

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

GRANTS BUDGET and REPORTING (GBR)
COMMITTEE MEETING

Hilton Palacio del Rio
200 S. Alamo Street
Salons A, B and C
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Via Microsoft Teams and in person

9:00 a.m.
Thursday,
January 16, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sharon Jones, Chair
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano (absent)
Tom Sloan

STAFF:

William Diggs, MVCPA Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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CLOSED SESSION	
7. The Committee may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Chapter 551: Section 551.071 Section 551.074 Section 551.076 Section 551.089	none
8. Action Items from Closed Session	none
9. Public Comment	none
10. Adjournment	--

P R O C E E D I N G S

(9:09 a.m.)

1
2
3 MS. JONES: My name is Sharon Jones, and I'm
4 pleased to open the meeting of the Grants, Budget and
5 Reporting Committee of the Board of the Motor Vehicle
6 Crime Prevention Authority.

7 It is 9:09 a.m., and I am now calling this
8 committee meeting for January 16 and 17, 2025 to order. I
9 want to note for the record that the public notice of this
10 meeting, containing all items on the agenda, was filed
11 with the Secretary of State on December 30, 2024.

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

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

1 In accordance with the department's
2 administrative rule, comments to the committee will be
3 limited to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer
4 has been provided at the podium. The timer light will be
5 green for the first two minutes, when the speaker has one
6 minute left, then red will appear when the speaker's time
7 is up. Individuals cannot accumulate time from other
8 speakers and comments should be pertinent to the issues
9 stated on the comment sheet.

10 When addressing the committee, please state
11 your name and affiliation for the record. There are a few
12 things that will help to make the meeting run smoothly and
13 assist the court reporter to get an accurate record:
14 please identify yourself when speaking, speak clearly and
15 slowly, do not speak over others, and ask the chair for
16 permission to speak and be sure to get recognized before
17 speaking.

18 I would like to thank our court reporter who is
19 transcribing this meeting.

20 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
21 presenters and those in attendance of the rules of conduct
22 at our committee meetings. In the department's
23 administrative rule, the chair has the authority to
24 supervise the conduct of meetings. This includes the
25 authority to determine when a speaker is being disruptive

1 of the meeting or is otherwise violating the timing or
2 presentation rules I just discussed.

3 The posted agenda stated that a quorum of the
4 MVCPA Board may be present at this meeting, however, board
5 members who are not members of the Grants, Budget and
6 Reporting Committee will not vote on any committee agenda
7 item today, nor will any board action be taken.

8 I see that Board Member Tom Sloan is present
9 for discussion and gathering information.

10 I will now move on to agenda item number 1,
11 roll call and establishment of quorum. And now I would
12 like to have a roll call for the committee members.
13 Please respond verbally when I call your name.

14 Member Sloan, are you present?

15 MR. SLOAN: Present.

16 MS. JONES: Member Cantu Serrano?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. JONES: Let the record reflect that I,
19 Sharon Jones, I am present, and Member Cantu Serrano is
20 not present. We have a quorum.

21 I will now move on to agenda item number 2
22 which is the pledge of allegiance. Please stand.

23 (The Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas
24 were recited.)

25 MS. JONES: Please be seated.

1 Agenda item number 3, comments and
2 announcements from committee chair, committee members and
3 MVCPA. We do not have any comments or announcements
4 today. We are now taking up agenda item number 3 and we
5 will move on to agenda item number 4.

6 But before we do, Member Sloan, do you have any
7 comments? I don't want to speak for you.

8 MR. SLOAN: Thank you, Sharon. I have no
9 comments.

10 MS. JONES: Major Diggs, you always have
11 comments, so I apologize.

12 MR. DIGGS: She means that in a very positive
13 way.

14 MS. JONES: I do.

15 MR. DIGGS: So good morning. William Diggs,
16 director MVCPA.

17 I did want to let everybody know if you are at
18 public comment you are limited to three minutes, but
19 today, as an applicant if you're on the agenda, which most
20 of you are, you have five to ten minutes to present your
21 presentation today, so there is a little difference in
22 that.

23 And then as most of you know, the restrooms are
24 right out to the right.

25 And I'm glad you're all here today, thank you

1 for showing up. And I look forward to hearing from each
2 one of you and hearing your presentations, and I know the
3 board does as well.

4 So, Madam Chair, back to you.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you, Major Diggs, I always
6 call you Major Diggs.

7 For those presenting, if you have a battle
8 buddy, a partner, whoever you need to answer questions, I
9 suggest you bring them up with you, just in case you can't
10 answer the questions yourself. I see the smiles. You get
11 it, you understand.

12 Okay, sir, I turn it over to you.

13 MR. DIGGS: Good morning, Madam Chair and Mr.
14 Sloan.

15 So today I wanted to provide a brief overview
16 of the MVCPA budget. Attached is the MVCPA fiscal year
17 financial report ending in December of 2024. The report
18 includes statistical and monetary information on the
19 authority's budget, actual expenditures and some
20 outstanding obligations.

21 So just some key highlights. For the total
22 adjusted budget for the FY25 for all MVCPA programs is --
23 and again, these numbers are approximate -- \$69.5 million
24 which includes the following: \$22.9 million in motor
25 vehicle crime prevention budget, which is our task force

1 budget; \$32 million in catalytic converter program budget,
2 which is what all of you are here today for; and we
3 actually had \$5.3 million that UB'd forward from the motor
4 vehicle crime prevention budget from previous year
5 applications appropriations. And then there is actually
6 \$6.1 million in additional insurance collections in FT24
7 for our motor vehicle crime prevention budget; and there
8 was a little over \$3 million in additional insurance
9 collections for our FY24 catalytic converter program
10 funding.

11 So the total estimated budget for our motor
12 vehicle crime prevention, our task force strategy -- for
13 FY25 the total budget is \$34.4 million. That total task
14 force grants for FY25 was \$25.4 million, our total
15 operating cost at headquarters is \$1.5 million, and that's
16 going to leave us an estimated -- and there will be some
17 adjustments in our January report -- of \$7.5 million in
18 our task force budget.

19 So the total estimated budget for our catalytic
20 converter funding program is \$35.1 million. The total
21 FY25 catalytic converter grants awarded, with negotiations
22 to date, pending the outcome of today and tomorrow and
23 next week, is \$7.2 million. Over the next two days there
24 are 70 agencies that are requesting an additional \$5.9
25 million.

1 Our total partner agency budget, which is Texas
2 DPS, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, and
3 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, is \$5.5 million, our
4 total operating budget for our catalytic converter funding
5 is \$589,000. And this leaves us a total remaining
6 estimated budget -- after a possible additional funding to
7 Texas DPS next week of \$5.5 million, leaves us a little
8 over \$10 million in our catalytic converter funding.

9 And so with that, Madam Chair, I'll hand it
10 back over to you. If there are any questions, I'll be
11 glad to answer them.

12 MS. JONES: So, sir, to be clear, can you
13 explain the Texas Department of Public Safety comment
14 about the \$5 million?

15 MR. DIGGS: Yes, ma'am. So we've been working
16 with the Texas DPS on a program that's going to allow a
17 very robust, some additional statewide LPRs, camera
18 systems throughout the state that will benefit all law
19 enforcement in Texas. It will make us a much safer state,
20 in my opinion. And it's going to help us reduce and fight
21 some catalytic converter theft all over Texas and
22 throughout the state -- an additional 1100-and something
23 cameras strategically placed throughout the State of
24 Texas.

25 And it's going to make us a safer place

1 overall. And that presentation will happen next week on
2 January 22 at the Texas DMV headquarters.

3 MS. JONES: And also, that is pending, of
4 course, approval from the Department of Transportation.
5 It has to include them as well. They're definitely a full
6 partner in agreement or not agreement with the plan.

7 Thank you, Mr. Diggs. Anything else?

8 MR. DIGGS: No, ma'am.

9 MS. JONES: Do you have any questions?

10 MR. SLOAN: No.

11 MS. JONES: We now move on to agenda item 5,
12 which is the Senate Bill 224 catalytic converter grant
13 second solicitation presentations by Major Diggs.

14 MR. DIGGS: All right. Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 So it's probably going to be a long day for a
16 number of you for the most part. We're going to go in
17 alphabetical order. I appreciate each one of you sitting
18 through this again.

19 We're going to give you about five to ten
20 minutes to make your presentation. There could be some
21 questions by the board. And so if you would, whenever you
22 come up, whenever I call you up, you have the option, you
23 can sit at the table. If you're one of the guys like me,
24 it's hard to sit here, I'd rather stand up and talk, but
25 it's kind of awkward if I'm standing up here today talking

1 to you. So the podium mic is live and so you have the
2 ability to walk up and use the podium as well.

3 If you have a PowerPoint, if you would please
4 see -- Zach, if you could raise your hand over there --
5 either Zach or Yessenia -- Yessenia, please raise your
6 hand.

7 If you have a PowerPoint for a presentation,
8 you have it on a thumb drive today -- if you want to go
9 ahead and go over there and give them that PowerPoint so
10 they'll be ready. They'll be able to put it up so that
11 we'll be able to see it as we walk through it and talk
12 through it.

13 If for some reason if you brought some flip
14 charts, we've got easels up here. We can set these up and
15 let you use those as well.

16 So, again, you've got five to ten minutes. And
17 I look forward, just as everyone else does, to hearing
18 your presentations.

19 Dan Price and Lauren Williams, would you raise
20 your hands back there in the back?

21 So after your presentations today, there may be
22 some information that we're still missing from some of
23 your folks -- I'm going to call it your back office from
24 your grants office. If there's some information that
25 might be missing still that we need to help finalize if

1 the board approves your grant application -- actually the
2 final approval will be done on January 22 -- I'm going to
3 remind you after your presentation you still need to do
4 whatever that might be. There are some of you, not all of
5 you, that may need to do something.

6 If you have any questions about that, please
7 see Lauren or Dan and they'll help you navigate that and
8 walk through that before you leave here today.

9 So with that, we're going to go ahead and get
10 started. We have a clicker up here that you can use or
11 you don't, if you'll just say "Next slide" and Zach will
12 actually be able to click through that for you.

13 So I'm going to go ahead and call up Round Rock
14 Police Department.

15 MR. BAYLES: Hello, MVCPA Tank Members. My
16 name is Darin Bayles. I'm a lieutenant at the Round Rock
17 Police Department. We are the lead agency for the
18 Regional Vehicle Burglary Suppression Task Force, also
19 known as ReVBST.

20 Today we are seeking \$417,000 from the board
21 for a 50 percent stake in our task force. Who doesn't --
22 coming out in the morning to go to work or school, you
23 start up your car and you realize they stole my catalytic
24 converter again.

25 Or you're in Round Rock, the sports capital of

1 Texas, for a soccer tournament for your kiddos. You come
2 out of the hotel and you're thinking, ah, it's going to be
3 a great day, and suddenly you realize, oh, my gosh,
4 they've burglarized my car. Soccer equipment is gone, and
5 then suddenly you're aware my pistol was in the center
6 console and it's gone.

7 Worse than that, you're on vacation. You come
8 out of the hotel and you realize my car is gone.

9 And the PowerPoint died as well, that always
10 happens. Nothing like that.

11 Over the last two years, the ReVBST region in
12 Central Texas has experienced nearly 150 catalytic
13 converter thefts, almost 1,100 vehicle thefts, and over
14 4,000 vehicle burglaries. So you might ask, Well, ReVBST,
15 what are you going to spend the money on?

16 We're going to spend approximately \$93,000 on
17 portable LPR cameras, solar cameras, fixed bullet cameras,
18 and PTZ, or pan-tilt-zoom cameras in high density vehicle
19 areas to provide license plate information and
20 investigative video. We're also going to buy
21 approximately \$10,000 worth of GPS trackers that are going
22 to be put on items of high value to be used as bait for
23 the criminals so we can track them back to their nest.

24 And lastly, we're going to use approximately
25 \$206,000 for the DFR program, which is going to allow our

1 drone as a first responder program to get off of the
2 ground and go out and provide situational awareness, quick
3 response to these active calls in traffic dense areas, as
4 well as video, overwatch and intelligence for responding
5 agencies.

6 Now, who's ready to partner with ReVBST to take
7 a bite out of crime?

8 I'll entertain any questions that you might
9 have.

10 MS. JONES: It depends on which shark I am.

11 MR. BAYLES: That's true. We'd love to partner
12 with you.

13 MS. JONES: Do you want me to be Lori?

14 (General laughter.)

15 MR. BAYLES: Do you have any questions?

16 MS. JONES: No, sir. Member Sloan has no voice
17 here because he is one of the commanders for the Round
18 Rock Police Department, so he has no voice, no thoughts,
19 no anything, nothing to input.

20 So, no, sir. The only question I have is
21 regarding the drone. What is your plan for drone
22 deployment and where?

23 MR. BAYLES: So the drone deployment is going
24 to occur in various parts of the city. This will be the
25 first phase of a three-phase project to get drones across

1 the city. But the first phase is going to give us two
2 radar nodes so that the drones can respond to the traffic
3 dense areas along the IH-35 corridor, as well as some of
4 the shopping areas.

5 We have an outlet mall and the La Frontera
6 shopping area, where getting officers into that area can
7 be quite challenging due to the amount of traffic. So
8 they'll launch and be in that location within 90 seconds
9 of launch from building rooftops and be able to provide
10 the overwatch and the situational information for
11 responding officers.

12 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. And when we're asking
13 questions, please do not reveal any investigative methods
14 that cannot be revealed to the public.

15 MR. BAYLES: Understood.

16 MS. JONES: So just stick to general. You did
17 a great job doing that.

18 MR. BAYLES: Thank you.

19 MS. JONES: Mr. Diggs, do you have any
20 questions?

21 MR. DIGGS: Madam Chair, William Diggs, MVCPA
22 director, for the record.

23 I do have one question. Do you have a drone
24 policy on file at Round Rock PD?

25 MR. BAYLES: We do. We currently have a drone

1 program of approximately 13 or 14 drones that are deployed
2 by various officers in the agency, but it is in effect.

3 MR. DIGGS: Thank you. That is one of our
4 requirements that there is a drone policy on file if it's
5 going to be funded by MVCPA. So thank you, sir.

6 MR. BAYLES: You're welcome.

7 Any further questions?

8 MS. JONES: No, sir. Thank you.

9 MR. BAYLES: All right. Thank you.

10 MS. JONES: And for all members who come up,
11 please answer that question, include that in your
12 presentation if you have a drone policy. And if you do
13 not, how long will it take you to implement a drone
14 policy.

15 Perfect. Thank you, sir.

16 MR. BAYLES: Thank you.

17 MS. JONES: We're going to take about five
18 minutes or less to address any technical difficulties.

19 (Whereupon, at 9:31 a.m., a brief recess was
20 taken.)

21 MS. JONES: We will now resume at 9:36.

22 Mr. Diggs.

23 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

24 William Diggs, MVCPA director, for the record.

25 And so most of you have been to some public

1 meetings, you know we're supposed to identify ourselves,
2 so that's why, I haven't forgotten what my name is. So
3 anyway, we just have to say that when we get back on the
4 record.

5 So anyway, we would ask that if you're going to
6 sit, you sit in this chair closest to the IT folks over
7 here or use the podium. We seem to think we might have a
8 range issue on the clicker, so if you'll sit closest to it
9 as you can, please, and then just point back that
10 direction because it's got to hit Zach's computer over
11 there.

12 So I'm going to call up next the City of
13 Andrews. City of Andrews.

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DIGGS: All right. And then I am going to
16 call up the City of Arcola.

17 Good morning. Thank you for being here.

18 MS. JONES: Good morning, sir.

19 MS. CARR: Good morning. I am Chief Carr with
20 the Arcola Police Department. And I would like to discuss
21 today how the Arcola Police Department intends to use the
22 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority grant to improve
23 safety in our community and decrease motor vehicle crimes
24 in our region.

25 The City of Arcola is strategically located at

1 the intersection of two major thoroughfares, which is
2 Highway 6 and FM 521. These roads serve as a critical
3 conduit not only for our local residents but also for
4 commuters traveling to neighboring cities such as Missouri
5 City, Sugar Land and Houston. This prime location, while
6 beneficial for transportation and commerce, also makes our
7 community susceptible to an increase in motor vehicle
8 crimes, including catalytic converter theft and burglary
9 from vehicles.

10 The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
11 grant presents a unique opportunity for us to implement
12 targeted initiatives aimed at combating these trends.
13 Here are a couple of key strategies we plan to employ.

14 Our department will use the grant to install
15 and operate LPR cameras in areas with high rates of auto
16 theft and related offenses. These cameras will integrate
17 with our existing investigative systems, enabling real-
18 time alerts on stolen or wanted vehicles. Officers will
19 be trained to efficiently monitor the system and respond
20 to alerts. Data captured by the cameras will be analyzed
21 regularly, allowing us to optimize camera placement and
22 enhance overall public safety in our jurisdiction.

23 The next thing we'll do, we'll collaborate with
24 neighboring departments. Understanding that motor vehicle
25 crime doesn't recognize city borders, we will collaborate

1 with our neighboring police departments and sheriff
2 departments in the area. Sharing intelligence and
3 resources will strengthen our collective efforts to tackle
4 this issue and ensure more coordinated response to crime
5 across jurisdictions.

6 In summary, the Arcola Police Department is
7 dedicated to utilizing the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention
8 Authority grant effectively to reduce crime in the City of
9 Arcola. Through the deployment of LPR cameras and
10 partnership with other law enforcement agencies, as well
11 as active involvement from residents, we strive to foster
12 a safer community for all.

13 MS. JONES: Chief, which cities are you sharing
14 information with, and also, what about the sheriff
15 department?

16 MS. CARR: So we would share with Fort Bend
17 County Sheriff's Department. Also, we border Missouri
18 City, Sugar Land, and also Houston. We also border
19 Pearland, a small area of Pearland, so we would share the
20 information with those cities.

21 MS. JONES: And you've spoken with or met with
22 all of those cities or that's the intention?

23 MS. CARR: That's the intention. Fort Bend
24 County actually has LPR cameras now in their system, so we
25 have actually been partnering with them to get

1 information. We just don't have it in our city and the
2 ability for our officers to use that information now.

3 MS. JONES: And you're requesting how many
4 cameras?

5 MS. CARR: It's four. I think the total I'm
6 requesting is \$14,167. Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

8 Do you have any questions, Member Sloan?

9 MR. SLOAN: Just a comment. Thank you for
10 being a part of this program and seeking this grant. It's
11 a real problem that we have in the State of Texas, and I
12 thank you for being intentional with your actions.

13 MS. CARR: Thank you.

14 MS. JONES: Mr. Diggs?

15 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 And also, this is going to help you in the
17 reduction of catalytic converter theft and prevention, I
18 believe as well. Is that accurate?

19 MS. CARR: Yes, sir.

20 MR. DIGGS: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

21 MS. CARR: Thank you.

22 MR. DIGGS: So the next agency I will call up
23 is the City of Bangs. The City of Bangs.

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DIGGS: We're going to call up Bertram

1 Police Department.

2 Good morning.

3 MR. KYLE: Good morning. I'm Leslie Dewayne
4 Kyle, the chief of police for the City of Bertram, Texas.

5 I didn't download my PowerPoint or anything because it
6 makes me expand a little too much and I don't want to go
7 too long with you guys.

8 We're requesting assistance from the grant
9 program to purchase six LPR cameras. They'll be pole
10 mounted. We're looking to put the cameras on all of the
11 major roadways egress and ingress through the City of
12 Bertram.

13 Bertram is northwest of Austin, as I'm sure the
14 rest of these folks over here know. We're seeking to
15 purchase Flock Safety cameras specifically because Liberty
16 Hill, our neighbors to the east, and the City of Burnet,
17 neighbor to the west, are currently installing the same
18 systems. And I'd like to incorporate the same system so
19 that we can all cooperate together.

20 Our issue is we're the gateway to the Texas
21 Hill Country as you're leaving Central Texas. And our
22 crooks -- we've got more than our fair share of career
23 criminals out there -- travel through Bertram to go do the
24 crimes in the other jurisdictions and they come back
25 through. And we get lucky every now and again and catch

1 one passing through.

2 I believe this system is going to greatly
3 expand our capabilities to do that and it's going to be a
4 force multiplier for us in our department. It will be
5 eyes on constantly for us.

6 And that is pretty much all I have, if y'all
7 have any questions.

8 MS. JONES: Any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief.

11 MR. KYLE: Thank you.

12 MR. DIGGS: So I'm going to go ahead and call
13 up the City of Bulverde.

14 MR. BYRD: Good morning, Major. Thank y'all
15 for having me here. Thank y'all for allowing us to
16 participate this morning.

17 My name is Nolan Byrd. I'm a lieutenant with
18 the City of Bulverde Police. And I've been working for
19 Bulverde for 16 years, and just like every other agency
20 here, we're all seeing the same issues, motor vehicle
21 theft, catalytic converter theft.

22 For those of you that don't know where we are,
23 the City of Bulverde, we're about 20 miles north of here
24 on Highway 281. So we're between Boerne and New Braunfels
25 on Highway 46.

1 What we've seen in the last several years is
2 explosive development along jurisdiction in Comal County
3 that's been tied for fourth across the nation as the
4 largest growing counties. So we're having a tremendous
5 amount of growth. That also brings a population problem
6 and brings our crime element out of San Antonio and other
7 places.

8 Just to add insult to injury, I just found out
9 a few minutes ago my wife's vehicle was burglarized last
10 night at the house. Luckily, they didn't get in my patrol
11 car, but they got in her Suburban.

12 One of the reasons why we're seeking assistance
13 is because of our extremely unique taxing structure in the
14 City of Bulverde. Many years before I was there when the
15 city was incorporated, the city leaders at the time made
16 bad judgment calls and they allowed emergency services
17 district and our library district to impose taxes upon the
18 community. What we see now is it's essentially choking
19 some of those additional tax dollars that we have and
20 we're unable to fund certain items such as our request.

21 We're seeking seven Flock cameras and two sets
22 of night vision goggles to combat this problem that we're
23 having. Less than five air miles away from the City of
24 Bulverde is Camp Bullis, so we participate in a dark sky
25 ordinance. So most of our city is dark, you can't see

1 anything.

