



Texas Department *of* Motor Vehicles

# **Fiscal Year 2020 Activities and Funds Report**

of the

## **Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority**

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**Prepared for the  
Texas Legislature  
April 1, 2020**



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## Executive Summary

In accordance with Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority or MVCPA- (formerly known as the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority) reports its activities and funds for fiscal year (FY) 2020.

Texans incur financial losses of over \$1.5 billion per year from motor vehicle theft and burglary from a motor vehicle. Also, they suffer disrupted lives, lost work or business, diminished feelings of safety, and sometimes physical violence from these crimes. Millions of state dollars are lost each year from fraud-related motor vehicle crime. Criminals and ignorant motorists use illegal plates to cover the identities of non-repairable salvage vehicles, polluting vehicles and stolen vehicles.

Almost thirty years ago the 72nd Texas Legislature developed the MVCPA through its predecessor – the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority - as a cost-effective method to engage local communities to work together to combat these statewide problems. The introduction of state funds encourages local police and sheriff departments to incorporate combatting statewide motor vehicle crime into serving their cities, counties and regions. A small portion of the fee on motor vehicle insurance is used by the MVCPA to provide salaries, specialized equipment, supplies, and training for a cadre of local sheriff and police investigators to:

- 1) identify vehicles using confidential and proprietary manufacturer data;
- 2) keep up with and use to law enforcement advantage ever-changing motor vehicle technology;
- 3) network with other local, state and federal law enforcement to combat the mobile nature of these crimes;
- 4) inform their communities how to prevent these crimes; and
- 5) stop stolen vehicles from leaving Texas into Mexico.

In FY20 MVCPA collected over \$91 million in fees and only received \$12 million in appropriations (or 14% of the collections) to support these local police and sheriff investigators. Despite the state’s funding reduction to many General Revenue-funded agencies ordered by state leadership in May 2020, the city and county law enforcement agencies continued to support the program. Additionally, the investigators increased their efforts by recovering more vehicles and making more arrests for motor vehicle theft. The COVID-19 pandemic sickened many of the investigators but they all continued to provide their essential law enforcement services and protection to their communities and Texas. The MVCPA and Texas Department of Motor Vehicles staff worked to improve the collections from insurers.

### *MVCPA Fee Collections and Appropriations 2015 to 2019*

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<b>Fee Collected By MVCPA</b>	<b>Amount Appropriated to MVCPA</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<i>2016</i>	\$46,068,858	\$14,920,849	\$31,148,009
<i>2017</i>	\$46,436,967	\$14,920,849	\$31,516,118
<i>2018</i>	\$49,083,185	\$12,835,851	\$36,247,334
<i>2019</i>	\$50,042,957	\$12,835,851	\$37,207,106
<i>2020</i>	\$91,785,970	\$12,020,975*	\$79,764,995
<i>2021</i>	\$103,047,000 Est.	\$12,367,142*	\$90,211,149
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$386,464,937</b>	<b>\$67,078,502</b>	<b>\$306,094,711</b>

\* reflects 5% reduction mandated by state leadership.

The following FY20 Activities and Funds report shows the excellent work and vital efforts being performed these investigators, the MVCPA, and staff provided in a time of increased motor vehicle crime, reduced funding and adverse conditions.

## MVCPA at a Glance

### Vision Statement

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

### Governance

MVCPA is comprised of 6 governor appointees and the Director of Public Safety of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The governor appoints 2 representatives from the following groups: consumers of insurance, writers of insurance and law enforcement. MVCPA is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). MVCPA works with TxDMV to separate the policymaking responsibilities of the authority and the management responsibilities of the department.

TxDMV Full Time Employees (FTEs) for MVCPA Program	5
Total Administrative Costs Percent	4.2%
<b>FY20 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$12 million</b>
<b>FY20 Funds Collected by the MVCPA</b> from \$2 fee (July and August) and \$4 (Sept-Dec) on motor vehicles covered by insurance.	<b>\$91.8 million</b>
FY20 Registered Vehicles – TxDMV	24 million
CY19 Motor Vehicle Thefts	76,687
CY19 Burglary from a Motor Vehicle and Theft of Parts	194,558
CY19 Losses from Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft	\$1.5 Billion
FY20 Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft by grant funded investigators	3,593
FY20 Arrests for Burglary of Motor Vehicle by grant-funded investigators	736
FY20 Arrest for Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crimes	51
FY20 Recovered Stolen Vehicles by grant-funded investigators	12,860
FY20 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (68A) Inspections for Texas title transactions by grant-funded investigators	14,869
FY20 Other VIN Verification Inspections	30,728
FY20 Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges and outbound ports	10,144

## MVCPA Strategic Goals

### Mission Statement

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

### Philosophy

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

### Strategic Goals

**Goal 1: Performance-Driven Law Enforcement.**

**Goal 2: Reduce crime through optimized services and innovation.**

**Goal 3: Community-centric.**

**Goal 4: Effective Fee Generation.**

# FY 2020 Activities Report

## Changes from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature

The 86th Legislature passed two bills impacting MVCPA. First, SB 604 (86R) added responsibility to fund and report on investigations of fraud-related motor vehicle crime to MVCPA. The Legislature did not appropriate any additional funding for this new responsibility. A major victim of FRMVC is the State of Texas since title and registration fraud reduces tax and fee revenue. Fraud-related crime also is used to hide vehicles that should not be allowed to operate on roads due to not meeting emissions standards or being salvage/non-repairable vehicles. Other victims of fraud-related motor vehicle crime include people who buy stolen, salvage or odometer tampered vehicles. These victims are often devastated by the financial losses from these crimes. The second law passed was HB 2048 (86R) which raised the MVCPA fee to \$4 and said that 20% shall be appropriated to the MVCPA. The FY20 collections were \$91.8 but the MVCPA appropriations were \$12 million or about 14% of the amount collected.

## Performance Measures

### Statutory Measures

Grants from the MVCPA fund police and sheriff taskforces to combat motor vehicle crime. Taskforces also combat the financial losses associated with these crimes to Texas citizens and businesses. State law (Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006.151) requires MVCPA to track performance measures associated with its grants. The table below shows the statutory performance measures for FY20 reported by grant-funded taskforces:

### Summary of Statewide Statutory Performance Measures

<b>Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	11,038	11,678	12,860	10.12%
Cleared Motor Vehicle Theft Cases	14,617	13,491	19,258	42.75%
Arrests - Motor Vehicle Theft	3,295	3,257	3,593	10.32%
<b>Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Cleared Motor Vehicle Burglary Cases	3,425	2,565	2,419	-5.69%
Arrests - Burglary of Motor Vehicle	974	930	736	-20.86%
<b>Fraud-related Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC)</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020*</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Cleared Cases - FRMVC	NR	NR	134	N/A
Arrests - FRMVC	NR	NR	51	N/A

\*FRMVC was included as a performance measure by the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

The data in the table above show that funding constraints have eroded the effectiveness of the taskforces ability to pursue investigations of crimes other than MVT. Fewer funds resulted in fewer investigators, less overtime for covert operations, less fuel and investigation supplies, and aging or outdated equipment. MVCPA grant programs have had to prioritize the more serious and often dangerous motor vehicle theft. The table above shows decreasing cleared cases and arrests for BMV. It also shows there is little capacity for the taskforces to dedicate resources to the new responsibilities of FRMVC.

