ACTIVITIES REPORT

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

FY 2024

MVCPA
BOARD

2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 1991, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) has become a vital resource for Texas law enforcement. The MVCPA celebrated the 31st anniversary of its first grant awards in 2024, empowering local law enforcement agencies and communities to combat and prevent motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle burglary, and fraud-related motor vehicle crimes, and ensuring that all Texans are protected from the harm and losses these crimes can cause. The impact of motor vehicle crime is significant, with annual losses exceeding $2.3 billion. To address these losses, the MVCPA supports 26 law enforcement taskforces across the state, employing 272 law enforcement investigators, crime analysts, prosecutors, and other administrative professionals. The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Activities and Funds Report has been prepared to inform the Texas Legislature about the status of the MVCPA and the efforts of the statewide network to reduce motor vehicle crimes, as required by statute (see Transportation Code §1006.101).

In FY24, MVCPA collected $107 million in fees from automobile insurers and received $24.2 million in appropriations. This funding bolstered the MVCPA's ability to fully support the increasing needs of local police departments and sheriff's offices. For the first time in years, the State of Texas saw a decrease in the number of vehicles stolen in Calendar Year 2024.

The annual funding for MVCPA allowed local police departments and sheriff's offices to increase resources available in communities and work together in combatting statewide motor vehicle and catalytic converter crime. The MVCPA grants provide for: salaries, specialized equipment, training to combat crimes, programs to educate citizens on how to prevent motor vehicle crimes, increased border security, and the tools necessary to prevent stolen vehicles from crossing the international border into Mexico or be exported to other countries through seaports.

Senate Bill 224 (SB224), 88th Legislature, Regular Session, created enhanced criminal penalties related to criminal conduct involving catalytic converters and administrative penalties relating to regulatory provisions for metal recycling entities (MRE). The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) is charged with the development and implementation of a Plan of Operation to coordinate activities with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). The MVCPA awarded grants to 32 law enforcement agencies and taskforces in 2024 to combat catalytic converter crimes.

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

MVCPA $4 Fee Collections and Appropriations

FY 2023

Fee Collected by MVCPA

$113,255,394

Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

$14,979,605

Amount Collected by MVCPA

13%

■ Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

FY 2024

Fee Collected by MVCPA

$107,470,870

Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

$24,190,500

Amount Collected by MVCPA

23%
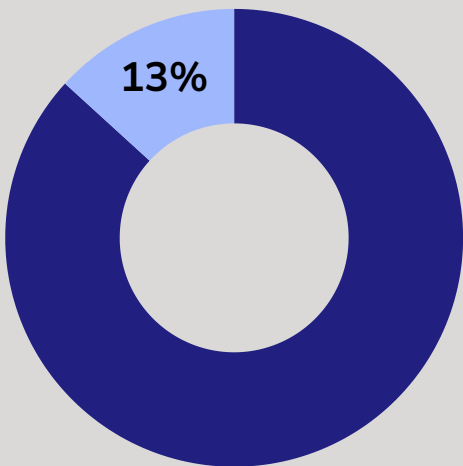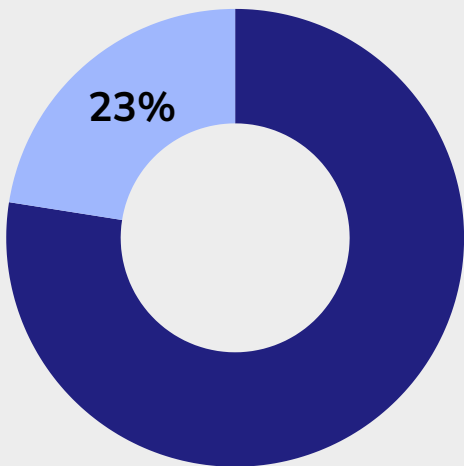
■ Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