2 With the construction that we're having with no
3 street lighting, limited visibility, we're seeing that
4 they're actually cutting stuff off construction vehicles,
5 appliance theft in neighborhoods where we don't have the
6 street lighting. Normally we run three a shift at night
7 and it's extremely difficult to cover 20 square miles
8 every day. It's extremely difficult.

9 So with our taxing structure, we're seeing that
10 if we could get some assistance, it would help combat this
11 problem. We do partner very well with DHS of San Antonio
12 and Bexar County; we partner very well with the Comal
13 County Sheriff's Office. I have a good working
14 relationship with auto theft and I reached out to them for
15 some statistics on this, and they're seeing an explosive
16 problem as well. Mainly that's more towards the New
17 Braunfels side versus the western side of Comal County
18 where we are located.

19 Our goal is to put these on Highway 281 and the
20 46 corridor where we're seeing the biggest problem. We're
21 also having a problem on the southbound side of the city
22 traveling into Bexar County, where they're committing
23 these crimes and then they're quickly exiting the county.

24 That's all I have. Do y'all have any questions
25 for me?

1 MR. DIGGS: Madam Chair, thank you.

2 So whenever I thought I heard you say, you
3 know, you've got some reduced lighting issues, and I
4 thought I heard you say they were cutting some stuff off,
5 so is that like maybe the theft of catalytic converters
6 with reduced lighting and folks are cutting off.

7 MR. BYRD: Yes.

8 MR. DIGGS: So they're cutting off the cats
9 then.

10 MR. BYRD: Yeah, they're cutting off the cats.

11 We're having the problem at the south side of the city
12 where roadways are under construction. 281 and 46 is
13 actually under construction right now, so for those of you
14 traveling through Bulverde right now, don't take Highway
15 46 if you don't have to.

16 They're cutting them off all the construction
17 machinery. And then farther west out towards 46 where
18 they're expanding it, it's happening out there. It's
19 happening at night and it's happening during the daytime.

20 Not to include heavy machinery theft, we've had that
21 happen as well.

22 MR. DIGGS: So my understanding is -- so like
23 where some of these companies are leaving their
24 construction vehicles out there on the side of the road,
25 well off the road where it's safe, then the crooks are

1 actually going out there and cutting, in some cases, the
2 larger catalytic converter off of these larger
3 construction vehicles.

4 MR. BYRD: Yes, sir.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you, Lieutenant.

6 MR. BYRD: Yes, sir. Thank you.

7 MR. DIGGS: So I'll call up -- the next agency
8 is the City of Caddo Mills.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: Good morning, board and Mr.
10 Diggs. My name is Joel Richardson. I'm the assistant city
11 manager for the City of Caddo Mills.

12 Just a background on Caddo Mills. It's located
13 about 40 miles east of Dallas, between Greenville and
14 Rockwell, currently about a little less than 6,000
15 residents. The city limits contains Interstate 30, State
16 Highway 66 and multiple farm to market roads.

17 Just a little background on our size. We've
18 gone -- since 2020, according to Texas demographics, we're
19 the third fastest growing city in the State of Texas
20 percentage-wise. We've gone from a little less than 2,000
21 to right at 6,000 now. We have 9,000 more houses in the
22 planning stage, so we're going through a boom a little
23 bit.

24 We've got some rather large -- a couple of
25 large used car lots in the city, and in '22 and '23 we had

1 a few converter thefts. They kind of decreased a little
2 bit in '24, but with our percentage growth and coming
3 through, we're seeing that probably going to try to rise
4 some. So we'd like to nip that.

5 Also, if you've been that way in Interstate 30
6 lately, east of Dallas, that whole area is under
7 construction. So we're pretty sure we have a lot of
8 nefarious types that are coming off the interstate and
9 coming through our town. During any wrecks or any bad
10 construction, our town backs up completely on those farm
11 to market and state highways. So we would like to use the
12 camera system to implement that in coordination with the
13 county and DPS who have cameras out on the interstate.

14 Our police department consists right now of
15 Chief Collier and eight patrol officers and a lieutenant
16 and an investigator. And all of them somewhat have
17 experience with the LPR system, so I think we'd be able to
18 implement it pretty quickly.

19 Any questions?

20 MS. JONES: Sir, so you are an eleven-person
21 police force?

22 MR. RICHARDSON: Yes.

23 MS. JONES: Got the math right. Okay, perfect.
24 Thank you, sir.

25 MR. DIGGS: I just had one question, sir. So

1 I'm curious, whenever you mentioned the thefts at the
2 dealership, did the dealership take any additional steps?
3 Did they add any additional lighting or anything like
4 that after the thefts?

5 MR. RICHARDSON: Yes, and I've got a picture
6 here.

7 MR. DIGGS: Thank you for that.

8 MR. RICHARDSON: Yes, sir.

9 MR. DIGGS: So the next agency I'll call up is
10 the City of Castle Hills.

11 MS. VITACCO: Good morning. My name is Sheila
12 Vitacco. I also go by Tina, so in a lot of my emails
13 you'll see both Tina or Sheila; legally it's Sheila. I am
14 the assistant chief for the Castle Hills Police
15 Department.

16 If you're not familiar with Castle Hills, we
17 are surrounded on all sides by San Antonio. We're not
18 very far from here; we're off of Loop 410 in the San
19 Antonio area, small city, small police force. As I'm sure
20 every agency in this room can attest, we're all
21 shorthanded, so we have less guys on the street, less guys
22 and gals on the street as we should have.

23 With that, we're asking for additional six
24 Flock Safety license plate reader cameras, which -- we
25 already have six in place now. We're looking for an

1 additional six to help us with those egress and ingress to
2 our city. And we work very closely with the San Antonio
3 Fusion Center and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

4 We share our cameras that we use currently with
5 the entire nation so anybody that needs information from
6 our cameras will be available to get that on the Flock
7 system. We have also started uploading our local
8 warrants, just to us locally, though, so we can have a lot
9 more hits and a lot more activity.

10 Just in the past 15 days, we've had over 370
11 hits, activations on the Flock system. So there's a lot
12 of traffic that comes through our city, even though our
13 residents and the city itself is kind of small.

14 MS. JONES: Can you address how you will expend
15 the funds to help with theft of catalytic converters?

16 MS. VITACCO: I'm sorry. Say that again.

17 MS. JONES: Catalytic converter theft, how are
18 you going to address that with the funds?

19 MS. VITACCO: Yes, ma'am, I'm sorry. To
20 address the catalytic converter theft, I have checked with
21 San Antonio -- like I said, we're completely surrounded by
22 them -- and in the past year within a mile radius of our
23 city they had 1,700 of those catalytic converter thefts.
24 So our plan is to help implement with those cameras to be
25 able to apprehend some of these suspects who are

1 committing these thefts, especially the reoccurring
2 locations of thefts. We have a lot of apartment complexes
3 and businesses as well where these catalytic converter
4 thefts occur.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief.

6 MR. DIGGS: I don't have anything.

7 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief.

8 MS. VITACCO: Thank you.

9 MR. DIGGS: I'd like to go ahead and call up
10 the City of Cedar Hill.

11 MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. I'm Steve Lafferty
12 with the City of Cedar Hill. I'm the assistant chief over
13 support division. I'm here to ask MVCPA for two mobile
14 security deterrent trailers from Flock for \$83,333, with a
15 cash match of \$16,667.

16 If you don't know about Cedar Hill, we're in
17 southwest Dallas County with a population of about 52,000.

18 Currently we have 43 stationary Flock cameras deployed
19 throughout the city; we have five additional currently
20 being installed. The shortfall we have is the majority of
21 our Flock cameras are in residential areas or coming out
22 of the residential areas.

23 In 2024, we showed to have an increase in the
24 business, retail, high density, residential, hotel/motel
25 and public park areas for the majority of our thefts.

1 That's motor vehicle parts, thefts of catalytic converters
2 and BMVs. Out of the total of 600 in the city, 388
3 occurred in those areas.

4 We will deploy the mobile security deterrent
5 trailers in those retail areas and high density areas. Of
6 these trailers, we'll be able to monitor 24/7, not only in
7 our dispatch center but in our 24-hour police station with
8 our public service officers.

9 We also have regional partners with the City of
10 Duncanville and the City of DeSoto. We work well together
11 on large events. We have many events shared among the
12 three cities. We'll bring anywhere from 10- to 25,000
13 people; we'll deploy the trailers there as well to assist
14 in the parking lot security but also pedestrian security.

15 Do you have any questions?

16 MS. JONES: No, Chief.

17 Do you?

18 MR. DIGGS: Madam Chair, I just have one.

19 So with this and the deployment of these two
20 trailers and the ability to monitor these parking lots
21 closely and these events closely, is that going to help
22 you in the reduction of catalytic converter theft?

23 MR. LAFFERTY: We've already seen a reduction
24 in catalytic converter thefts, but we believe being able
25 to monitor not only this in squad cars because we'll have

1 live feed through the Flock system and through the
2 dispatch center, we'll be able to respond more quickly.

3 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief.

5 MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you.

6 MS. JONES: Board, it is 9:58. Let's take a
7 15-minute -- please be back at 10:15.

8 (Whereupon, at 9:58, a brief recess was taken.)

9 MS. JONES: This is Sharon Jones, for the
10 record.

11 We will now reconvene. I apologize for the
12 delay, but trust me, that discussion pertained to all of
13 you. Trust me on that one.

14 Okay, we will proceed. Major Diggs.

15 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
16 the record.

17 So the next agency I'll call up is the City of
18 Cibolo.

19 MR. ANDREWS: Good morning, esteemed board. I
20 appreciate you giving us an opportunity to come today and
21 present in front of you. My name is Theadrick Andrews.
22 I'm the Cibolo Police Department police chief.

23 And with me today I have Lieutenant John Wells.
24 I'll let him cover the area he's over.

25 MR. WELLS: Good morning, everyone. Thank you

1 for letting us be here. I'm Lieutenant John Wells; I'm
2 the criminal investigations lieutenant for the City of
3 Cibolo.

4 MS. JONES: Good morning and welcome.

5 MR. ANDREWS: So first of all, we appreciate
6 the opportunity to present today. I think one of the
7 unique things for as a police department is really our
8 commitment to community policing. We really believe in
9 focusing on community policing -- not just do good work in
10 building those law enforcement relations, but a lot of
11 what we do is those positive relations that we build with
12 the community in solving crimes. And I think this
13 grant -- hopefully what we'll show during this
14 presentation will speak to that.

15 As a result of us -- really our cooperation and
16 trust in trying to build a safer community, we really want
17 to do that through the creation of not just what we will
18 do with some of the Flock cameras, but we're looking at
19 personnel, what we call a HEAT, a high enforcement
20 activity team. This team would address concerns such as
21 street level crimes, drugs, gangs, but more importantly,
22 some of the issues that we're seeing in our community
23 which have been catalytic converter thefts, vehicle-
24 related thefts, and burglaries. We believe this high
25 intensity enforcement team, they will be focused on

1 catalytic converter theft which will help us to build that
2 intelligence.

3 One of the things that we've done last year, we
4 were able to implement Flock cameras in our community. We
5 have seen significant instant results of just the few
6 Flock cameras that we've got -- I think we have about
7 eleven in the community at this time -- and we have just
8 yesterday made an apprehension using a Flock camera on a
9 U-Haul theft truck.

10 But what is driving in our community is that
11 intelligence-led police model, and we're starting to see
12 that within that community from Schertz Police Department
13 now that we are working with. Recently we were able to
14 make an arrest on a catalytic converter theft, and because
15 of the information from our Flock cameras, the City of
16 Live Oak Police Department was able to solve a crime. So
17 we're using that information to share that intelligence
18 because that's important to us.

19 But as we talk about those catalytic converter
20 thefts with the HEAT team, we want them to make sure that
21 they're implementing this, that we're measuring, looking
22 at this. But I believe it's an excellent opportunity for
23 a community engagement tool, that not only is this team
24 using it from an enforcement capacity, how we will be able
25 to use this group to go out in the community to help to

1 build intelligence and make sure that we're putting those
2 things up by providing information to enhance and prevent
3 that.

4 The next thing within this grant, our budget
5 that we're asking for is approximately \$583,000; that
6 includes the cash match of about \$96,700. What we would
7 be looking at with that HEAT team that I spoke of is two
8 officers. And as you can see on there -- the base salary.

9 But I think the more important issue that will
10 help us continue to build our Flock camera network is the
11 ability for us to be able to add 18 additional cameras to
12 the eleven we currently have that would be fixed video.
13 We would also want to add those 23 cameras that you see in
14 front of you for ALPR cameras, along with that laser
15 etching for catalytic converters on the community-related
16 events that we would host.

17 One of the things that I think is important for
18 us is we are really, really proactive when it comes to
19 community events, and I believe that will pay big
20 dividends for us, especially in a community of our size.

21 What are our goals? Our aim is to basically
22 reduce catalytic converter thefts in our community. We
23 also want to use that by increasing stolen catalytic
24 converters in our community, and I think we will have the
25 opportunity to do that.

1 What are our expected outcomes? Our expected
2 outcomes are simple: it's to improve safety and community
3 cohesion in our community, to enhance the economic
4 stability, but also to have a proactive approach to
5 addressing crime. Currently right now, I don't have that
6 proactive approach. These officers would give me an
7 enhanced and proactive approach, along with our patrol
8 unit.

9 So in conclusion, as I said, we're committed to
10 public safety. We believe this call to action would help
11 us to really support that engagement. And then finally,
12 as we talk about catalytic converter thefts and the Cibolo
13 Police Department, like many other things, you know, we
14 understand why these people are committing these crimes
15 and especially the things that go along with this when you
16 talk about those precious metals.

17 We believe and we want to make sure that with
18 the etching equipment and the things that we can build --
19 I've seen this in my previous stops how that has helped
20 CID -- I'll let Lieutenant Wells talk about that -- with
21 follow-up investigations.

22 Currently right now in the Cibolo Police
23 Department I meet with my investigative team -- and this
24 is where that HEAT team would be assigned -- we meet on a
25 monthly basis, looking at crime, making sure we're

1 following up with patrol, making sure that we're using
2 information to get back out to the community. We have
3 seen tremendous success in our proactive measures, not
4 only how we measure crime but how we build those
5 partnerships with the community.

6 So I just believe, you know, as it says on
7 there, it's going to take us working together with the
8 community, hopefully building this proactive measure that
9 I think will help us to continue to combat offenses in the
10 City of Cibolo.

11 Do you have anything to add?

12 MR. WELLS: The HEAT team would be assigned
13 under me. As the CID lieutenant, I publish weekly crime
14 stats for the whole department. That would obviously be a
15 big part of what they would do.

16 We look for hot zone areas, you know, create
17 heat maps and specifically just track. We get a daily
18 pass on from each one of our shifts and that kind of gets
19 combined into what happened throughout the week, what are
20 the things to be watching for, which crimes are going up,
21 which crimes are going down. And obviously, you know, the
22 HEAT team would be deployed to specific areas looking for
23 specific crimes.

24 As Chief said, we do have eleven Flock cameras
25 now that we implemented in August that have been really

1 successful. August to December we've had almost a million
2 plate reads just in Cibolo and that's just in basically
3 our entrances to the community. So we're looking for a
4 solution that gets some more inside so we can start
5 tracking vehicles a lot more because we're finding as we
6 get a hit and then they kind of disappear in the city and
7 it's hard for us to find them. So talking to some of the
8 partners up in DFW that have more cameras, their
9 suggestion was to get more throughout the community so
10 that you can get multiple hits and the officers can hone
11 in on where they're going.

12 But as Chief mentioned, since August we did
13 have a catalytic converter theft. We were able to get a
14 lead on the plate. Using Flock we were able to find that
15 vehicle in our area quite a bit, put out a regional alert.

16 And the Live Oak Police Department, who also
17 has Flock, got a same hit on it from one of their cameras,
18 was able to get the person stopped and we made an arrest
19 and solved that and helped them solve a crime as well. So
20 we've already seen some benefits from those cameras
21 specifically for catalytic converters.

22 MR. ANDREWS: So I'll just mention in closing,
23 intelligence-led policing, the cities around us -- I know
24 we have New Braunfels here and many of us that are
25 participating in that, and our chiefs and our CID units,

1 we're meeting collaboratively, using that intelligence-led
2 model to continue to address this obviously serious crime
3 that we see in our communities.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. JONES: So, Chief Andrews, I was about to
6 ask you about other partners in the intelligence-led, but
7 you just answered that for me.

8 I do have a question for you or Lieutenant.
9 You mentioned you're going to have community etching
10 events. What is your plan to educate the community about
11 catalytic converter theft, of course, the prevention and
12 intervention of such? So what is your model, your plan to
13 get community involvement and the entire etching process?

14 MR. ANDREWS: So currently right now in the
15 City of Cibolo, our community relations unit, and
16 specifically now we would be able to with these HEAT
17 officers. We use a lot of our network that we put out
18 through our social media sites, but we also have
19 relationships with every HOA in the City of Cibolo. We
20 meet with them biannually; we have seen tremendous success
21 in that.

22 One of my plans from a previous stop will be to
23 not only use our social media site but to work along with
24 some of our muffler shops and mechanic shops to put these
25 events on. The first thing is educating the community and

1 using those etching tools to bring them out and to educate
2 them about that.

3 One of the things that Lieutenant and I talked
4 about is not only just building off of that but also CID
5 being able to use that when it comes to other property
6 crimes. The main thing that our units, and I think we,
7 see on property crime is what intelligence do we have to
8 further that follow-up investigation.

9 So we're going to be very proactive community-
10 wide, meeting with them, inviting them out with the
11 community. We have a lot of success with our community
12 events and building partnerships, so I think it would be
13 an easy and seamless transition.

14 MS. JONES: Okay. And we would love to partner
15 with you, with your social media. We have a social media
16 team and a truck.

17 Right, Earl, our wrap truck is ready?

18 MR. ANDREWS: We can't wait.

19 MS. JONES: We would love to partner with you
20 and all law enforcement, as a matter of fact. That is our
21 goal is to get the word out throughout the community. So
22 thank you for doing that.

23 Mr. Sloan, any questions?

24 MR. SLOAN: Thank you. You covered a lot of
25 the information. You were very thorough.

1 And that was one of the questions I had, and I
2 think we all benefit from hearing that we're leveraging
3 our social media engagement with our community, and I'm
4 glad that you were able to expound upon that. That's
5 something that we're not using enough and we should always
6 be leveraging what we have in that intelligence-based
7 model.

8 I do have a question. You were talking about
9 the intelligence-based model and to investigate. Do you
10 have an analyst that is involved in this, or is it in our
11 shop, LT?

12 MR. ANDREWS: I'd love to talk but I'll let him
13 to speak to that because he'll tell you who is the
14 analyst.

15 MR. WELLS: I'm pretty much the analyst, you
16 know, every week putting those stats out. That is
17 something that, yes, we are working with city management.
18 Obviously we see a great need, just since I've been doing
19 it in the last year or so, that we could keep an analyst
20 busy with what we do.

21 So that's kind of in our future plan as budgets
22 and increasing manpower, specifically for CID, is they're
23 putting on a five-year plan for my unit to keep asking for
24 that in the budget to get us an analyst to be able to take
25 that off my back and then let somebody else who has gotten

1 a lot more higher level training specifically in that area
2 and is a subject matter expert so we can do that.

3 I know a lot of our regional partners have
4 them. Comal County has got one, New Braunfels has one.
5 So yeah, we need to add one to jump into that as well to
6 share information.

7 MR. ANDREWS: And Lieutenant Wells and I, we
8 recently led the agency through the last two years so
9 we're very familiar with the analysts. I can tell you one
10 of the things that we do through our pass-on in our
11 reports -- our officers, in the vacancy of an analyst,
12 really do a great job of sharing intelligence and getting
13 that to CID. But certainly if we could leverage that,
14 that would be awesome for us.

15 MR. SLOAN: Thank you both.

16 MS. JONES: So, Chief, I'm looking through your
17 packet. Did you ask for an analyst, did you request an
18 analyst?

19 MR. ANDREWS: So our first time applying, I'll
20 be honest with you, no, we didn't. We knew a little bit
21 of what we can do about this grant, we didn't until
22 recently start understanding some of the other
23 opportunities that were there. But we would certainly
24 look forward to if there was an opportunity to amend.

25 MS. JONES: Mr. Diggs, before I put my foot in

1 my mouth.

2 MR. DIGGS: So, William Diggs, director MVCPA,
3 for the record.

4 We could go back through negotiations and
5 negotiate some additional funds for something like an
6 analyst. Not too late, we haven't shut the door yet.

7 MR. ANDREWS: I appreciate that. Thank you for
8 the consideration.

9 MS. JONES: Thank you. Our attorney is not
10 here to keep me out of trouble.

11 MR. ANDREWS: Go ahead and say it.

12 MS. JONES: He's online. He's usually here
13 like poking and emailing or giving me the look. He's
14 online, he can't tap me, but I have William here to keep
15 me out of trouble.

16 Thank you, sir.

17 MR. ANDREWS: Thank you so much.

18 MR. WELLS: Thank y'all. Have a good day.

19 MS. JONES: You're welcome, Lieutenant.

20 MR. DIGGS: So excellent presentation, Chief.

21 So calling up the next applicant will be the
22 Clute Police Department. The City of Clute.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DIGGS: So calling up next will be Cooke
25 County.

1 MR. MCGREGOR: Good morning, committee. I work
2 for the Cooke County Sheriff's Office as an investigator.
3 I am assigned as an auto theft investigator with our
4 agency as well.

5 For those that do not know where Cooke County
6 is, we're situated in North Texas. We are the last county
7 before you get into Oklahoma on Interstate 35. So
8 obviously 35, 53,000 cars daily passing through that area,
9 based on TxDOT numbers from '23, over 20,000 vehicles on
10 US 82 that crosses it puts us in Gainesville as the county
11 seat that has had a catalytic converter issue.