### MVCPA Grant Activity Measures

In addition to the statutory performance measures above, the MVCPA sets additional grant activity measures. These measures help determine the effectiveness of taskforces. Most grant funds are used to hire, train and retain specialized motor vehicle crime law enforcement investigators. By law, the priority of the MVCPA is to provide

financial support to law enforcement agencies to create and maintain economic motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams. Economic motor vehicle theft constitutes many methods used by criminals to convert the stolen property into an economic gain. It also includes activities that defraud the state of Texas (taxes and fees), insurers (fraudulent claims) and individuals (fraudulent sales). Taskforces report their activities related to the measures to demonstrate their effectiveness at combatting motor vehicle crime in their communities and statewide. Below are the numbers reported in FY 2020:

<b>Fiscal Year 2020 MVCPA Taskforces Performance Measures</b>	
<b>Measure Description</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
<b>Investigation</b>	
MVT cases presented to prosecutors	3,567
BMV cases presented to prosecutors	847
FRMVC cases presented to prosecutors	100
Other felony cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	1,346
Other misdemeanor cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	486
Number of cases of insurance fraud identified	643
Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	4,702
<b>License Plate Readers (LPR)</b>	
Number of LPR Deployments by taskforce investigators	2,733
Times that investigators were provided an alert from an LPR. (Note: some agencies have access and get alerts from third-party LPR data providers)	2,673
Number of vehicles recovered from LPR detection	1,344
Number of arrests from LPR detection	92
<b>Bait Vehicles and Bait Equipment<sup>1</sup></b>	
Bait vehicle deployments	830
Number of arrests from bait vehicle deployments	80
Other types of bait and tracked device deployments targeting vehicle burglary offenders	972
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	
Number of arrests for human trafficking while investigating Motor Vehicle Crime	17
<b>Drugs</b>	
Number of arrests for Motor Vehicle Crime where drugs were present	209
Pounds of drugs and controlled substances seized	677 pounds
<b>Illegal Weapons</b>	
Number of weapons recovered	223
Arrests for weapon smuggling	9
Value of weapons recovered	\$151,889
<b>Equipment<sup>2</sup></b>	
Number of units of equipment recovered	163
Value of equipment recovered	\$3,703,098

<sup>1</sup> Bait refers to a vehicle used by law enforcement agencies to capture car thieves or property thieves who steal items from cars. Bait cars are normally purchased and owned by law enforcement agencies and are typically modified with audio/video surveillance technology which can be remotely monitored and controlled.

<sup>2</sup> Equipment is construction, farm tractors, excavators, compressors, lifts and other items that are vehicles or transported on trailers.



<b>Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination</b>	
Taskforce investigators assisted outside agencies conduct their investigations by performing part of the investigation or using specialized motor vehicle crime investigative skills as resource. (# of times)	
Assists to all outside agencies	18,074
Assists within their own departments/office	5820
Assists for other agencies within the grant coverage area	5808
Assists to TxDMV and Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) investigations	617
Assists to DPS and other state law enforcement criminal investigations	519
Assists to federal law enforcement investigations	467
<b>Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination</b>	
<i>Usually, criminal conspiracies organized by groups and repeat offenders account for a high volume of motor vehicle crime. Taskforce investigators conduct covert operations and provide regional communication on these groups and repeat offenders.</i>	
Groups (criminal networks) of motor vehicle crime offenders identified operating in taskforce communities	573
Offenders with three or more MVT arrests identified operating in communities	1,406
Number of covert operations conducted	3,198
Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by investigators	1,181
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by taskforce investigators	2,517
Number of Border Incident Assessment Reports submitted by taskforce investigators to a Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center	572
<b>Vehicles Inspected</b>	
Vehicles inspected using confidential means (Required for the public to complete certain title transactions at TxDMV or Tax Assessor-Collector)	14,869
Vehicles inspected at businesses, dealerships, other transactions or looking for stolen vehicles	30,728
<b>Local Business Operations Support</b>	
Number of inspections of licensed businesses related to vehicle enterprise (salvage yards, repair shop, used parts recyclers, used car dealership, salvage rebuilders, etc...)	593

## Law Enforcement Activities

MVCPA combats statewide motor vehicle crime by funding trained and experienced criminal investigators in local law enforcement agencies. The MVCPA funded investigators coupled with the support that their local agencies provide are extremely effective. Local law enforcement agencies rarely have specialized motor vehicle crime experts or the corresponding equipment without an MVCPA grant-funded program. The MVCPA grants allow local law enforcement agencies to develop highly trained investigators performing specialized motor vehicle crime investigations for themselves and the State of Texas.

The MVCPA provides grants to local law enforcement agencies to fund motor vehicle crime law enforcement taskforces. Of the 24 taskforces funded in FY 2020, 10 are single jurisdiction and 14 are multijurisdictional. Taskforces must provide a minimum of 20 percent cash match for all MVCPA grant funds received. However, after years of stagnant and reduced funds, most grant programs provide more than 60% cash match. The MVCPA grants incentivize taskforces to use their investigators and equipment in a coordinated effort for the benefit of the entire state. Taskforce investigators routinely work with each other across the state directly and through the monthly MVCPA webinar. They also hold regional law enforcement criminal intelligence sharing meetings about trends and technology used to steal vehicles.

The MVCPA taskforces directly assisted other law enforcement agencies over 20,000 times to investigate crimes tied to motor vehicle crime. The taskforce investigators assisted other units within their own agencies an additional 5,800 times. Law enforcement agencies funded by MVCPA collaborate beyond their city or county limits to confront the highly mobile nature of motor vehicle crimes. A prime example is the Burnet County Taskforce discovered an organized theft group focusing on rural mail thefts using stolen vehicles. This group stole federal stimulus checks, credit cards and used documents from stolen mail to commit identity theft. The coordination for this one theft ring included law enforcement from Bastrop, Travis, Williamson Counties and cities through and around the Austin area (Austin, Cedar Park, Leander, Georgetown, Liberty Hill, Bertram, etc.).

MVCPA began FY20 providing grants to support 237 highly trained and specialized law enforcement investigators in communities across the state of Texas. The 5% funding reduction ordered by state leadership in May 2020 for many General Revenue funded agencies, resulted in one investigator being moved out of the program and many programs reducing operations to meet the cuts. Most MVCPA grant program expenditures are law enforcement personnel-related costs. Local jurisdictions use MVCPA grants to cover much of their investigators' salaries.

### Specialized Equipment and Supplies

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

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

## Techniques of MVCPA Taskforces

The MVCPA law enforcement taskforces use many techniques to prevent and combat motor vehicle crime. Below is a summary of taskforce techniques used in FY 2020:

### **Investigations**

MVCPA funded investigators investigate motor vehicle crimes reported by the public (reactive investigations) and monitor and reduce community vulnerabilities to such crimes (proactive investigations). All funded investigators work to recover stolen vehicles, arrest perpetrators, and clear open criminal cases as required by the MVCPA statute. Investigators write and examine reports, operate covert investigations, review and provide intelligence briefings, develop leads and witnesses, identify criminals and their networks and organizations, train/inform other law enforcement officers, support state/federal agencies, coordinate with prosecutors, and develop sources of information from victims, informants and community members. Galveston County Auto Crimes Taskforce assisted Newton County Sheriff's Office, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and an insurance company investigator with an alleged motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud case. As a result, the vehicle was located and recovered, two suspects were arrested on felony charges including insurance fraud. Further investigation of this case with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office led to the recovery of two stolen trailers, recovery of a stolen truck, seizure of methamphetamine, with additional arrests including one cold case sexual assault. The City of Austin PD taskforce received intelligence of a vehicle used to commit burglaries of numerous homes. They quickly determine in their investigation the plates and vehicle did not match. They located the vehicle, the suspects, 8 firearms and 10 key fobs.

### **Identify Vehicles**

Motor vehicle crime investigators receive specialized training to identify motor vehicles and certain parts of motor vehicles. Manufacturers of vehicles, trailers, equipment and certain parts follow national and industry standards for marking and maintaining identification of their produced items. Records of these marks and identifications are maintained in limited access, confidential proprietary databases most of which are managed by the NICB. Properly credentialed and MVCPA trained law enforcement investigators use these databases to identify vehicles, certain vehicle parts and most equipment. This proper identification is required to perform certain Texas title transactions, to establish the elements of motor vehicle crime for prosecution purposes, and to recover vehicles where criminals have worked to remove, conceal or change the vehicle identification number (VIN) markings. This specialized skill in vehicle identification is also used to assist other law enforcement agencies in critical instances of shootings and human trafficking. In one example, the El Paso Police Department Auto Theft Taskforce investigators were called to assist the investigators from the El Paso Tax Assessor-Collector office. While tax office investigators were inspecting a 2017 Jaguar, the vehicle's electronic VIN was showing different than the physical VIN. The investigation showed that the vehicle was stolen in San Diego California, crossed into Tijuana, Mexico and sold, and then repatriated back into Texas.