MVCPA $1 Catalytic Converter Fee Collections and Appropriations

FY 2024

Fee Collected by MVCPA

$29,440,811*

Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

$24,667,262

Amount Collected by MVCPA

84%
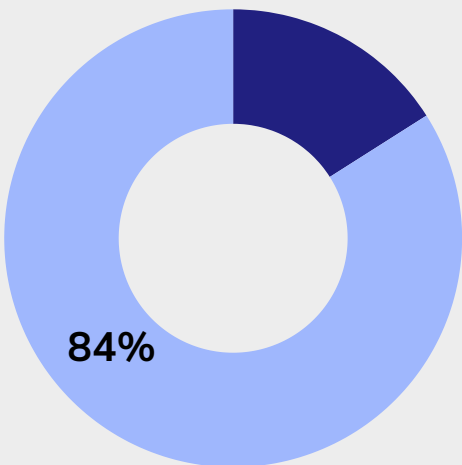
Amount Appropriated to MVCPA

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

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

Mission Statement

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

Philosophy

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

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

Governance

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

Consumers of Insurance
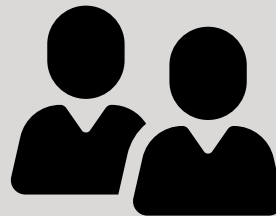
Writers of Insurance
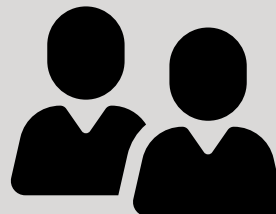
Law Enforcement
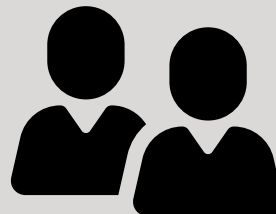
MVCPA AT A GLANCE

15 — TxDMV Full Time Employees (FTEs) for the MVCPA Program

FY24 Registered Vehicles as of 8/31/2024 - TxDMV — **26 million**

103,465 — CY24 Motor Vehicle Thefts

CY24 Burglary from a Motor Vehicle and Theft of Parts — **162,311**
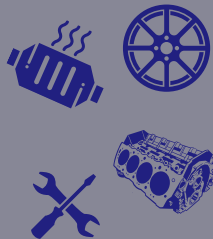
$ 2.3 billion — CY24 Losses from Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft

MVCPA AT A GLANCE

FY24 Arrests for Motor Vehicle Theft by grant funded investigators	**3,186**
FY24 Arrests for Burglary of Motor Vehicle by grant-funded investigators	**535**
FY24 Arrests for Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crimes by grant-funded investigators	**131**
FY24 Recovered Stolen Vehicles by grant-funded investigators	**15,071**
FY24 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (68A) Inspections for Texas title transactions by grant-funded investigators	**28,281**
FY24 Other VIN Verification Inspections to confirm identify of vehicles	**25,876**
FY24 Number of vehicles inspected at international bridges and outbound ports	**5,307**

MVCPA STRATEGIC GOALS

1   Performance-driven law enforcement.

2   Reduce crime through optimized services and innovation.

3   Community-centric.

4   Effective fee generation.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Performance Measures

Statutory Measures

Grants are issued from state appropriations to the MVCPA to fund police and sheriff taskforces to combat motor vehicle crime and the financial losses associated with these crimes to Texas, its citizens, and businesses. Texas Transportation Code Section 1006.151 requires MVCPA to track performance measures associated with grant programs. The table below shows the statutory performance measures for FY20 through FY24 reported by grant-funded taskforces:

Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)

Activity	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	2-year Change
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	12,860	11,540	12,497	13,446	15,071	12.09%
Cleared Motor Vehicle Theft Cases	19,258	15,835	9,373	9,990	11,577	15.89%
Arrests - Motor Vehicle Theft	3,593	3,171	2,655	2,592	3,186	22.92%

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)

Activity	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	2-year Change
Cleared Motor Vehicle Burglary Cases	2,419	1,762	2,315	7,530	6,336	-15.86%
Arrests - Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	736	663	632	599	535	-10.68%

Fraud-Relate Motor Vehicle Crime (FRMVC)

Activity	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	2-year Change
Cleared Cases - FRMVC	134	224	331	370	323	-12.70%
Arrests - FRMVC	51	78	119	127	131	3.15%

The data in the above tables show the effectiveness of the MVCPA taskforces in combating motor vehicle crimes. From FY23 to FY24, MVCPA taskforce investigators recovered more stolen vehicles, cleared more motor vehicle theft cases, and realized an increase in motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime arrests. The greatest year-over-year improvement seen during the full 5-year period was in the number of cleared motor vehicle burglary cases from FY22 to FY23. This increase was due in large part to a tremendous backlog of cases within the Harris County Taskforce. A sergeant and three additional investigators were tasked with reviewing thousands of cases that had been pending due to minimal leads or evidence. A secondary review was conducted prior to closing the cases.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Grant Activity Measures