12 We have been under-reported in our agency
13 mainly because we are in a non-emissions area. So as
14 people are going in and finding these catalytic converters
15 that are cut off, most people are recommending, because of
16 the cost, to just straight pipe the vehicle. And with the
17 changes in our inspection criteria and other stuff at the
18 state level, we have not seen the immediate need.

19 We're also situated uniquely with two metal
20 recycling entities in our county, so not only do we have
21 people bringing metals into our county, but we also have
22 people that are taking it elsewhere, facilitating through
23 the network there. Situated in Oklahoma, they have laws
24 that require a maximum amount -- I believe it's ten pounds
25 a day -- so we're finding vehicles from Oklahoma coming

1 down and selling metals at our MREs as well. So that is a
2 problem that we have noticed overall.

3 What we are doing is we are proposing seed
4 money to partner with MVCPA. We're requesting \$25,000 to
5 be able to implement -- as everybody else is -- to
6 implement Flock Safety cameras. The unique cost of this,
7 though, is we're looking to implement the high speed
8 cameras so that we're getting effective scans on both 35
9 and 82.

10 That is where we intend to position stationary
11 cameras coming into Cooke County. We are neighbors to
12 three different MVCPA task forces, to our east, to our
13 south, and so this is a gap that we don't have with OPR
14 currently.

15 So we believe that the continued network, as we
16 use intelligence-based policing, as the chief said, to be
17 able to share this, not only with our law enforcement
18 partners in Texas but with MVCPA partnerships and also out
19 of state in Oklahoma. Chickasaw Tribal Nation, the
20 Lighthorse Police Department recently implemented LPR
21 cameras as well through the Flock system, so what this
22 does is continue to populate that Flock system.

23 So that is our simple ask of this program. We
24 are not asking for anything else other than a \$5,000 in-
25 kind match. That works to help our residents, our 43,000

1 residents, continue to combat crime to focus on catalytic
2 converter theft, to focus also on motor vehicle theft in
3 general, motor vehicle crimes.

4 MS. JONES: Sir, you mentioned there are three
5 task forces?

6 MR. MCGREGOR: Correct.

7 MS. JONES: Which three?

8 MR. MCGREGOR: Northeast Texas out of Paris
9 borders all the way to Grayson County, but their line
10 stops to the east. North Texas Auto Theft Task Force out
11 of Dallas comes up and touches Denton which is our main
12 entry through 35. And then Wise County Partners and
13 Tarrant Regional.

14 I actually perform 68-As in partnership with
15 Tarrant Regional, so that is something that we closely
16 work together.

17 MS. JONES: Great to hear. Thank you. We
18 don't have any other questions.

19 MR. MCGREGOR: Okay. Thank y'all.

20 MR. DIGGS: Be sure and tell Sheriff Sappington
21 I said hello.

22 So moving on to the County of Culberson. County
23 of Culberson.

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DIGGS: The City of Cuero.

1 MR. ELLIS: Good morning. I want to thank y'all
2 for the opportunity to apply for the grant, first of all,
3 for our community. My name is Steven Ellis. I'm chief of
4 police; I've been with the department for 23 years.

5 Currently our department is utilizing seven LPR
6 cameras, fixed locations, that are covering our major
7 roadways coming into Cuero which is Highway 87, Highway
8 183 and then State Highway 72. These roadways are main
9 thoroughfares to San Antonio, Austin, Victoria, going down
10 to Corpus, going over to Houston, so we see a lot of
11 transitory problems coming through.

12 Our biggest problem is our stolen vehicles that
13 we've encountered coming through, and what they've found
14 is they've learned that our LPR system is in place on our
15 major roadways. So what I'm asking for for our department
16 is three more Flock cameras, fixed location, to cover our
17 FM roadways, because what they've started doing is using
18 the back roads to come through and bypass our LPR system.

19 We've encountered stolen vehicles, stolen license plates.
20

21 In the past couple of years, we had a major
22 accident a couple hundred yards outside of the city
23 limits. The trunk of the vehicle was loaded down with
24 catalytic converters. So we know Victoria, which is our
25 neighboring agency about 20 minutes away, does have an

1 issue with that and they see a lot of that activity coming
2 out of the bigger cities, coming through Houston, hitting
3 Victoria, and then they're just making the big circle.

4 So even though we may not have an issue right
5 now with the catalytic converter thefts, our goal is to
6 help those other agencies to solve those crimes, and I
7 think with these cameras we can do that.

8 I've spoken with our local sheriff about my
9 plan and he said put them as far out on the highway as you
10 can, you're not going to hurt my feelings. Wherever you
11 want the cameras, we're good with it as long as we can
12 help out. So I've got buy-in from our sheriff's office.

13 We're also part of Operation Lone Star Task
14 Force, so we have an MOU with numerous agencies
15 surrounding us and all the way down to the Valley.
16 Victoria is also part of the HIDTA group, which we partner
17 with them. They also have mobile LPRs, fixed locations,
18 which we've been able to solve numerous crimes with those.

19 Also, currently we are getting an operation,
20 another LPR system, mobile in our cars, Vigilant. So I
21 think with three different systems, because everybody out
22 there is using something different, we will still be able
23 to get their reads, get their hot list, help them with
24 their investigations, and hopefully just kind of solve
25 some of the issues surrounding our county.

1 MS. JONES: Sir, you mentioned that your city,
2 Cuero, you don't have a catalytic converter issue?

3 MR. ELLIS: Correct. We have not had a
4 reported one but we have had them come through.

5 MS. JONES: Okay. So can you explain your plan
6 to coordinate and work with other agencies to -- from what
7 I'm hearing, you're being proactive. But explain your
8 proactive approach for your city.

9 MR. ELLIS: Our closest agency with a motor
10 vehicle theft task force is going to be Victoria, and we
11 do work with Victoria. We talk to those guys with their
12 CID on a regular basis. So any intel, any information we
13 have, we would share -- all of that information would be
14 shared with them.

15 In fact, when I went online with the Vigilant,
16 the same day I did that, I ended up with 1,000 emails that
17 same day, sending me MOUs. So we are perfectly fine with
18 sharing all of that data.

19 We have community events, we discuss ways to
20 protect their property.

21 We do have two local car dealerships in town.
22 They have not been the victim of catalytic converter
23 theft, but they have been the victim of parts being stolen
24 from the vehicles, particularly tires or wheel sets, and
25 they've come back and had four and five cars up on blocks.

1 So these cameras would be positioned in a way to get that
2 information on vehicles coming in. We've worked with
3 those dealerships to try to help them with security
4 measures, more cameras, more lighting.

5 So the guys are very proactive in this. I'm
6 trying to give them all the tools that they can to be
7 successful out there on the street.

8 MS. JONES: I was going to ask you about how
9 you're coordinating and working with the dealerships and
10 you just answered. Great.

11 MR. ELLIS: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. JONES: Mr. Sloan?

13 MR. SLOAN: No questions.

14 MS. JONES: Major Diggs?

15 MR. DIGGS: No.

16 MS. JONES: No further questions, sir.

17 MR. ELLIS: Thank y'all.

18 MS. JONES: You're welcome.

19 MR. DIGGS: So I'm going to call up next the
20 City of Cumby.

21 MR. HACKNEY: Hello. So I'm Kalen Hackney.
22 I'm the chief of police for the Cumby Police Department.

23 We're located on Interstate Highway 30 in
24 between Greenville and Sulphur Springs, Texas, about 60
25 miles east of Dallas. Both of those cities are rapidly

1 growing cities.

2 Cumby PD is primarily located in Hopkins
3 County, Texas, but we do have jurisdiction in Hunt County,
4 Texas, so we're a dual county agency there. We're a rural
5 town and being surrounded by large cities has made us
6 susceptible to crime, specifically thefts involving motor
7 vehicles and homes as well.

8 As of now, we have access to two cameras which
9 are on Leonardo, one of which is in Caddo Mills that's
10 approximately 30 miles west of us, and then the other one
11 is in Mount Vernon which is 30 miles east of us. So we
12 have a vast majority after they hit those cameras that
13 they can exit off or take a detour and just not make it to
14 us or maybe not even make it to the cameras if they hit
15 our area. They may not even make it to those cameras.

16 The cameras don't typically assist us with the
17 prevention of the catalytic converter thefts, as suspects
18 usually originate from one of the larger cities
19 surrounding us so they don't pass the current readers.
20 And we are not the primary licensee for those cameras; we
21 piggyback off of Hopkins County, Texas right now. So it
22 belongs to them, it's their cameras.

23 So my agency currently consists of seven
24 officers. We're responsible for approximately 24 round
25 trip miles of Interstate Highway 30, so we go from the 104

1 to the 116 and back. My officers work interdiction and
2 these cameras will not only assist with the prevention of
3 catalytic converter thefts but will also assist with the
4 furtherance of the prevention of other home and auto
5 thefts, as well as assisting with our efforts to combat
6 drug and human trafficking efforts.

7 Hopkins County is 792 square miles and contains
8 only three law enforcement agencies: that's us, Sulphur
9 Springs, and Hopkins County Sheriff's Office, for that
10 vast majority. Cumby PD is responsible for assisting the
11 sheriff's office with the entire west side of the county
12 as we're the only agency other than theirs that's on that
13 side of the county, and it's all rural areas.

14 In addition to being responsible for the
15 assistance in the west side of Hopkins County, Cumby PD
16 also resides in Hunt County and we're responsible for
17 approximately five miles both east and west of Interstate
18 Highway 30 into Hunt County, Texas. With being the
19 jurisdiction in Hunt County, Texas too, we do have the
20 Northeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force, as well as the
21 North Texas Criminal Interdiction Unit that we partner
22 with a lot of times off Interstate Highway 30.

23 So in October of '24, Hopkins County and the
24 Cumby area were hit hard by vehicle burglaries from armed
25 assailants over several days. This resulted in hundreds

1 of thousands of dollars in loss and damages. These cases
2 could have been solved a lot faster with the use of these
3 Flock cameras in our area. They stayed in the rural areas
4 and never passed our cameras on Interstate Highway 30.

5 The majority of our activities consist of self-
6 initiated criminal interdiction activities and crime
7 prevention. If given the funding, we would like to
8 purchase Flock Safety license plate reading cameras to
9 assist our officers and the surrounding agencies in
10 detecting and enforcing theft of vehicles, vehicle
11 equipment, burglaries and catalytic converters, as well as
12 other crimes that may occur within the jurisdiction.

13 The Cumby Police Department is tasked with
14 working thefts of motor vehicles, burglary of vehicles and
15 catalytic converter thefts, with the majority of suspects
16 operating their own vehicles to commit these offenses.
17 Cumby PD, if awarded the grant, will use the license plate
18 cameras to identify suspect vehicles and their operators.

19 Cumby PD's goal is to use the license plate reader
20 cameras to reduce and prevent incidences of catalytic
21 converter thefts from parking lots as well as the two
22 large TxDOT rest areas that reside both east and west
23 bound Interstate Highway 30 at the 111.

24 Cumby PD will utilize law enforcement
25 intelligence bulletins and other data to create a hot list

1 of automobile burglary and catalytic converter theft
2 suspects. The suspects' information, including any
3 vehicle descriptions, will be loaded into the camera
4 system; when the suspect vehicles enter the city, the
5 officers will attempt to locate vehicles and set up
6 surveillance. Cumby PD will share license plate reader
7 data with surrounding agencies, which would be Hopkins
8 County, Hunt County, Sulphur Springs, Greenville, Texas,
9 along with all the multitude of ISD police departments.
10 Those guys don't have a lot of bulletins coming into their
11 stuff sometimes.

12 So Cumby PD, we don't have a lot of funding due
13 to being a small agency. We're just asking for help to
14 obtain these cameras to ensure our small town stays as
15 safe as possible. Cumby PD is excited for the opportunity
16 to be here today and presenting this before you guys.

17 If awarded this grant, Cumby PD will utilize
18 the funding and cameras to the fullest extent to keep
19 Hopkins County and Cumby as safe as possible, and we thank
20 you guys for the opportunity to be here.

21 MS. JONES: Chief, did you say that you have
22 two cameras or you're requesting two additional cameras?

23 MR. HACKNEY: No, no. We're requesting four of
24 our own. Currently we don't have any cameras, we just
25 have access to cameras that belong to another agency,

1 which are on the Leonardo system.

2 We're requesting four of our own localized
3 cameras to make sure that if someone does something in the
4 city, it passes those cameras because there's too many
5 exits. If they hit our city, the odds of them passing one
6 of those other cameras on Interstate Highway 30 are very
7 slim.

8 MS. JONES: What is your population?

9 MR. HACKNEY: We're currently right at 1,000 in
10 our actual city, and then we serve a vast majority more
11 than that, obviously.

12 MS. JONES: And the city is how large?

13 MR. HACKNEY: A thousand population.

14 MS. JONES: As far as miles?

15 MR. HACKNEY: I believe it's six square miles.

16 MS. JONES: Six square miles. Okay.

17 You reported in 2023 zero catalytic theft and
18 in 2024, so is this a community effort to be proactive?

19 MR. HACKNEY: Yeah, so this is a proactive
20 approach to preventing it in our area. Like I said, we
21 have been hit by a lot of thefts and burglaries, but we
22 don't want it to get to the point of having a bunch in our
23 area. Because we are small and rural, we're very
24 susceptible to it.

25 MS. JONES: Yes, sir, understood.

1 Mr. Sloan.

2 MR. SLOAN: Thank you. Tom Sloan, board
3 member, for the record.

4 Hopkins County, Hunt County, do you, Chief,
5 recall how many cat thefts there are for the two counties
6 that you help police?

7 MR. HACKNEY: I don't have the numbers for the
8 actual catalytic converter thefts. Like I said, we're
9 usually more burglaries and things like that. I believe
10 Hopkins County has had a few, but I don't have those
11 numbers readily available.

12 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. JONES: No further questions, sir. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. HACKNEY: Thank you guys.

16 MS. JONES: You're welcome.

17 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, Chief.

18 So the next agency I'll call up will be Dimmit
19 County. Dimmit County.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DIGGS: The City of Early. The City of
22 Early.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DIGGS: The City of Elgin.

25 MR. NOBLE: Good morning. I'm Chris Noble, the

1 chief of police with the City of Elgin, and joining me is
2 Debbie Gibson with our finance department. And she's
3 taken a lot of grief for that name if anybody is familiar
4 with music. Thank you for allowing us to appear.

5 And first I wanted to say we do have a drone
6 policy, we also have a LPR policy and a very robust
7 pursuit policy, as those who know, get the cameras, your
8 pursuits go up exponentially.

9 Nevertheless, the City of Elgin, including the
10 unincorporated area and our extraterritorial jurisdiction,
11 is experiencing explosive growth with the residential
12 neighborhoods, apartment complexes, shopping centers,
13 hotels, schools, commercial businesses and industrial
14 parks. Even though the city limit signs on 290 and
15 Highway 95 say Elgin's population is 8,600, the actual
16 number is about 15,000. That number increases to roughly
17 25,000 when including those living in our ETJ.

18 Our economic development corporation projects
19 that our area will be at 50,000 within the next two to
20 three years. Regardless, the Elgin Police Department will
21 be responsible for those people, particularly their
22 vehicles, while they work, visit and play in Elgin.

23 Crimes are being committed against vehicles in
24 direct proportion to that growth. Using a strategy of
25 high intensity and visible directed patrols in areas prone

1 to thefts of catalytic converters, reports of catalytic
2 converter theft dropped significantly in 2023 and then to
3 zero so far during 2024. In a manner of speaking, we have
4 become victims of our own success regarding catalytic
5 converters. There is a caveat to that number as the
6 school district bus barn was hit and those thefts were
7 never reported to us, and so I have no information on that
8 as to the value of that theft.

9 Nonetheless, our current strategy of intensive
10 patrols is not sustainable due to the strain of the
11 increasing number of calls for service and stagnating
12 staff levels, thus interfering with our ability to
13 consistently execute directed patrols in other areas not
14 prone to catalytic converter thefts. As evidenced during
15 calendar years '23 and '24, the number of vehicle
16 burglaries and auto thefts have increased 86 and 81
17 percent respectively.

18 Technology will be our path forward for
19 addressing catalytic converter thefts and the ever-
20 increasing other crimes committed against vehicles. As
21 such, we are seeking license plate reader cameras, and if
22 we are successful in getting to the negotiation phase, a
23 trailer, a mobile trailer as well.

24 In mid 2024, the Elgin Police Department
25 installed 13 license plate readers. The cameras were

1 configured in a perimeter or halo pattern around the city
2 to capture as best possible the ingress and egress of
3 vehicles on secondary thoroughfares. However, no cameras
4 were installed on any state highway or TxDOT roadway,
5 which Elgin has several: US 290, Highway 95, Highway
6 109, FM 1100, 1704 and FM 3000.

7 And if anyone is familiar with the area, the
8 290 toll road is about to be extended to the Elgin city
9 limits from Austin. And right now Highway 290, the last
10 traffic count we did -- but frankly, that was five years
11 ago -- 290 is carrying 30,000 cars in each direction each
12 day. Anyway, regardless, all of those routes carry the
13 bulk of traffic through Elgin.

14 If the MVCPA grant is approved, the requested
15 fixed post cameras will be tasked on State of Texas
16 roadways. Additionally, the requested mobile camera
17 trailer will be deployed to commercial and retail parking
18 lots most prone to catalytic converter thefts, of which
19 all those properties front on to state-owned and
20 state-maintained highways.

21 At the time of this writing, during the six
22 months of 2024 when the existing Flock cameras were
23 installed, they have been operational, officers have
24 responded to 628 incidents involving motor vehicle crimes
25 or crimes involving motor vehicles, which to include

1 murder, auto thefts, theft of auto parts, auto burglaries,
2 gang activity, and the presence of sex offenders in our
3 area, as well as notifications of missing and protected
4 persons. The Elgin Police Department has recovered 24
5 stolen vehicles valued at over a quarter of a million
6 dollars.

7 The Elgin Police Department collaborates and
8 maintains a close working relationship with the Austin
9 Regional Intelligence Center, in addition to multiple law
10 enforcement and government agencies in the Central Texas
11 area. Any information collected by EPD's license plate
12 readers related to catalytic converter thefts, as well as
13 any other crimes and criminals, will be shared not just
14 regionally but across the state and the United States.

15 With regard to the economic damage and even
16 damage to the environment, as you're aware, catalytic
17 converters are critical to making vehicle exhaust and
18 emissions safer. Preventing the thefts of catalytic
19 converters can go a long way to reduce the need for
20 victims to replace these very expensive catalytic
21 devices -- which I know, I had to replace one on my Chevy
22 Tahoe, back in the day when these were good luck getting a
23 catalytic converter, even at the Chevy dealership --
24 nevertheless, thus ultimately reducing the need for the
25 core components of the catalytic converters and for their

1 manufacture.

2 As such, as part of our prevention process and
3 education, we have made an agreement with Meineke Muffler
4 where they will etch the vehicle's VIN number on the
5 catalytic converter when a vehicle is in for service. It
6 is a service that is offered and we will use the grant
7 funds to assist with any expenses that are related to
8 that.

9 Though often an effective deterrent, cameras do
10 not always prevent crimes. They are certainly effective
11 to help solve them, however. The benefit and value of the
12 LPRs, the Flock ones specifically, as opposed to other
13 overwatch types of video surveillance systems is that we
14 will get real-time notifications of crimes and other
15 suspicious activities, not a pointless phone call from a
16 third-party monitoring company well after the fact or if
17 we're even notified at all.

18 Further, the benefits of the LPRs, particularly
19 a well placed mobile camera trailer, is that it can
20 capture the movements of individual people as they
21 approach a target location on foot in order to avoid easy
22 detection as they approach the cars, get under the cars
23 and cut the catalytic converters off. And again, it goes
24 back to being notified of it when it is occurring.

25 As such, the measure of success will not just

1 be the successful apprehensions and prosecutions but the
2 absence of reported catalytic converter thefts, along with
3 the successful identification of suspects and the recovery
4 of stolen converters.

5 In conclusion, the monies available for the
6 MVCPA grant come from Texans. The Elgin Police Department
7 wants to use grant funds for the safety and well-being of
8 Texans and their vehicles being used and operated on Texas
9 owned and maintained highways.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief.

12 You mentioned that you plan to put the LPRs on
13 the state roadway. Are those within your city master
14 plan?

15 MR. NOBLE: That is correct. Specifically in
16 close proximity to the new businesses coming and their
17 parking lots that all front out on two state highways.

18 MS. JONES: Okay. And then also, what is your
19 community educational effort going to be?

20 MR. NOBLE: And I'm glad to have heard that
21 you've got a great social media person. That is one of
22 our biggest weaknesses right now, and so whatever help I
23 can get with that, I will take it.

24 MR. SLOAN: You make a good point, Chief. The
25 plan is thorough. And having the complexity of being a

1 chief in a growing community such as Elgin, I wanted to
2 ask too, what is your approach with social media, so I'm
3 glad that you addressed that.

4 But I'd just make the suggestion to tap your
5 talent pool. You've got young people with cell phones,
6 that's a great resource to have.

7 MR. NOBLE: And we are doing that, but when you
8 need to blast something out in the middle of the night, so
9 yes, absolutely. I'll get my grandson in there to help me
10 with that. But, yes, absolutely.

11 MR. DIGGS: Chief, I just wanted to say Deputy
12 Director Earl Pence, over here in the black cowboy hat, he
13 can put you in contact with our social media rep, and we'd
14 love to partner you and help you with that. Be glad to do
15 that, sir.

16 MR. NOBLE: Thank you.

17 MS. JONES: Chief, no further questions. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. NOBLE: Thank you very much.

20 MS. JONES: Board, let us have a recess, 11:10,
21 let's return at 11:20, please.

22 (Whereupon, at 11:10 a.m., a brief recess was
23 taken.)

24 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
25 the record.

1 We'll now call up the City of Falfurrias.

2 MR. BARTON: Good morning. My name is Will
3 Barton, chief of police for Fal.

4 So we put in for the grant more for a effort to
5 be on the information side, because our department where
6 we're at -- we're located on 281 and 285, so we're pretty
7 south. We have one of the biggest check points there,
8 Border Patrol. We have a lot of thefts, burglaries, and I
9 believe we've only had one catalytic converter theft.

