE MVCPA FEE

YEAR	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Amount Collected	\$46,436,967	\$49,083,185	\$50,042,956	\$91,785,970	\$104,926,218

MVCPA continues to work with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to coordinate and improve collection efforts. The CPA's reports listed property and casualty insurers and their payment status. When insurers fail to pay the fee or to submit a report, TDI is notified so they can open enforcement investigations on the insurer. MVCPA has requested additional staff from the 87th Legislature to improve collections efforts. This request was not approved.



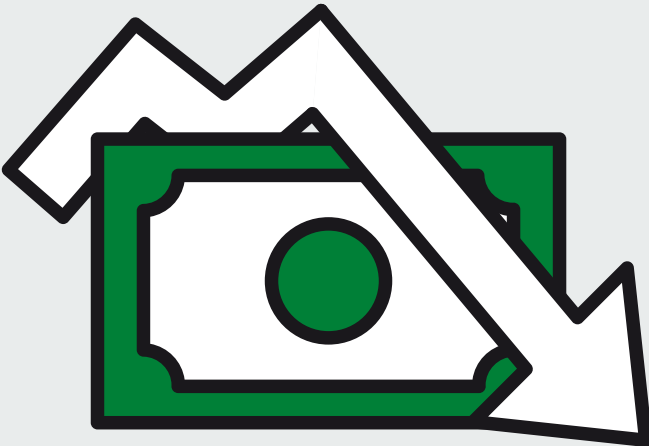
# FUNDS APPROPRIATED

The General Appropriations Act (GAA) (HB1 (86R)) appropriated \$12,835,851 for MVCPA purposes in FY21. State leadership ordered many programs funded by General Revenue to reduce their spending of the appropriated amount by 5%. MVCPA provided a plan to reduce \$190,677 from FY21. Unexpended funds from FY 2020 were brought forward in the amount of \$206,682 resulting in a net FY21 available funding of \$12,851,855.

Funds Report-Chart 2 provides a history of MVCPA appropriations.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 2: MVCPA APPROPRIATIONS

YEAR	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Appropriation	\$14,920,849	\$12,835,851	\$12,835,851	\$12,835,851	\$12,835,851