### **Communicate and Collaborate Across Jurisdictions**

To effectively combat motor vehicle crime and illegal uses of stolen vehicles, taskforces depend on communication and collaboration. The MVCPA taskforces perform their investigations with and across local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions. Some grantees assign MVCPA funded investigators into anti-gang or violent crime units because of the close connection between these crimes and motor vehicle crime. This is especially true when investigators work to identify and interrupt criminal enterprises. Taskforce investigators communicate with other taskforces, other law enforcement agencies, vehicle manufacturer representatives, insurance industry professionals, as well as motorists and families in the communities they serve. They receive, provide and analyze intelligence data through DPS Crime Information Centers. When taskforces identify criminal patterns or suspects, they disseminate that information across jurisdictions. This often includes across state lines, where Beaumont, El Paso, Lubbock, Paris and Potter taskforces routinely coordinate with Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. An

officer in Beaumont was recognized by the federal law enforcement partners for outstanding work. One good example of collaboration is Harris County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft taskforce communicated and collaborated with Baytown Police based on a reported chop shop (illegal and unlicensed parts business dismantling stolen cars). The cross-jurisdiction operation resulted in the discovery of several stolen vehicles in different stages of dismantling in an unoccupied residence. This one operation recovered thirteen stolen vehicles.

### **Identify Prolific Offenders**

Many motor vehicle crimes are committed by the same individuals or groups. These prolific offenders are identified by taskforce investigators who spend time analyzing multiple streams of information. They review offense reports, witness statements, and intelligence briefings to identify these offenders. Laredo Police Department's Auto Theft Taskforce identified a prolific Laredo offender linked to the theft of at least 8 large pickups. This prolific offender was identified operating along the border by both the Laredo and Brownsville (McAllen) MVCPA funded taskforces. Because of this coordination, the subject was arrested under both agencies' warrants and parole warrants. Investigators also reported numerous weapons charges, credit card thefts, and other fraud cases committed by this prolific offender. The Southeast Texas Auto Theft Taskforce (Beaumont) has identified prolific several offenders committing dozens of burglaries from vehicles involving weapons and stealing multiple cars.

### **Business Support**

Taskforces conduct inspections of salvage yards, parts recycling centers, rebuilders and other motor vehicle-related businesses. When stolen vehicles and parts are identified, the taskforces work with local businesses to identify and interrupt the criminal network that brought the stolen items into the system. In early 2020, the Montgomery County taskforce with the Harris County taskforce and Houston Police taskforce focused on a large-scale vehicle theft ring stealing from dealerships. The criminal group was stealing cars from dealers all over the area in coordinated theft attacks. The three taskforces worked with each other and car dealers to identify and arrest all the suspects. The San Antonio taskforce works closely with dealers and buyers to prevent motor vehicle theft. Their new car buyers' clinics teach people steps to take to avoid being victims of vehicle theft. Other taskforces inspect dealer facilities or act on referrals from TxDMV. Houston PD taskforce along with other taskforces regularly monitor websites and social media to recover assets stolen from local businesses. Businesses lose twice when equipment is stolen – the value of the asset and lost income/productivity.

### **Technology**

The methods criminals use to illegally reap economic gain out of motor vehicle crimes have become more technologically sophisticated. To keep pace with those methods, investigators develop more sophisticated techniques to identify and arrest offenders who commit motor vehicle crimes. The taskforces use software, computer skills, social media, bait cars, bait trailers, bait equipment, license plate readers, surveillance equipment, and when authorized by courts, tracking devices. The MVCPA and its taskforces regularly work with the NICB, insurance industry, and manufacturers to identify vulnerabilities that result in theft to mitigate losses. For example, The McAllen Police Department Auto Theft Unit (part of the Brownsville grant) identified and arrested two subjects involved in five motor vehicle theft cases involving newer model Infiniti and Nissan vehicles. The subjects were utilizing technology and techniques not previously seen in the McAllen area thus making the investigation difficult. The subjects were utilizing blank keys and a key programmer to steal vehicles. The McAllen Auto Theft Unit adopted five cases from Mission PD under the MVCPA umbrella and charged the subjects with a total of 10 motor vehicle theft cases. In another case, the Tarrant County Regional Taskforce detected an emerging trend of stolen Nissans. Working with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), it was determined that most of these thefts involved Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) keycode requests a few days before each of the vehicle thefts. Investigators determined that these keycode requests originated from three separate dealers in

the DFW Metroplex. The interview determined that technicians had been paid by the main suspect for each keycode obtained.

### **Fraud-related Motor Vehicle Crime**

Fraud-related motor vehicle crime cost tax-payers millions of dollars through lost revenues. Federal Clean Air Act nonattainment areas also are forced to undertake costly air quality mitigation efforts due to motor vehicle fraud. Taskforces have identified many reasons that criminals commit fraud-related motor vehicle crimes. Taskforces report that frequently illegal and stolen plates are used to cover criminal activity such as stolen vehicles, predatory theft (bank and gun juggings). Some taskforces worked cases where huge profits were made creating tags illegally from the TxDMV systems or illegally counterfeiting tags. The Laredo Police Department's Auto Theft Taskforce launched an operation with their patrol division to stop the unauthorized use, reproduction and sale of fictitious/tampered temporary tags. The operation launched simultaneously with targeting suspects selling these plates. The investigation resulted in two apprehended perpetrators served with nine counts of Tampering with Governmental Records and seven counts of Unauthorized Reproduction, Use or Sale of Temporary Tags. The Potter County taskforce pulled a latent fingerprint off a tag that led to a suspect from Harris County. Finally, people use illegal tags to cover vehicles that cannot pass safety inspections or that were determined non-repairable vehicles.

### **Criminal Gangs**

The MVCPA taskforces interrupt organized crime networks and enterprises. Many taskforces indicated organized crime was a major cause and influence of motor vehicle theft in their communities. Taskforces often identify economic criminal groups, gangs and cartels operating motor vehicle theft operations. Taskforces report narcotic and gang investigators routinely call out to taskforces for assistance and motor vehicle investigators' expertise. Stolen vehicles are used by gangs for drug trafficking, human trafficking and violent criminal activity. One example is a case reported by Laredo Police Department's Auto Theft Taskforce where they identified a new trend in the thefts of Ford F-250/350 trucks. A criminal gang called Operation Gulfport hired unsuspecting tow truck drivers to haul trucks from the location where their owners parked to a location designated by the gang members. Intelligence revealed this gang was linked to human trafficking, drug smuggling and weapon smuggling. The City of Dallas PD Taskforce discovered the Gulf cartel from Mexico operating illegal game rooms, illegal methamphetamine distribution, and stolen vehicles being moved to Mexico. The suspects in the case were turned over to the federal Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Drug Enforcement Agency due to the volume of drugs and number of weapons seized. The Paris PD Taskforce quickly detected and alerted North Texas law enforcement about the Felony Lane Gang breaking into cars and then using stolen credit cards all over the area and into Oklahoma. Coordinated and funded MVCPA taskforces are critical to disrupting criminal enterprise.

### **Border Security**

The 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 17.07, designated \$10.4 million of the biennial appropriation for MVCPA to be used for border security. The GAA, Article IX, Section 7.11: (1) provides agency reporting requirements; 2) defines border security as deterring crime and enforcing state laws related to offenses listed in Texas Government Code 772.0071, and; 3) defines border as counties adjacent to an international border or the Gulf Intercostal Waterway. Using this definition, MVCPA designated specific grant-funded taskforces as "border security grants." This designation covered the following taskforces: City of Brownsville, City of Eagle Pass, City of El Paso, City of Laredo, City of Beaumont, City of Corpus Christi, Galveston County, Harris County, City of Houston, City of Pasadena and City of Victoria.