10 So when it comes to like poverty level, we are
11 one of the poorest counties. We actually have individuals
12 that their catalytic converters have been stolen and they
13 will not report it, and what they'll do is they'll just go
14 get mufflers or straight pipe their vehicle. It's easier
15 for them to do that than actually make a report.

16 Our citizens are a little bit different there.

17 That's the kind of relationship they have. So when it
18 comes to actual thefts, I think we've only taken one
19 official one.

20 So we are about 5,000 people. We have about
21 three square miles, we're averaging about 10,500 cars a
22 day just because we have US 281 and 285.

23 Now, my goal is to put cameras into our area,
24 high speed cameras, to be exact, due to the fact that we
25 have so much traffic coming in and out and I want to be

1 the information hub of showing if they stole something in
2 this area, we're showing it passing through here. They've
3 taken this from there, we can show that it's been in our
4 area, at least to get that information out.

5 Our closest department -- we work with the
6 sheriff's office really well, but the next closest
7 department would be Premont and Alice PD, and that's 15
8 minutes, 30 minutes. We're kind of rural. I mean, it's
9 just us.

10 I only have a 13-man department, usually only
11 two or three working at a time. So we try to combat
12 everything as we can, and we figured installing some
13 cameras would at least help us and give us a response time
14 to get things, to get to vehicles.

15 What we do get a lot of, I will say, is stolen
16 vehicles. Just this year we had 21; we were only able to
17 recover twelve. We have our ELSAG cameras right now, so
18 that was one of the benefits in helping us. My whole role
19 is to add more cameras to at least help us out in a way
20 that we can respond better or at least give out
21 information.

22 MR. SLOAN: Chief, you talked about the
23 economic hardship of a stolen catalytic converter for your
24 community, so glad you mentioned that. You're seeking
25 LPRs. Do you have a policy in place yet?

1 MR. BARTON: Yes, we do.

2 MR. SLOAN: Okay.

3 MR. BARTON: So right now we have two set up of
4 ELSAG. I had got another four through Operation Lone
5 Star; they're just in the process of being set up like
6 with power and everything like that, but we're still
7 working on that.

8 MS. JONES: Chief, what is your population
9 size?

10 MR. BARTON: So we're just under 5,000.

11 MS. JONES: And how many cameras are you
12 seeking?

13 MR. BARTON: Right now we're seeking twelve.

14 MS. JONES: Twelve?

15 MR. BARTON: Yes.

16 MS. JONES: What is your plan to gain trust
17 from the community?

18 MR. BARTON: So right now what we try to do is
19 we try to post a lot to social media. We've done little
20 community events, National Night Out, stuff like that.
21 We're trying to do more movie nights, but our community
22 is -- they don't really like cops or they don't like us in
23 a lot of ways.

24 We try to go to the schools, we try to show,
25 hey, this is what we do. We'll take pictures, we have

1 those drug kits where it shows, you know, this is what
2 this looks like. We try to get out there a lot, but it's
3 just our area is really bad with the poverty. And I don't
4 know if that plays a big effect to it, but our relations
5 with the community isn't the best right now.

6 MS. JONES: That's why I asked you what is your
7 plan to have that improvement, because if you get the
8 cameras and they're not reporting, you're not going to go
9 when a catalytic converter is stolen to know where to look
10 because they weren't reported.

11 MR. BARTON: So for the most part they aren't
12 reporting and if they do, we get lucky. And the only
13 reason we know people are doing it is because they'll tell
14 us like, hey, they took my catalytic converter. I was
15 like, okay, are y'all going to make a report? Well, no,
16 we just put mufflers.

17 So, yeah, we have that big distance that we've
18 been trying to close and it's hard right now, especially
19 when it comes to social media. So we like to post on
20 social media, we like to show what happens. I don't want
21 to throw under the bus, but like our council likes to put
22 stuff on the paper. They like going that route instead of
23 the social media route because they say we have older
24 people that don't know how to use social media, so there's
25 that, you know, binder kind of gets in the way.

1 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. Can you explain the
2 plan, the proactive plan for catalytic converters? Because
3 if they're not reported, how are you going to use the
4 cameras for catalytic converters?

5 MR. BARTON: So the overall plan is to use them
6 more for the informational part, so to show that, hey,
7 they stole this up here and we're getting it down here.
8 We can at least try and knock it down to get all the
9 information, you know, arrest. It's really hard because
10 they're not reporting, like they're just telling us, and
11 when we try to make the report, they will not cooperate.

12 I want to say we've only had one that
13 cooperated and we never -- we could never follow up on the
14 case. We never got any leads. It's just hard.

15 I want to use these cameras to document
16 everything that comes or leaves or showing the times of,
17 hey, we had a theft here, this vehicle was in this area,
18 can you check your cameras? It hit this camera at this
19 time, this camera at this time. That's the main thing.

20 MS. JONES: Thank you, Chief Barton.

21 Major Diggs, any questions?

22 MR. DIGGS: Yes, Madam Chair.

23 So, Chief, I was just going to say the MVCPA,
24 when it comes to social media connecting with the
25 community, we'd love to work with you, help you out with

1 that, whether it be some of our trainers, our social media
2 staff working with you. So please reach out to us. We
3 want to help foster those relationships, foster a good
4 relationship with you.

5 Also, I did want to mention that I do need, if
6 you have any questions, you can reach with Lauren, Dan or
7 Deputy Director Earl Pence, we just need to get your ops
8 plan into the GMTS system, so we're just missing that one
9 thing, though.

10 But we look forward to working with you and
11 thank you for your presentation today, Chief.

12 MR. BARTON: Awesome. Thank you.

13 MR. DIGGS: All right. So calling up next the
14 City of Farmers Branch.

15 MS. HOLMES: Good morning. My name is Addison
16 Holmes. I'm the grant coordinator for the City of Farmers
17 Branch.

18 The City of Farmers Branch Police Department is
19 seeking funding in the amount of \$125,000. With that
20 funds, we're hoping to purchase the Flock Safety LPR
21 cameras, as well as the Flock Safety operating system
22 software, to address the issues of catalytic converter
23 theft and motor vehicle crime within our city.

24 We sit at a very interesting position. We are
25 the city that borders Dallas directly to the north. We

1 have I-35 that goes through our city, as well as 635 and
2 two other major tollways. With that, our residential
3 population sits a little below 37,000 but our daytime
4 population increases to 100,000 people, so we just sit at
5 a great spot for a lot of traffic to come through
6 throughout the day.

7 We currently have 17 LPR cameras that are being
8 used. We have seen a decline in the past year compared to
9 2023 in catalytic converter theft, but it is still a
10 persistent issue. In fact, the day that we submitted our
11 grant, we had four catalytic converter thefts that
12 afternoon and a motor vehicle theft, so it is something
13 that we are still dealing with.

14 We believe that the additional license plate
15 reader cameras will continue to aid in our efforts within
16 the city, as well as act as an intelligence sharing
17 between the jurisdictions in our areas. Where we sit in
18 the DFW Metroplex, we are able to work with a lot of the
19 cities around us. In fact, over Christmas we were able to
20 use our LPR cameras with other cities to follow a crew
21 that was going through city to city and have an
22 apprehension there for the City of Garland, I believe.

23 So our city has a small policing agency, and
24 with limited personnel, these cameras would act as a force
25 multiplier that we think would be incredibly beneficial to

1 continue making positive progress on catalytic converter
2 thefts, as well as motor vehicle crimes within our city,
3 and to improve public safety overall and ensuring that the
4 city is just a safe place for our residents and our
5 visitors as well throughout the day, considering the
6 amount of events and different things that we have going
7 on throughout our city.

8 So that is what we'd like to use the funds for.
9 Appreciate your consideration of our request.

10 MS. JONES: Ma'am, what is your role with the
11 city?

12 MS. HOLMES: I'm the grant coordinator.

13 MS. JONES: I notice in 2023 you had 116 thefts
14 of catalytic converters, and in 2024 you had ten, which is
15 great unless you're not keeping up with them.

16 MS. HOLMES: We are keeping up. We saw a
17 decline. We continue to see motor vehicle thefts
18 continue.

19 We think that with the amount of attention that
20 was being put on the catalytic converter thefts and with
21 the LPRs that we were able to put in place, we believe
22 that that is the decline. We still continue to see, I
23 believe, 227 motor vehicle thefts. And so we just believe
24 that there is a focus more toward that than catalytic
25 converter, but it still remains an issue that we're

1 seeing. And like I said, the day we submitted we saw
2 those four and so we are kind of seeing that go back up,
3 so that number was not reflected in the number there.

4 MS. JONES: I saw you go the then -- oh, the
5 four is not reported?

6 MS. HOLMES: Not reported, no.

7 MS. JONES: So you had fourteen.

8 MS. HOLMES: Yes, we had a little bit more than
9 that ten after their little spree.

10 MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

11 Tom?

12 MR. SLOAN: Thank you. I didn't catch it, how
13 many more LPRs are you seeking to purchase?

14 MS. HOLMES: Thirty-four.

15 MR. SLOAN: Thirty-four?

16 MS. HOLMES: Yes.

17 MR. SLOAN: Forgive me if you had mentioned
18 that.

19 MS. HOLMES: I did not.

20 MR. DIGGS: So just curious, during the year
21 that there was the reduction -- and you talked about the
22 attention and that was probably maybe the statewide
23 attention -- what did you guys do in the City of Farmers
24 Branch during that year? Was there any public outreach,
25 were there any events that you guys had locally or social

1 media that you did locally that may have attributed to the
2 reduction?

3 MS. HOLMES: We are very community-focused.
4 Like I said, our community is very small and they are very
5 active with our local police department. We have our
6 National Night Out which is a very large hit in the city.
7 We also have different community policing events going
8 on. I know our police department works pretty
9 closely with the HOAs in our city, as well as we also have
10 our Citizens on Patrol. And I think just a lot of word of
11 mouth, a lot of conversations about this. And then we
12 also have our media specialist for the police department,
13 as well as the city, who put out a lot of information, I
14 believe, of when events were happening and what that
15 looked like.

16 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

17 MS. HOLMES: Thank you so much.

18 MR. DIGGS: So I would like to call up now the
19 City of Fort Stockton.

20 MR. STRATTON: Good morning, board. Thank you
21 for allowing us to be here today. Sergeant Derek
22 Stratton, and I've got with me here Chief Ernesto
23 Velasquez.

24 MR. VELASQUEZ: Chief Ernesto Velasquez. Thank
25 y'all for having us.

1 MS. JONES: You're welcome. Welcome,
2 gentlemen.

3 MR. STRATTON: To begin -- so about us and the
4 City of Fort Stockton. So I don't know if any of y'all
5 have ever been out to rural West Texas. Like Chief likes
6 to say, we're four hours from nowhere.

7 It takes about three and a half hours to get to
8 El Paso to the west; it takes about four hours to get here
9 to San Antonio. We're home to approximately 8,500
10 citizens there. We're in an area where we have a direct
11 nexus to the border with Mexico, which includes four major
12 highways that converge right in the middle of the city:
13 US Highway 285, US Highway 385, the interstate itself, and
14 then we have Highway 67 that goes down to Highway 90,
15 Alpine area.

16 So we see a lot of traffic, especially a bunch
17 of visitors that go down to the state park down there, Big
18 Bend National Park. We get a lot of traffic from people
19 coming in and out.

20 Also, here at the police department we employ
21 approximately 18 sworn personnel. We're a little short
22 right now because -- I mean, everybody is short. We're a
23 few short there. But those 18 sworn personnel provide
24 service to the city of 8,500 citizens there.

25 Fort Stockton is about 5.3 square miles in its

1 size, but it's located in the second largest county in the
2 state, which is approximately 4,765 square miles. There's
3 not very much out there. Fort Stockton is the county
4 seat; there's a few other smaller towns in that county,
5 but a lot of the population and a lot of the traffic that
6 comes through comes right through Fort Stockton.

7 Our plans and goals with this grant -- we're
8 asking for funding to install six new ALPR cameras
9 throughout the area around Fort Stockton to assist in
10 deterring criminal acts and apprehending suspects. We
11 hope to limit the further catalytic converter theft that
12 has affected the area over the past few years, as well as
13 other criminal activity, stolen vehicles, vehicle
14 burglaries, home burglaries, stuff like that.

15 This addition of these cameras will allow us to
16 become a share point of LPR information. Like everybody
17 else is saying, this Flock system allows you to share your
18 information nationwide, if that's what you choose to do.
19 And that's our plan is to be able to share that
20 information so we can suppress illicit activity, not only
21 in our jurisdiction but in the surrounding areas as well.

22 We have our own bad actors there in Fort
23 Stockton and Pecos County, but we understand that our bad
24 actors don't stay in Fort Stockton. They travel to the
25 surrounding areas, Crane, Pecos themselves. And those bad

1 actors from those areas will come down to our area as
2 well, so we get a lot of traffic going back and forth.

3 So our plan is to share our information with
4 those agencies so that if they have something that happens
5 in their jurisdiction, we have means to help them with
6 their investigation. And likewise, if something happens
7 in our jurisdiction, we hope that they would also share
8 with us so that we can get those people apprehended.

9 Like I said before, with the statewide shortage
10 of officers, it's imperative that we employ a technology
11 that can capture data and share that information 24 hours
12 a day, 365 days a year. It become a force multiplier for
13 us to be able to have eyes out there when our officers
14 can't be everywhere at once.

15 Chief.

16 MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes, sir. Thank you, Derek.

17 So being in Fort Stockton, I know when Sergeant
18 Stratton applied for the grant, our numbers were low, but
19 we were a victim of catalytic converter thefts ourselves.

20 The city was hit. They not only hit the city vehicles,
21 they hit our local dealerships, two of our local
22 dealerships there, and of course, a bunch of residents in
23 the town the previous years.

24 So we did get on top of that, and as soon as we
25 got on top of that, we were able to identify three

1 individuals. One individual deceased himself actually;
2 while stealing a converter, a vehicle fell on top of his
3 head. And based off of that, we were able to identify two
4 other people, individuals, get cell phones, and then we
5 worked closely with the Texas Department of Public Safety
6 CID, passed that information on. Because those people
7 were not actually from Fort Stockton, they just were
8 traveling through hitting us.

9 And we do work closely on some other grants
10 because of the nexus to the border. We had some vehicles
11 stolen that were identified from here, four hours away.
12 Basically, they came through Fort Stockton, stealing
13 vehicles from San Antonio.

14 It was never entered into the system here.
15 They did pass some LPR readers in other counties but
16 evidently it didn't capture the data. The vehicles
17 weren't entered into any other system.

18 So if it wasn't for a father being proactive
19 and having an Apple GPS tracker on his son's Raptor pickup
20 and contacting us -- our officers got up on the
21 interstate. We presumed there was only one vehicle
22 because that's the information we had. We were able to
23 stop that vehicle, and it turned out there was a couple of
24 other stolen vehicles.

25 So the information obtained from that was

1 they're taking these vehicles to Mexico. It's a lot
2 easier for them to steal the vehicles nowadays as opposed
3 to sitting there and cutting them. And this is from an
4 actual defendant saying that cities -- that till we put a
5 deterrent on them, they're going to keep doing it.

6 They're going to keep coming from Mexico,
7 stealing our vehicles, taking them back. He said it's
8 just easier for them to do that, and plus they get more
9 money now.

10 So the proactive approach for the cities that
11 do have the cameras -- the criminal element is aware of
12 some of those, so they figure, hey, we'll go out this way.

13 And it's so rural out there that -- I mean, four hours
14 and our second largest county, we have 100 miles of
15 straight interstate one way. So when you enter the county
16 seat, it still takes you about almost an hour to get to
17 Fort Stockton.

18 So I think the LPRs will be beneficial to our
19 department. I visited with the sheriff, with DPS, and
20 that's our goal. We did apply as part of the grant,
21 contacted DPS, asked them for information on how to
22 install them on the TxDOT right of ways.

23 We did meet with TxDOT as well, so we're in the
24 process. Being proactive, we actually applied for three
25 other cameras ourselves. I secured the funding with my

1 finance director that's here and said, hey, we need to do
2 this. We need to be proactive.

3 So we took the proactive approach to try to
4 acquire three, contacted Flock. Then we found out about
5 the grant and so we figured, hey, initially I can only
6 afford three, but if we can get some help from the grant
7 and add the additional, we'll have full coverage to be
8 able to share that information with HIDTA. We have an
9 HIDTA office in Alpine, Texas. We do work Operation Stone
10 Guard and Operation Lone Star to be proactive and have the
11 officers out there.

12 And like Sergeant Stratton said, we're limited
13 on people, but when you have those cameras out there and
14 you're getting that data and you're able to assist or
15 share with other agencies, I think it's beneficial putting
16 a dent on that crime.

17 So I want to thank you guys for letting us be
18 here.

19 MS. JONES: Chief, I will say when you mention
20 a nexus to the border, I saw a lot of nodding in agreement
21 with you, and we understand the issues. Once they get
22 across, it's so much easier to cut them across.

23 You also mentioned the dealerships. What is
24 your plan or have you already started a plan educating
25 dealerships with prevention, and then what is your plan

1 for your community?

2 MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes, ma'am, thank you.

3 So we did meet with the dealerships. Our first
4 plan was our local dealerships did not even have any type
5 of camera system installed, like surveillance cameras on
6 their dealerships themselves, so that was our first plan.

7 So we went out there. They installed some bars as well
8 on some of their entrance and gates because they were just
9 initially open parking type dealerships. They went out
10 there -- basically, any truck or vehicle that was high
11 enough that they didn't have to jack it up or do anything,
12 that's the vehicles that they hit.

13 So with us meeting with them, they've taken
14 some proactive approaches and they put those closer to the
15 building. I think both of the dealerships installed one
16 surveillance camera. They still didn't want to install
17 them, so they came back and hit us on the back-end; they
18 hit all the vehicles they were working on on the back side
19 of the property. So since then they've taken a proactive
20 approach to put more cameras toward the back of the
21 dealerships.

22 So we did visit with them on that information,
23 so I think we covered that. So the plan was that, just
24 sharing our information with them. They know to call us.
25 We're a small community, 8,000 people, but 16,000 county-

1 wide.

2 Anything else on that?

3 MR. STRATTON: We've also let them know in our
4 partnership with Flock, the first iteration of that was
5 moving to Axon system, the Axon free cameras also act as
6 ALPR readers that are integrated with Flock. So our
7 patrol vehicles all have that installed, so all that
8 information, as well as the three cameras that we're
9 looking to get set up that we've already secured funding
10 for. And with these six extra cameras that we're asking
11 for, all of that is going to get compiled into that
12 system.

13 And like Chief said, we're not looking just to
14 share it within ourselves or with the sheriff's office, we
15 have other local agencies around us that are moving to
16 this system that we can share with. We have the Marshal
17 task force that regularly comes up to our office asking
18 for help looking for fugitives. So it's been helpful to
19 everybody, to us, to the federal agencies, the other
20 agencies around us that we're able to share that
21 information with.

22 Also, like Chief said, that 100 miles of
23 interstate, we're trying as best we can to get these
24 cameras set up just about as far away as possible that
25 makes it feasible for us that those people would still

1 enter the city limits of Fort Stockton. So we're not
2 looking just to cover our immediate outside area -- I
3 guess you could call it our cartilage. We're looking to
4 kind of push those cameras a little bit further out to
5 where once they hit those cameras, they don't have
6 anywhere else to go but Fort Stockton.

7 So those are two on the interstate on the east
8 and west side, one up on Highway 285 a little bit north of
9 town; we also have Texas 18 up there north of town, and
10 then some of our farm to market roads that we have, FM
11 1053 that leads up into Crane County. So we're trying to
12 get all of our ingress/egress points done for now. And I
13 think the next phase is we want to continue to utilize
14 this system and probably start moving kind of more in the
15 neighborhoods that will help us kind of more localize our
16 areas and be able to track down these individuals to
17 certain neighborhoods is our goal.

18 MR. SLOAN: This will increase your inventory
19 from three to nine, is that the case?

20 MR. STRATTON: Yes.

21 MR. SLOAN: Okay. So you have three that are
22 in place now?

23 MR. STRATTON: We have three that are in the
24 planning. We're just waiting to secure permits from
25 TxDOT. We did our MOU and stuff with DPS, we're just

1 waiting on securing those permits and then getting those
2 installed.

3 Right now the only reads we have in place are
4 our fleet cameras. So the officers driving around, it
5 picks up all those. We've gotten probably hundreds of
6 thousands of license plate hits.

7 The only problem with that is the officers have
8 to be in that area that somebody is in or close by for
9 those reads to hit. But we've had some luck with them.
10 We've been able to locate where some of our bad actors are
11 either living, staying or hanging out, and we can go and
12 knock on those doors and figure out what's going on.

13 So, yes, this would increase -- all of our
14 fleet vehicles that we have, the three that we've ordered,
15 this would add six to that.

16 MR. SLOAN: One last question from me. Do you
17 have a policy on that?

18 MR. STRATTON: Yes, we do have an LPR policy.

19 MR. SLOAN: Okay.

20 MS. JONES: No further questions, except, Chief
21 and Sergeant, despite what Member Sloan said, I used to
22 live in El Paso and I really, really loved traveling back
23 to Austin. I looked forward to stopping in Fort Stockton
24 on my way back to my duty station. I absolutely loved it.

25 (General talking and laughter.)

1 MS. JONES: It's in the middle of nowhere, oh,
2 my gosh.

3 MR. STRATTON: Yes. People ask us all the
4 time, well, where are you at? Well, you know where El
5 Paso is, you know where San Antonio is, put us right there
6 in the middle.

7 MS. JONES: There's nothing but tumbleweeds,
8 like large tumbleweeds.

9 MR. STRATTON: And that's kind of what makes it
10 hard, too, is we get these people that come in and there's
11 not another agency close by enough that they're going to
12 go into that neighboring neighborhood or agency.

13 The sheriff's office gets a lot of copper
14 thefts because they have all the windmills and stuff out
15 there. So they see a lot of copper theft out in that
16 area, and oilfield theft up a little further north of us,
17 but I mean, it's everything. We see a myriad of different
18 things.