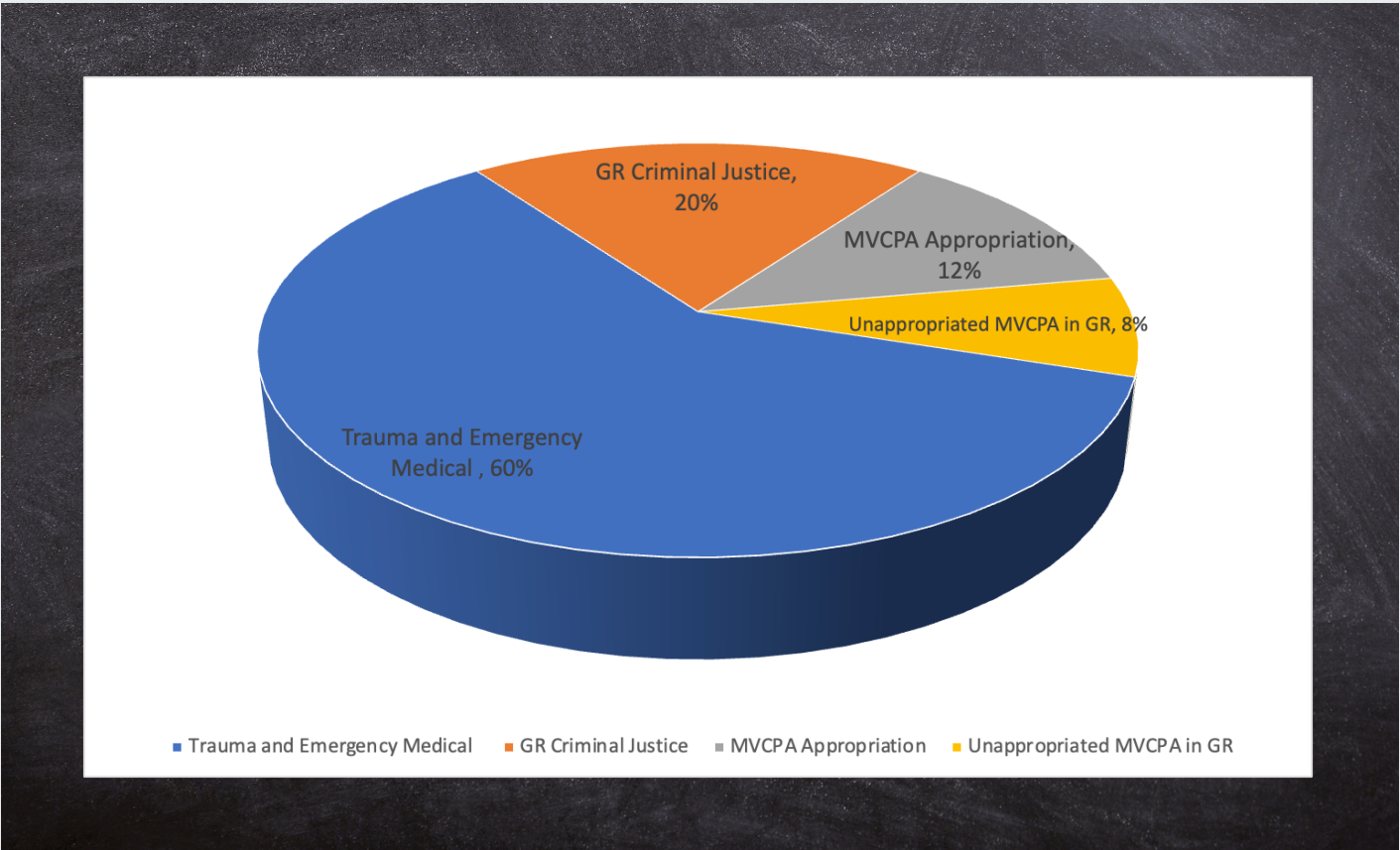


# FUNDS APPROPRIATED

Less than 12% of the MVCPA fees collected in FY21 were appropriated to MVCPA. Funds Report-Chart 3 illustrates the ratio between fees collected by MVCPA and the amount appropriated to MVCPA. However, an additional \$190,677 was made unavailable to the MVCPA and its law enforcement programs due to the 5% reduction ordered by state leadership.

## CPA REVENUES VS. APPROPRIATIONS

### FUNDS REPORT- CHART 3: FY21 MVCPA



# FY21 MVCPA TOTAL FUNDING



	Amount*
FY21 Appropriation	\$12,835,851
FY20 funds Unexpended Balance Carryforward	\$206,682
Budget Reduction ordered by state leadership on May 20, 2020	(\$190,677)
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>\$12,851,855</b>

\*In FY21, MVCPA obligated and awarded available funds from FY20 for continued operation of two of its law enforcement programs. [Apparent errors in addition are due to rounding.]

# FUNDS SPENT

Out of FY21 appropriations, MVCPA will expend a total of \$12.4 million. Currently, there is \$71,965 (Grants) encumbered for outstanding grant obligations. Transportation Code Ch. 1006. Sec. 154(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 FY21 were 3.1%. The specifics of MVCPA's FY21 expenditures are in Funds Report-Chart 4.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 4: FY21 MVCPA EXPENDITURES

Expenditure Category		FY21 Expenditures
Administration	Salaries and Wages	\$344,209
	Consumable Supplies	\$6,015
	Travel (MVCPA Board and staff)	\$4,809
	Advertising and Promotion	\$2,405
	Other Operating Expenses	\$25,014
	<b>Administration Subtotal</b>	<b>\$382,451</b>
Grants	Law Enforcement Taskforces (Reimbursement Grants)	\$11,769,889
	Rapid Response Taskforce	\$170,595
	Law Enforcement Support Grants	\$37,500
	<b>Grants Subtotal</b>	<b>\$11,977,984</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$12,360,435</b>

[Apparent errors in addition are due to rounding.]