In addition to the statutory performance measures above, the MVCPA collects additional grant activity measures to determine the effectiveness of grantee taskforces. Most of the grant funds are used to hire, train, and retain specialized motor vehicle crime law enforcement investigators. Grantees report on grant-funded activities to demonstrate their progress and success in combatting motor vehicle crime in their communities and across the state of Texas. The following table is a snapshot of the reported activity conducted by the police and sheriff taskforces in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2024 MVCPA Taskforce Performance Measures

Investigation

Motor Vehicle Theft cases presented to prosecutors	**3,113**
Burglary of Motor Vehicle cases presented to prosecutors	**685**
Fraud Related Motor Vehicle Crime cases presented to prosecutors	**188**
Other felony cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	**2,434**
Other misdemeanor cases identified during MVT and BMV investigations	**863**
Number of cases of insurance fraud identified	**828**
Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	**4,679**

Human Trafficking

Total of all arrests resulting in cases submitted to prosecutors	**7**

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Drugs

Number of arrests for Motor Vehicle Crime where drugs were present	**279**
Pounds of drugs and controlled substances seized	**641 lbs**

Illegal Weapons

Number of weapons recovered	**356**
Arrests for weapon smuggling	**3**
Value of weapons recovered	**$202,678**

Equipment [1]

Number of units of equipment recovered	**894**
Value of equipment recovered	**$12,541,865**

---

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

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination

Taskforce investigators assisted outside agencies to 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	**16,968**
Assists within their own departments/office	**5,664**
Assists for other agencies within the grant coverage area	**8,290**
Assists to TxDMV and Tax Assessor Collector (TAC) investigations	**1,172**
Assists to DPS and other state law enforcement criminal investigations	**610**
Assistance to federal law enforcement investigations	**433**

Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination

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.

Groups (criminal networks) of motor vehicle crime offenders identified operating in taskforce communities	**1,005**
Offenders with three or more MVT arrests identified operating in communities	**1,547**
Number of covert operations conducted	**5,433**
Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by investigators	**1,909**
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by taskforce investigators	**2,599**
Number of Border Incident Assessment Reports submitted by taskforce investigators to a Regional Joint Operations Intelligence Center	**1,069**

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Vehicles Inspected

Vehicles inspected using confidential means (Required for the public to complete certain title transactions at the TxDMV or Tax Assessor-Collector)	**28,281**
Vehicles inspected at businesses, dealerships, other transactions or looking for stolen vehicles	**25,876**

Local Business Operations Support

Number of inspections of licensed businesses related to vehicle enterprise (salvage yards, repair shop, used parts recyclers, used car dealership, etc...	**779**

Technology Dependent Investigations

Bait Vehicles and Bait Equipment [2]

Bait vehicle deployments	**1,314**
Number of arrests from bait vehicle deployments	**141**

License Plate Readers

Number of LPR Deployments by taskforce investigators	**12,165**
Times those investigators were provided an alert from an LPR	**4,973**
Number of vehicles recovered from LPR detection	**1,948**
Number of arrests from LPR detection	**201**

---

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

MVCPA TASKFORCES
Law Enforcement Activities

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) combats motor vehicle crime across the state by providing funding for auto theft criminal investigators within local law enforcement agencies. MVCPA offers specific training on vehicle crimes, facilitates communication amongst local and state law enforcement agencies, shares intelligence, and fosters networking to effectively support the statewide system. Grants also support data collection and reporting of law enforcement activities.

The MVCPA-funded investigators are highly effective in tackling motor vehicle crime. Most local law enforcement agencies do not have the specialized investigators or necessary equipment to effectively pursue auto crimes and therefore depend heavily on MVCPA grant-funded programs. The collaboration between MVCPA grants and local agency support results in local law enforcement having access to highly trained investigators who conduct specialized motor vehicle crime investigations for both their jurisdictions and for multi-jurisdictional efforts across the State of Texas.

In FY24, 26 taskforces were awarded grants, with 11 operating as single jurisdictions and 15 as multi-jurisdictional. According to current MVCPA rules, taskforces are required to provide a minimum cash match of 20% for all MVCPA grants they receive. However, due to years of stagnant or reduced funding for the MVCPA, many taskforces exceed this minimum cash match requirement. The grants encourage taskforces to utilize their investigators and equipment in a coordinated manner, benefiting both their region and the entire state. Taskforce investigators regularly collaborate across the state, sharing valuable intelligence during monthly MVCPA webinars. They also conduct regional law enforcement meetings to discuss criminal intelligence related to emerging trends and technologies used in vehicle theft.