19 MS. JONES: Absolutely. Thank you both.

20 MR. STRATTON: Thank you.

21 MR. VELASQUEZ: Thank you.

22 MS. JONES: Gentlemen, I think we should break.
23 And, everyone, let's be back for 1:30. It is 12:02.

24 (Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., a lunch recess was
25 taken.)

1 MS. JONES: Good afternoon. Sharon Jones, for
2 the record. It is 1:34 and we will resume.

3 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon. William Diggs,
4 MVCPA director, for the record.

5 I hope everybody had a fabulous lunch.

6 So I'm going to go ahead and call up -- the
7 next agency is going to be the City of Frisco.

8 MS. TROSTER: I'm kind of nervous. Hello. My
9 name is Lacey Troster and I'm the grants coordinator with
10 the Frisco Police Department. Thank you so much for
11 having me here today.

12 Over the past two months, in coordination with
13 the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, the
14 City of Frisco has been granted the opportunity to
15 increase our investigative opportunities and capabilities
16 with an LPR system. And I'm excited to report as of today
17 we have 68 live and sworn and civilian members that have
18 been trained and it's up and going.

19 The project also highlighted some of our
20 detectives in our motor vehicle crimes unit capabilities
21 and that we need to invest in enhancing them. For
22 example, our motor vehicle crime rate continued to
23 increase as our population increases, as our event venues
24 increase, and as our population increases. And our
25 catalytic converter thefts, they did spike in 2022. And

1 they have started to decrease, but we still are seeing it
2 as an issue, and we are requesting some much-needed
3 equipment for our motor vehicle crimes unit.

4 We have two detectives in this unit and they
5 are part of our CID division. They are currently sharing
6 a vehicle with our CID unit, which means they are having
7 to schedule around when there's one available. They are
8 hauling their equipment back and forth, they have a lot of
9 tools that they need, and that's why we're requesting a
10 vehicle, as well as storage in the bed of that truck, as
11 well as it being upfitted for the requirements.

12 And the Frisco Police Department has just built
13 an annex that has bays for these purposes. And while the
14 motor vehicle crimes unit has been designated a bay,
15 there's a lack of equipment and tools in there. So that
16 is something we're requesting as well, a mobile column
17 lift system for inspections and investigations, as well as
18 tools and storage to be stored in that bay.

19 One thing that we have learned is as a host to
20 from the Dallas Cowboys to FC Dallas to PGA America
21 headquarters -- and we are about to host the World Cup in
22 2026, we're going to be one of the host sites -- we have
23 learned that these properties provide acres of unattended
24 parking lots, which is, of course, our highest targets for
25 catalytic converter theft and motor vehicle crimes.

1 We believe the requested equipment will
2 increase our officer presence in these areas and --

3 (Feed froze briefly.)

4 MS. JONES: Okay. I apologize.

5 MS. TROSTER: This operations deployment shift,
6 they are structured to address tourism policing. And
7 we're requesting some e-bikes, as well as a drone, to be a
8 part of this increased presence to deter the criminal
9 activity.

10 And we do have a drone policy and our drone
11 team currently consists of 14 drones and 19 pilots. But
12 we would like to specifically designate this for deterring
13 and also identifying any activity as it's reported to
14 determine if a threat is active.

15 And we would also like to request a drive test
16 scanner. Our team believes that this will be an essential
17 piece of equipment used in gathering solid evidence for
18 prosecution purposes. It is being requested to result in
19 increased motor vehicle crime and catalytic converter
20 theft prosecution rates and cleared cases in Collin and
21 Denton counties.

22 Our team also believes that the motor vehicle
23 crime detectives fully expect that the device will be
24 highly sought out and extremely helpful to the North Texas
25 Auto Theft Task Force. We're requesting that to provide

1 solid data these -- the suspect was in fact in the area
2 that the crime was committed.

3 This is an overview of our request, and I
4 appreciate you hearing us out.

5 MS. JONES: Ma'am, what is your position with
6 the City of Frisco?

7 MS. TROSTER: I am the police department grant
8 coordinator.

9 MS. JONES: Do you have backup?

10 MS. TROSTER: Not today; they were unable to
11 come.

12 MS. JONES: You mentioned that there are two
13 officers that are going to be assigned to catalytic --

14 MS. TROSTER: Yes, ma'am. There are two
15 detectives currently in our motor vehicle crimes unit, and
16 they are part of our CID division.

17 MS. JONES: So both of them are sharing cars?

18 MS. TROSTER: They will both be sharing that
19 car, yes, but it will be used for the motor vehicle crime
20 purposes.

21 MS. JONES: What kind of car is it, is it
22 bought or leased?

23 MS. TROSTER: Purchased.

24 MS. JONES: How much is it?

25 MS. TROSTER: I was quoted \$50,000, no more

1 than that for the vehicle.

2 MS. JONES: Am I reading this correctly, it
3 says police-ready 29-inch electric bike?

4 MS. TROSTER: Yes, for the deployment
5 operations team.

6 MS. JONES: Explain the deployment operations
7 team and the need for a bike.

8 MS. TROSTER: Yes, ma'am. With all of the
9 event things that we have in Frisco, they are a
10 specialized patrol and operations team that are there for
11 the tourism policing. So when we have large events that
12 have the parking lots utilized, the parking garages
13 utilized, where we have experienced high rates of crime
14 with our catalytic converter thefts, we would like to
15 utilize those to create a higher police presence.

16 MS. JONES: A drive test scanner.

17 MS. TROSTER: Yes. The drive test scanner for
18 additional evidence in order to -- sorry, let me look at
19 my notes -- in order to gather the solid evidence for
20 prosecution purposes. It will gather the phone
21 information of the suspect to confirm that they were at
22 the area where the crime was committed at the current
23 time.

24 MS. JONES: How does it work?

25 MS. TROSTER: It is a device that's purchased

1 once and it works with the -- I have it in here -- it
2 works with a computer software system that we are
3 currently purchasing. And I can have a detailed outline
4 of it, or response -- I do have it. But it was requested
5 to have solid evidence to help clear cases.

6 MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am, I understand. I'm
7 going to give you some time to go through your notes and
8 figure out exactly what you're going to use it for.

9 MS. TROSTER: Okay.

10 MS. JONES: And you mentioned in 2022 that you
11 had a spike and then there was a decline, but your
12 supporting documentation shows '23 as the spike and he
13 decline in '24.

14 MS. TROSTER: Yes. In 2022 there was a spike
15 with over 300, almost 400 catalytic converters, and then
16 it did decline in 2023 to 161, and in 2024 our final count
17 was 23 for catalytic converter thefts. It still does
18 remain an issue.

19 MS. JONES: Thank you.

20 MS. TROSTER: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. JONES: Member Sloan?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. JONES: Okay. I can tell you're nervous,
24 it's your first time, that's why I asked if you had
25 backup. I knew how my questions were going to go.

1 MS. TROSTER: Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. JONES: Just take some time to get your
3 notes together and then once they're together, just give
4 us a wave and then we'll fit you back in.

5 MS. TROSTER: Absolutely. Thank you.

6 MS. JONES: If you need to make a phone call,
7 step outside to get backup, you may want to do that.

8 MS. TROSTER: Thank you.

9 MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am.

10 MR. DIGGS: Next up we're going to have the
11 City of Galveston.

12 MR. BUCK: How are y'all doing today? Thanks
13 for having us up here. Did you have a good lunch?

14 Lieutenant Timothy Buck, with the City of
15 Galveston. I'm introducing Geo, he's actually the worker
16 and does most of the work around here, so I wanted to let
17 him speak, and if you have any questions, we'll answer it
18 then. Thank you.

19 MS. JONES: And you are, sir? You are the
20 lieutenant and you are?

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Manager of CID.

22 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. Thank you.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Geovanny Martinez.
24 I'm a detective with the Galveston Police Department. I
25 work primarily auto theft.

1 So Galveston, the population is about 55,000
2 people, but we see an influx about 100,000-plus every day
3 because of all the migrant workers that we get, hospitals
4 and everything like that. We host a lot of big special
5 events, Mardi Gras, Lone Star Rally, that bring half a
6 million people to the island on a weekend.

7 Summer months, we have about 200-, 300,000
8 people on the weekend, even though our residential
9 population is small. With this tourism brings a lot of
10 property and auto theft related crimes. Hotels, motels,
11 restaurant parking lots, that's where a lot of these
12 catalytic converter thefts occur for us.

13 We assist other agencies on the island. A few
14 of them are Texas A&M PD, UTMB PD, Jamaica Beach PD,
15 Galveston ISD PD, and Port PD. We assist them with not
16 only responding to calls with them but as well as with
17 their investigations.

18 We are requesting \$92,500 for approximately 20
19 license plate readers to put throughout the island. We do
20 have an LPR policy in place, but the City of Galveston
21 does not currently own any LPRs. The only LPRs we have on
22 the island are Flock cameras which are placed in Jamaica
23 Beach and owned by their HOA.

24 So the city has finally gotten onboard on
25 wanting to acquire LPRs to help combat all kinds of

1 crimes. As you may know, when a crime occurs, catalytic
2 converter thefts or any auto theft related crimes, you may
3 get a lot of security camera footage but nine times out of
4 ten you're not going to get a good visible license plate,
5 which is where these license plate readers would come in
6 handy.

7 They'll be spread out throughout the island,
8 but we will definitely have all exit and entry points
9 covered to the island, which is the causeway out on the
10 west end and the ferry. So it's kind of nice to have LPRs
11 there, because you'll know any time criminals entered or
12 exited the island.

13 Right now the property crimes division has five
14 detectives and a sergeant, as well as a lieutenant and
15 captain over CID. We would like to kind of reform the
16 property crimes division from being reactive to more of a
17 proactive unit, getting out there and preventing catalytic
18 converter thefts, not just responding to the calls and
19 working them after the fact. That's where some of this
20 additional equipment would come into play, like the
21 surveillance tools that we're requesting, some camera
22 towers, pole cams and trackers to help combat the
23 catalytic converter theft problems that we've had.

24 Like I said, a lot of these catalytic converter
25 thefts occur in hotel, motel, restaurant parking lots, so

1 that's where we would deploy these surveillance towers a
2 lot of the time. Some of these hotels -- I say some,
3 maybe 50 percent of the hotels have surveillance of their
4 own, but they're not the best. We've gotten with these
5 hotels to try to up their lighting circumstances, you
6 know, just to deter criminal activity from happening and
7 thefts from happening.

8 We're also requesting funding for three
9 vehicles, trucks to be specific, 4X4s. As you know,
10 Galveston is all shoreline beaches that we have, brings
11 hundreds of thousands of visitors year-round, so that's
12 why the trucks re going to be needed. The trucks would be
13 assigned to detectives, and they'll be kept unmarked
14 trucks so they can use them for covert operations,
15 surveillance, but also be utilized to tow around any of
16 the surveillance equipment that we're awarded, hopefully.

17 And I think that's about all.

18 MS. JONES: Sir, are your trucks leased or
19 purchased?

20 MR. MARTINEZ: Purchased.

21 MR. SLOAN: If I could get you to elaborate on
22 the office equipment that you have listed here.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: So the office equipment would be
24 to create some desk space in our CID division. Right now
25 everybody is kind of stuck. It's one big office space cut

1 up into little cubicles.

2 We'd like to separate the units a little more
3 so it creates some office space for them which will be
4 purchasing some office furniture, desktops, computers,
5 stuff like that. And that would be aside from the laptops
6 that are being requested that would be given to the
7 detectives to be able to utilize in these trucks as well
8 when they're out in the field.

9 MS. JONES: Do you have any questions?

10 MR. DIGGS: So I did want to ask if you guys
11 have any type of plan for public awareness, public events,
12 anything like that with the funding.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: So we do have our community
14 services sergeant. She does sometimes monthly meetings
15 out in the HOAs and neighborhoods. We've given auto theft
16 presentations to some of the Citizens on Patrol, Citizens
17 Police Academy.

18 We host community events year round where we
19 have community, either a gig at the local swimming pool --
20 we hand out gear. I've been on the Gulf Coast Auto Theft
21 Task Force so we have stuff labeled. You know, we'll give
22 that out to the public and whatnot.

23 Some of our detectives that will be working
24 primarily under this grant and combatting the catalytic
25 converter theft issues would also be working with some of

1 the Gulf Coast guys, working under the catalytic converter
2 grants to do VIN etching, pay visits to some of our
3 recycle yards, mechanic shops, body shops, stuff like
4 that, in search of catalytic converter thefts that are
5 being obtained illegally.

6 MR. DIGGS: I did want to mention also, if you
7 guys want to check with Dan or Lauren or Deputy Director
8 Pence, it looks like we still need a resolution from you
9 guys.

10 MR. MARTINEZ: We've got that in the works. My
11 lieutenant just took care of that.

12 LIEUTENANT: (Off microphone.) I just actually
13 emailed that. Our council meets today. Our first
14 resolution was missing some wording exactly how it was,
15 and we didn't have a meeting until today. So I uploaded
16 the resolution and I think we have the right wording in
17 the resolution, and the council meets tonight, so that
18 should be taken care of.

19 (At microphone.) As I was saying, we have the
20 resolution wording changed and there is a council meeting
21 tonight, so we should be able to have the resolution
22 adopted again with the correct wording, uploaded hopefully
23 by this evening.

24 MR. DIGGS: Okay. Thank you very much.

25 MS. JONES: No further questions. Thank you.

1 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you guys.

2 MR. DIGGS: So I'd like to call up Gun Barrel
3 City.

4 Oh, go ahead.

5 MS. TROSTER: I'm sorry. This is Lacey
6 Troster, with Frisco.

7 MR. DIGGS: Frisco.

8 MS. TROSTER: Thank you so much. My nerves
9 definitely got the best of me. I appreciate the minute.
10 With the drive test scanner, should we pick up
11 there?

12 MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. TROSTER: Okay. With the drive test
14 scanner, it is a tangible device that the detective will
15 utilize within the area, and it partners with the
16 CurrentTrack software that the department has purchased to
17 work as another analytical tool. And what the drive test
18 scanner will do is once the detective is in the area of
19 the crime, it utilizes the cellular networks and it pulls
20 activity from an identified telephone that is possibly
21 suspect or someone involved that has been identified just
22 to confirm that they were actually at the crime when it
23 was happening.

24 MS. JONES: Thank you. Is there anything else
25 you wanted to know?

1 MS. TROSTER: I appreciate the grace. We are
2 excited about the opportunity to be able to outfit our
3 motor vehicle unit and build it from working within our
4 CID department to actually being a specific focused motor
5 vehicle crime unit to decrease the catalytic converter
6 thefts.

7 MS. JONES: Perfect. Thank you.
8 Any questions?

9 MR. SLOAN: No.

10 MS. JONES: Thank you, ma'am.

11 MS. TROSTER: Thank you.

12 MR. DIGGS: We're going to call up Gun Barrel
13 City.

14 MS. JONES: Did you just throw him under the
15 bus?

16 MS. KATSOULAS: No. I told him to make sure his
17 mic was on.

18 (General laughter.)

19 MS. KATSOULAS: Hello. I'm Captain Connie
20 Katsoulas, and this is Investigator Adrian Ruiz, and we're
21 with the Gun Barrel City Police Department. We both have
22 to go to the bathroom really bad so we're not going to
23 draw this out unless you want to.

24 I'll start out. I'm going to tell you a little
25 bit about our agency. It is important that you know a

1 little bit about us because it affects why we're asking
2 for this.

3 So our population in Gun Barrel City, it's a
4 lake community, first of all, on Cedar Creek Lake. And
5 our residential population that's there permanently rests
6 around 6,800, but on weekends, holidays, summer months, it
7 shoots up to 20,000 people a day coming in. And we do
8 not increase the amount of officers we have like during
9 the summer or anything.

10 We have 15 sworn officers and we have a full-
11 time dispatch. We have five dispatchers, and an animal
12 control officer. But we also have no property tax in our
13 city, so everything we do is based off of sales tax, and
14 while we do have businesses, it's not a whole lot.

15 So what we're asking for with this grant is
16 small in comparison to what some people are asking for,
17 but we had to take into consideration the 20 percent
18 match, so our funds are limited that we can contribute.
19 We would like a lot more. I mean, I think everybody would
20 always want more.

21 But in our case, we have to take it one baby
22 step at a time. So when another portion of this grant
23 opens up, we'll ask for more things. But we really have
24 to temper what we ask for all at once.

25 As far as money goes, we're asking for a total

1 of \$20,850, with our portion of that being \$4,170, and the
2 grant portion being \$16,680. And the only thing we're
3 asking to purchase are six fixed-position LPRs. And we
4 plan on putting those initial cameras at all the points of
5 entry to our city, even down the rural back roads between
6 us and the cities to the north.

7 Our neighbors have Flock, the neighbors to the
8 north of us, which is -- Mabank PD, currently, I believe,
9 has 18 cameras that they're getting ready to roll out. We
10 do have one Flock camera in our city, but it belongs to
11 Lowe's and it only monitors what happens on their
12 property.

13 We're trying to work with businesses. If we
14 can get these cameras, we're trying to work with other
15 businesses and get them to buy into the same system and
16 then share with us. We've just redone our dispatch center
17 and we can live monitor all of these things all at once.

18 If you don't mind, before I pass off to
19 Investigator Ruiz, I wanted to tell you on my application
20 if you look at the page that's the statistics for us, I
21 know it doesn't look like much, but those are only the
22 ones that were specifically reported as only catalytic
23 converter thefts. So that one that you see in 2023,
24 somebody got it cut off in their driveway. Right?

25 In 2023, I actually have 21 motor vehicle

1 thefts, where the vehicles were stolen and then taken for
2 parts. And we've found them -- in other counties they've
3 been recovered, so catalytic converters are part of that.

4 But the numbers that I submitted in this report are
5 specific only to catalytic converter thefts alone.

6 As far as how we intend to use this program by
7 using these cameras and what we hope it does and what we
8 have seen other people be able to do for us when we've
9 needed to reach out, I'm going to defer to Investigator
10 Ruiz for that, and then be available for questions.

11 MR. RUIZ: Hello. So how we anticipate this
12 for it to be for benefit to the department is the fixed
13 LPR cameras will further enhance our investigative
14 capabilities by enhancing a live crime detection system.
15 Currently we are limited with the investigators that we
16 have. So we sit on Cedar Creek Lake, which is the fourth
17 largest lake in Texas. We have an influx of people most
18 weekends for fishing tournaments where they're visiting in
19 from the Dallas Metroplex.

20 So when that does happen, we still continue to
21 only have one or two investigators for the department.
22 Right now currently what we do is if we do have a theft of
23 some kind specifically vehicle-related, we have to reach
24 out to neighboring agency. We have to give them the
25 partial information we have, and then we have to wait two

1 to three business days for them to actually run the
2 information because they're inundated with cases just like
3 we are.

4 Right now we have a very high interaction rate
5 with our Facebook posts. So we're reaching out to
6 approximately 45,000 people when we're posting to
7 Facebook. So they're helping us get some things
8 identified, but we need a live camera system or a live
9 detection system that we can partner with other agencies
10 and provide the information to them as well.

11 MS. KATSOULAS: I have something to add to that
12 too. So where we sit, a portion of US Highway 175 comes
13 through our city at the far east end, but that's a major
14 highway. But we also have 198 that runs north and south
15 and 334 east and west.

16 And what we found with other types of crimes is
17 the fact that people are not using the highways for stuff,
18 they're coming down through our city on these other roads.

19 And we've detected other things, human trafficking and
20 such, but we've had spurts of people coming in from Dallas
21 and going to certain neighborhoods in our city and then
22 leaving the back way, if you will -- 334, not what you'd
23 expect. Going to Dallas, I definitely would jump on 175,
24 I'd be there faster.

25 But they're doing that and they're avoiding all

1 the Flock cameras between there because they know they
2 exist, so they're avoiding that. So by putting them in
3 these places that they're not expecting them, we're hoping
4 that we can help recover these vehicles before they're all
5 chopped to pieces and found in South Dallas.

6 Do you have any questions for us?

7 MS. JONES: No, ma'am. You actually answered
8 all my questions between you and the investigator.

9 MR. SLOAN: Just a quick question, Captain.
10 Henderson County SO, do they have any ALPRs, and if they
11 do, are they partnering with you in this?

12 MS. KATSOULAS: I know they do. They have to
13 have at least one. I'm sure they have more than that, but
14 I know personally they have at least one.

15 We had a fatality hit and run on US 175 with a
16 cyclist, and I was hoping that the trailer that they had
17 that had the LPRs was still there. They had just moved it
18 like two days prior, and we could have found our suspect
19 well before we actually did. So I know they have
20 something, but I can't tell you what program it is and I
21 can't tell you how many. I know at least one trailer they
22 have there.

23 Now, Henderson County has that but Mabank has
24 the 18. And do they have the mobile LPRs on vehicles in
25 Mabank?

1 MR. RUIZ: No, ma'am, I don't believe so.

2 MS. KATSOULAS: Payne Springs does and Payne
3 Springs is directly to the south of us. And we've also
4 recently incorporated them into our operations. We
5 provide their dispatch service, and there's mutual aid all
6 the time with us and Payne Springs.

7 MR. SLOAN: Okay. So there will be future
8 collaboration there?

9 MS. KATSOULAS: Yes, continued collaboration,
10 absolutely.

11 MR. SLOAN: Thank you.

12 MR. DIGGS: Madam Chair.

13 Captain, I was just wondering, I heard you guys
14 talk about social media. Do you have any plans for actual
15 onsite public awareness?

16 MS. KATSOULAS: Yes. I'm so glad you asked me
17 that. So when we were doing our resolution, we have a
18 small pocket of citizens that will find conspiracy in
19 anything. And when we were presenting this, they were
20 like, well, they're doing this to spy on us, they're using
21 their spy cameras.

22 I cannot wait to talk to your person, your
23 social media person, and get some things that we can
24 disseminate to them that can debunk some of this false
25 information that they're giving out. Because they get out

1 in a grassroots effort and try to convince the other
2 citizens that we don't need this in our city and that it's
3 violating their rights somehow. And I could care less
4 what they're doing as long as they're not breaking the
5 law. So I'm looking forward to seeing what your social
6 media person has and getting it out there.