# GRANTS AWARDED

In accordance with the FY20-FY21 General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 4.02, the MVCPA distributes grants on a reimbursement basis. Other than the administrative expenses mentioned above, all FY21MVCPA expenditures were spent on law enforcement activities through 24 law enforcement taskforce grants. The law enforcement taskforces received grant award funding in amounts ranging from \$73,112 to \$1,101,975. Fourteen of the law enforcement grant recipients served as the administrative grantee for multi-jurisdictional taskforces. Funds Report-Chart 5 identifies, for FY21, each grant recipient, the amount of the grant awarded, and the actual amount of funds disbursed.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 5-: FY21 TASKFORCE GRANT RECIPIENTS AND UTILIZATION AMOUNTS\*

Grantee	Multi / Single Jurisdiction	Border / Port	2021 Award	Expended	Pending Payment	Unexpended Balance
City of Austin	S		\$414,319	\$401,336		\$12,983
City of Beaumont	M	P	\$508,623	\$508,623		\$0
City of Brownsville	M	B/P	\$889,225	\$866,451		\$22,774
Burnet County	M		\$192,400	\$189,734		\$2,666
City of Corpus Christi	S	P	\$395,356	\$382,490		\$12,866
City of Dallas	S		\$601,250	\$572,384		\$28,866
Dallas County	M		\$519,480	\$490,438		\$29,042
City of Eagle Pass	S	B	\$120,250	\$115,189		\$5,061
City of El Paso	S	B	\$894,145	\$894,145		\$0
Galveston County	M	P	\$451,354	\$441,685		\$9,669
Harris County	S	P	\$743,052	\$736,311		\$6,741
City of Houston FY21	M	P	\$957,190	\$957,190		\$0
City of Houston FY22	M	P	\$300,000	\$255,535	\$44,465	\$0
City of Laredo	S	B	\$658,970	\$634,460		\$24,510
Lubbock County	M		\$389,151	\$371,497		\$17,654
City of Mansfield	M		\$288,600	\$281,690		\$6,910
Montgomery County	M		\$324,640	\$267,864		\$56,776
City of Paris	S		\$102,654	\$102,654		\$0
City of Pasadena	S	P	\$73,112	\$73,112		\$0
Potter County	M		\$347,960	\$347,960		\$0
City of San Antonio	M		\$769,600	\$754,792		\$14,808
Smith County	M		\$320,146	\$320,146		\$0
Tarrant County	M		\$1,101,971	\$1,077,051		\$24,920
Travis County	M		\$607,154	\$586,555		\$20,599
City of Victoria	S	P	\$148,840	\$140,597		\$8,243
		Total	\$12,119,442	\$11,769,889	\$44,465	\$305,088

# BORDER SECURITY DESIGNATED GRANTS

A subset of the grants above is designated by the Legislature as border security grant-funded programs. In the FY20-FY21 biennium, the GAA, Article IX, Section 17.07, set an amount of \$10.4 million for the biennium for border security funding. The GAA, Article IX, Section 7.11 provides agency reporting requirements, defines what constitutes border security, and defines border as counties adjacent to an international border or the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. The MVCPA board designated as border security grants those listed below 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 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 expenditures by border security grantees.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 6: FY21 BORDER SECURITY TASKFORCE GRANT EXPENDITURES BY GRANTEE\*

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Border / Port</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Unxpended Balance</u>
City of Eagle Pass	B	120,250	115,189		5,061
City of El Paso	B	894,145	894,145		-
City of Laredo	B	658,970	634,460		24,510
City of Brownsville	B/P	889,225	866,451		22,774
City of Beaumont	P	508,623	508,623		-
City of Corpus Christi	P	395,356	382,490		12,866
City of Houston	P	1,257,190	1,212,725	44,465	-
City of Pasadena	P	73,112	73,112		-
City of Victoria	P	148,840	140,597		8,243
Galveston County	P	451,354	441,685		9,669
Harris County	P	743,052	736,311		6,741
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11 of 24 Grantees</b>	<b>6,140,117</b>	<b>6,005,789</b>	<b>44,465</b>	<b>89,863</b>