The MVCPA taskforces directly assisted other law enforcement agencies more than 16,900 times in FY24 to investigate cases tied to motor vehicle crimes. Additionally, the taskforce investigators supported other units within their own agencies—such as robbery, homicide, and narcotics—on over 5,600 occasions. Law enforcement agencies funded by the MVCPA collaborate beyond their city or county borders to effectively address the mobile nature of motor vehicle crimes.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Taskforce Intelligence Sharing

The MVCPA holds a mandatory monthly webinar for law enforcement grant recipients to share intelligence on trends related to motor vehicle crimes. Participants in these webinars include all MVCPA grant-funded taskforces, SB 224 grant-funded agencies, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Attendees collaborate to discuss emerging trends, newly discovered criminal methods, identified criminal actors, and referrals for prosecution. Additionally, the NICB provides intelligence on the movement of stolen motor vehicles across borders. This information is particularly important due to the mobility of criminals involved in motor vehicle crimes. Sharing insights and criminal trends has proven to be vital on numerous occasions, as crime patterns often start in one jurisdiction before migrating to larger areas.

★ FY24 MVCPA Taskforces
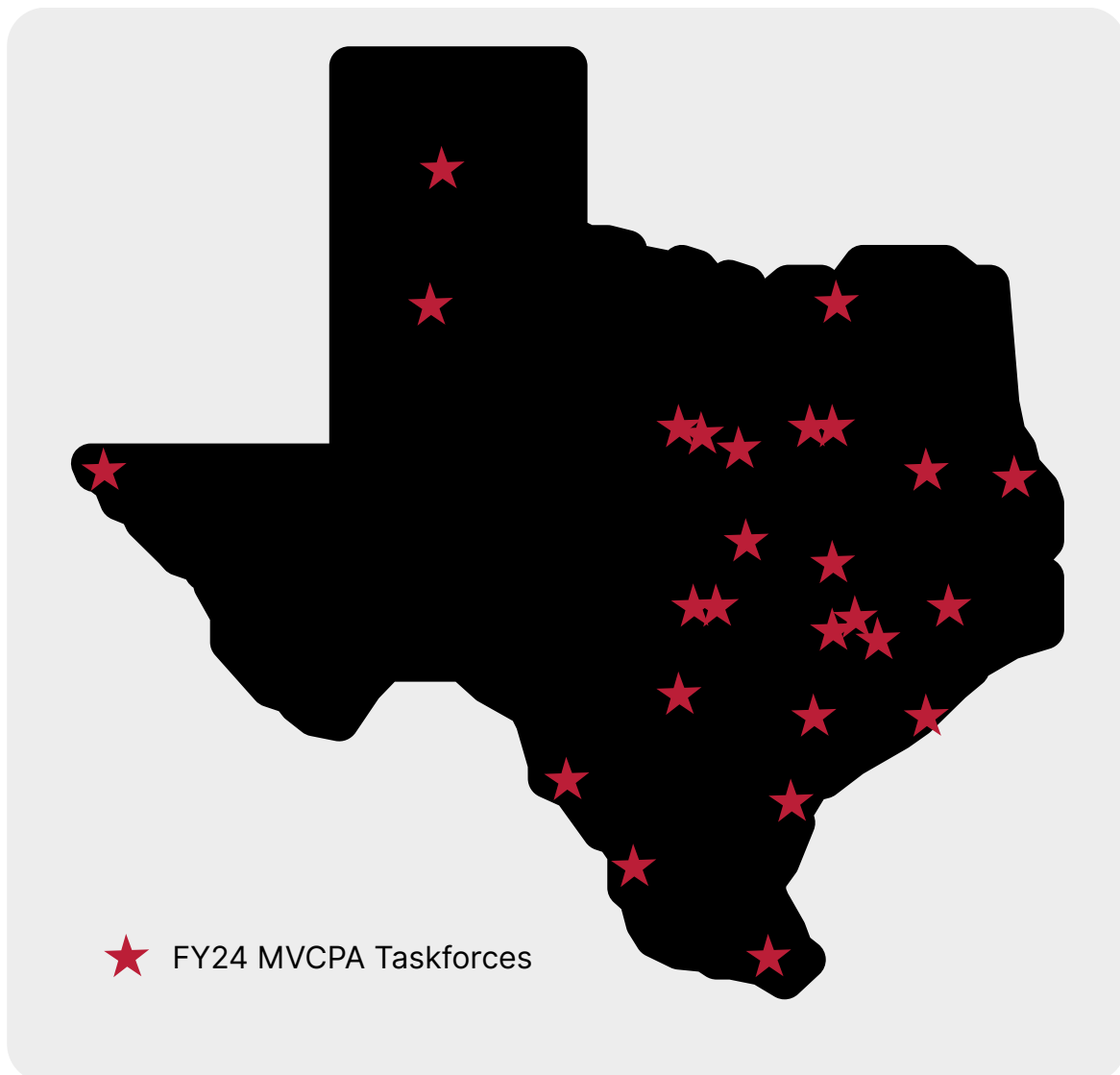
MVCPA TASKFORCES

