

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

AUTO BURGLARY AND THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

GRANTS, BUDGET & REPORTS COMMITTEE

3:30 p.m.
Wednesday,
July 10, 2019

Lone Star Room
Building 1
4000 Jackson Avenue
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair
Ashley Hunter (absent)
Justin Owen

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

I N D E X

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1. CALL TO ORDER	
A. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum	3
B. Public Comment	
none	
C. Comments from Committee Chairman and	
none	
Committee Members	
2. Discuss and Consider Recommendation	4
De-obligation of FY 2019 Grant Awards	
3. Discuss and Consider Recommending Adoption of	5
FY2019 Final Budget and FY2020 Budget,	
including Amounts to Award in FY2020 Grants	
4. Review, Discuss and Consider Recommended	8
Changes to the FY2020 Request for Applications	
and ABTPA Grant Review Process	
5. Review, Discuss and Consider Recommended Data	--
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Reports to Meet the ABTPA Statutory Guidelines	
6. Consider Recommendations for TY2020 Grant	--
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7. Report on and Consideration of Modifications	--
to NICB Public Education and Awareness Grant	
8. Consider Recommending Approval and Budget for	--
TxDMV Staff to Renew and/or Extend Interagency	
Contracts:	
A. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts	
(CPA)	
B. Texas A&M University (TAMU), Public	
Policy Research Institute (PPRI)	
9. EXECUTIVE SESSION	none
10. Action Items from Executive Session	--
11. Adjournment	145

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Mike Rodriguez, and
3 I'm pleased to open the Grants Budget and Reports
4 Committee Meeting of the Automobile Burglary and Theft
5 Prevention Authority. It is 3:32 p.m., and I am now
6 calling the Committee meeting for July 10, 2019 to order.

7 I want to note for the record that the public
8 notices of this meeting containing all items on the
9 agenda was timely filed with the Office of the Secretary
10 of State on Tuesday, July 1, 2019. Before we begin
11 today's meeting, place all cell phones and other
12 communication devices in the silent mode, please.

13 If you wish to address the Committee during
14 today's meeting, please complete a speaker's card at the
15 registration table. To comment on an agenda item, please
16 complete a yellow card and identify the agenda item. If
17 it is not an agenda item, we will take your comments
18 during the public comment portion of the meeting.

19 And now I would like to have a roll call of
20 the Committee members. Member Hunter?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Or member Owen?

23 MR. OWEN: Present.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I
25 am Mike Rodriguez. I'm here too. We have a quorum.

1 Also let the record reflect that member -- Board member
2 Ashley Hunter is absent today. Comments?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Owen?

5 MR. OWEN: No, sir. I'll reserve them for
6 tomorrow.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll reserve mine, too. Can
8 we go over -- let me start with Item No. 2.

9 MR. WILSON: Hello, Chairman Rodriguez, member
10 Owen. For the record, my name is Bryan Wilson. I'm the
11 ABTPA director.

12 I wanted to start with Agenda Item No. 2 -- is
13 to discuss a recommendation to ask this Committee to
14 recommend to the full Board to de-obligate -- excuse
15 me -- I apologize -- to de-obligate about \$110,000 from
16 Harris County, based on a grant adjustment that they
17 submitted on April 25 for an action that their
18 Commissioners Court took on March 25. And that action
19 would require that we reduce the grant award by \$110,000
20 so that we can spend those funds into this next grant
21 cycle.

22 So under State obligation processes, when we
23 issue an award, there's a requisition created and a PO
24 that obligates that fund so that those funds cannot be
25 spent for anything other than that process. And so this

1 Board would develop a recommendation -- or to accept
2 staff's recommendation and recommend to the full Board as
3 the Committee to de-obligate this \$110,000.

4 MR. OWEN: I make a motion to accept staff's
5 recommendation.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I second.

7 MS. MENOSKEY: Justin, can you make sure your
8 mike's on?

9 MR. OWEN: It is.

10 MS. MENOSKEY: It is? Okay.

11 MR. OWEN: I'll just talk loud. Is that
12 better?

13 MR. WILSON: Yes. That's much better. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. OWEN: Do I need to make another motion?

16 MR. RICHARDS: You need to recommend to the
17 Board to de-obligate.

18 MR. OWEN: I make a motion that we recommend
19 to the Board to de-obligate the amount of 110,000 from
20 Harris County.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I second.

22 Moving on to our Item No. 3, discussing and
23 consider recommending adoption of fiscal year 2019 final
24 budget and fiscal year 2020 budget, including amounts to
25 award in fiscal year 2020 grants.

1 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Chairman Rodriguez.
2 For the record, again, my name is Bryan Wilson. What we
3 have here is some additional funds, including the 110
4 that -- assuming that the Board accepts your
5 recommendation, the 110,000 from Harris County.

6 There's two items. First, at the top of the
7 page -- we're on page 17 of your Board book. And so the
8 first item was an issue that took place in January when
9 the Board authorized, through the -- there was what was
10 called an unexpended balance authority provided by the
11 Governor and the Legislature, that we needed to do grants
12 for.

13 We understood that it was going to be carried
14 forward, but the Governor and the Legislative Budget
15 Board put that money in grants. We were going to amend
16 the contract. So -- and then also for other reasons
17 related to the complexities of state government, we're
18 asking that this item be converted from a contract
19 amendment with Texas A&M University just to a plain grant
20 that we'll conduct -- it's what was called a deliverable
21 base grant.