7 MR. DIGGS: And I did want to mention, Captain,
8 that if you need to, you can see Lauren or Dan back there.

9 It looks like in our grant management tracking system we
10 still need an ops plan and a prosecutor agreement.

11 MS. KATSOULAS: You need a prosecutor agreement
12 but I sent the ops plan. I sent it yesterday, and I've
13 also printed it out if you'd like a hard copy in front of
14 you.

15 MR. DIGGS: I don't need it. If we've got it
16 in our system, we're good. Just the prosecutor agreement,
17 you can check with them if you need anything.

18 MS. KATSOULAS: Yes, sir.

19 MS. JONES: Thank you so much.

20 MS. KATSOULAS: Thank you very much.

21 MS. JONES: Ma'am, one moment, please. I have
22 a question for everyone. Is there anyone in here asking
23 for cameras that are not Flock? Just raise your hand.

24 Sir, what are you asking for?

25 SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: {Inaudible}.

1 MS. JONES: Yes, sir. Is there a
2 representative from Vigilant here?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. JONES: I know Flock is here. Do you have
5 information that can be passed to the community that would
6 speak to what she just mentioned?

7 SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: {Inaudible}.

8 MS. JONES: Is that something that can be
9 easily, on your website, if people Google it they can get
10 it from your website and they can share it with the
11 community? I'm just asking because this is the second
12 agency that mentioned the community and their suspicion.
13 So I want to be very clear to our constituents and the
14 citizens of Texas what is happening with the LPRs, and
15 especially with so many and it's going to continue to
16 where agencies are requesting cameras, and I just want to
17 make sure that the information is accurate that is placed
18 to the community.

19 And there's no sharing of information, there's
20 no selling of information. The community, even though
21 some of you mentioned an HOA that has access, I think
22 someone mentioned those who have that information,
23 basically just because a private entity or company has the
24 information or access to Flock cameras, that does not mean
25 that they have access to the entire Flock system. So I

1 just wanted to make that clear.

2 And then also, if we could have something that
3 we could share with those agencies that are asking for
4 Flock, that would be great.

5 And then as far as Vigilant, sir, the same
6 thing goes. We'll request the same from Vigilant,
7 especially if their representative was here, but the same
8 thing goes to all companies.

9 Thank you, ma'am.

10 MS. KATSOULAS: Thank you, ma'am.

11 MS. JONES: Oh, and the Flock representative,
12 right there, those two.

13 MR. DIGGS: All right. I'm going to call up --
14 the next agency will be Hamilton County. Hamilton County.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DIGGS: The City of Heath. The City of
17 Heath.

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DIGGS: The City of Holland.

20 MS. JONES: Were any of these cities here
21 earlier today? All three of them were here?

22 MR. DIGGS: City of Holland. Come on up, sir.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. GAUNA: Howdy, howdy. I'm Chief Gauna with
25 the City of Holland Police Department. I come today to

1 ask for assistance in funds for purchasing license plate
2 readers for our city.

3 I believe that we can not only deter but also
4 help in apprehending suspects in catalytic converter
5 thefts, mainly because we have a scrap facility within our
6 city limits. Basically, the idea is the scrap facility
7 has already told me they'll give me a list of everybody
8 that comes and scraps catalytic converters. And in turn,
9 if there's any -- essentially, the best way I can word it
10 is if the City of Round Rock says, Hey, Chief, we tracked
11 a motor vehicle that we suspect of committing catalytic
12 converter theft and it went all the way to your city, we
13 believe that it went to that scrap yard and sold it for
14 scraps, I can say, okay, hey, I'll look at my handy-dandy
15 list and I'll say, hey, this is the person that
16 essentially came and scrapped that metal.

17 And that will help solve cases for not only our
18 agency but everybody around. And that's essentially it
19 right there.

20 MS. JONES: Chief, in 2023 and '24 you had zero
21 catalytic converter theft.

22 MR. GAUNA: Right, because we don't know what
23 we were looking for until -- you know, it's going to
24 heavily depend on agencies from other places to tell us,
25 hey, we believe that this vehicle -- based off tracking it

1 off of the license plate reader cameras, we believe it
2 went to your city and scrapped said amount of catalytic
3 converters.

4 So the scrap facility has told me that they
5 receive about eight to ten catalytic converters every
6 month, and I'm willing to bet not all of those are
7 legitimate. They didn't get all those legitimately, so
8 this is going to help solve a lot of cases for other
9 agencies, and I'm all about it.

10 I mean, we're all here to get the same bad guy.

11 Right?

12 MS. JONES: So what I'm hearing you say, and
13 correct me if I'm wrong, is that you're being proactive
14 in sharing and working with other agencies.

15 MR. GAUNA: Absolutely.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. GAUNA: Yes, ma'am.

18 MR. SLOAN: Hello, Chief.

19 MR. GAUNA: Howdy.

20 MR. SLOAN: I see that you have five LPRs
21 already.

22 MR. GAUNA: They're getting installed.

23 MR. SLOAN: Okay, okay. And how many
24 additional LPRs are you planning on purchasing?

25 MR. GAUNA: Aside from those five, we will be

1 getting two surveillance cameras through Flock.

2 MR. SLOAN: Oh, okay. All right. So that
3 differentiates the real-time surveillance. Is that what
4 you're referring to?

5 MR. GAUNA: Yes, exactly.

6 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. GAUNA: Yes, sir.

8 Any other questions, concerns, problems?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. GAUNA: Perfect. Y'all have a wonderful
11 day.

12 MS. JONES: We'll take a short recess and we
13 will reconvene at 2:37. That gives you time to make phone
14 calls and take care of other business.

15 (Whereupon, at 2:17 p.m., a brief recess was
16 taken.)

17 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record, 2:39.

18 MR. DIGGS: William Diggs, MVCPA director, for
19 the record.

20 So I'm now going to call the City of Hondo up.

21 MR. GARZA: Good afternoon.

22 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon.

23 MR. GARZA: I'm Aaron Garza. I'm the assistant
24 police chief for the Hondo Police Department.

25 The Hondo Police Department is requesting

1 funding to purchase five license plate readers and a
2 subscription for a yearly live feed camera service with
3 Flock Safety. These LPRs will be strategically placed in
4 high priority areas, including body shops and shopping
5 centers along US 90, a key corridor for our region.

6 The data catch of raised LPRs will be
7 instrumental in assisting officers to identify individuals
8 or groups involved in crimes, such as catalytic converter
9 thefts or motor vehicle thefts. Additionally, the real-
10 time alerts generated by these readers will help officers
11 identify stolen vehicles or those flagged on a hot list
12 due to their involvement in catalytic converter thefts,
13 allowing for a prompt response and potential arrest.

14 In 2024, our department responded to 36 cases
15 involving motor vehicle thefts, unauthorized use of motor
16 vehicles, and burglary of motor vehicles. Notably, nearly
17 half of these incidents occurred along the US Highway 90
18 corridor, which leads to the Mexico border approximately
19 90 miles west of us. In that same year we reported seven
20 vehicle thefts and officers made seven arrests for
21 unauthorized use of motor vehicles.

22 In 2022 we also recorded twelve catalytic
23 converter thefts. Although we haven't experienced
24 catalytic converter thefts in recent years, we're taking a
25 proactive approach to stay ahead of potential issues with

1 the rapid growth occurring in the eastern side of Medina
2 County which borders Bexar County. We anticipate an
3 increase in thefts as new homes and commercial buildings
4 continue to be developed.

5 The Medina County Sheriff's Office
6 communications center has recently installed a monitor to
7 track the live feed from the cameras we currently have
8 positioned throughout the city. We currently share with
9 approximately 280 agencies through the Flock Safety
10 database.

11 The total cost for this project is \$43,000;
12 after applying the 20 percent match of \$8,600, the
13 requested grand funding amount is reduced to \$34,400. We
14 believe this investment will greatly enhance our ability
15 to combat vehicle-related crimes and improve public safety
16 in our community.

17 Thank you for your consideration.

18 MR. SLOAN: Thank you. Chief, two questions. I
19 read here that the five license plate readers and safety
20 platform are already in place.

21 MR. GARZA: So the five will be for an
22 additional; we have six that are in place currently.

23 MR. SLOAN: Okay. And do you have a policy on
24 LPRs?

25 MR. GARZA: Yes, sir. We have an LPR policy,

1 and the six that we have now are not LPR compatible, so
2 it's just a live feed.

3 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. GARZA: Yes, sir. Thank you.

5 MR. DIGGS: So I'd like to call up Hood County
6 now.

7 MS. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Margaret Campbell. I am the emergency management
9 coordinator for Hood County.

10 And a little bit about our county. So we're
11 about 68,000 population and we're just southwest of Fort
12 Worth, Tarrant County area. Not unlike most of the rest
13 of the state, we are growing exponentially in the next
14 year with about 2,000 new homes coming into Hood County,
15 as well as a major TxDOT project where they're going to
16 widen and redo our major thoroughfare, which is 377 that
17 runs through the county.

18 In an effort to combat crime and kind of get
19 ahead and look towards the future of what's coming, we've
20 identified a need to develop mitigation strategies and
21 prevention programs to help counteract the crime that we
22 anticipate will increase with the growth that is coming.

23 Part of our plan is to increase LPRs and to use
24 innovative technology to give us a more comprehensive
25 picture of what's going on. An issue that we've

1 identified in our community is that it's hard to fight
2 crime if you don't know exactly what's happening or where
3 it's happening. And so we believe that the innovative
4 technology and the LPRs will give us more insight into
5 that.

6 Our current request to MVCPA is just over
7 \$131,000, and what that's going to do is it's going to
8 purchase 18 LPR cameras as well as the Flock operating
9 system and the Flock OS 9-1-1 system.

10 Currently we have two Flock cameras here in
11 Hood County, and since the time of the grant, we actually
12 got the funding to purchase three of the livestream Flock
13 cameras as well. They're not installed yet, but they're
14 underway.

15 We already have all the MOUs and agreements in
16 place, as well as letters of support from our local
17 jurisdiction. So we're ready to hit the ground running if
18 we're able to secure funding for this program.

19 If I haven't answered any questions for you
20 guys or if you have anything, I'm happy to help you out.

21 MR. SLOAN: Good afternoon. Two questions. Do
22 you have an LPR policy?

23 MS. CAMPBELL: We do, yes.

24 MR. SLOAN: Okay. And this will bring your
25 inventory up to 20, is my math correct?

1 MS. CAMPBELL: It will be 20 LPRs plus the
2 three livestream Flock cameras.

3 MR. SLOAN: Okay. And you're talking about
4 MOUs, are you collaborating with other agencies?

5 MS. CAMPBELL: We are. So we have letters of
6 support currently from our local cities. So the City of
7 Granbury resides in Hood County, it's our largest. They
8 have a handful of Flock cameras, but our other smaller
9 cities don't have the funding so we're getting agreements
10 in place to work with them, as well as TxDOT.

11 Because of the construction that's coming and
12 they're going to basically take the entire highway apart
13 and put it back together, we have all the interlocal
14 agreements in place with them and everything we need so
15 that they can install them and then take them down and
16 reinstall them once the highways are widened.

17 MR. SLOAN: Thank you.

18 MR. DIGGS: I did have a couple of things. You
19 may want to visit with Lauren or Dan, there's a few
20 documents you guys still need in GMTS. So you'll just
21 visit with them, they'll be able to help navigate that for
22 you.

23 MS. CAMPBELL: I'll do it. Thank you.

24 MR. DIGGS: Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. JONES: Thank you, ma'am.

1 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

2 MR. DIGGS: I'd like to now call up the City of
3 Jacinto City.

4 MR. LONGRIGG: Jacinto City.

5 MR. DIGGS: Jacinto City.

6 MR. LONGRIGG: Yes, sir. That's okay, sir, I
7 didn't know Jacinto City existed before I got a job there
8 19 years ago. My name is Mark Longrigg. I work for
9 Jacinto City.

10 Sometimes it gets confused with San Jacinto
11 County; not a lot of people know, again, where Jacinto
12 City is. We're located off of the east side of Houston.
13 If you go out of our police department, take a right turn,
14 you can see downtown Houston.

15 So we're surrounded by Houston on three sides,
16 and why that's significant is because we do our best in
17 our small 1.8 square mile town to keep Houston's problems
18 in Houston out of Jacinto City, and that's important.
19 Now, with us we have a town with 10,000 people, give or
20 take depending on what day it is, that live there. So you
21 can kind of see how crowded Jacinto City can get as far as
22 residents are concerned.

23 Our police department is 15 officers right now,
24 19 would be total. Of course, every police department
25 here has told you the same story, different version of it.

1 We're short-handed; everybody is short-handed. And I
2 think that's why a lot of our agencies are talking about
3 the LPR cameras and stuff like that that come in handy,
4 kind of helps fill in the gaps and stuff like that.

5 We borrowed the information off of Jersey
6 Village. They're located on the northwest side, we're
7 located on the east side. Jersey Village was one of the
8 first agencies to implement LPR camera systems in mass
9 portion that exactly helped them.

10 And then we kind of piggybacked off of them;
11 around 2019-2020, we were the first ones on the east side
12 to put these camera systems into play. We currently have
13 14 LPR cameras. These are placed in most of the entrances
14 and exits in our city, and I gotta tell you, it's really
15 helped us out.

16 Now, I know the application starts on 2023, but
17 if you look at our stats, in 2022 we had 22 catalytic
18 converter thefts occur, '23 we had four, last year we had
19 zero. I gotta say in my personal opinion, I think these
20 camera systems are helping. Of course we're doing other
21 things a little bit different -- a little active patrol,
22 more active patrol in our hotspots and stuff like this,
23 but the LPR cameras have come into great play there.

24 Today we're asking for a little over \$40,000 in
25 your grant money with a \$6,600 matching.

1 One of the things I'd like to tell you, if I
2 may -- and I don't mean to take up too much of your
3 time -- in 2022, one of those catalytic converters hit me
4 a little close to home. I'm working over at the community
5 center, making \$200 at a wedding reception or whatever it
6 was. And after working those six hours or whatever, I go
7 into my 2020 Toyota Tundra pickup -- which I had lifted up
8 six inches that actually helped the situation for the
9 crooks, if you can imagine where I'm going with this --
10 and not to outdo Round Rock with their sounding and stuff
11 like this, but I'm wanting to go home and I turn the key
12 and it goes bububububa.

13 Son of a gun, they got me. They got me and
14 that truck was no further than here to the hallway. So it
15 kind of irked me a little bit, as you can imagine.

16 Again, I know my errrrrr wasn't as good as
17 Round Rock's, sir, so bear with me. But next year I'm
18 going to make it better.

19 (General laughter.)

20 MR. SLOAN: I look forward to it.

21 MR. LONGRIGG: Thank you.

22 So, you know, we have most of the area covered.
23 Where this grant will come into play, it will cover some
24 of the gaps that we have. Again, there are some gaps in
25 the city that we'd like to actually implement not just an

1 additional LPR but the PTZ cameras which are live view.
2 And the live view, again, any police officer can tell you
3 if you have a bank robbery that just occurred and say this
4 bank robbery had 20 clowns robbing this bank and they took
5 off in polka-dotted Yugo.

6 When you get to the scene, there's going to be
7 ten polka-dotted Yugos in the area. I mean, you'll never
8 see one in your life, but when you're looking for a
9 suspect vehicle, you're going to see a whole bunch that
10 matches that. So this live view will let you see -- let
11 dispatch see it on the PCs.

12 Nobody has ever brought it up, but we have
13 those camera systems right now that you can see on your
14 phones. I mean, you can see it on your cell phones. You
15 can use that, so any of our officers, anybody who's hooked
16 up to our system can see that, and that comes into play.

17 With a live view we'll say it's this brown car
18 or that Toyota Camry that's taking off, and that makes a
19 difference. And so that's what we're looking for. We're
20 looking for the additional.

21 And one of the main problems that we're having
22 is this humongous parking lot that we have in Jacinto
23 City. On one side you have a movie theater, on the other
24 side you have a 24 Hour Fitness, and we're getting killed
25 there. I mean, we're getting killed with burglary of

1 motor vehicles, we're getting killed with thefts, break-
2 ins, catalytic converter thefts, and stuff like that in
3 the past.

4 And what we could do, if we implement these
5 live camera systems, we could see in real-time. Because,
6 for example, ma'am, if you go to a 24 Hour Fitness, you
7 arrive and you go into the 24 Hour Fitness, people know
8 that you're going to be there for a while. You're not
9 going to be there for ten minutes, you're going to be
10 there at least an hour.

11 And these crooks, they're high tech. They're
12 sitting in the parking lot incognito and they're watching.
13 They're seeing what's going on, and they know that
14 they've got time to break into your car.

15 Again, camera systems, I'm a big fan of it.
16 It's solved jugging issues and stuff like that. If you
17 don't know what jugging is, it's when somebody goes to the
18 bank and they take out \$5,000 or something like that, and
19 before they go back to where they want to go, they go to
20 our Subway and they go in and they get a footlong Subway.

21 And while they do that, bam, somebody goes into their
22 car.

23 We've actually seen juggers following cars
24 through all our camera systems and stuff like that. Now,
25 with the live camera, we can see what's going on and we

1 can hopefully catch them and not just make a case later
2 but actually make an arrest and a conviction at that time.

3 So again, we were one of the first agencies on
4 the east side of Houston to implement this and this is
5 before Houston Police Department, the constables, the
6 sheriff's department actually jumped on this. We were
7 before them. And because of that, we actually let some
8 Houston officers, some constables and stuff jump onto our
9 thing, I logged them down as our employees on the system
10 that allowed them to have access. Their admin liked it so
11 much they're like, hey, if Jacinto City has this, we need
12 to have this as well, and so they kind of jumped on it.

13 And so we work with school districts, Houston
14 constables, Pasadena, it's a big show. And I know I'm a
15 little out of my arena here in the San Antonio area, but
16 we have some things going on in the Greater Houston area
17 which is a pretty big town. And you can see with the
18 interagency cooperation -- you can see people being
19 tracked just down the freeways and such.

20 They hit this location, they hit this, it's
21 easier to catch. It's an amazing thing. I can only
22 imagine maybe we'll have flying cars in 20 years, who
23 knows.

24 But that's what we're looking for. We're a
25 small agency, we're proactive, we're hardworking, bedroom

1 community. We have the best Easter Bunny in town --
2 that's me. I was the Santa Claus, I got demoted down to
3 an Easter Bunny. Well, maybe it's a promotion, I don't
4 know.

5 But we have parades, it seems like every other
6 week. We have Santa Claus on the fire trucks during
7 Christmas, we have Easter parades, we have baseball
8 parades. We have It's a Wednesday parade.

9 A lot of these parades will end at our
10 community center. Now, at the community center there will
11 be your vendors and stuff like that. We do this on a
12 regular basis where we'll set up a booth and we'll talk
13 about thefts, how to make sure you keep your porch light
14 on at night, stuff like this, you know, just proactive
15 stuff, Click It or Ticket and stuff.

16 And so we work with the community there. We
17 have a great relationship. We work in partnership with
18 our community.

19 I know that one agency was concerned about the
20 backlash, like how maybe Big Brother would see these
21 camera systems and stuff. I'm telling you, these people,
22 they don't care how you caught the bad guy, you're just
23 happy that you caught the bad guy, and that's the most
24 important part.

25 With that, I appreciate your time. I'm open to

1 any questions you guys might have.

2 Oh, if I may, Mr. Pence, very nice to meet you
3 at a break, sir. So I'm going to piggyback on your social
4 media and use your stuff and throw it on our social media
5 and stuff like that too, so it's going to work out great.

6 MS. JONES: Thank you for meeting with him
7 because they have a tasking to make sure that they're
8 communicating statewide.

9 MR. LONGRIGG: Well, they reached out to
10 Jacinto City today, ma'am.

11 MS. JONES: Perfect. No questions from me.

12 MR. DIGGS: Nothing.

13 MR. LONGRIGG: Thank you for your time. And if
14 I may, any day off the street is a good day. So thank you
15 for having this in San Antonio, that way I had to take a
16 day off from the streets, so thank you very much.

17 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

18 MR. DIGGS: Thank you, sir.

19 So next up I'd like to call the City of Jasper.

20 MR. CHRISTOPHER: Good afternoon. Thank y'all
21 for having us. My name is Cody Christopher. I'm a
22 detective with the Jasper Police Department.

23 So the first thing I kind of want to hit on is
24 our area. We do not have any automated license plate
25 readers in the Jasper County area. Jasper County is 970

1 square miles, with a population of only 32,000 people.

2 But at night time, you have four police
3 officers working the entire county, two in the City of
4 Jasper and two at Jasper County Sheriff's Department and
5 one in Kirbyville, Texas. From the top northwest to the
6 bottom southeast is about 140 minutes running emergency
7 traffic. And obviously on top of that, just north of us
8 about ten miles, we have Sam Rayburn Reservoir, the
9 largest lake in Texas, ninth in the United States, brings
10 in an unsurmountable amount of traffic.

11 I tell people we're a geographical oddity
12 because we're an hour from everywhere. We're an hour from
13 Beaumont, we're an hour from Lufkin. There's not very
14 much close by, and our Walmart is a hub and our Lowe's is
15 a hub for multiple counties. So our day-to-day population
16 might be upwards of 50,000 people because the lake that
17 has grown up and those people have to come to the City of
18 Jasper to shop.

19 In that time we have had some catalytic
20 converter thefts, and we want to start this program, get
21 these automated license plate readers to try to help
22 prevent that from occurring. We do have a scrap yard that
23 has been working closely with us that we try to give
24 information to, tell them what to look out for. They give
25 us information, things like that.

1 We have a computer system already. Our patrol
2 cars have automated license plate readers that they just
3 run a hot list, but obviously with Flock -- which isn't a
4 new word today -- you can actually integrate Axon patrol
5 cars, so you will then have mobile license plate readers
6 that you can search through that system.