Techniques of MVCPA Taskforces

The MVCPA law enforcement taskforces use numerous methods to prevent and combat motor vehicle crime. Below is a summary of the taskforce techniques and activities during FY24:

Investigations

MVCPA-funded law enforcement officers investigate motor vehicle crimes reported by the public both reactively and proactively. Reactively, they respond to reports of crimes, while proactively, they monitor and address community vulnerabilities to reduce the incidence of such crimes. MVCPA-funded investigators focus on recovering stolen vehicles, making arrests, and resolving open criminal cases in accordance with state statutes. Their responsibilities also include writing reports, conducting covert operations, sharing intelligence, and coordinating efforts with other law enforcement agencies outside of the MVCPA network. Collaboration among taskforces is strengthened through law enforcement partnerships, helping to identify criminals and their networks, develop leads between different law enforcement agencies, and assist with locating witnesses in ongoing investigations. Additionally, collaboration provides continuous opportunities for training other law enforcement officers, supports state and federal agencies in ongoing investigations, assists prosecutors, and broadens resources for victims and community members.

*Deputies from the Ellis County Sheriff's Office and investigators from the **City of Mansfield Auto Theft Taskforce** worked together to track a stolen vehicle. The stolen vehicle ultimately led them to a local repair shop, where they discovered suspicious activities. Upon further inspection, the investigators identified additional stolen vehicles and an assortment of stolen parts inside the shop. Among the recovered stolen vehicles was a 2023 Ferrari F8 Spider. The total estimated value of the recovered property was approximately $862,895, marking a significant success in the fight against motor vehicle crimes.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Identify Vehicles

In most countries, vehicle manufacturers are required to permanently engrave a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the chassis or engine for identification purposes. Manufacturers of trailers, equipment, and certain parts typically adhere to national and industry standards for marking and maintaining identification of their products. Records of these marks and identifications are kept in databases managed by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Law enforcement investigators who are properly credentialed and trained by MVCPA use these databases to identify and recover vehicles when criminals have attempted to remove, conceal, or alter the VIN markings.

*The **Tarrant County Auto Theft Taskforce** was contacted by the Everman Police Department for assistance in identifying several dismantled vehicles in southern Tarrant County. Taskforce investigators inspected a total of 11 vehicles, recovering nine and seizing a tenth. Vehicles were identified and found to have been stolen from Everman, Forest Hill, Fort Worth, Hurst, and Burleson. The taskforce routinely serves as an invaluable resource for surrounding jurisdictions, offering unique expertise auto-crime related cases.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Communicate and Collaborate Across Jurisdictions

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

*In September, the **El Paso Auto Theft Taskforce** organized a multi-agency operation that included officers from the TxDPS Criminal Investigations Division, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Horizon City Police Department, and the United States Army Criminal Investigations Division. The goal of the two-month operation was to apprehend repeat offenders targeting all agencies as well as disrupt any criminal groups operating in El Paso County. The operation was an overall success with mutiple arrests and recoveries of stolen vehicles.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

The **City of Dallas Auto Theft Taskforce** coordinated with the Miami Police Department in an investigation of a stolen Mercedes Maybach and Rolls Royce Cullinan. Detectives from the taskforce obtained a search warrant and recovered the Mercedes Maybach along with a stolen Dodge Challenger Hellcat with a switched VIN. Further investigations near the location of where the solen vehicles were recovered led to another stolen Dodge Ram TRX, an Infinity Q50, as well as a Dodge Charger Scat Pack. All these recoveries resulted in additional leads and information that led to the recovery of the stolen Rolls Royce Cullinan. Ultimately, a total of nine stolen vehicles were recovered, valued at over $1.1 million dollars. Investigators in the case issued three arrest warrants for Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Identify Prolific Offenders

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

Criminal Gangs

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

The **City of Dallas Auto Theft Taskforce** was notified of a property owner who rented his land to individuals to park their vehicles. With the authorization of the owner, taskforce investigators assisted patrol officers with identifying 6 stolen vehicles. They discovered that the stolen vehicles were part of a larger investigation into the robbery of locksmiths. The gang unit was investigating 19 different suspects that were robbing locksmiths of key programmers. The gang unit, the fugitive unit and the salvage squad arrested all 19 suspects for engaging in organized crime related to these robberies.

