

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
4000 Jackson Avenue
Building 1, Lone Star Room
Austin, Texas 78731

1:00 p.m.
Wednesday,
April 16, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair
Charla Brotherton
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano
Scott Jackson
Sharon Jones
Tom Sloan
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

William Diggs, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
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I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum	6
2. Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas	6
3. Chair's Reports	
A. Approval of Transcript as Minutes (January 22, 2025) (ACTION ITEM)	7
B. Chair's Report	--
4. MVCPA Director's Report (BRIEFING ONLY)	7
A. Staffing Update	
B. FY 2025 Budget Overview	
BRIEFING AND ACTION ITEMS	
5. Senate Bill (SB) 224 Plan of Operation	
A. SB 224 Partner Agency Inter-Agency Contract (IAC) update (BRIEFING ONLY)	10
B. SB 224 Advisory Committee Update (BRIEFING ONLY)	12
6. MVCPA's Basic Auto Theft for Patrol Officers (BRIEFING ONLY)	15
7. MVCPA FY23 & FY24 Training Cost Analysis (BRIEFING ONLY)	20
8. MVCPA Conference 2025 (BRIEFING ONLY)	29
9. Hartford Fire Insurance Company Refund Request (ACTION ITEM)	32
10. Ratify extension of certain FY24 SB224 Grants (ACTION ITEM)	35
CLOSED SESSION	
11. The Board may enter into closed session under one or more provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, including but not limited to: Section 551.071 Section 551.074 Section 551.076 Section 551.089	none
12. Action Items from Closed Session	--
13. Public Comment	none
14. Adjournment	44

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Rodriguez, and I'm pleased to open the Board meeting of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

It is 1:08 p.m., and I am now calling the Board meeting for April 16, 2025, to order. I want to note for the record that the public notice of this meeting, containing all items on the agenda, was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on April 7, 2025.

Before we begin today's meeting, please place all cell phones and other communication devices in a silent mode. Also, as a courtesy to others, please do not engage in side conversations in the meeting room.

I want to welcome those who are with us for today's board meeting. If you wish to address the board or speak on an agenda item during today's board meeting, please complete a speaker's sheet at the registration table. Please identify the specific item you are interested in commenting on, your name and address, and whether you are representing anyone or speaking for yourself. If your comment does not pertain to a specific agenda item, we will take your comment during the general public comment portion of the meeting.

In accordance with the department's administrative rule, comments to the board will be limited

1 to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer has
2 been provided at the podium. The timer light will be
3 green for the first two minutes, yellow when the speaker
4 has one minute left, and then red when your time is up.

5 Individuals cannot accumulate time from other
6 speakers. Comments should be pertinent to the issues
7 stated on the comment sheet. When addressing the board,
8 please state your name and affiliation for the record.

9 There are a few things that will assist in
10 making the meeting run smoothly and assist the court
11 reporter in getting an accurate record: please identify
12 yourself before speaking; speak clearly and slowly; do not
13 speak over others; and please ask the chair for permission
14 to speak and be sure to get recognized before speaking.

15 I would like to thank our court reporter who is
16 transcribing this meeting.

17 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
18 presenters and those in attendance of the rules of conduct
19 at our board meetings. In the department's administrative
20 rule, the chair has the authority to supervise the conduct
21 of meetings. This includes the authority to determine
22 when a speaker is being disruptive of the meeting or is
23 otherwise violating the timing or presentation rules I
24 just discussed.

25 And now I'd like to have roll call of the board

1 members. Please respond verbally when I call your name.

2 Board Member Jones?

3 MS. JONES: Present.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Whitehill?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Brotherton?

7 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Cantu Serrano?

9 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Present.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Sloan?

11 MR. SLOAN: Present.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Jackson?

13 MR. JACKSON: Present.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that

15 I, Mike Rodriguez, am here too. We have a quorum.

16 Please all stand and honor our country and

17 state with the pledges of allegiance.

18 (The Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas

19 were recited.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

21 Moving on to agenda item 3, we'll take up

22 agenda item number 3.A, approval of transcript from

23 January 22, 2025, meeting as minutes.

24 Cass, are there any public comments on this?

25 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no

1 comments. Thank you.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, if everyone has
3 reviewed the transcript, would anyone like to make a
4 motion approving the transcript as minutes?

5 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I move
6 that the MVCPA Board approve the transcript as minutes
7 from the January 22, 2025, MVCPA Board meeting.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a motion from Member
9 Brotherton. Do I have a second?

10 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. Second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a second from Board
12 Member Whitehill. Any further discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
15 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
16 vote for the record.

17 Member Jones?

18 MS. JONES: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

20 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

22 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

24 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

1 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

3 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
5 aye.

6 Let the record reflect that there are seven
7 votes for and zero against. The motion passes.

8 I do not have a chair report today, so we are
9 not taking up agenda item 3. We will move to agenda item
10 4. I will turn the meeting over to MVCPA Director William
11 Diggs for agenda items 4.A, staffing update, and 4.B, FY
12 2025 budget overview.