The requirement provided the MVCPA taskforces no additional funds but increased opportunities and increased reporting. The agencies at the outbound seaports and along the Texas / Mexico border conducted specialized

activities to meet these requirements. Below is a summary table of the activities of the taskforces border and port operations:

<b>Fiscal Year 2020</b>	
<b>MVCPA Border Security Taskforces Statutory Performance Measures<sup>3</sup></b>	
Number of stolen motor vehicles recovered	3,839
Number of motor vehicle theft cases cleared	6,657
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft	959
Number of motor vehicle burglary cases cleared	2,069
Number of arrests for motor vehicle burglary	542
Number of Cleared Cases - FRMVC	53
Number of Arrests - FRMVC	26
<b>Standard Legislative Budget Board Border Security Performance Measures Designated Taskforces</b>	
Intelligence referrals	103
Lbs. of drugs seized	376.66
Arrests for smuggling	19
<b>MVCPA Additional Border Security Performance Measures</b>	
Number of vehicles inspected at outbound international bridges and ports	10,144
Value of vehicles recovered at border (and ports)	\$44,937,990
Number of arrests resulting in cases charged	1,901
Number of vehicles recovered from Mexico	42
Value for vehicles recovered from Mexico	\$690,638
Number of cases with one or more persons identified as transnational	167
Number of groups, gangs or associates identified as transnational	35
Number of arrests - transnational	69
Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges/out-bound ports	10,144
Collaborations with US Customs and Border Patrol	1,098
Collaborations with other federal agencies (DHS, FBI, etc.)	409
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft or burglary where drugs were present	108

### Multi-Regional Border Operation

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

**Laredo Auto Theft Taskforce (ATTF):** In October 2019, ATTF investigators received information involving the theft of several pickup trucks. A male suspect, with assistance from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Agents, was identified as a Laredo resident and person known to cross of stolen vehicles into Mexico. The suspect was believed to be receiving the stolen vehicles from an identified male subject who resided in San Antonio. Both suspects reportedly work for the Cartel Del Noreste leader located in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. A border crossing check on the Laredo suspect revealed he had extensive crossings that started in early October of 2019. Upon conducting a review of the Laredo International Bridge cameras several crossings of vehicles driven by the Laredo suspect were

<sup>3</sup> The measures in this table are subsets of prior reported statutory and MVCPA performance measures

identified. Between October 8, 2019, and October 31, 2019, the Laredo suspect was captured on video crossing nine stolen vehicles (seven pickups and two SUVs) into Mexico through Laredo International Bridges that were stolen in San Antonio. In collaboration with HSI and the San Antonio Auto Theft Unit, the Laredo ATTF secured arrest warrants for the Laredo suspect.

**Eagle Pass Taskforce:** The taskforce initiated an investigation on a stolen Porsche. Eagle Pass PD, the U.S. Customs, and Mexican Customs collaborated on the case. The driver of the vehicle was arrested and charged with motor vehicle theft. The recovered vehicle was stolen out of San Antonio. Taskforce in San Antonio was provided details of the investigation. Investigators reached out to HSI and requested to jointly present the case to the Assistant United States Attorney. Federal prosecution was accepted.

**El Paso:** In a July 2020 example of cross-border collaboration, El Paso Taskforce investigators were informed of a recently stolen 2018 Dodge Ram 1500. Taskforce investigators noted that the vehicle was a newer model and that it may be equipped with GPS Tracking. Taskforce investigators obtained a GPS location on the truck at Calle Begonias in Juarez, Mexico. The El Paso Taskforce Border Partners members (investigators designated to work with agencies across the border with Mexico) contacted the commander of the Juarez Mexico Auto Theft Taskforce and provided the information on the Dodge Ram. Mexican authorities recovered the vehicle and moved it into their own impound lot. The owner of the Dodge Ram was notified of the recovery and location of the vehicle.

**Harris County:** In March 2020, the Harris County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Unit collaborated with the NICB, Laredo Police Department, and a security company in Michigan to investigate an alleged international cargo theft. Four containers containing 192 Dodge Hemi V8 engines went missing from a staging area in Laredo as they were traveling from Mexico to Michigan. Information was received that 48 of the stolen engines may be at a location in Harris County. A salvage/business inspection was conducted at the Harris County location and 41 of the stolen engines were recovered. The business owner assisted in the investigation by providing documentation to show he purchased the engines from a suspect in Laredo. Laredo ATTF actively continued with the investigation, followed by a seizure hearing for the recovered engines with an estimated value of \$246,000.

## Training and Professional Development

MVCPA provides specialized motor vehicle theft investigator training to law enforcement officers. This training is approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) through the TxDMV TCOLE Training Advisory Board. MVCPA taskforces host the events in law enforcement training facilities around the state. Local businesses usually provide sites where newly trained investigators practice on many different types of vehicles. MVCPA facilitates collaboration for curriculum development among the DPS, TxDMV, the NICB, and the Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators. MVCPA coordinates facilities and instructors, reimburses travel, manages registration, purchases training supplies, and provides electronic education materials.

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

The training is only available to licensed peace officers designated by their agencies as motor vehicle theft investigators. All DPS investigators and some other auto theft unit investigators are authorized to attend these classes. The training allows investigators to qualify for access to manufacturers' and insurance industry confidential, proprietary databases used to identify vehicles. Since state law requires a confidential vehicle



identification number inspection by auto theft investigators to complete certain title transactions, access to those proprietary databases is vital to correctly identify vehicles to combat fraud-related motor vehicle crime.

In FY 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, most classes were canceled. MVCPA received a waiver from TCOLE to conduct the live training online. MVCPA conducted one Intermediate Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator training class. The live training was held at the Tarrant County Junior College following all local pandemic safety protocols. Nine taskforce locations agreed to host a training site. Each of these locations had to provide a qualified motor vehicle investigator instructor to monitor their location, answer questions, and to provide practical exercise instruction with the student investigators. As a result of the training, 58 investigators are now eligible to get access to the confidential databases to conduct motor vehicle crime investigations and confidential vehicle identification number inspections.

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

<b>MVCPA Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator Training Summary</b>	
<b>Training Classes</b>	1
<b>Locations (live and online)</b>	10
<b>Investigators Completing Training</b>	58
<b>Number of Trainers</b>	18
<b>Number of Different Agencies Represented in Training</b>	26

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

**Taskforce Investigator Training Completions**

TCOLE approved law enforcement training classes	114
Investigators Trained	2,848
Number of time vehicle crimes information disseminated to law enforcement agencies (non-TCOLE training includes written materials bulletins, electronic roll call documents, shift change intel briefings)	1,234

## Educating the Public

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

Funds appropriated for MVCPA purposes are used to conduct “educational programs designed to inform motor vehicle owners of methods of preventing motor vehicle burglary or theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime” per Transportation Code §1006.154(a)(3). MVCPA also educates the public with print materials. Funds were used in previous years to produce and procure printed materials for statewide distribution. These materials are still relevant and are still being distributed. Materials include brochures in English and Spanish, “Lock, Take and Hide”



signs, reminder magnets and coloring books for children to remind their parents about motor vehicle crime prevention. MVCPA uses these materials to promote Texans to join efforts to reduce motor vehicle crime. The taskforces and MVCPA communicate and collaborate with state agencies, community organizations, business groups and insurance industry stakeholders like NICB to promote and expand the MVCPA crime prevention message.