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Business Support

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

Technology

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

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

MVCPA TASKFORCES

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

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

*The **Burnet County Auto Theft Taskforce** worked with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office, the Waco Police Department, and NICB to investigate a tip received of a location that contained stolen vehicles. Further investigation led to the recovery of an F250 and 4 additional stolen vehicles. Four vehicles had altered VIN's and were reported stollen out of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The total value of all five vehicles was over $290,000. The case was investigated for Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity and vehicle theft.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Fraud-Related Motor Vehicle Crime

Fraud-related motor vehicle crimes cost Texans millions of dollars each year. One of the costliest forms of this fraud involves the illegal sale of motor vehicles to unsuspecting buyers. In these cases, there are often multiple victims. The first victim is the person whose vehicle was stolen, while the second victim is the individual who purchases the stolen vehicle, believing it to be legitimate due to fraudulent VIN labels and a fake Certificate of Title. Criminals often target those who are uninformed about the legal processes involved in purchasing and registering vehicles. This type of fraud can have devastating financial consequences for Texans.

When weaknesses in the system are identified and corrected in an effort to reduce fraud, criminals often adapt and find new methods to continue their schemes. For example, in a case of registration fraud, criminals were using counterfeit temporary license plates to evade registration fees or to conceal the identity of stolen vehicles. In response, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles cut off access to fraudulent dealers and implemented additional security features for temporary license plates (temporary tags). In turn, criminals began stealing license plates from similar vehicles, creating fictitious metal plates, and using technology to disguise the identity of stolen vehicles or their own vehicles used for criminal activities.

*The **City of Beaumont Auto Theft Taskforce** was assigned to investigate several reports of "jugging," a crime in which thieves follow unsuspecting individuals who have recently withdrawn money from ATMs or banks, with the intent of stealing their cash. One of the cases related to "jugging" led investigators to a lead obtained from locations identified by ALPR systems. As a result, a suspect was located and arrested after burglarizing a vehicle belonging to a victim who had just left a bank. The suspect stole $15,000 from the victim's vehicle at a Lowe's parking lot. Upon arrest, the suspect was charged with felony theft and narcotics-related offenses after officers discovered drugs and paraphernalia in their possession. The victim expressed immense gratitude for the return of their money.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Border Security

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

*The **City of Laredo Auto Theft Taskforce** collaborated with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office in the investigation of two vehicles that were reported stolen. A 2019 sandbox trailer and a 2017 Freightliner were recovered by auto theft investigators. Two suspects were arrested and found to be smuggling 4 migrants. During the investigation, taskforce investigators noticed a suspicious GMC Sierra in the area. Further investigation revealed the pick-up truck was reported stolen by the Richardson Police Department. An additional arrest was made and the stolen vehicle was recovered.*

MVCPA TASKFORCES

Fiscal Year 2024 MVCPA Border Security Taskforces Statutory Performance Measures[3]

Number of stolen motor vehicles recovered	**4,835**
Number of motor vehicle theft cases	**7,649**
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft	**1,162**
Number of motor vehicle burglary cases cleared	**6,079**
Number of arrests for motor vehicle burglary	**357**
Number of Cleared Cases – FRMVC	**202**
Number of Arrests – FRMVC	**79**

Legislative Budget Board Border Security Performance Measures for Designated Taskforces

Intelligence referrals	**206**
Lbs. of drugs seized	**15**
Arrests for smuggling	**6**

---

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

MVCPA TASKFORCES

MVCPA Additional Border Security Performance Measures

Number of vehicles inspected at outbound international bridges and ports	**5,307**
Value of vehicles recovered at border (and ports)	**$1,441,588,784**
Number of arrests resulting in cases charged	**2,182**
Number of vehicles recovered from Mexico	**364**
Value for vehicles recovered from Mexico	**$8,988,270**
Number of cases with one or more persons identified as transnational actors	**260**
Number of groups, gangs or associates identified as transnational	**66**
Number of arrests – transnational	**216**
Collaborations with US Customs and Border Patrol	**826**
Collaborations with other federal agencies (DHS, FBI, DEA, ICE, etc.)	**355**
Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft or burglary where drugs were present	**97**