13 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, board
14 members. William Diggs, MVCPA director.

15 On page 4 of your board books, you will find an
16 agenda item 4.A, MVCPA staffing update. I'm happy to
17 report we have all 15 positions filled and we have been
18 completely full. We're fast approaching a year that all
19 staff members are in place. And I have nothing further to
20 report.

21 Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'll go ahead and go to
22 4.B.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Director Diggs.

24 MR. DIGGS: Yes. So I would like to give a
25 quick brief update on our FY25 budget overview for MVCPA.

1 As of September 1, we started our program with
2 \$69.5 million, which includes the following: \$22,945,145
3 in our motor vehicle crime prevention budget -- I'll refer
4 that as our task force budget -- and then \$32,081,526 in
5 the catalytic converter program budget.

6 We had \$5,313,716 that was UB'd forward from
7 our previous year's appropriation from our task force
8 budget. And then we had \$6,181,539 in additional
9 insurance collections in FY24 for the motor vehicle crime
10 prevention budget, again our task force budget. And then
11 we had \$3,065,136 in additional insurance collections in
12 FY24 for the catalytic converter program.

13 The total estimated motor vehicle crime
14 prevention budget, our task force budget, for FY25 is
15 estimated to be \$34,440,395. Our task force grants
16 equaled \$25,429,698. Our total estimated operating cost
17 for FY25 is a little over \$1.5 million. This leaves a
18 remaining estimated in our task force budget of \$7.5
19 million.

20 And our catalytic converter program strategy
21 for FY25, our budget is estimated to be \$35,146,662. We
22 have grants totaling -- including negotiations, for FY25,
23 our first round was \$7.2 million. And then in our second
24 round of catalytic converter funding for FY25, including
25 negotiations, was just over \$6 million.

1 And our partner agency budget, which includes
2 Texas DPS, TDLR and Texas DMV, we have \$5.7 million. And
3 then for our interagency contract for Texas DPS, our
4 second interagency contract during FY25, we have a little
5 over \$5.6 million.

6 Our total estimated operating cost is just
7 under \$600,000. This leaves us an estimated remaining
8 catalytic converter budget of \$9.8 million.

9 Again, these are estimates. These estimates
10 change as we navigate insurance collections, refunds, and
11 other operating costs, but those are the dollars as we
12 know them today.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs, these are
14 numbers that are going to be available for the upcoming
15 applications, this is what we're talking about, or this is
16 for the '24-25?

17 MR. DIGGS: This is for FY25. This is where
18 we're at today. And there will be more information in
19 July for FY26 after we navigate -- continued our insurance
20 collections in our first round and then also the second
21 round of insurance collections during this fiscal year.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We already opened the auto
23 theft applications. Right?

24 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir. That actually closes on
25 Friday for task force budgets, task force RFAs. And we've

1 opened our catalytic converter funding RFA as of yesterday
2 for FY26.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you know the amount of
4 applicants that applied for task force auto theft?

5 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, we do. We had a total of
6 34, and this is as of a couple of days ago. Obviously,
7 our current task forces all reapplied and then we had
8 three new requests come out of the North Texas area.

9 And then we had one other request that was just
10 equipment, there was no FTEs, and so it really didn't kind
11 of fit the requirement of what a task force would look
12 like. So we made some phone calls and directed them they
13 may want to look closer at our SB 224 RFA for equipment
14 and technology.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Diggs.

18 Moving on to agenda item 5, SB 224 plan of
19 operation. This is a briefing only. Agenda item 5.A, SB
20 224 partner interagency contract update.

21 We'll now move on to agenda item 5.A and we'll
22 turn the meeting over to Director Diggs.

23 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon. William Diggs,
24 MVCPA director.

25 On page 11 of your board books you will find

1 agenda item 5.A, SB 224 IAC updates. This includes Texas
2 DPS and TDLR. They continue their efforts in hiring and
3 equipment, staff in support of all SB 224 activities.

4 I'm real happy to report over at the Texas DPS
5 in the Regulatory Services Section, they have hired all of
6 the FTEs that they were asking to hire with the funding
7 that they've been provided, which is a little over \$1.7
8 million. They have five field program investigators in
9 the Dallas region, they have five in the Houston region,
10 they have two in the San Antonio region, they have one
11 down in the Valley in Weslaco, and then they have one way
12 out west in El Paso. And they've actually also got a
13 couple of case support specialists assigned to the Austin
14 headquarters area.

15 So DPS is moving ahead, getting everybody in
16 place. They've also got vehicles on order and just
17 waiting delivery.

18 TDLR, I believe they've also got their four
19 FTEs hired that we are supporting with just a little over
20 half a million dollars in other equipment and training.

21 And I will close; that will be the end of my
22 update.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Diggs.

24 We will now move on to agenda item 5.B, and I
25 will turn the meeting over to Major Sharon Jones.

1 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, this morning the
2 Senate Bill 224 Committee met. Presenting agencies were
3 Seguin, Prosper, Cibolo, and Elgin Police Department.
4 They were excellent presentations on the usage of the
5 funds and how they are taking care of their communities
6 with the funds that were awarded to them.