**MVCPA Social Media**

MVCPA also uses social media to message motor vehicle crime prevention to the public. MVCPA has social media platforms Facebook and Twitter. Many of the taskforces have social media sites. MVCPA links to the taskforces’ social media pages across the state. MVCPA encourages all taskforces to use their social media to increase the coverage and impact of motor vehicle crime prevention messages. MVCPA’s Twitter account (@TX\_MVCPA) has been actively used. The account has increased followers since it was activated and has dozens of Tweets.

Facebook analytics for FY20 shows that MVCPA’s outreach had its highest increase at 771% and post engagements on the site increased by 209%. This increase was because of MVCPA’s “Watch Your Car” month outreach in July and coordination with NICB and Insurance Counsel of Texas on press releases.

Toward the end of FY20, Facebook analytics showed a dramatic social media uptick when MVCPA featured “Texas 2019 Hot Spots and Hot Wheels Reports”. The “Hot Spots and Hot Wheels” report reached thousands of people. Also, TxDMV/MVCPA’s holiday car watch tips reached almost 12,000 people and had hundreds of post engagements. [Click here to view the MVCPA Facebook page.](#)

**Educational Activities by MVCPA Taskforces**

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

The COVID-19 Pandemic reduced taskforces ability to engage directly with the public. Events that required direct contact with the public (stock shows, festivals and community event booths, etc.) fell from the previous year by around 30%. Efforts that did not require contact (like purchased media, social media postings, etc.) increased by around 30%. The following table provides a summary of the educational activities conducted by MVCPA taskforces during FY20. Activities are tracked monthly via progress reports, which are completed as a condition of the grant.

<b>Law Enforcement Action</b>	<b>Number of Activities</b>
<b>Taskforce Investigators Show Up at Community Events to Teach How to Avoid Motor Vehicle Crime</b>	
Number of educational outreach events (includes trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, vehicle displays, brochures, etc.)	500
Number of trade show exhibits/booths at community events	768
<b>Taskforce Investigators Teach the Community How to Avoid Motor Vehicle Crime</b>	
Number of media outreach (includes public service announcements, press releases, and interviews)	1,016
Number of purchased advertisements in local outlets	57
Number of social media postings	2,315
Number of vehicle report card initiatives	11,651
Number of outdoor public notification signage deployed	3,647

**Taskforce Investigators Serve Their Communities by Showing How to Avoid Motor Vehicle Crime**

Number of vehicle identification number (VIN) etchings conducted	48
Number of direct contacts to people needing assistance and/or information (phone/e-mail/ other media)	41,599

## Insurer Refunds

A statutory duty of the MVCPA is to make determinations regarding the sufficiency of payments made by an insurer of fees collected. Insurers make claims that they have overpaid the fee on motor vehicle years covered by policies sold. The insurer notifies MVCPA of the claimed overpayment and the amount requested to be reimbursed. The insurer provides amended returns and explains how or why the overpayment was made. MVCPA staff validate the payment made, the account to which it was made, and make a recommendation to the MVCPA based on the request. Below is a summary of requests and actions taken by the MVCPA regarding insurer refunds.

Insurance Company	Date of Refund Request	Amount of Request	Date of Disposition	Results
Park Wood RRG	8/17/2020	\$ 212.00	2/25/2021	Refund Approved by MVCPA
Triangle Insurance Company, Inc	3/13/2020	\$ 4,466.00	7/9/2020	Refund Approved by MVCPA
Great West Casualty Company	2/18/2020	\$ 8,904.00	2/21/2020	Rejected submission incomplete
Amerisure Insurance	1/2/2020	\$ 17,728.00	1/3/2020	Request was withdrawn by Insurer due to MVCPA staff identified inconsistencies.
American Modern Home Insurance Company	12/9/2019	\$ 38.00	12/9/2019	Rejected submission incomplete
BITCO General Insurance Corp	10/22/2019	\$ 15,818.00	2/5/2020	Refund Denied by MVCPA
BITCO National Insurance Co	10/22/2019	\$ 3,308.00	2/5/2020	Refund Denied by MVCPA
Security National Insurance	10/18/2019	\$ 7,996.00	2/5/2020	Refund Denied by MVCPA
Amtrust Insurance Company of Kansas	10/18/2019	\$ 9,136.00	2/5/2020	Refund Denied by MVCPA
Electric Insurance Company	9/6/2019	\$ 3,328.00	2/5/2020	Refund Approved by MVCPA

**FY20 MVCPA Refund Activity \***

	Number	Value
Number of Requests processed by MVCPA Staff (includes resubmissions)	15	\$111,658
Number of requests rejected or withdrawn	12	\$103,652
Number approved	3	\$8,006

\*includes multiple submissions of inaccurate or incomplete refund applications.

# **FY 2020 Funds Report**

## Funds Collected

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

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

In FY20, MVCPA collected \$91.8 million, an 83.4% increase over FY 2019. The collection total for FY20 represents a six-month period that required insurers to pay \$2 for policies issued or renewed for July and August 2019 and \$4 for policies issued or renewed from September to December 2019. Both MVCPA and the Comptroller of Public Accounts FY22-23 Biennial Revenue Estimate show that future collections at the \$4 fee should exceed \$100 million per fiscal year.

The fees are deposited into the General Revenue (GR) fund under revenue object code 3206. Funds Report-Chart 1 shows the total amount collected each fiscal year since FY16.

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

Year	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
<b>Amount Collected</b>	\$46,068,858	\$46,436,967	\$49,083,185	\$50,042,956	\$91,785,970

MVCPA continues working with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to coordinate and improve collection efforts in FY20. The CPA's reports listed property and casualty insurers and their payment status. When insurers fail to pay the fee or to submit a report, TDI is notified so they can open enforcement investigations on the insurer. MVCPA has requested additional staff from the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature to improve collections efforts.

## Funds Appropriated

The General Appropriations Act (GAA) (HB1 (86R)), appropriated \$12,835,851 for MVCPA purposes in FY20. State leadership ordered many programs funded by General Revenue to reduce their spending of the appropriated amount by 5%. MVCPA provided a plan to reduce \$814,876 from FY20 resulting in a net FY20 available funding of \$12,020,974.