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Performance Measures

Grant Activity Measures

MVCPA collects grant activity measures from SB 224 grant recipients to demonstrate grantee progress and success in combatting catalytic converter crimes in their communities and across the state of Texas. Below is a snapshot of the reported activity conducted by law enforcement agencies in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2024 MVCPA SB 224 Performance Measures[4]

Investigation

Number of identified/documented prolific[5] catalytic converter theft offenders	**77**
Number of Catalytic Converter Theft bait operations	**109**
Number of times an ALPR was deployed.	**22,680**
Number of Cleared Cases – Catalytic Converter Theft	**266**

Law Enforcement Collaboration and Coordination

Assists within their own departments/office for Catalytic Converter theft	**196**
Assists with other agencies and organizations that assist in the reduction of Catalytic Converter Theft	**125**

---

[4] The measures in this table are snapshots obtained on April 1, 2025. Totals for measures utilizing FY24 funds may significantly increase due to SB 224 Catalytic Converter grant extensions approved by the MVCPA Board on April 16, 2025.

[5] Prolific is defined as "linked to Catalytic Converter Theft offenses three or more times."

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Motor Vehicle Crime Intelligence Gathering and Dissemination

Number of intelligence gathering /sharing meetings attended by grantees	**381**
Number of crime analysis bulletins written and disseminated by grantees	**702**
Number of times collaborated with other MVCPA taskforces to assist in the reduction in Catalytic Converter Theft	**237**

Local Community Support

|	
Number of etching events (including catalytic converters)	**50**
Number of educational presentations to the public conducted	**2,115**
Number of postings in social media outlets	**735**
Number of advertisements purchased or provided free of charge	**66**
Number of media outreach (including public service announcements, press releases, and interviews)	**372**

Law Enforcement Activities

The MVCPA supports the combat of catalytic converter crime across the state by providing funding for local law enforcement agencies and partner state agencies. With the addition of SB 224 funding, MVCPA awarded 32 grants in FY24 to support agencies in tackling catalytic convert thefts across the state. Many of the new MVCPA grantees received heavy support from their local agencies, as many of them do not have specialized investigators or the necessary equipment to tackle the rise of catalytic converter crimes. The collaboration between traditional MVCPA taskforces and new SB 224 grant recipients has resulted in a

SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

broader network of specialized investigations for the State of Texas. For FY24, catalytic converter grant applicants are not required to provide a minimum cash match of 20% to receive a grant. The MVCPA grants encourage law enforcement agencies to utilize their officers and equipment in a collaborative manner across the state, sharing valuable information during monthly MVCPA webinars.

*The **Potter County Auto Theft Taskforce** received information regarding an unlicensed catalytic converter buyer. The buyer was traveling to Oklahoma on I-40, but was pulled over by Gray County Sheriff's Officers in McLean, TX and arrested for the possession of 306 catalytic converters. A firearm was located inside the vehicle with Iowa license plates. The Iowa license plates had a "thin blue line" plate. The converters, the van, and $2,000 in cash were seized. The value of the catalytic converters was $535,500.*
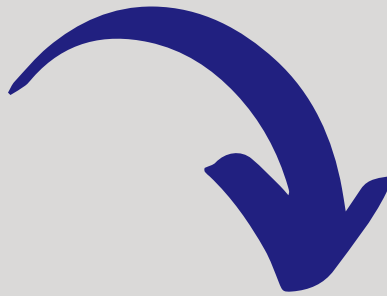
SENATE BILL 224 (SB 224)

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Support

In FY24, the value of catalytic converter components increased and the prevention of the theft of catalytic converters became a priority. With the additional funding received through SB 224, the MVCPA Board of Directors approved the SB 224 Plan of Operation during the MVCPA Board meeting in Houston, Texas on December 8, 2023. An advisory committee meeting quickly convened in El Paso, Texas on January 18, 2024, comprised of law enforcement officers, industry representatives, and partner agencies.

Inter-agency cooperation contracts were implemented with partner agencies, including the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). With the MVCPA being administratively attached to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), no inter-agency contract was necessary. The agencies added the following additional staff to assist with the fight against catalytic converter crimes:
- The Texas Department of Public Safety Regulatory Services Division added 16 Program Investigators and 2 Case Support Specialists
- The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation added 6 Program Specialists/Inspectors
- The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles added 2 Program Specialists, a Systems Analyst, a Business Analyst, and 3 Application Architects.