7 In addition to the presentations, we had an
8 excellent discussion on the lack of central reporting
9 entity or agency for catalytic converters. Once they're
10 seized, reported stolen, recovered, there is no central
11 reporting agency for those numbers. In addition, there is
12 no requirement for law enforcement to report catalytic
13 converter thefts.

14 And we also had a discussion regarding
15 destruction orders versus asset forfeitures. So great
16 discussion on all parties involved. And so from that
17 meeting, we're going to have a subcommittee and that
18 subcommittee will explore thoughts, ideas, suggestions,
19 solutions for legislative purposes for the next session.
20 And in addition to that, that committee will not be the
21 traditional recorded open meeting type of committee, so
22 there wouldn't be a need for all of the court reporting,
23 that will not be necessary.

24 And then we will just meet as needed through
25 the state, wherever we need to go, the task force

1 commanders, wherever we're meeting, they will be involved,
2 definitely want input from them. And then the goal is to
3 have a report for the board in July at our annual
4 conference.

5 And that's the end of my report, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Major Jones.

7 So I have a question, on the question about the
8 funding for SB 224, I know that there was some language in
9 that legislative piece that came out of the legislature
10 where it also states we can also use that funding towards
11 the auto theft problem which is motor vehicle crime in
12 general. Correct?

13 And this is where I'm moving, looking at the
14 budget that we're looking at for FY25, being that almost
15 every city in our state is being hit by, you know, the
16 same offenders -- and when I'm talking about the same
17 offenders, we see joy riding, we still see those Hyundais
18 they're still stealing, and those Kias and all that stuff
19 that comes our way -- but we're also talking about the
20 repeat offenders that continue to take these vehicles into
21 Mexico.

22 And we talked about this briefly, but I know
23 that one of the things that we would like to see on SB 224
24 as well is also, being that the cartels have been
25 designated as terrorist organizations and the fact that

1 we're targeting all these individuals that are taking
2 firearms into Mexico and taking other things to support
3 the cartels' agenda, one of the big things that they take
4 from us here in the U.S. and the State of Texas is the GMC
5 Sierra, Tahoe, Suburban motor vehicles.

6 So if we can look into drafting something where
7 we can allow for that to be put into those requests to
8 support our task forces in that situation where we know
9 that they continue having these problems, especially in
10 the area of Houston and San Antonio and those areas that
11 we know, Lubbock continues to be hit, Midland-Odessa, all
12 these cities that we know are getting hit by these
13 individuals, to fund them for whatever it is that can put
14 as a plan of operation. The objective is to deter and
15 also to make sure that we stop the flow of stolen vehicles
16 into Mexico.

17 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director.

18 So, Chief, we actually did navigate some
19 language similar to that in support of traditional motor
20 vehicle theft in this RFA that is on the street for FY26
21 SB 224 grantee applications.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And so for the task force
23 commanders that are here, I know that it was already put
24 in place and to just kind of look into those applications
25 when you're submitting under the SB 224 you have that

1 language in there. If there is an operation, if there's
2 some sort of strategic plan that you have to combat the
3 issue that we have right now with those individuals,
4 please bring it forward so that we can address it and
5 making sure that if the funding is available that we can
6 provide you with some funding.

7 Also, going alongside the committee for SB 224,
8 I know that we've been working on several plan of
9 operations and things like that -- we also talk about a
10 border security committee. And we would like to see maybe
11 the next meeting we can bring it as an agenda item to talk
12 about implementing that and moving forward, invite those
13 commanders that are very involved with border security and
14 then bring in those commanders in those cities that are
15 being affected to make sure that we collaborate and then
16 we share intel. But more than anything, where the gaps
17 are at, especially in those areas that we know that we're
18 not visible. So we need to bring it back as an agenda
19 item and see if we can talk about it.

20 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We will now move on to
22 agenda item 6, and I will turn the meeting over to Senior
23 Law Enforcement Trainer Herman Adair.

24 MR. ADAIR: Afternoon, Chairman, Board. Herman
25 Adair, MVCPA law enforcement trainer, for the record.

1 First off, Chief Rodriguez, I want to first
2 commend your folks that helped us with our Part One school
3 in Laredo two months ago. Commander Tovar and Sergeant
4 Solis, they bent over backwards for us and we really do
5 appreciate very much.

6 So let's talk about what we're here for. So
7 the law enforcement training division, we have put
8 together a basic auto theft class. The purpose is for us
9 to take this class out to parts of Texas that don't have
10 access to either an auto theft task force, they don't have
11 access to any of this training, or maybe even it's a
12 department that doesn't have any kind of a training
13 budget.

14 So basically what we need is a classroom and an
15 ability to show a PowerPoint presentation, and we can
16 accept all the students possible because we're not doing
17 any kind of hands-on. And again, this is just a basic
18 class; it's not something that we're going to try and make
19 an auto theft investigator out of. We just want to give
20 them some basic information, so again, the basic
21 knowledge.