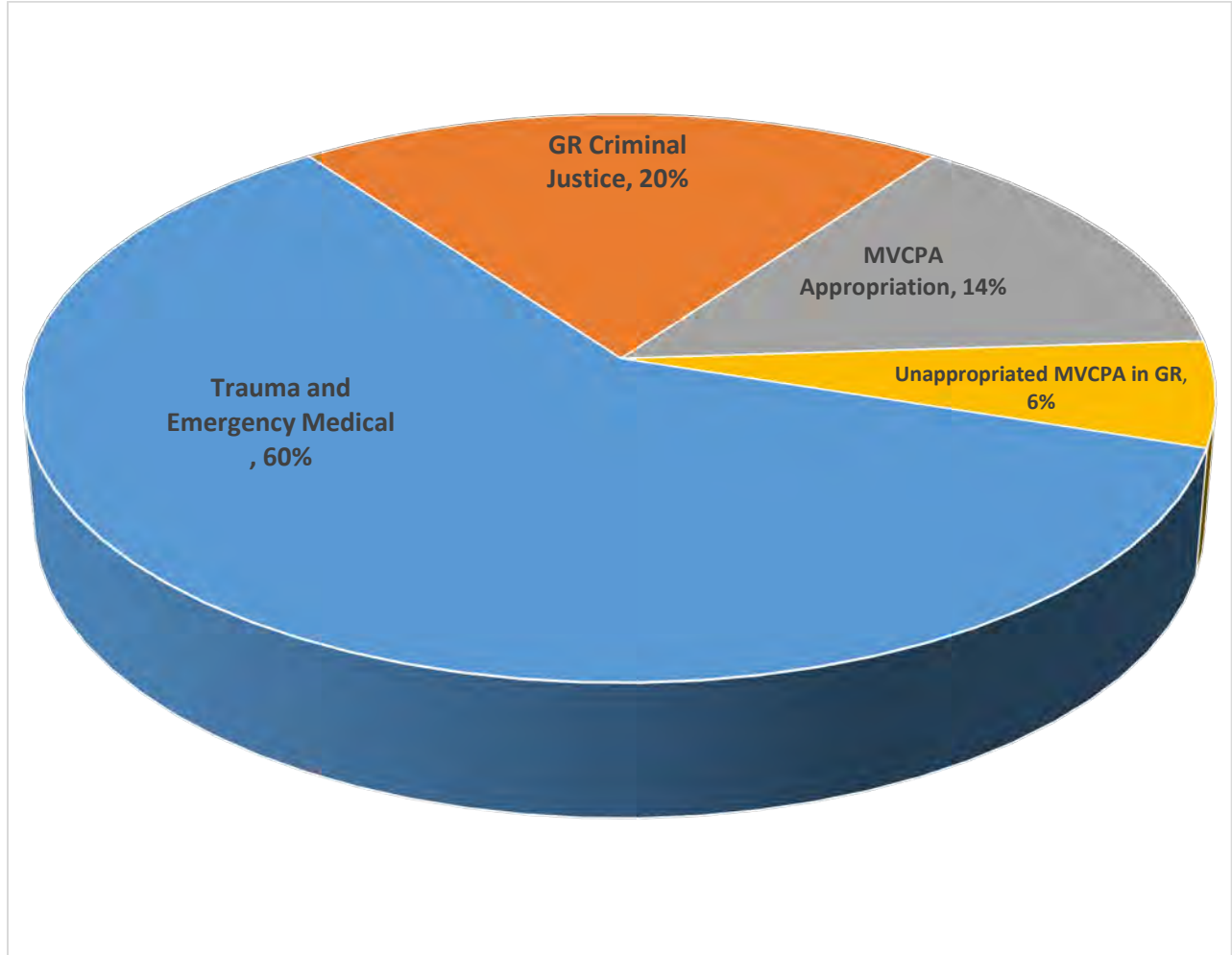
Funds Report-Chart 2 provides a history of MVCPA appropriations.

### **Funds Report- Chart 2: MVCPA Appropriations**

Year	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$14,920,848	\$14,920,849	\$12,835,851	\$12,835,851	\$12,835,851

Less than 14% of the MVCPA fees collected in FY20 were appropriated to MVCPA. Funds Report- Chart 3 illustrates the ratio between fees collected by MVCPA and the amount appropriated to MVCPA. However, an additional \$814,876 was made unavailable to the MVCPA and its law enforcement programs due to the 5% reduction ordered by state leadership.

**Funds Report- Chart 3: FY20 MVCPA Revenues vs. Appropriations**



**FY20 MVCPA Total Funding**

	<b>Amount</b>
<b>FY20 Appropriation</b>	\$12,835,851
<b>FY 19 funds awarded for continued grants*</b>	\$785,856
<b>Budget Reduction ordered by state leadership on May 20, 2020</b>	(\$814,876)
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	\$12,806,831

\* In FY20, MVCPA obligated and awarded available funds from FY19 for continued operation of two of its law enforcement programs.

## Funds Spent

Out of FY20 appropriations, MVCPA will expend a total of \$11.8 million. Currently, there are \$2,885 (administrative) encumbered for outstanding obligations. Under Unexpended Balance (UB) Authority, \$203,798 has been budgeted to FY 21 law enforcement grants.

State law ([Transportation Code Ch. 1006. Sec. 154\(b\)](#)) limits the MVCPA's administrative expenses, including salaries, travel, marketing, and other overhead expenses, to not more than 8% of total expenditures. MVCPA administrative expenses in FY20 were 4.2%.

The specifics of MVCPA's FY20 expenditures are in Funds Report- Chart 4.

### **Funds Report- Chart 4: FY20 MVCPA Expenditures**

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>FY20 Expenditures</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>	
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>	\$367,260
<b>Consumable Supplies</b>	\$25,966
<b>Travel (MVCPA Board and staff)</b>	\$6,267
<b>Advertising and Promotion</b>	\$25,790
<b>Other Operating Expenses</b>	\$67,015
<b>Administration Subtotal</b>	<b>\$492,298</b>
<b><u>Grants</u></b>	
<b>Law enforcement taskforces (reimbursement grants)</b>	\$11,321,993
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$11,814,291</b>

## Grants Awarded

In accordance with the FY20-FY21 General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 4.02, the MVCPA distributes grants on a reimbursement basis. Other than the administrative expenses mentioned above, all FY20 MVCPA expenditures were spent on law enforcement activities through 24 law enforcement agency grants. The law enforcement agencies received grant award funding in amounts ranging from \$76,000 to \$1,145,500. Fourteen of the law enforcement grant recipients served as the administrative grantee for multi-jurisdictional taskforces. Funds Report- Chart 5 identifies, for FY20, each grant recipient, the amount of the grant awarded, and the actual amount of funds disbursed.

## Funds Report- Chart 5-: FY20 Grant Recipients and Utilization Amounts\*

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Multi / Single Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Unexpended Balance</u>
City of Austin	S	430,685	400,028	30,657
City of Beaumont	M	528,714	528,714	-
City of Brownsville	M	924,350	924,350	-
Burnet County	M	200,000	200,000	-
City of Corpus Christi	S	410,973	410,973	-
City of Dallas	S	625,000	625,000	-
Dallas County	M	540,000	538,377	1,623
City of Eagle Pass	S	125,000	125,000	-
City of El Paso	S	929,465	905,900	23,565
Galveston County	M	469,183	452,232	16,951
Harris County	S	772,403	772,403	-
City of Houston	M	995,000	981,097	13,903
City of Laredo	S	685,000	685,000	-
Lubbock County	M	404,523	404,308	215
City of Mansfield	M	300,000	300,000	-
Montgomery County	M	337,464	301,989	35,475
City of Paris	S	106,709	106,709	-
City of Pasadena	S	76,000	69,408	6,592
Potter County	M	361,705	359,248	2,457
City of San Antonio	M	800,000	790,843	9,157
Smith County	M	332,792	328,735	4,057
Tarrant County	M	1,145,500	1,111,679	33,821
Travis County **	M	631,137	600,265	30,872
City of Victoria **	S	154,719	152,078	2,641
		<u>12,286,322</u>		<u>211,987</u>

\*Grant Recipients and Utilization Amounts reflect data from the MVCPA records as of February 10, 2021

\*\*Travis County and City of Victoria grants were funded in FY2019 for FY2020 continued grants.

### Border Security Designated Grants

A subset of the grants above is designated by the Legislature as border security grant-funded programs. In the FY20-FY21 biennium, the GAA, Article IX, Section 17.07, set an amount of \$10.4 million for the biennium for border security funding. The GAA, Article IX, Section 7.11 provides agency reporting requirements, defines what constitutes border security, and defines border as counties adjacent to an international border or the Gulf Intercostal Waterway. The MVCPA board designated as border security grants those listed above that operate along the Texas border with Mexico (City of Brownsville, City of Eagle Pass, City of El Paso and City of Laredo) and in Texas seaports (City of Beaumont, City of Corpus Christi, Galveston County, Harris County, City of Houston, City of Pasadena and City of Victoria). Funds Report - Chart 6 shows the expenditures by border security grantees.