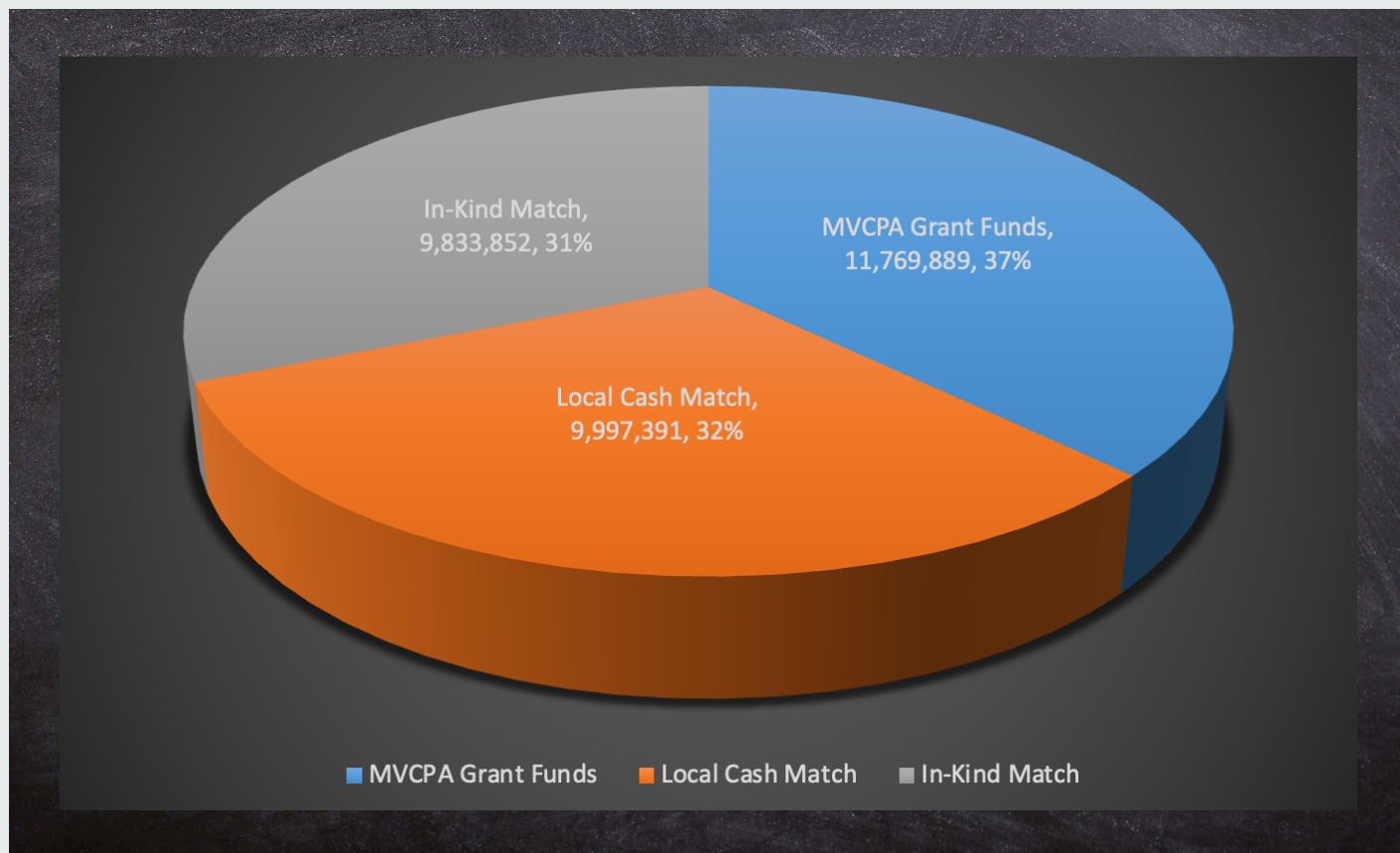
\*Chart 6 FY 21 Border Security Expenditures by Grantee reflects data from GMTS on TAMU as of March 10, 2022. [Apparent errors in addition are due to rounding.]