22 We hope that maybe this can be a class that we
23 can be the spark that lights a fire in some of these
24 students that later down the road they end up like our
25 task force commanders over here, that they found a class

1 and it lit the fire in them.

2 The other thing is is we want the officer
3 patrol deputy, we want them to look beyond just a traffic
4 stop, just a citation, just an expired registration. I
5 look back when I first hit patrol and there's no telling
6 how many stolen trailers, trucks, equipment that I let go
7 because that's not what I was looking for. So we want
8 this to kind of give them the idea to look a little
9 further.

10 Also, it informs the patrol officer or deputy
11 of the laws and procedures for seizure of property and
12 when to seize. So back to that same scenario, they make a
13 traffic stop on a trailer that they're looking at expired
14 registration, but they didn't notice the scratched off VIN
15 which had been removed or obliterated which gives them the
16 authority to seize that and treat it as stolen property.
17 So it will kind of open their eyes to that as well.

18 But ultimately, what it will do is it will show
19 the deputy or the patrol officer -- they'll get to the
20 point that, okay, I need to contact an auto theft person,
21 whether it be a local task force or their local auto theft
22 person. Or in some cases way out in West Texas and other
23 locations, it's their local NICB agent, which we want to
24 give them that information in these classes as well.

25 So the course objectives is we'll better

1 understand the VIN/HIN/PIN structure. So for those of you
2 not aware, a VIN, of course, is your vehicle
3 identification number, a HIN has to do with watercraft, so
4 it's your hull identification number. And then PIN is
5 equipment, heavy equipment, farm equipment, they have a
6 product identification number. And we just break down the
7 structure for them so they understand what the characters
8 mean.

9 Recognize good and altered VIN, and of course,
10 that's covered on vehicles, motorcycles, trailers,
11 equipment. Understand salvage and VIN switches and cloned
12 vehicles, which, of course, cloned vehicles are huge right
13 now, it's a huge thing.

14 Stand by, please.

15 (Pause for technical difficulties.)

16 MR. ADAIR: Let's see if we can get past this.

17 We'll properly ID certain vehicles by VIN
18 plates, federal safety certification labels and various
19 information stickers. Have an understanding why catalytic
20 converters are stolen, basically give them the whys and
21 hows. And then clues to lead an officer to a stolen
22 vehicle; ultimately, that's what we want the whole class
23 to do.

24 So the topics that we will hit is pretty much
25 everything I just said. Arson and insurance fraud, we'll

1 look at some boats, watercraft, motorcycles, ATVs and
2 UTVs, light duty trailers, and of course, the authority to
3 seize. That's the first portion of the day, that's the
4 first four hours.

5 When we come back from lunch, we will look at
6 fraudulent documents, of course, fake titles and how the
7 follow these cloned vehicles. And then we'll cover the
8 House Bill 718 new plates. This is probably the most
9 requested class we have from across the board; the
10 commanders, the task force members, they want to know
11 about these new plates.

12 And then we close it out with an MVCPA
13 overview. So a big purpose of that is the fact that some
14 of these people in far-reaching places have never heard of
15 MVCPA. So maybe by the end of some of these classes,
16 we'll have some new applicants for MVCPA as well.

17 Scheduled training. So we actually did the
18 four-hour portion last month at the Game Warden Academy;
19 we got invited to teach the basic auto theft. Great
20 class, great cadets.

21 The following week, I received an email from
22 the lieutenant over the training asking if we'd be willing
23 to come back and teach in the next academy. So we got
24 invited back, so I think that says something, I hope.

25 So what we do have scheduled for June, June 5

1 we will be in Brewster County out in Alpine and we will be
2 holding a class at the Sul Ross University. They have a
3 classroom for us there. The great part about this is this
4 will be for state, local and federal because we'll have
5 the police departments, we'll have the sheriff's office,
6 we'll have DPS, we'll have game warden, and we will have
7 CBP there as well. CBP is very big in the Alpine/Brewster
8 County area.

9 That's kind of what we have going for the basic
10 auto theft, and we just kind of want to spread this out to
11 wherever we can. It's a lot of the same class that a lot
12 of our task forces also teach, but we want to be able to
13 take it out to places where they don't reach. So that's
14 our purpose.

15 So once again, here at the training team, if
16 y'all ever need anything, y'all know how to reach us. So
17 thank y'all very much.

18 Do y'all have any questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. ADAIR: Perfect.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Herman.

22 All right. Moving on to agenda item 7, MVCPA
23 FY23-FY24 training cost analysis, Grant Auditors Lauren
24 Williams and Sterling Fielder.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Lauren Williams, MVCPA grant

1 auditor.

2 Today we'll be going over the FY23 and FY24
3 training analysis. We'll give a little bit of a breakdown
4 of different training expenses for both of these fiscal
5 years.

6 This was prepared by myself, as well as
7 Sterling Fielder, who is not here to join us today.
8 Regardless, she's the other grant auditor.