**Funds Report- Chart 6: FY20 Border Security Expenditures by Grantee\***

<b><u>Grantee</u></b>	<b><u>Border / Port</u></b>	<b><u>Expended</u></b>
City of Eagle Pass	B	\$ 125,000
City of El Paso	B	\$ 905,900
City of Laredo	B	\$ 685,000
City of Brownsville	B/P	\$ 924,350
City of Beaumont	P	\$ 528,714
City of Corpus Christi	P	\$ 410,973
City of Houston	P	\$ 981,097
City of Pasadena	P	\$ 69,408
City of Victoria	P	\$ 152,078
Galveston County	P	\$ 452,232
Harris County	P	\$ 772,403
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11 of 24 Grantees</b>	<b>\$ 6,007,154</b>

\*Chart 6 FY 20 Border Security Expenditures by Grantee reflects data from GMTS on TAMU as of February 2021 and utilizes a grant-year tracking basis

**Grantee Expense and Obligation Detail**

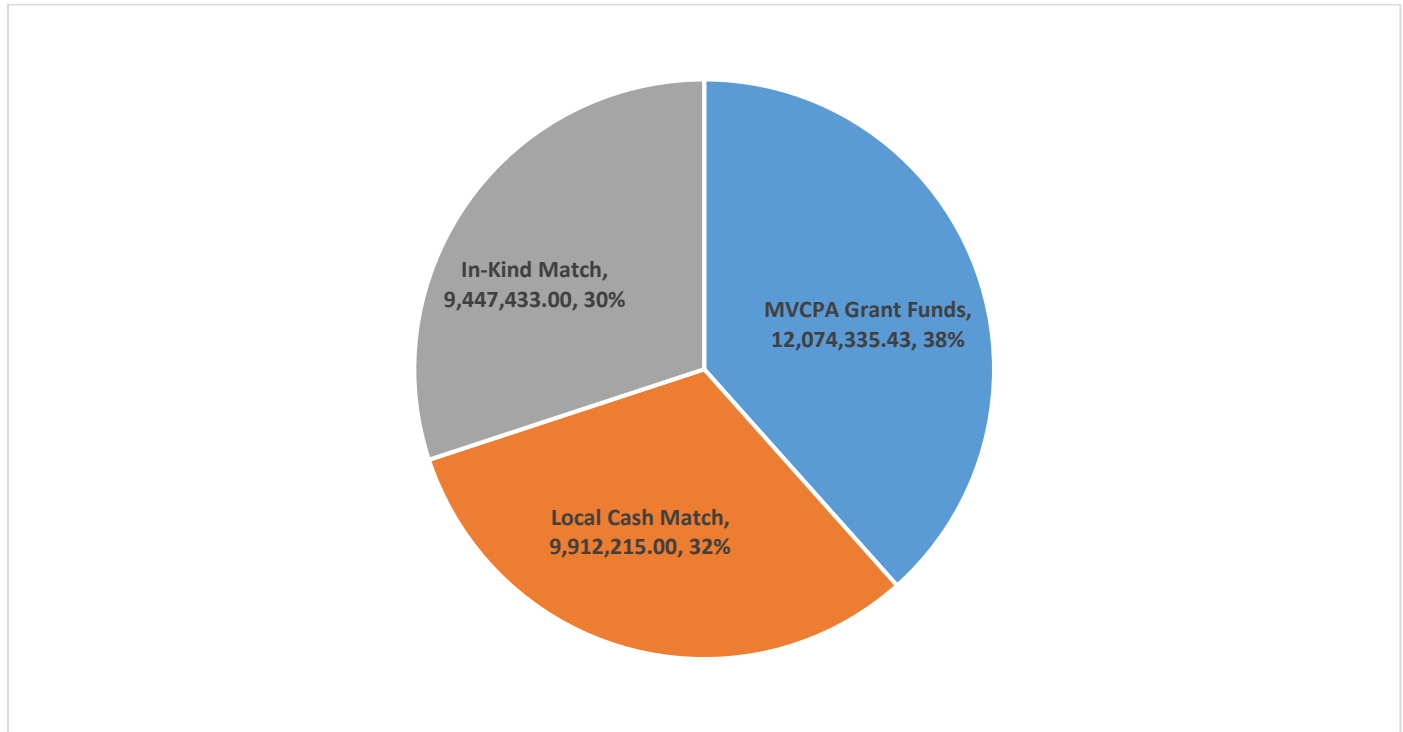
During FY20, the grant programs reported law enforcement program operation costs of over \$31.4 million dollars combating motor vehicle crime. Local jurisdictions provided a total of over \$9.9 million in direct cash match contributions. Examples of cash match include paying direct program costs such as personnel, equipment, travel, and other direct operating expenses as agreed to in the grant award. MVCPA’s Grant Rules (43 T. A. C. Chapter 57) require all grant recipients to provide a minimum twenty percent (20%) cash match toward grant-funded activities. Most law enforcement agencies funded by MVCPA provide additional match well above their minimum cash match. The total program cash match contribution is 31.5%.

Additionally, local programs provided resources in the form of in-kind contributions above their MVCPA grant funding and cash match. Grant-funded jurisdictions and their sub-grantees provided an additional \$9.4 million of in-kind contributions. Examples of “In-kind match” include jurisdictions or third parties paying for additional personnel, rent, fuel and other operational expenses from all sources to combat motor vehicle crime in the state.



**Funds Report- Chart 7: FY20 MVCPA Grant Expenditures by Source \***

\*Chart 7 FY 20 Grant Expenditures by Source reflects data as of February 10, 2020 and utilizes a grant-year tracking basis.



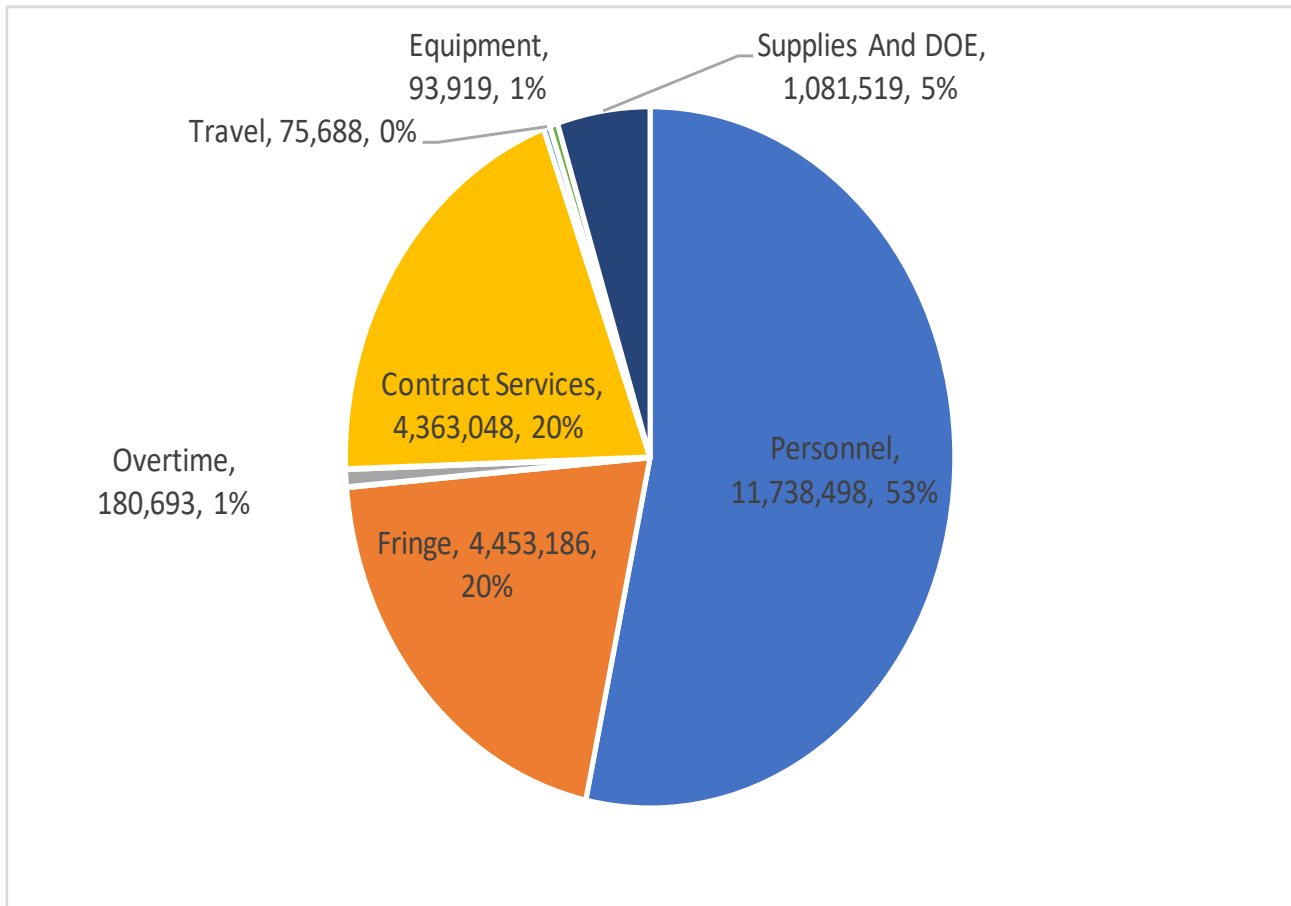
The majority of grant funds (94.3%) are spent on motor vehicle crime investigators in the Personnel, Fringe, Overtime, and contractual categories (which includes sub-grantee investigators).