All partner agencies meet with MVCPA on a monthly basis to discuss intelligence information and activity updates.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

The training delivers comprehensive, skill-based instruction for motor vehicle crime investigators, achieved by utilizing knowledgeable instructors, subject matter experts, the latest crime investigation techniques, and technologies. Training sessions meet the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) continuing education credit requirements for law enforcement officers who complete the courses. Most importantly, the training is offered at no cost to law enforcement agencies, agencies are only responsible for covering their employees' travel expenses. The curriculum is developed from current trends and procedural changes affecting law enforcement statewide. For instance, when TxDMV redesigned the security features of vehicle temporary buyers' tags, a training module was created to help patrol officers distinguish between valid tags and fictitious ones. Additionally, when a rise in fraudulent titles was observed, a training module was developed to educate officers about common fraud schemes used by criminals to sell stolen vehicles with fictitious titles and misleading identifying labels.
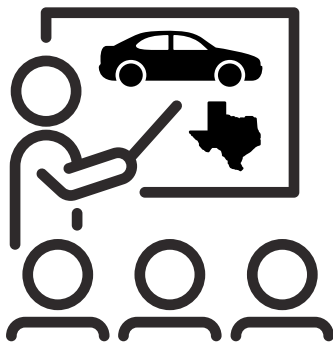
In FY24, MVCPA trained a total of **1,128** law enforcement officers and staff.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2024 MVCPA Trainings

Date	Course	Host	Location	Attendees
9/25/23	Intermediate Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator	TAVTI	Dallas	24
11/8/23	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	S. Padre Island	68
11/9/23	TX MVCPA Overview	NICB	S. Padre Island	68
11/14/23	Light Trailers Identification	TxDPS	Comal County	27
11/16/23	Title Fraud	TxDPS	Comal County	27
1/30/24	Title and Odometer Fraud	MVCPA	(Online)	29
2/22/24	Vehicle Finance Fraud	MVCPA	N. Texas Auto Show	65
3/19/24	Light Trailers Identification	TxDPS	Comal County	37
3/21/24	Title Fraud	TxDPS	Comal County	37
4/3/24	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Denton	52
4/4/24	TX MVCPA Overview	NICB	Denton	52
4/11/24	Fraudulent Documents	MVCPA	Victoria	15
4/23/24	Title Fraud	TxDPS	San Antonio	27
5/23/24	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Midland	37
5/23/24	TX MVCPA Overview	NICB	Midland	37
6/11/24	Advanced Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator	MVCPA	Conroe	40
7/16/24	2024 MVCPA Conference (Multiple Classes)	MVCPA	Houston	288
7/18/24	Identification of Fraudulent Texas Titles	NICB	Bastrop	56
7/18/24	TX MVCPA Overview	NICB	Bastrop	56
7/23/24	Light Trailers Identification	TxDPS	Amarillo	27
7/25/24	Title Fraud	TxDPS	Amarillo	27
8/15/24	Fraudulent Documents	MVCPA	Corpus Christi	12
8/28/24	Basic Auto Theft for Patrol	TxDPS	Laredo	20

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2024 MVCPA Trainings

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

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

Click here to view the MVCPA Facebook page.

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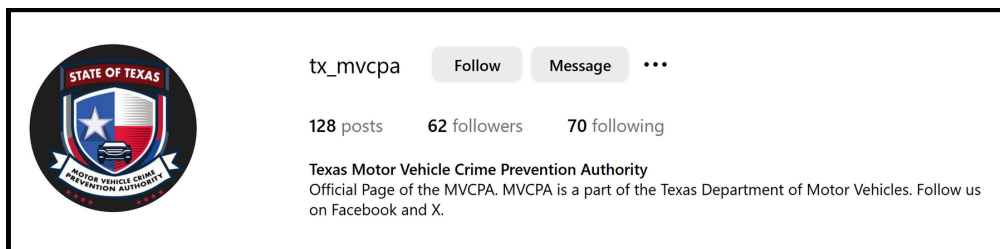
Funds allocated for MVCPA initiatives are used to conduct educational programs designed to inform motor vehicle owners about methods to prevent motor vehicle burglary, theft, and fraud-related crimes, in accordance with Transportation Code §1006.154(a)(3). MVCPA also produces print materials for public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

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY MVCPA GRANTEES

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

INSURER REFUNDS

Two refund requests were received in FY24. Both requests were approved by the MVCPA Board and processed by program staff.