9 So let's start with some background. Grantee
10 training costs can be found in two different budget
11 categories, the first one being travel. Here you'll find
12 room, board, and transportation costs, and you'll also
13 find these expenses in SEOE. These will be like dues or
14 registration fees, things of that nature.

15 When taking a look at this analysis, there's
16 three key questions that we really want to take a look at:
17 first, how much funding was allocated to specific
18 trainings in both FY23 and FY24; how many individuals did
19 this allocated funding provide training opportunities to;
20 and where do we have room for greater efficiencies.

21 So we'll begin with the data collection and
22 analysis process. First, we analyzed training costs as
23 budgeted on applications rather than as expended. This
24 was both for the sake of time as well as clarity, and
25 really gave us a look at what our grantees were budgeting

1 rather than expending, so then that way we could derive
2 more results later and take a deeper look at things at a
3 latter point.

4 The data collection process, first we
5 downloaded all travel and SEOE budget categories from FY23
6 and FY24 approved applications. At that point we were
7 able to go through each of these line by line,
8 categorizing them as training related expenditures or as
9 other expenditures. Any line item that was then
10 categorized as training was moved into subcategories.

11 These subcategories were IAATI training, TAVTI
12 training, MVCPA training, other training, or unspecified
13 training. I'll get into a little bit of what those last
14 two mean later, shed a little bit more light on that.

15 And from this point the number of personnel per
16 training opportunity were extracted from those approved
17 applications where possible. Again, I can give you a
18 little bit more context there in a second and explain what
19 I mean by that.

20 As far as data analysis goes, after completion
21 of the data collection and categorization, our focus
22 shifted towards data analysis, figuring out what this
23 means to us. Totals for each training subcategory were
24 calculated, along with the total number of personnel
25 trained per subcategory, again, where possible. And then

1 this data was used to draw greater conclusions: training
2 subcategories as a percentage of total training costs;
3 training subcategories as a percentage of our total grant
4 awards; and cost of training per personnel trained.

5 Let's begin with FY23 and our training costs
6 here. Our total FY23 budgeted training costs were
7 \$168,929. Broken down, IAATI was about \$20,445 worth of
8 our approved applications. This provided opportunity, I
9 guess I should say, to 31 grant personnel, which equals
10 just about \$660 per personnel trained.

11 TAVTI was a little bit higher at \$91,372, but
12 100 grant personnel were trained with these funds. MVCPA
13 training cost is about \$28,752, based on approved
14 applications, whereas, other training was \$16,876.

15 As promised, I'll let y'all know what that
16 means. So other training is specified trainings in those
17 applications that don't fall into the other three above
18 categories. So this is, again, training listed by name
19 that just doesn't exist in these other three, so we know
20 exactly where they're going in that case.

21 And then unspecified is more generalized
22 training, some placeholder and some, again, maybe that's
23 finance training is what we're seeing in an application
24 like that, or task force training. So it's more
25 generalized, but we usually have some sort of idea what

1 we're seeing there.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: IAATI versus TAVTI, right, so
3 in the International Association of Auto Theft
4 Investigators we've got about \$659 per person, versus the
5 Texas one at \$913 per person. Is there a reason why, is
6 it the travel that changed?

7 MS. WILLIAMS: It could be a multitude of
8 factors.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Registration?

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, we could be seeing
11 registration, length of travel, means of travel. So if
12 there's any flights related, as well as the length of the
13 conferences and the length of the training, more time,
14 more per diem, things of that nature. I do, again, have
15 this raw data that we've extracted and then we've kind of
16 expounded upon, so if you have any kind of very specific
17 questions, I'm absolutely happy to pull that up and we can
18 chat through it on a break.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: So our total budgeted FY24
21 training costs are \$461,584. This number is higher, let's
22 first address that, but please keep in mind that this
23 includes costs budgeted for both task force grants and SB
24 224 grants, which we did not see in FY23, so this does
25 cover two grants.

1 IAATI was \$31,894, with 18 personnel trained,
2 TAVTI \$129,112, with 150 personnel trained, MVCPA
3 \$118,611. Those other trainings were a little bit higher
4 at \$107,110, and our unspecified trainings were \$74,857.

5 And again, here off to the right you can kind
6 of see a breakdown of these percentages. I forgot to
7 touch on that in the last slide. This does exist for FY23
8 as well, so if y'all want to go back and take a look at
9 that, I'd be more than happy to oblige.

10 And here is represented our training costs as a
11 percentage of our total budgets. So this is here FY23 as
12 well as FY24 on the right, so you can see the total
13 training budgets in FY23 at \$168,929 and FY24 budget at
14 \$461,584, and then you can see our total grant budgets
15 there at the bottom in the orange section. So they are
16 just a small sliver of the expenses that we're looking at
17 in our approved applications, but again, something that we
18 wanted to expound upon.

19 With all this being said, we can now discuss
20 our process improvements and where we have room to drive a
21 little bit greater efficiency.

22 We have a total unspecified training for an
23 unknown number of people between both years, FY23 and
24 FY24, of around \$43,000. This, of course, does not
25 include the specified trainings for an unspecified number

1 of people, or vice versa.