# GRANTEE EXPENSE AND OBLIGATION DETAIL

During FY21, the grant programs reported law enforcement program operational costs of over \$31.6 million dollars combating motor vehicle crime. Local jurisdictions provided a total of \$10.0 million in direct cash match contributions. Examples of cash match include paying direct program costs such as personnel, equipment, travel, and other direct operating expenses as agreed to in the grant award. MVCPA's Grant Rules (43 T. A. C. 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 match well above their minimum cash match. The total program cash match contribution is 31.6%.

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 \$9.8 million of in-kind contributions. Examples of "In-kind match" include jurisdictions or third parties paying for additional personnel, rent, fuel and other operational expenses from all sources to combat motor vehicle crime in the state. The majority of grant funds (94.4%) are spent on motor vehicle crime investigators in the Personnel, Fringe, Overtime, and contractual categories (which includes sub-grantee investigators).

**FUNDS REPORT- CHART 7: FY21 MVCPA TASKFORCE GRANT EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE \***



\*Chart 7 FY 21 Grant Expenditures by Source reflects data as of March 10, 2022 and utilizes a grant-year tracking basis.

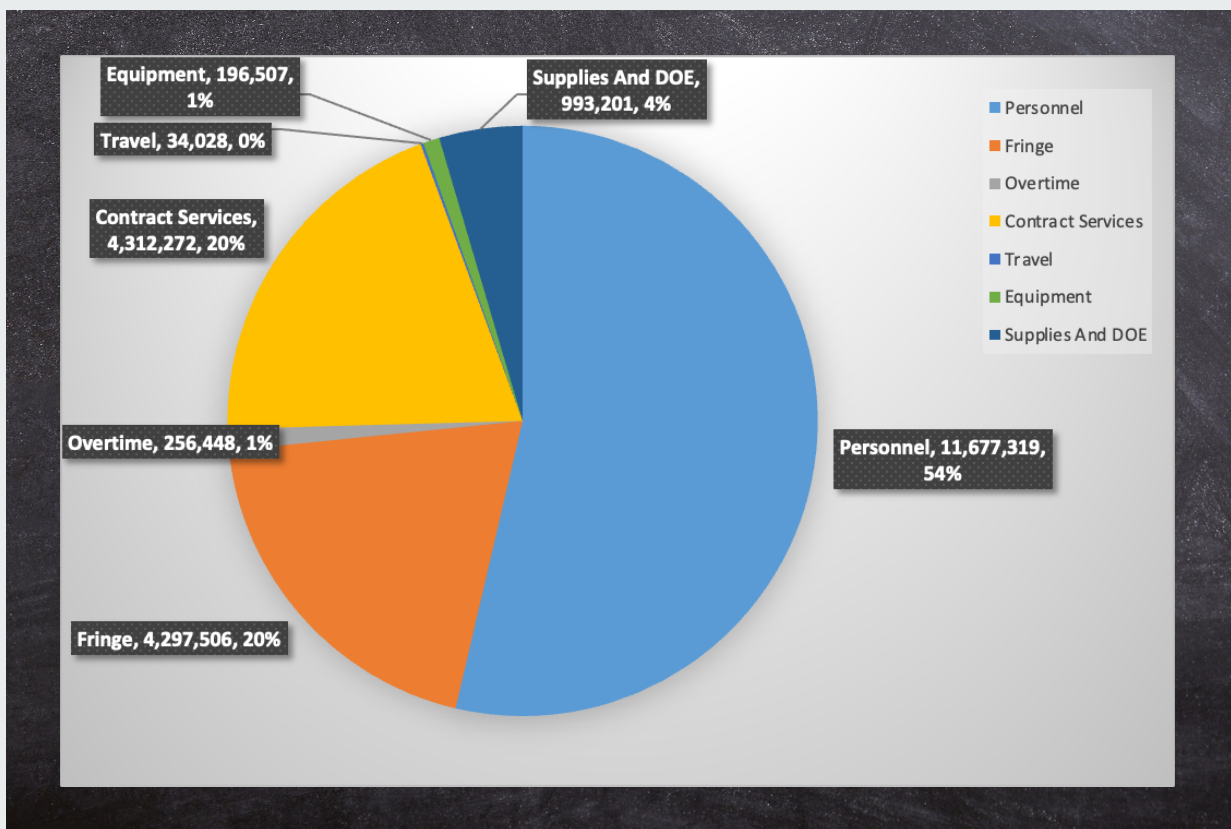
# GRANTEE EXPENSE AND OBLIGATION DETAIL

**FUNDS REPORT- CHART 8: FY21 TASKFORCE GRANT EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Personnel	11,677,319	53.65%
Fringe	4,297,506	19.74%
Overtime	256,448	1.18%
Contract Services	4,312,272	19.81%
Travel	34,028	0.16%
Equipment	196,507	0.90%
Supplies And DOE	993,201	4.56%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>21,767,280</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
In-Kind	9,833,852	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,601,132</b>	

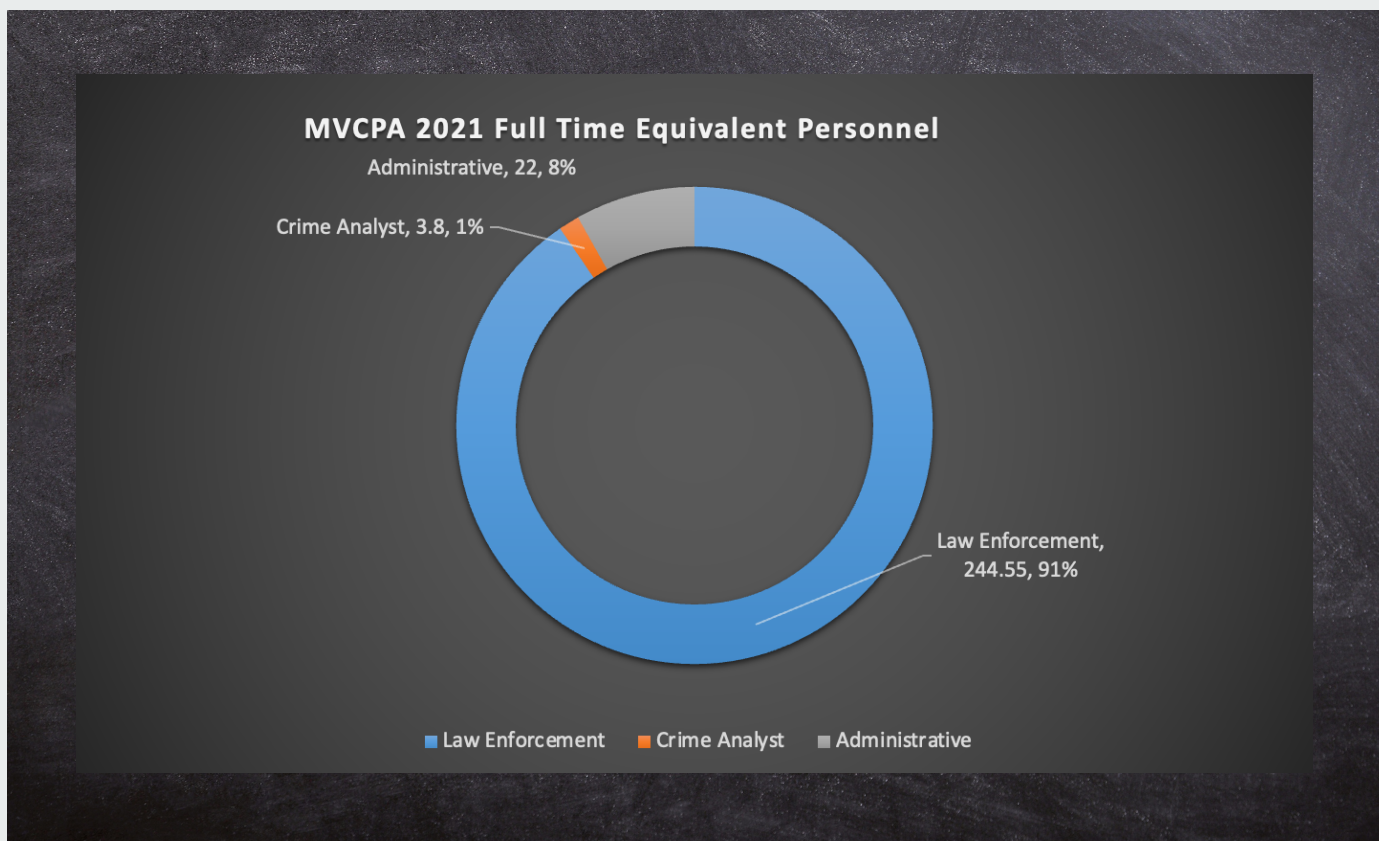
[Apparent errors in addition are due to rounding.]