7 So we're asking for twelve fixed pole cameras
8 and two portable cameras that we can move to troubled
9 areas. And with that, hopefully we can get an eye in
10 Jasper County on this high amount of traffic that we have
11 that comes into the city that only has a documented
12 population of about 6,700 people.

13 I can answer any questions you might have. And
14 to add to that, we do already have an ALPR policy, drone
15 policy, things of that nature.

16 Thank y'all for your time.

17 MS. JONES: So up next is the City of Jersey
18 Village.

19 MR. WELLS: Hello. Y'all bear with me a little
20 bit. I had to change some things up in my presentation,
21 so some of the numbers on y'all's forms are going to be a
22 little different.

23 Just let you know a little bit about our City
24 of Jersey Village. We have a population of about 8,000,
25 city size is approximately four miles wide. Officer-wise

1 we have about --

2 MR. DIGGS: Sir, can you pull the mic to you?

3 Is the green light on?

4 MR. WELLS: Yes, it's on.

5 MR. DIGGS: Okay.

6 MR. WELLS: Can y'all hear me better now?

7 MR. DIGGS: I think so, yes, sir.

8 MR. WELLS: Do you want me to start over or
9 keep going?

10 MS. JONES: Zach, does he need to start over?

11 MR. WARDEN: No, ma'am.

12 MR. WELLS: Okay. We're a 29-man department.
13 Out of those 29 officers, 14 of them work patrol. One of
14 the biggest things that we are about in our police
15 department is being proactive.

16 And what I'm coming today to ask for is to help
17 us purchase four DGI drones with thermal imaging so we can
18 help be more proactive, which I believe will assist with
19 reducing motor vehicle-related crime.

20 And do you have questions?

21 MS. JONES: [Inaudible].

22 MR. WELLS: Yes, ma'am, it will assist with
23 reducing motor vehicle-related crime, catalytic converter
24 crime, any vehicle-related offenses.

25 MR. SLOAN: Was a part of your presentation

1 that you changed your deviating away from LPRs and you're
2 asking for drones instead?

3 MR. WELLS: Yes, sir. We were advised that
4 what we were asking for wasn't going to be possible with
5 the current grant rules, and so we had to change some
6 things.

7 MR. SLOAN: Okay.

8 MR. DIGGS: Can you tell me who told you that,
9 what that means?

10 MR. WELLS: Sir, essentially what we were
11 asking for wasn't something that y'all could currently
12 cover, because we were asking for assistance covering a
13 contract that we already had. And so we were told that
14 that wasn't a thing we could do.

15 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

16 MR. SLOAN: Can you elaborate more on what the
17 drones are, how much they're going to cost? Is it the
18 same price as what you have on here for the other element
19 that you wanted to request?

20 MR. WELLS: No, sir. So roughly they're going
21 to be \$8,000 apiece. The DGI drones cost \$8,000 apiece
22 and we're asking for four of them, along with to be able
23 to send officers off to that drone class.

24 We have four shifts and we want each shift to
25 have their own drone operator to assist with just 24/7

1 coverage with that. And part of it is to be proactive and
2 part of it is to be reactive, say, when we chase a stolen
3 vehicle, somebody bails in a vehicle. We can have an
4 officer on scene that can jump out, use that drone, and
5 give good information to officers to help catch these
6 suspects.

7 We also just recently purchased some analytical
8 software that will essentially let us know hotspots in the
9 areas and times, places and dates when said crimes are the
10 highest to occur. And that way we can use that drone
11 capability to maybe patrol those areas a little bit better
12 and catch suspects, say at night when you wouldn't
13 normally be able to see then without thermal imaging or
14 something like that.

15 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. WELLS: Yes, ma'am.

17 MR. DIGGS: So I'd like to call the City of
18 Kaufman up now.

19 MR. LEFTWICH: I wasn't sure if they were going
20 to make it but I've got some support with me.

21 Good afternoon. Colter Leftwich with the City
22 of Kaufman. I'm the captain of the police department.

23 So essentially what we're here to ask for is
24 six cameras -- six LPR cameras that we can implement
25 throughout thoroughfares in our city, and where we're

1 looking to place them is in the main thoroughfares of the
2 entrances and exits. So currently right now we actually
3 piggyback off of Kaufman County who has several LPR
4 cameras in our jurisdiction as well, but being that we're
5 the county seat, they were mainly placed around the
6 courthouse which is right in the center of our city.

7 So if you look there's a map here, if you look
8 where the word "Kaufman" is, that's the old courthouse.
9 They have now moved outside of that jurisdiction, but all
10 those cameras are still utilized in that central city
11 location. So we're trying to implement six cameras
12 outside of that and just outside of our jurisdiction but
13 still in the City of Kaufman to put cameras so we can see
14 where people are actually coming in or exiting, coming
15 into the city and everything else. Plus we share that
16 information with the county as well.

17 So what we're trying to do is -- essentially,
18 back in 2022, I think a lot of people had spikes in
19 catalytic converter thefts; we had around 21 in our city
20 alone. In '23 that number went down, and then in '24 it
21 went way down. We didn't have any reported.

22 The biggest numbers we had were from
23 dealerships and churches, things like that. So we really
24 talked to them and started trying to be proactive, moving
25 their vehicles to different locations, getting dealerships

1 to put in security lights over their lots where a lot of
2 these things were happening.

3 We actually provided a pole camera that we
4 supplied ourselves with the police department that was 24-
5 hour coverage by cell signal, but it was kind of spotty in
6 and out. It wasn't searchable to the aspect of what we
7 needed it to do if we didn't have a great time frame if it
8 went out.

9 So that's why we are asking for now these
10 cameras that are -- will have searchable intel so we can
11 go back and look at what's coming in and out of the city,
12 look at hot lists, if we have any suspect vehicles that
13 are on that and targeting. Because we've worked with the
14 North Texas Auto Theft Task Force where we kind of chase
15 them out into Kaufman County as we all found different
16 vehicles stolen, chopped up, recovered, different things
17 as well right there at the Dallas County-Kaufman County
18 line because we butt right up to Dallas County. We're
19 about 20 miles east of Dallas and we see a lot of traffic
20 on Highway 175 that comes through our city and goes on
21 through that we're trying to really combat.

22 So we want to use it more -- department, we're
23 about nine square miles, right now we currently have 15
24 sworn officers. Ten are on patrol. So we're really
25 looking to place these cameras out for force multipliers

1 in our city to help combat those and just put different
2 eyes outside the city where our officers are really short
3 staffed, like everybody says, inside of our city.

4 We do already have an LPR policy in place, as
5 well, because we've been utilizing the system with Kaufman
6 County Sheriff's Office.

7 MS. JONES: You did a good job.

8 MR. DIGGS: I'd just add you might also want to
9 visit with either Dan or Lauren. It looks like we're
10 missing just a couple of documents in our grant management
11 tracking system. So if you'll just visit with them,
12 they'll be able to assist you with that.

13 MR. LEFTWICH: Thank you.

14 MR. DIGGS: Thank y'all so much.

15 I'd like to call up now the Killeen Police
16 Department.

17 MR. LOPEZ: Can you hear me okay? Good
18 afternoon, Madam Chair and Board. My name is Pete Lopez
19 and I'm the chief of police in Killeen.

20 I'm here today to discuss my approach to tackle
21 motor vehicle theft and violent crime through the
22 catalytic converter grant. We are seeking to install
23 approximately 70 Flock cameras at an estimated cost of
24 \$400,000 with a \$100,000 match from us. Here today with
25 me is Assistant Chief Gearhart.

1 Our focus is on leveraging technology,
2 fostering collaboration and engaging the community to
3 enhance public safety in Bell County and Killeen. The
4 grant will be used to enhance the first real-time crime
5 center in Bell County by deploying Flock cameras in high
6 crime areas related to motor vehicle thefts and violent
7 crime. Technology would integrate with our current
8 analytical platforms like Fusus and Axon to foster public
9 safety innovation and collaboration.

10 Before I begin, I would like to provide you
11 with some information about Killeen. Killeen is the 19th
12 largest city in Texas. We are best known for our close
13 proximity to Fort Cavazos, which is formerly Fort Hood.

14 This location on major highways such as I-14
15 and I-25 ensures strong regional connectivity, and we are
16 bordered by Copperas Cove and Harker Heights. Killeen's
17 proximity to Austin, Dallas, San Antonio and Houston
18 further strengthens our importance in the region. The
19 point is that Bell County criminals are very transient and
20 they use Killeen as a criminal thoroughfare to commit
21 crimes in and around Killeen and Bell County.

22 Now let me introduce our police department.
23 The Killeen Police Department serves a population of over
24 165,000 residents and we cover 53 square miles. Our
25 authorized staff is 265 sworn officers and 70 civilian

1 staff.

2 For fiscal year 2025 our budget was \$40
3 million. In 2024 we ran over 178,000 calls.

4 I would like to take a moment to talk about
5 issues pertaining to motor vehicle thefts and violent
6 crime in Killeen. Bell County ranked number nine in Texas
7 for motor vehicle thefts in 2023. In 2024 we had 466
8 vehicle thefts, 368 fraud cases, 88 robberies, 1,888
9 assaults, 631 aggravated assaults, and 63 motor vehicle
10 pursuits.

11 Our key program goals consist of five pillars
12 and those are: number one, crime reduction; number two is
13 the task force. We plan to establish a Central Texas Auto
14 Theft Task Force that will be commanded by Assistant Chief
15 Gearhart and supported by internal operational units such
16 as special investigations, our patrol division, community
17 engagement unit, our criminal intelligence unit, outside
18 agencies like Bell County Sheriff's Department, DPS,
19 Harker Heights, Temple, Belton, Nolanville, Salado and
20 Copperas Cove, and also we plan to include the local
21 businesses like our salvage yards and auto dealers.
22 Number three is technology; number four is collaboration;
23 and number five is, of course, community engagement.

24 And if I could add -- take a moment to talk
25 about our community engagement. We rolled out the Fusus

1 platform last year. We had the same issue about privacy
2 concerns from our citizens, so we were very deliberate and
3 intentional when we rolled out the program.

4 We held three community townhalls to discuss
5 the program and address the privacy concerns. We also
6 sent out community surveys in English and Spanish. We
7 didn't get so much feedback, but at least we attempted to
8 do it, and we were able to successfully roll out the Fusus
9 platform.

10 In this program we identified five program
11 goals: number one, we're going to have targeted efforts
12 to reduce vehicle theft and violent crime; comprehensive
13 coordination through task force meetings; proactive use of
14 technology for real-time crime monitoring; and
15 strengthening collaboration with agencies and residents
16 and increase awareness of initiatives to prevent theft and
17 enhance safety.

18 Our metrics will measure the decrease in motor
19 vehicle thefts, the decrease in violent crime offenses,
20 reduction in response time to vehicle theft incidents by
21 personnel assigned to real-time crime center that will be
22 operated 24 hours a day and staffed by a supervisor and
23 two call-takers, improve the clearance rates for theft
24 cases, and increase community participation and
25 educational programs.

1 As I wrap up, I want to state that the grant
2 represents a significant opportunity to innovate public
3 safety in Bell County. Through technology, collaboration
4 and community engagement, KPD is committed to reducing
5 crime and improving the quality of life for our residents.

6 Thank you for your attention. I'll be able to
7 answer any questions you may have.

8 MS. JONES: Chief, you said you're starting a
9 task force. Correct?

10 MR. LOPEZ: If given the money and the
11 equipment, we are going to start a task force.

12 MS. JONES: And tell us again how many will be
13 on the task force. Did you tell us that initially? I
14 heard some positions.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Yes. Internally it will be our
16 patrol operations commander, our special investigations
17 commander, our criminal investigations commander, criminal
18 intelligence unit and a community engagement team.
19 Externally it would be the local agencies, Bell County,
20 DPS, Salado, Belton, Temple, Copperas Cove, and a host of
21 other cities and municipalities, and of course, our
22 business partners.

23 MS. JONES: And you're only asking for
24 equipment. Correct?

25 MR. LOPEZ: Correct, yes, ma'am.

1 MS. JONES: Are you able to sustain salaries,
2 overtime?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, ma'am. Yes, we will be able
4 to sustain. We're just looking for the equipment right
5 now; everything else is going to be funded through the
6 city. I'm fortunate to have the support of strong city
7 manager and city council, so we're lucky to have that.

8 MS. JONES: Perfect. Great to hear. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. DIGGS: And if I remember right, you guys
11 have a relatively large U.S. military base in your area
12 and it's going to make it much safer for a number of our
13 military men and women to live in a safer environment.
14 Would you say that's correct?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, sir. Most of our population
16 is military members and their families, so, yes.

17 MR. DIGGS: Thank you.

18 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, sir. Thank you.

19 MR. DIGGS: I'm going to go ahead and call up
20 the City of La Marque.

21 MR. GANDY: Good afternoon. Thank y'all for
22 the opportunity to come and present to you this morning.

23 First, I want to start out with -- we met last
24 year or the last round, but just in case anybody doesn't
25 remember, a little background on La Marque. We're a city

1 south of Houston, just north of Galveston. We're about
2 20,000 population, and we're growing significantly.

3 MR. DIGGS: Sir, if I may. Can you tell us who
4 you are? My apologies.

5 MR. GANDY: No, that would be helpful. My name
6 is Lieutenant Forrest Gandy. I'm a division commander
7 over the investigations division for the City of La
8 Marque.

9 Basically, we're a growing city. We are right
10 in the middle of a large county. We're unique in that we
11 have both some rural undeveloped land in town, we have an
12 interstate that rolls through town, we have strong
13 residential areas, and we have some growing business
14 districts as well.

15 We also have unique challenges, too, because we
16 are more or less landlocked by the other cities around us.
17 We're in close proximity to the Port of Galveston and the
18 Port of Texas City. So we have a lot of things to
19 consider, which brought us to this point to where we're
20 reaching out to you guys.

21 We are a strong community policing department.
22 That is kind of one of our central core functions. We
23 have 12 to 14 community watch groups that are formed
24 geographically across town. Some of those are HOAs, some
25 of those are just neighborhoods that we've gathered our

1 citizens there into a community watch group -- community
2 policing group, rather.

3 We have a very robust interaction with our
4 community, very robust social media presence. We have a
5 lot of programs that we try to work with our community
6 throughout the year.

7 Pertinent to this presentation, we frequently
8 do catalytic converter etching events. We were the first,
9 I think, in Galveston County to organize such a program.
10 We've done it a few times and it was a cool feeling
11 because after we did this program, we started having the
12 other agencies in Galveston County calling us saying, hey,
13 how did you do it, what equipment do you need, give us
14 some tips, and shared the downfalls and the lessons we
15 learned from doing it the first couple of times. So
16 that's been an awesome tool for us.

17 We're a very diverse community -- had a
18 traditionally high crime rate over the years. We've been
19 very fortunate over the past three years to see a
20 significant crime decrease over all. Again, pertinent to
21 this, the property crime in this last year, we saw a 15
22 percent decrease, which in this day and age, we're proud
23 of that.

24 Some of the programs that we're hoping to build
25 through this grant is our LPR program. Again, we're proud

1 that we were the first law enforcement agency in Galveston
2 Count to use the advanced LPR systems. Kind of everybody
3 else has caught up with us, and again, we're landlocked by
4 agencies that use this LPR system.

5 We share our data with them, they share their
6 data with us. And it has been, I think, a crucial tool in
7 our ability to attack catalytic converter theft and auto
8 theft. They're not a well kept secret anymore, so the
9 more of them that you see throughout your city, they
10 definitely act as a deterrent. So we're very proud of
11 that.

12 Currently we're in the process of getting to
13 49. We've had nine throughout several years that were our
14 own original seed to the program. Last year we came to
15 you folks and you were generous enough to help us get an
16 additional 40 cameras, which by the time they're all done
17 being installed, we'll be at 49.

18 All we're looking right now for this round
19 is -- we're not looking to necessarily add any more
20 cameras, because I think we're headed in the right
21 direction. We've got a significant amount of coverage.
22 We're just trying to help us carry that program through
23 another year.

24 The next big thing that we've asked for is
25 handheld radios. So we've had some issues here lately,

1 budgetary issues, handheld radios are crucial. We're a
2 very proactive police department.

3 We have a crime suppression unit that part of
4 their mission is to deal with catalytic converter theft,
5 as well as we've added a lot of officers to our staff.
6 Our old radios are end of life. We're having difficulty
7 keeping up with our neighboring agencies who we have to
8 communicate with a lot to address this catalytic converter
9 theft issue.

10 Same thing kind of applies to the mobile data
11 computers. We've got a significant portion of our staff
12 and our fleet that does not have MDTs. MDTs for the LPR
13 program are crucial to deliver those instance alerts to
14 the police cars. And also, like I said, our quick
15 response, our communication with our neighboring agencies
16 is something that is a tool that those MDTs definitely
17 help us with.

18 We also have a good quantity of Hide-Lock-Take
19 signs, and 24-hour surveillance signs. That kind of goes
20 to our never-ending mission to gain some cooperation with
21 our community to get them to help us make our job easier.

22 We all know the power of the advertising and getting
23 cooperation from our community.

24 The last thing I want to talk about is a police
25 outfitted all-terrain vehicle. We're looking basically,

1 in layman terms, a side-by-side. So again, what's unique
2 about our area, our jurisdiction, is we have probably 40
3 percent of our area that is either undeveloped or we have
4 these large utility high lines.

5 And because we are landlocked, we have
6 criminals that are coming from neighboring jurisdictions.

7 They're hitting these undeveloped properties and these
8 high lines, and they are coming in and committing thefts
9 both of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, catalytic
10 converters, everything, along the edges of our
11 jurisdiction and then fleeing back through that same
12 undeveloped land, those same high line. When they get in
13 those high lines, we're unable to pursue them, so we're
14 looking for some help to try to reach that part of our
15 jurisdiction.

16 I think I've covered everything. I'm certainly
17 open for any questions you might have.

18 MS. JONES: Lieutenant, how many officers are
19 assigned to the task force? Well, do you have a task
20 force?

21 MR. GANDY: So the way we operate here, we have
22 an officer that is assigned full-time to the Gulf Coast
23 Auto Crimes Task Force. Internally in La Marque, it's
24 more of a fungible thing. We've built out what's supposed
25 to be a six-man crime suppression unit which would do a

1 lot of the proactive work on something like this.

2 We have approximately a ten-man criminal
3 investigation division that would help on the reactive
4 side. And then we have a 20-something officer patrol
5 department that, like I said, they're all part of the
6 mission, if you will. But we do have the dedicated unit
7 that deal with these kind of things that we call upon.

8 We're having staffing issues, just like
9 everybody. I think we should have a button up here that
10 says we're having staffing issues. We're having staffing
11 issues, just like everybody else.

12 We're about, I think, six officers down, which
13 is not a lot to maybe some of these other bigger agencies.

14 But for a 40-something man department, even six makes a
15 big difference.

16 MS. JONES: How many radios are you asking for,
17 handheld?

18 MR. GANDY: Twenty-five.

19 MS. JONES: So you're asking for 25 handheld
20 and you have how many people dedicated to working -- the
21 25 handheld radios are going to whom?

22 MR. GANDY: It would be a combination of, like
23 I said, our crime suppression unit which is generally a
24 six-man department, our criminal investigation division
25 which is a ten-person division -- those are probably our

1 frontline. And then we also try to keep some in reserve
2 as well because we have issues with one goes down, we have
3 to get them back up and back into the field. And then in
4 addition, like I said, usually on an overtime basis we'll
5 often have overtime missions, which the city, like I said,
6 is good enough that they support our overtime budget to
7 where we can call upon our patrol division as well to come
8 out and help the mission.

9 MS. JONES: Does patrol currently have
10 handhelds? Are any of these 25 going to patrol? Because
11 I'm counting, based on what you said, sixteen, there's a
12 six-man unit, the crime suppression is ten.

13 MR. GANDY: For sure. So yes, like I said, a
14 lot of our radios, they're replacing end-of-life radios.
15 So yeah, some of them will go to patrol. But like I said,
16 nobody in our department can wear one hat so a lot of our
17 patrolmen support that mission, whether it be on overtime.

18 I'll take whatever I can get, to be honest with
19 you.

20 MS. JONES: So the 20 patrol officers that you
21 have already have handhelds. Correct?

22 MR. GANDY: Everybody in the department has
23 some type of a handheld. The problem is we have not been
24 able to keep up with the changing technology and
25 encryption and the equipment. And we just received notice

1 probably a couple of months ago from our 9-1-1 district
2 that probably by the end of the year a good chunk of our
3 radios are going to be kaput, so we have to figure
4 something out.

5 MS. JONES: And if your patrol officers who are
6 primarily assigned to patrol, if they're assisting, then
7 their handhelds will work. Correct?

8 MR. GANDY: Yes.

9 MS. JONES: So what I would like for you to do
10 is to figure out exactly how many persons are going to be
11 using the handhelds, because I'm not comfortable giving
12 you 25 handhelds for 16 people and then some to just leave
13 behind. What I don't want is to get into any supplanting
14 and any issues because you're including the patrol
15 officers who are on patrol, assigned to patrol, and if
16 they're assisting with either call-outs, whatever types of
17 investigations, they already have radios. So just think
18 about logistically how many handheld radios that you
19 actually need.

20 MR. GANDY: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. JONES: Because I don't want any to just
22 sit.

23 MR. GANDY: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. JONES: Okay?

25 MR. GANDY: For sure.

1 MS. JONES: And then when you have that number,
2 just let us know.

3 MR. GANDY: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir. Thank you,
5 Lieutenant.

6 One moment, sir. I apologize. You jumped up
7 ready to go.

8 We are going to take a recess until 3:45.

9 (Whereupon, at 3:28 p.m., a brief recess was
10 taken.)

11 MS. JONES: It's 3:49 and we will now resume.
12 Sharon Jones, for the record.

13 MR. DIGGS: Good afternoon. William Diggs,
14 MVCPA director, for the record.

15 I will now call up the City of Live Oak.

16 MR. FRATUS: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Michael Fratus. I'm the police chief here representing
18 the City of Live Oak Police Department.