2 Moving forward, if the requirements for
3 specification are greater, Sterling and I anticipate that
4 a few things will happen. First, grantees will preplan
5 training. This will increase budget accuracy and improve
6 likelihood of attendance. Of course, if you say you're
7 going to be there, you sign up, you're more likely to want
8 to take advantage of that training.

9 Second, placeholder, for lack of other term,
10 budget subcategories will be removed. This will require
11 grantees to submit a budget adjustment for training
12 opportunities, again, requiring commitment on behalf of
13 our grantees and letting us know exactly where we can see
14 the trainings occurring.

15 And third, the MVCPA will know where the
16 funding is going. Of course, this is important in
17 general, but our applications will become much more
18 accurate and our audit quality will improve. As Sterling
19 and I know exactly where the funding is supposed to be
20 going and exactly what training opportunities are supposed
21 to be received as a result of that funding, we know what
22 we're looking for on the back-end which will be incredibly
23 important, of course, to us and for all the results
24 derived for our task forces.

25 That is the end of my analysis, but of course,

1 any questions is always welcomed from you all.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Going back to the percentage
3 total that is used from our budget for training, is that
4 something that you see across the board in other state
5 agencies?

6 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm not sure on that answer; I'd
7 have to look into it and get back to you.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, director, MVCPA.

11 Chief and board members, I just wanted to say
12 that after we started some conversations about this, I
13 wanted to do the deep dive into it. I feel like we're
14 getting some good bang for the buck as far as making sure
15 that we've got our investigators that we're supporting
16 well trained and well equipped to go out there and
17 navigate statute and any issues that they encounter out
18 there with techniques that they need, the specialized
19 techniques that they need to have for motor vehicle crime
20 investigation. So I think that we're doing a good job.

21 I think through the work that Lauren and
22 Sterling have done and Dan has done, we found a way we can
23 even fine-tune our processes to be more efficient. And so
24 overall, I think we're doing a great job. And that's why
25 I wanted to bring this to the board today to show the work

1 that we've actually been doing and the fact that we are
2 navigating a really precise way of keeping up with where
3 these dollars are going and why they're going where they
4 are. So I feel good about what we're doing today, and
5 we'll even do better.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think this is a reason
7 why we wanted to have a clear picture as to where we at
8 when it comes to the funding for training. Right? And I
9 think training is our most important part of what we do.

10 We need to train to make sure that we become
11 more efficient and at the end of the day we know what
12 we're doing. Right? But I know going back to the
13 trainings that we've been giving, I want to see maybe, you
14 know -- looking at the cost for training, I strongly
15 believe that we're doing really good and we're being very
16 conservative in the spending for training.

17 So I'm going to recommend to Herman and the
18 team, and you as well, Director Diggs, that maybe we can
19 also include not only the auto theft part trainings and
20 things like that, but also mental wellness, physical
21 wellness in those trainings, incorporate something like
22 that. As we all know in this room that we're losing more
23 officers to suicide than officer-involved shootings, so we
24 want to incorporate something to that effect so that we
25 also have that in our trainings that we end up taking care

1 of the investigator himself and knowing that this job is
2 second, family is first, yourself is first, and then this
3 is second. Right?

4 And so we need to continue pushing --
5 especially with this new generation, we need to continue
6 letting them know that they need to take care of
7 themselves. And so that training component, I think, is
8 very important that we incorporate it within our trainings
9 because we know of many police departments and sheriff's
10 departments that they're trying to incorporate it but
11 sometimes it's a need. Right?

12 Right now there's a need for this. So let's
13 see if we can incorporate something like that so we can
14 help our investigators and our commanders to navigate
15 through the day-in and day-out of what we do.

16 MR. DIGGS: Yes, sir, we'll do. And Herman is
17 back there listening and taking good notes, and we'll
18 absolutely do that and I totally agree. Thank you for
19 that.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Lauren.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Moving on to agenda item 8,
24 MVCPA Conference 2025, briefing only.

25 Major Sharon Jones.

1 MS. JONES: At our upcoming conference, which
2 is the week of July 13 in Fort Worth, part of the
3 conference is going to include our committee meetings and
4 our board meeting. And so Mr. Diggs, just so that the
5 task forces are prepared beforehand, they need to have a
6 PowerPoint -- present PowerPoint, and also expect to, in
7 that PowerPoint and in their discussions, explain how the
8 drones that were granted to them, drone usage, how that is
9 taking care of combating a problem, and also with that,
10 social media, how they're using social media.

11 Because in the January awards, there were some
12 agencies who did not have catalytic converter thefts, but
13 they were going to use the money for the continuance to
14 make sure that that's taken care of in the cities, which
15 we absolutely want to see. But also want to be able to
16 see that social media plan that just about all of them
17 discussed.

18 MR. DIGGS: Yes, ma'am. We'll actually do
19 that. And we heard some fantastic information from the
20 City of Prosper this morning as it relates to drone usage.