**FUNDS REPORT- CHART 9: FY21 MVCPA TASKFORCE GRANT EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY**





# GRANTEE EXPENSE AND OBLIGATION DETAIL



# RAPID RESPONSE STRIKEFORCE GRANTS

Under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) to award state grant funds to local law enforcement agencies to support the MVCPA taskforces to combat motor vehicle crime needs in their communities, MVCPA adopted the Rapid Response Strikeforce (RRS) Grant. When the sheriff and police led MVCPA funded taskforces are presented with immediate emergency and exigent needs that are driven by outbreaks of criminal activity, the MVCPA will consider requests for special funding. In FY2021, the MVCPA provided RRS grant funding to allow taskforces to respond to these emergency and exigent needs with overtime and equipment to increase the strength of the taskforces. RRS grants are intended to deliver a short-term infusion of resources to respond to the acute needs of communities not otherwise covered by existing grant programs.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 10: FY21 MVCPA RAPID RESPONSE STRIKEFORCE GRANT EXPENDITURES

Taskforce	Need/ Purpose	Application Received	Award Amount	Expended Amount	OT	Fringe	Equip	Lapse
Houston	Dealer Fraud OT	6/14/2021	\$4,999	\$1,895	\$1,895			\$3,104
Laredo	Stolen Cars Used in Human Trafficking Enf.	6/22/2021	\$39,032	\$39,032	\$29,556	\$9,476		\$0
Eagle Pass	ALPR	6/28/2021	\$48,900	\$48,769			\$48,769	\$131
Dallas, City	High Crime Enf.	5/18/2021	\$50,000	\$20,978	\$20,678	\$300		\$29,022
Lubbock	ALPR	7/1/2021	\$29,960	\$29,960			\$29,960	\$0
Tarrant	Cancelled	7/21/2021	\$4,999	\$0				\$4,999
Burnet	ALPR	7/29/2021	\$29,960	\$29,960			\$29,960	\$0
			<b>\$207,850</b>	<b>\$170,595</b>	<b>\$52,130</b>	<b>\$9,776</b>	<b>\$108,689</b>	<b>\$37,255</b>

Enf.= Enforcement, OT = Overtime. [Apparent errors in addition are due to rounding.]

# LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT GRANTS

The **MVCPA** awarded state grants to the local law enforcement taskforces requires them to collect, report and share data. Texas A&M University was awarded two grants in FY21 to provide support to these law enforcement agencies by providing IT system support for the submission of progress, expenditure, and inventory reports, and to aggregate that data for grant management and state administration purposes.

## FUNDS REPORT- CHART 11: FY21 MVCPA LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT GRANT EXPENDITURES

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Pending</b>	<b>Unexpended Balance</b>
Texas A&M University #1-FY21	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$5,000
Texas A&M University #2-FY22	\$35,000	\$7,500	\$27,500	\$0