19 Our city is situated on the northeast corner of
20 San Antonio, so I did not get a free day off. I did have
21 to work this morning. The city actually covers less than
22 five square miles, however, at the heart of the City of
23 Live Oak lies a major intersection of I-35 and Loop 1604,
24 through which an estimated 300,000 vehicles pass daily.
25 We have a population of just over 16,000.

1 Due to the high volume of traffic, much of the
2 crime that we encounter stems from transient activity.
3 Our jurisdiction experiences elevated rates of stolen
4 vehicles, auto burglaries, catalytic converter thefts, and
5 retail theft. While 2020 saw a spike in locally reported
6 auto thefts, much of the criminal activity in our area
7 originates from outside of our city limits and moves along
8 the I-35 corridor, affecting within our city limits. In
9 2023, we experienced 21 catalytic converter thefts, and in
10 2024 we had seven reported catalytic converter thefts,
11 which I attribute to under-reporting.

12 The grant funding we're seeking will enable our
13 police department to install -- you guessed it --
14 fixed-location license plate readers. These devices act
15 as force multipliers for our department, which consists of
16 just 35 sworn officers at full capacity, which equals out
17 to approximately six officers on the street in any given
18 time when we're fully staffed.

19 About last August, we decided to run a pilot
20 program with these license plate readers. So we used some
21 forfeiture funds and put them along one of our retail
22 areas, because truth be told, most of our crime originates
23 in those retail areas, whether it be retail theft from the
24 stores directly, auto burglaries, and reported catalytic
25 converter thefts in this one particular area. Within the

1 first week and a half of having those in place, we
2 recovered two stolen vehicles, so we knew we found the
3 force multiplier for us.

4 By supplementing our current system, the
5 additional LPRs that we're requesting will enhance
6 coverage citywide beyond the retail area, improving our
7 ability to identify stolen vehicles, wanted individuals,
8 and detect vehicles associated with criminal activity.

9 A recent success highlights the impact of our
10 Flock LPR system. Our investigators actually identified a
11 catalytic converter theft suspect using CCTV footage that
12 we were able to receive from one of our local hospitals.
13 We took that data, we put it into a hot list into our
14 Flock system.

15 Within two months, we got a hit of that vehicle
16 entering that retail area. We responded. Unfortunately,
17 we saw the vehicle driving off, we didn't have probable
18 cause, but when we worked with the business, we actually
19 watched the video and he was quick, he jumped underneath
20 that vehicle, bam-bam, and he was gone. So when he was
21 driving away, he actually had committed the theft.

22 We used that information to walk through a
23 warrant because I wasn't going to pass this up again. In
24 October, the same vehicle gave us a hit. Well, we got the
25 hit going into the retail area and then driving out.

1 We knew he could only go one of two ways. We
2 actually located the suspect stopped at a gas station,
3 also helped himself to a stolen sandwich while he was in
4 there, and we were able to immediately put our hands on
5 him, put him in handcuffs, and recover -- didn't recover
6 stolen stuff at that time, but the incredible part is he
7 actually went to the retail area and in fact paid for his
8 Sawzall blades.

9 We're asking for six additional units to help
10 us get coverage throughout the city, to expand beyond the
11 retail area. The funding is going to allow us to protect
12 our community, increase our efficiency, and I deeply
13 appreciate any consideration that you guys would give to
14 funding the project. And I'll take any questions at this
15 time.

16 MR. SLOAN: I'd just make an observation,
17 Chief. Your slashing your cat thefts from the previous
18 year so your proactivity is working, and thank you for
19 sharing that success story. We need more of those.

20 MR. FRATUS: Yes, sir.

21 MS. JONES: No questions.

22 MR. DIGGS: Chief, I just like hearing that you
23 followed through and got a warrant. A lot of folks who,
24 when you talk to them, say, well, the police, they may or
25 may not follow through, but you guys did some good police

1 work and made a good arrest. Thank you for the example.

2 MR. FRATUS: Thank you. We're little but
3 mighty.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. FRATUS: Yes, ma'am.

6 MR. DIGGS: City of La Marque.

7 (No response.)

8 MR. DIGGS: The City of Mabank.

9 MR. QUINN: Good afternoon, everyone.

10 Commander Sloan, Major Jones, Major Diggs, thank you for
11 having us. And all the distinguished members of law
12 enforcement here, never felt safer. My name is Chris
13 Quinn. I'm the public information officer for the city of
14 Mabank.

15 We've been talking about the drop in catalytic
16 converter theft and we have to thank our governor for
17 that. SB 224, I think, was a big part of that; making
18 that a felony was huge.

19 The City of Mabank is unique. I'll explain it
20 to you. The City of Mabank is located in Kaufman County,
21 and Kaufman County is the fastest growing county in
22 America, 40,000 people in the last two years. That's
23 southeast of Dallas about 45 minutes.

24 The cities are burgeoning, the police
25 departments -- the guy from the City of Kaufman spoke

1 earlier and I tapped him on the shoulder and reminded him
2 that his growth rate is what startles us, not the fastest
3 growing county in Texas, the fastest growing county in
4 America, Kaufman County. As DFW grew north, now it's
5 turned its eyes to the south and the southeast and they
6 are moving in; 40 to 50 home inspections a week is what
7 the City of Mabank performs. Astronomical growth.

8 It's a burden on our schools, it's a burden on
9 our law enforcement. And one of our main concerns for
10 catalytic converter theft is being preemptive and
11 preventative, and that's what we intend to use these Flock
12 cameras, if you grant them to us, for.

13 Helping the City of Mabank with this Flock
14 grant would help three counties, as we're located in three
15 counties, Henderson, Kaufman, and Van Zandt County, and
16 three different school districts. And school districts is
17 where our concern is. Our catalytic converter theft that
18 we have logged happened at the bus barn. The schools did
19 not have 24-hour law enforcement, they're left unguarded
20 at night, and those are big catalytic converters on buses.

21 As we attempt to address this, we're looking to
22 prevent any theft. Our theft rates are low, our police
23 department works hard, but this grant application and our
24 ask is simply preventative and proactive against the
25 catalytic converter theft that we now have tasted and we

1 want to taste no more. Our message to the criminals in
2 Mabank is: We are watching you.

3 Any questions for me?

4 MS. JONES: Sir, did you mention if you have an
5 LPR policy?

6 MR. QUINN: Yes, we do.

7 MS. JONES: No further questions.

8 MR. QUINN: Thank you.

9 MS. JONES: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. DIGGS: I'd like to call up the City of
11 Marble Falls.

12 MS. RATLIFF: Good afternoon. Appreciate you
13 guys giving us the opportunity.

14 So I am here, my name is Trisha Ratliff. I am
15 the assistant chief of the Marble Falls Police Department.

16 I'm here to represent our city in a proactive approach.

17 So the City of Marble Falls is located in the
18 Highland Lakes and is 40 miles northwest of Austin and 85
19 miles directly north of San Antonio. We are in Burnet
20 County and we also deal very closely with Llano County and
21 Blanco County. Daytime population in our city it can
22 range between 75- and 100,000 even though 8,000 people
23 sleep there at night. It's a huge jump or a retail hub
24 for all three counties I mentioned, so we see a great deal
25 of traffic and with traffic comes motor vehicle crime.

1 While we did also have, as many have mentioned,
2 a spike in 2022 of catalytic converter theft, we were
3 proactive. We did target hot areas or hot zones, if you
4 will. The bus barn situation we also dealt with where
5 buses were parked -- were targeted multiple at a time. So
6 we upped staffing and we targeted those locations and were
7 able to bring some of those numbers down.

8 But at the end of last year with this budget
9 cycle, we decided to take a proactive approach and
10 institute what we call the Flock Safety Project. We
11 purchased four cameras in the 2024 budget cycle, and with
12 this grant we would be asking for nine additional cameras,
13 to include LPR as well as some livestream -- I believe
14 three livestream cameras to help us in that endeavor. We
15 do have an LPR policy.

16 And let's see here, we are growing
17 exponentially -- I know you've heard that a lot as well,
18 especially the last gentleman that was up -- we're
19 projected to double in size over the next five to ten
20 years.

21 I'd be happy to answer any questions you might
22 have.

23 MS. JONES: Chief, what is your marketing
24 educational plan for the community?

25 MS. RATLIFF: We have a huge social media

1 presences. We actually, this budget cycle, approved a
2 public relations coordinator for the city. We already
3 have a marketing coordinator, but that has more to do with
4 tourism.

5 So we are in the process right now of hiring a
6 public relations coordinator who will focus greatly and
7 work directly with city agencies, public safety
8 specifically, to target those programs on social media.
9 We also have a pretty regular radio presence and we're
10 very close and work very closely with our press in town.

11 MS. JONES: Great to hear.

12 Any questions, Member Sloan?

13 MR. DIGGS: Madam Chair. My understanding is
14 that 281 and 71 corridor is just going to really explode.

15 And I'm actually a resident of Burnet County, I'm just
16 nine miles west of you guys in Marble Falls, so I'm glad
17 to see you guys are in here and being proactive.

18 MR. RATLIFF: The permitting the gentleman
19 before mentioned, we're doing about 30 to 40 permits a
20 day, so it's exploding. But we probably live in the same
21 city.

22 MR. DIGGS: Maybe so. Thank you so much.

23 MS. RATLIFF: All right. Thank you, guys.

24 MR. DIGGS: I'd now like to call up Marlin
25 Police Department.

1 MR. SCHMIDT: Good afternoon. Thank you for
2 having us today. My name is Scott Schmidt. I am the
3 chief technology officer --

4 MR. WARDEN: Turn on the mic, sir.

5 MR. SCHMIDT: My apologies. My name is Scott
6 Schmidt. I am the chief technology office for the City of
7 Marlin, and as a reserve officer with them as well.
8 Public speaking is not my forte, I'm not like the PIO back
9 there.

10 We are requesting this grant because of the
11 rise in catalytic converter thefts across Texas. This
12 isn't just a single entity or single agency problem, this
13 is a statewide problem. And what these agencies here
14 today are doing is presenting to you a unified idea of
15 installing a Flock Safety system network throughout the
16 State of Texas where real-time collaboration happens.

17 For example, there was a Blue Alert that was
18 issued out yesterday in Houston. Now, he was on foot.
19 However, if that person had taken off with a vehicle, in
20 real time you would have been able to track him up Highway
21 6, 35.

22 So we're also trying to increase local theft
23 reports, so any time a vehicle is stolen, even though it
24 may not specifically be a catalytic converter which is a
25 serialized item on that vehicle, we are essentially trying

1 to get our community involved with us so that they report
2 to us. Because if they don't report it, we don't know it.

3 It will link to larger criminal enterprises, so
4 your bigger chop shops and stuff like that, and it will
5 reduce the significant financial burden on victims. So I
6 was reading through the FY25-26 and \$5 billion a year is
7 lost by Texans, so by implementing this program, it will
8 help reduce that financial burden.

9 So we in the City of Marlin would like to
10 implement a license plate recognition system. That way we
11 can monitor vehicles at the key entry and exit, enable
12 real-time suspect vehicle identification, share data with
13 neighboring jurisdictions and the Texas DPS through their
14 MOU.

15 A little bit about the city. The City of
16 Marlin is situated about southeast of Waco about 30
17 minutes. We have a total population of about 5,492
18 people. We have a major highway that runs through it,
19 Highway 6. It serves as a major corridor from Houston to
20 Dallas, serving as a major corridor.

21 Not only is this corridor known for drug
22 running, trafficking, smuggling activities, it's also
23 known for transporting stolen vehicles and catalytic
24 converters as well and parts. So we're trying to enhance
25 public safety along this corridor and it's vital for us to

1 reduce criminal activity and be proactive in preventing
2 the thefts of catalytic converters and other burglaries of
3 vehicles.

4 So how this will help. It will act as a
5 deterrent to crime, it will increase arrest rates for
6 catalytic converter thefts, it will support broader
7 criminal investigations, and it will enhance overall
8 public safety. So laying the foundation for a safer
9 community, this will help us address crime trends.

10 It will promote smarter, more efficient
11 policing, and like everybody else, we don't have a lot of
12 manpower. We have a total of 15 people, that's ten on
13 patrol, a chief, a captain and two reserve officers, and
14 I'm one of them. And we are requesting the support
15 through the Texas State Bill 224 Catalytic Converter
16 Grant.

17 I do not currently have an ALPR policy in
18 place. I just developed it while I was sitting back
19 there, and I will be sending that off to our lawyer and
20 our legal and city council to review. We will be also
21 participating in the Texas DPS license LPR program through
22 the MOU that that the state has, and we plan on also
23 sharing that information with any and other all law
24 enforcement agencies.

25 If you have any questions?

1 MR. SLOAN: Briefly. Thank you for your
2 presentation. You talked about leveraging partnerships
3 with your community. What does that plan look like for
4 your agency?

5 MR. SCHMIDT: So leveraging with our community
6 is we currently have an economic development coordinator
7 or director. He runs our social media pages, and so we
8 will get with him to solicit responses from our community
9 to participate. The really cool thing about Flock, too,
10 is with Flock you can integrate private security systems
11 from other businesses and stuff like that.

12 So if they want to participate, we can get
13 their participation which will help reduce crimes in
14 parking lots and at businesses and stuff like that. We
15 would be able to pull that feed to get warrants and make
16 arrests.

17 MR. SLOAN: Thank you.

18 MS. JONES: No questions from me.

19 Mr. Diggs?

20 MR. DIGGS: No.

21 MS. JONES: No questions, sir. Thank you.

22 MR. DIGGS: I would like to now call up
23 Maverick County.

24 MR. RUIZ: Good afternoon. I apologize for my
25 attire; I thought I was going to be presenting tomorrow,

1 so my suit is up there in the hotel room. I apologize for
2 that.

3 We're Maverick County. Good afternoon,
4 Chairperson and esteemed committee members. Thank you for
5 the opportunity to present before you today. My name is
6 Isaak Ruiz and I am the county's grant administrator.

7 With me I want to introduce our investigator,
8 Mr. Carrazco, that was hired for the catalytic converter
9 task force. We are here today to advocate for continued
10 funding for the Maverick County Catalytic Converter Task
11 Force under Senate Bill 224.

12 Maverick County is 1,290 square miles, with a
13 population of about 30,000 outside of city limits. Eagle
14 Pass is the only incorporated city in Maverick County;
15 that city's population is approximately 30,000 as well.

16 The task force was established in response to
17 the growing threat of catalytic converter theft and
18 vehicle-related crimes in our community. While reported
19 catalytic converter thefts have dropped to zero in
20 Maverick County in 2024, we recognize that this is not a
21 result of our task force work, as the unit was established
22 in early 2025. Rather, the decline likely reflects a
23 fluctuation in crime patterns and without continued
24 enforcement, there is a strong possibility that thefts
25 will rise again. Our task force is taking proactive

1 measures to prevent this from happening and we need the
2 continued funding to sustain those efforts.

3 At the start of 2025, Maverick County hired a
4 task force commander and two dedicated investigators to
5 lead the fight against catalytic converter thefts and auto
6 related crimes. Their work is already making an impact as
7 they have initiated five stolen vehicle investigations and
8 one burglary of a vehicle case.

9 Vehicle thefts remain a major issue in our
10 community, particularly due to our county's location along
11 the US-Mexico border. Stolen vehicles are frequently used
12 in smuggling operations, including the transportation of
13 undocumented immigrants, which Maverick County is having
14 an issue with. While we do not have yet precise data of
15 the number of stolen vehicles linked to these operations,
16 law enforcement officers regularly encounter them during
17 their investigations. The work of this task force is
18 critical in disrupting these criminal networks and
19 ensuring the stolen vehicles do not continue to fuel
20 illegal activity.

21 In addition to the enforcement efforts, our
22 task force is committed to public education and crime
23 prevention. Just last week, task force members visited a
24 local student driving school to educate new drivers on how
25 to secure their vehicles and reduce the risk of theft.

1 The task force provided practical guidance and best
2 practices, including locking the doors, parking in well
3 lit areas, and concealing valuables.

4 Public outreach initiatives like these are a
5 crucial component to our strategy to prevent crime before
6 it happens. By equipping the residents with knowledge and
7 protective measures, we can reduce the number of potential
8 thefts and make it more difficult for criminals to operate
9 in our community. With continued funding, we plan to
10 expand these education programs to reach more residents
11 and businesses across Maverick County.

12 Technology has also become a vital tool in our
13 enforcement strategy. We have deployed four fixed license
14 plate readers, LPRs, at key entry points into Maverick
15 County, along with two mobile LPR units that provide
16 flexibility in tracking and monitoring in high risk areas.

17 We do have a LPR policy in place at this moment and these
18 systems are actively assisting law enforcement to identify
19 and intercept stolen vehicles before they can cross the
20 border or disappear into criminal networks.

21 The integration of this technology has enhanced
22 our ability to track criminal trends, respond more quickly
23 to thefts, and disrupt the operations of vehicle theft
24 rings. Expanding the use of the LPR and strengthening our
25 data sharing capabilities with regional agencies will

1 further enhance our efforts in recovering stolen vehicles
2 and identifying offenders.

3 Collaboration with regional and federal
4 agencies is another essential component of our strategy.
5 Our task force commander has already established a working
6 relationship with the City of Eagle Pass Police
7 Department, ensuring that both agencies have a coordinated
8 approach to tackling auto theft. While we have not yet
9 worked together on active cases, we have begun
10 intelligence sharing efforts that will allow for faster
11 and more effective joint operations when necessary.

12 Additionally, we are coordinating with the U.S.
13 Customs and Border Patrol personnel and law enforcement
14 agencies in neighboring counties to improve our cross-
15 jurisdictional tracking of stolen vehicles. These
16 relationships will strengthen our ability to identify,
17 track and recover stolen property before it's trafficked
18 out of our jurisdiction.

19 To expand these efforts, we are requesting
20 \$180,266 in grant funding, with a \$36,054 cash match from
21 Maverick County, bringing the total of our program to
22 \$216,320. This funding will ensure that our newly hired
23 investigators and commander will be able to continue to
24 conduct thorough investigations and expand upon the
25 current program in place.

1 Additionally, the funding will allow us to
2 expand community outreach initiatives and strengthen our
3 legal strategy to ensure catalytic converters and auto
4 theft offenders are not only arrested but successfully
5 prosecuted. The establishment of the Maverick County
6 Catalytic Converter Task Force is a turning point in our
7 county's approach to combating vehicle-related crime.
8 Again, while these thefts have dropped to zero, if we do
9 not continue with these efforts, we fear that the numbers
10 of catalytic converter thefts will rise once again.

11 In closing, I strongly urge the committee and
12 ask to please approve the continued funding for Maverick
13 County Catalytic Converter Task Force under Senate Bill
14 224. Vehicle-related crime is an ongoing issue in our
15 region. With continued support, we can stay ahead of the
16 criminals and protect the residents of Maverick County.
17 The investment in public safety will not only reduce crime
18 but also strengthen our economic stability and community
19 trust in law enforcement.

20 Thank you for your time and I welcome any
21 questions, and we also have Investigator Carrazco to
22 answer any questions as well.

23 MS. JONES: Do you have any questions?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. JONES: You literally answered everything

1 that we could have possibly asked you. Great job.

2 MR. RUIZ: That was the point. Thank you.

3 MR. CARRAZCO: Thank you.

4 MR. RUIZ: Thank you.

5 MS. JONES: You're welcome, sir.

6 MR. DIGGS: So I'd now like to call up the City
7 of Meadows Place.

8 MR. BROWN: Glad you got to me. I was hoping
9 you'd get to me before tomorrow.

10 I'm Sergeant Jerry Brown with Meadows Place
11 Police Department. Meadows Place is a city just south of
12 Houston.

13 We're about 5,000 population. We're bordered
14 to the north by Houston, Stafford and Sugar Land, and we
15 have -- our east corridor is Interstate 59, so we are in a
16 high intensity drug trafficking area. We're in a high
17 intensity human trafficking area. Most of our activity is
18 transient activity, being only 5,000 in the city.

19 We had a traffic study done a number of years
20 ago where any day we had over 50,000 cars that go through
21 our city, which is only one square mile. So we've got
22 major thoroughfares, but that's where all the crime from
23 Houston comes down, they do the crime, they run back into
24 Houston. They run on to 59, and they get out of town.

25 We have eleven cameras already in place. This

1 grant is to continue that program; we've had a lot of good
2 success with it.

3 One recent success -- you were asking for
4 success stories -- was that Houston gave us a car to put
5 on the hot list that did pop up, and we caught the guy
6 actually in the act of stealing a catalytic converter.
7 And what we found out from Houston was he was a part of a
8 large ring that was operating in the Houston area. So we
9 were excited to get this individual and hopefully that
10 will translate into a lot less catalytic converter theft
11 in our city from the people in Houston dropping down into
12 our city, taking these catalytic converters and then
13 taking off.

14 We do have a policy in place. I've listened to
15 that enough over here so I'd better say that or you're
16 going to ask the question. And you guys are obviously
17 pros now on LPRs because that's all everybody ever wants.

18 But if you have any other questions or anything like that
19 I could try to answer, I'll be happy to do so.

20 MR. SLOAN: Just an observation. For your
21 agency's size, you have a significant amount of catalytic
22 converter thefts.

23 MR. BROWN: And we think that ring that was
24 operating -- we think we may have put a dent in that.

25 MR. SLOAN: Awesome. Thank you.

1 MR. BROWN: Yep.

2 MR. DIGGS: Sir, if you could see either Lauren
3 or Dan, I believe we still need a prosecutor agreement,
4 just one document.

5 MR. BROWN: I'm working on that, yes, sir.

6 MR. DIGGS: Thank you so much.

7 MS. JONES: Court reporter, it is 4:22, and we
8 will recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

9 (Whereupon, at 4:22, the meeting was recessed,
10 to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 17, 2025.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 MEETING OF: MVCPA Grants, Budget and Reporting
4 Committee

5 LOCATION: Via Microsoft Teams

6 DATE: January 16, 2025

7 I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
8 numbers 1 through 166, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
9 and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
10 made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the
11 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

12
13 DATE: January 30, 2025
14
15

16
17 /s/ Nancy H. King
18 (Transcriber)
19

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