21 What an exciting time to make our communities
22 safer with the drones that we're actually supporting
23 around the state. And we'll absolutely -- I've got folks
24 in here taking notes and we'll make sure as we navigate
25 the FY26 presentations that we relay to all these

1 commanders that you've got to have some of that
2 information in there so they can explain it.

3 Thank you for that direction.

4 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. And that also speaks to
5 what the chairman, his perspective and his idea about the
6 border security committee because all those pursuits and
7 those stolens, some of those are captured on video.

8 So it will be great for law enforcement, we see
9 that all the time, but for the committee members who are
10 non law enforcement, it will be great for them to actually
11 see that connection where it's consistently every day --
12 it doesn't always make the news, but consistently there's
13 always a pursuit. There's always a stolen.

14 Let's connect the dots with the equipment that
15 we have granted funds for. Let's connect those dots.
16 Whether it's by Vigilant, Flock, whatever means necessary,
17 let's connect those dots for everyone and for those who
18 are always listening in.

19 MR. DIGGS: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Sharon.

22 We're going to take a ten-minute break. It is
23 1:55. Can we all be back at 2:05, please.

24 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. We are back in

1 session. It is 2:15 p.m.

2 We will now move on to agenda item number 9,
3 insurance fee fund request, Hartford Fire Insurance
4 Company. I will turn it over to MVCPA Audit Manager Dan
5 Price.

6 MR. PRICE: This is Dan Price, MVCPA audit
7 manager, for the record.

8 We have one insurance refund request that has
9 been processed in excess of the dollar mount which was
10 approved for the director to do. That is for Hartford
11 Fire Insurance Company. It's on page 33 of your board
12 books.

13 The explanation from Hartford was that they had
14 one vehicle where the number of vehicles was actually mis-
15 typed and they typed in the number of miles that that
16 vehicle had driven the previous year as opposed to the
17 number of vehicles on the policy, and that actually made
18 it all the way through the process from the actuaries to
19 the people who do the compliance reporting, and they paid
20 a \$5 fee for each mile that that vehicle drove. Sounded
21 like a great idea to me, but didn't get a vote on that.

22 Anyway, so they figured that out, they want a
23 refund of \$69,755. On page 34 you have their actual
24 application for the refund of the fee for that six-month
25 period. The explanation is on page 35.

1 On page 36 you'll see the original amount that
2 they reported and paid, you'll see the documentation of
3 the amount that was originally paid to know that we
4 actually got that money.

5 So we do have an amended return from them which
6 we will submit to the Comptroller's Office, pending your
7 approval, and we are recommending approval of \$69,755 to
8 Hartford Fire Insurance Company for their overpayment of
9 the MVCPA fee in the first half of 2024.

10 Any questions?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Diggs.

12 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
13 the record.

14 Chief Rodriguez, other board members, what you
15 heard Mr. Price say, he spoke about how this error
16 occurred. Right? I'm in support of the refund today, but
17 there's human error in the collections of our fee with
18 multi-million dollar insurance companies at times.

19 And so I just would like to point that out that
20 these errors occur, and I would like to say it's uncommon
21 but it's possible that it's not. And so I did want to
22 just mention that.

23 But I am in support of this refund for
24 Hartford, and I appreciate the work that Dan and his staff
25 have done on this.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Director Diggs.

2 Any questions for Mr. Price?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Cass, are there any public
5 comments?

6 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no
7 comments.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: This requires a motion, I believe,
10 does it not?

11 MR. RICHARDS: We'll get to that.

12 MR. PRICE: Okay, sorry.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Taking it slow, Dan, taking it
14 slow.

15 (General laughter.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So at this time, Board Members
17 Brotherton and Jackson will need to recuse themselves from
18 this agenda item, in accordance with statute.

19 I will now entertain a motion on agenda item 9.

20 MR. SLOAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board
21 approve the refund request from the Hartford Insurance
22 Company for the first half of 2024 in the amount of
23 \$69,755.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
25 Member Sloan. Do I have a second?

1 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. Second.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second from Member Whitehill.

3 I will now call for the vote. Board members,
4 when I call your name, please state your vote for the
5 record.

6 Board Member Jones?

7 MS. JONES: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Whitehill?

9 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Serrano?

11 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board Member Sloan?

13 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez vote
15 aye. Let the record reflect that there are five votes for
16 and zero against. The motion passes.

17 Thank you, Mr. Price.

18 Agenda item 10, ratify extension of certain
19 FY24 SB 224 grants. This is an action item, and I will
20 turn the meeting over to MVCPA Director William Diggs.

21 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. William
22 Diggs, director, MVCPA.

23 On page 38 of your board books, you will find
24 agenda item 10. It is for FY24 SB 224 grant award
25 extensions. Some external factors prohibited grantees

1 from moving forward with the purchases of equipment and
2 technology, predominantly LPR technology, after the FY24
3 awards were made.

4 We made an informed decision to extend the
5 below grants for the respective periods of time. This
6 makes sense to me. There were some things that occurred
7 for our grantees to be able to move forward with their
8 plans, and I believe this is the right thing to do.