**Funds Report- Chart 8: FY20 Grant Expenditures by Category**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>Personnel</b>	11,738,498	53.39%
<b>Fringe</b>	4,453,186	20.25%
<b>Overtime</b>	180,693	0.82%
<b>Contract Services</b>	4,363,048	19.84%
<b>Travel</b>	75,688	0.34%
<b>Equipment</b>	93,919	0.43%
<b>Supplies And DOE</b>	1,081,519	4.92%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	21,986,550	100.00%
<b>In-Kind</b>	9,447,433	
<b>Total</b>	31,433,983	

\* Contract Services is almost entirely expenses for law enforcement investigators' salary & fringe in multi-jurisdiction programs. These investigator expenses are reflected in this category because they are paid from taskforce subgrantee jurisdictions.

**Funds Report- Chart 9: FY20 MVCPA Grant Expenditures by Category**



**Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Law Enforcement Operations and Expenses**

The 24 MVCPA funded law enforcement agencies and their employees were deemed essential operations and employees. A few civilian employees were required to work from home or given administrative leave. The sworn law enforcement investigators were required to follow their local policies and directives even if it meant a temporary departure from grant-funded activities. MVCPA responded to the Governor’s Disaster Declaration by examining rules and processes that would support the safe operation of these programs. MVCPA extended quarterly progress and expenditure reports due dates by sixty days (60), assured grantees that telecommuting was reimbursable, allowed grantees the ability to follow local directives without penalty or loss of reimbursement, provided authorization to use up to \$2,000 in grant funds to purchase needed equipment to respond to the pandemic without a grant adjustment, provided authorization and instructions for administrative leave reimbursement, and requested grantees to track COVID-19 related expenses. MVCPA also provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to 12 programs unable to procure the items locally. MVCPA sent the investigators 56 boxes of masks, 59 boxes of gloves, 215 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 68 bottles of disinfectant spray. The table below provides the amounts spent by MVCPA and its grantees:

**Grantee Reported Funds Spent in Response to COVID-19 (8 grantees reporting)**

MVCPA Grant Funds Attributed	Local Grant Match Funds Spent	Total Amount Spent on COVID-19
\$212,042	\$53,795	\$265,837
<b>Amount Spent by MVCPA for PPE</b>		\$25,276
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$291,113</b>

# Appendix - Impact 5% Reduction to Law Enforcement Programs

## Summary of Responses from MVCPA Law Enforcement Taskforces

**Badge**

**Grantee**

**Impact**

**Comment**



**City of Austin**  
APD Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project

City of Austin must pay for any balances remaining on the salaries of the three detectives

"...it has certainly been a burden on our City of Austin budget."



**City of Beaumont**  
Southeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force

↓ Training  
↓ Equipment  
↓ Supplies

"All shortfalls created unexpected, unbudgeted burden passed on to agencies to cover to stay operational."



**City of Brownsville**  
South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement Task Force

Auto Theft Investigator Position Lost  
↓ Training  
↓ Equipment  
↓ Supplies

"Loss of personnel will impact the ability to conduct 68a and business inspections for the entire program area which includes 1.2million residents."



**Burnet County**  
Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force

Lost admin position  
↓ Overtime  
↓ Training  
↓ Travel  
↓ Supplies

"With the known withdrawal of one participating county and without additional funding... HOTATTF will be forced to cease operations in FY 22"



**City of Corpus Christi**  
Corpus Christi Auto Theft Prevention Grant

↓ Travel  
↓ Awareness Programs  
↓ Supplies

"We cut 3.8% (\$15,617) from supplies and direct operating expenses including travel and public awareness"



**Dallas County**  
North Texas Auto Theft Task Force

↓ Overtime  
↓ Travel  
↓ Equipment  
↓ Supplies

"...there were no funds to budget travel, equipment and direct operating expenses or overtime for incidental events and bait/covert operations."



= Red Chevron highlight means City or County allocated funds in mid-grant year to cover legislative ordered cuts.



### City of Dallas

Dallas Commercial Auto Theft Interdiction Squad

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Supplies

"...our maintenance on vehicles has been almost zero."



### City of Eagle Pass

Eagle Pass Auto Burglary & Theft Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Awareness Programs
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"We are currently in the blind with no footage in one of our bridges."



### City of El Paso

El Paso Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Training
- ↓ Awareness Programs
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Supplies

"Our Supplies, Fuel and Public Awareness budgets have been completely eliminated because of the MVCPA budget cut to our program."



### Galveston County

Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Equipment

"We will NOT be able to operate at the same level for FY 2022 without severe personnel cuts..."



### Harris County

Harris County Sheriff's Auto Theft Unit

Harris County absorbed all cuts

"Harris County Sheriff's Office was impacted by the 5% cut by having to absorb the cost."



### City of Houston

Houston Auto Crimes Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"The impact of the lack of training will impact investigators staying up to date with current trends and crime affecting our area of responsibility..."



### City of Laredo

Laredo Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Training
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"...68A and car dealer/salvage yard inspections were suspended from March until mid-July."



### Lubbock County

Lubbock County South Plains Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"The reduction in fuel will result in investigators having to conduct some out of county investigations via phone."



### City of Mansfield

Tri County Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Awareness Programs
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"We are in jeopardy of losing two full-time investigators if we don't get the funding back to a manageable amount..."



### Montgomery County

Montgomery County Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel

"Inability to have sufficient personnel to mount proactive operations to combat various types of vehicle crimes; i.e., fictitious plates, fraudulent paper plates, bait operations."



### City of Paris

Northeast Auto Theft Task Force

City of Paris absorbed all cuts

"This would result in the loss of (2) two task force auto theft detectives."



### City of Pasadena

Pasadena Auto Crimes Prevention Program

Cut back on proactive activity

"Our agency at this time is not picking up the cost."



### Potter County

Panhandle Auto Burglary and Theft Unit

- Lt Transferred out
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Awareness Programs
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment

"Total DOE cuts totaled \$7,624."



### City of San Antonio

Regional Auto Crimes Taskforce

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"The loss of training has also caused us to reduce tactical training even as the amount of suspects with firearms has increased."



### Smith County

East Texas Auto Theft Task Force

- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"If further cuts are made to the ETATTF it almost certainly will result in the loss of a task force investigator..."



### Tarrant County

Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force

- ↓ Overtime
- ↓ Training
- ↓ Travel
- ↓ Equipment
- ↓ Supplies

"Vehicles will be parked rather than repaired, fuel usage is restricted..."



### Travis County

Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force

Survived by turnover-new sergeant and detective started with lower salaries

"Had we not had that turnover we would have been challenged with a potential reduction in force."



### City of Victoria

Victoria Auto Crimes Task Force

Survived by turnover-new detectives started with lower salaries

"The Victoria Police Department would take the potential 5% cut from the salaries of the 2 detectives (personnel)"



= Red Chevron highlight means City or County allocated funds in mid-grant year to cover legislative ordered cuts.