9 I've made these extensions and I ask that the
10 board today ratify the following:

11 The City of Andrews, six months;
12 The City of Beaumont, nine months;
13 The City of Carrollton, nine months;
14 The City of Converse, six months;
15 The City of Corpus Christi, six months;
16 The City of El Paso, nine months;
17 The City of Farmers Branch, nine months;
18 The city of Frisco, nine months;
19 Johnson County, nine months;
20 The City of La Marque, nine months;
21 Lubbock County, nine months;
22 Montgomery County, nine months;
23 Polk County, six months;
24 The City of Refugio, six months;
25 The City of Sunset Valley; six months;

1 The Town of Prosper, six months;
2 The City of Wichita Falls, nine months;
3 The City of Brownsville, nine months;
4 The City of Dallas, nine months;
5 The City of Eagle Pass, nine months;
6 Harris County, six months;
7 Hidalgo County, nine months;
8 The City of Houston, nine months;
9 The City of Laredo, nine months;
10 The City of New Braunfels, nine months;
11 The City of Pasadena, six months;
12 Potter County, nine months;
13 Smith County, six months;
14 And Galveston County, six months.
15 I ask that the MVCPA Board ratify the decision
16 to extend these grants for those certain periods of time.
17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Diggs.
18 Are there any questions from board members?
19 (No response.)
20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Cass, are there any public
21 comments?
22 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no
23 comments.
24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now entertain a motion
25 on agenda item 10.

1 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, Sharon Jones, for the
2 record. I move that the board ratify the decision made by
3 the MVCPA director to extend the grant periods of the
4 grantees listed on page 38 and 39 of the board book.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Board
6 Member Jones. Do I have a second?

7 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Cantu Serrano. I second.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have second from Board Member
9 Cantu Serrano. Any further discussion?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I will now call for the vote.
12 Board members, when I call your name, please state your
13 vote for the record.

14 Member Jones?

15 MS. JONES: Aye.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

17 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

19 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

21 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

23 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

25 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
2 aye. Let the record reflect that there are seven votes
3 for and zero against. The motion passes.

4 On this item, I know that we already voted on
5 this, but just wanted to convey to the commanders that we
6 will be in the near future going to visit with them at
7 their AORs, and making sure that we sit down and have
8 conversations as to what is it, where is a need, where the
9 gaps are at, and see how they're doing with their new
10 tools and equipment that they bought through MVCPA
11 funding.

12 I know that I did that back maybe three or four
13 years ago when I went to Montgomery County, I went to
14 Houston. I went to those agencies where we sat down and
15 just talked about what the new trends are and things like
16 that. You know, we can talk about them when we're here
17 but I think going over with those agencies and having a
18 sit-down and talking about where is the need and things
19 like that, I think it's important.

20 So I'm thinking of when we go into the Dallas-
21 Fort Worth area to involve Member Whitehill and Member
22 Charla Brotherton, and the same thing with Member Jones
23 and Member Sloan, to go together and making sure, without
24 a quorum, of course, not having a quorum there, but
25 sitting down and talking to them. And also, the members

1 from like Deer Park, Cantu Serrano, inviting her over and
2 having those conversations with those agencies, also, with
3 Member Jackson.

4 So having those conversations, I think we
5 learned a lot. I learned a lot when I went there. And so
6 in the near future we're going to start doing that and
7 giving them plenty of updates as to when we're going to do
8 that.

9 But more than anything, it's just to have those
10 conversations. It's not an audit, it's not to go and see
11 what they're doing, it's mainly just to have a
12 conversation, a sit-down and finding out what the need is,
13 and in the future also preparing for 2026 and beyond.

14 With that being said, we do not have any items
15 for closed session today.

16 So we are moving on to public comments.

17 Cass, are there any public comments for agenda
18 item 13?

19 MS. FLINT: Mr. Chairman, there are no public
20 comments. Thank you.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Agenda item 14, adjournment.
22 If there's no further business, I would like to entertain
23 a motion to adjourn.

24 MR. JACKSON: Member Jackson motions to
25 adjourn.

1 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion from Member Jackson
3 and a second from Member Brotherton.

4 Board members, when I call your name, please
5 state your vote for the record.

6 Member Jones?

7 MS. JONES: Aye.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Whitehill?

9 MS. WHITEHILL: Aye.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez? There's no
11 Member Gonzalez. Julio is not here anymore.

12 MS. JONES: Yes, he is.

13 (General laughter.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: He is? Okay.

15 Member Brotherton?

16 MS. BROTHERTON: Aye.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Cantu Serrano?

18 MS. CANTU SERRANO: Aye.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Sloan?

20 MR. SLOAN: Aye.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jackson?

22 MR. JACKSON: Aye.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
24 aye. Let the record reflect the vote was unanimous.

25 It is now 2:27 p.m. This meeting is adjourned.

1 (Whereupon, at 2:27 p.m., the meeting was
2 adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: TxDMV MVCPA Board

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: April 16, 2025

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 43, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: April 29, 2025

/s/ Nancy King
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
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