22 And so we're going to obligate \$35,000. We're
23 really just moving it from a computer line into this
24 line, and then the -- and then we need you to obligate up
25 to 800,000, and the reason is, as we get closer to the

1 end of the budget cycle, we will move every penny we have
2 from any other obligation that we have into that line,
3 but we can't exceed 800,000.

4 Right now, you'll see on another -- later on
5 in the -- I guess it's on page 81. Just ask you to
6 cross-reference real quick. Let me confirm. Dan, is
7 that 81 or -- yes, 81. You'll see a budget over here for
8 FY '19 at the top of page 81, and you'll see that we have
9 about 778,000 right now that we have available to
10 obligate, but if I can get another dollar, squeeze
11 another dollar, I will, out of that pot.

12 So what this vote is, is to accept a revised
13 budget really for '19 that would now obligate up to
14 800,000 into the ongoing grants that go into '20. Okay?

15 That's the way we've been able to sell it to the State
16 Comptroller, and these are continuing -- most of these
17 grants are continuing grants, and so we have to fit into
18 the State processes in how we award grants.

19 So we'll obligate that -- this 800,000, plus
20 the 35 that we already -- we had already allocated
21 previously, but in the wrong category. And then for FY
22 2020, then we would adopt this budget. What I'm asking
23 you to recommend to the full Board, that you adopt this
24 budget, and so that we can move forward into the new
25 grant cycle.

1 That's all I have. Are there any questions?

2 MR. OWEN: I make a motion to recommend to the
3 Board that the ABTPA Board adopt the FY '19 budget and
4 obligate an amount not to exceed 800,000 for fiscal year
5 '19 ongoing grants, as displayed on page 17 in the ABTPA
6 Board meeting board.

7 I further move that the ABTPA Board adopt --
8 well, I recommend that the ABTPA Board adopt the fiscal
9 year '20 budget, as displayed on page 17 of the Board
10 meeting book.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I second that.

12 Moving on to Agenda Item No. 4, Review,
13 Discuss and Consider Recommended Changes to the Fiscal
14 Year 2020 Request for Applications and ABTPA Grant Review
15 Process.

16 MR. WILSON: Okay. This is the fun part of
17 the meeting. For the record, I'm Bryan Wilson, ABTPA
18 director. So the Board had adopted in 2014 a process
19 that was applied partially in 2019, was used in 2018, but
20 the Board did not follow that process for that particular
21 year, and then it's been used again.

22 So this is kind of a first step in
23 deliberation, Committee, where I just want to give you
24 the opportunity to consider, first off, what the process
25 is, and then second, to consider if you want to recommend

1 to the full Board any other alternatives or other
2 considerations that should be made prior to this program.

3 So what the process is right now is a
4 combination of scoring grants based on a template that
5 the Board had developed as part of their redesign process
6 in 2014, and that included looking at several factors,
7 some objective and some subjective.

8 It required that the Board members themselves
9 had designees to score the grant applications based on
10 known criteria or predetermined criteria, and then based
11 on that score, that staff would do so as well. At least
12 two staff would do that as well, and then combine those
13 scores, and then apply that to determine the amount of
14 the money.

15 Now, there's things that it takes into
16 consideration, and you'll see some -- in the results
17 page, you'll see some shocking items, and you go, how on
18 Earth did that happen? Well, if, you know -- if somebody
19 reduced the amount of money that that jurisdiction spent,
20 then it would keep all things equal.

21 Because the system was designed -- the
22 mathematical formula was designed to say -- for instance,
23 if somebody was spending \$100,000, getting \$200,000, but
24 now they've reduced their expenditure to \$50,000, and
25 asked for \$3 million, it would automatically reduce that

1 so that the ceiling of what they could ask for was
2 brought down to what they were willing to spend. And the
3 reason is, is because the Board, by law and by adopted
4 rule, Texas Administrative Code, is limited to -- or is
5 not allowed to supplant local funds with State funds.

6 You can't take a dollar that was spent by a
7 city or a county and just say, oh, don't spend that
8 money. We'll give you State money for that, and you quit
9 spending your money. That's not authorized under State
10 law generally through the Uniform Grant Management
11 Standards.

12 It's not authorized under the Board-adopted
13 Texas Administrative Code. So when you see some of these
14 anomalies in that sheet, it doesn't mean that you can't
15 fix them, but it means that there has to be -- you have
16 to enter in -- or the Board would have to delegate the
17 authority to enter into negotiation if somebody greatly
18 reduced their contribution to this program and then asked
19 for more money.

20 Does that make sense? So let's just quickly
21 walk through the process. So what we had in this round
22 was three Board members who scored, and that was Shay
23 Gause, Armin Mizani, and Ashley. Then we had two staff
24 members -- Tessie Ajala.

25 I know many of you haven't met him yet. We'll

1 talk about that -- him tomorrow, but he's our new Grant
2 Coordinator II position that was filled when Dominic
3 Gonzalez left. And then myself was the other scorer.
4 And overall, if you look at -- if you go into the scoring
5 sheet, you see, overall, there was large agreement.

6 There was at least one outlier on all
7 programs, and then -- and so what the scoring system
8 allowed each jurisdiction to do -- and I've put that
9 on -- starting on page 21. And what that -- and I'm not
10 going to -- believe me. I'm not going to stand here and
11 talk for two hours, but I do want to cover the highlights
12 of how it works.

13 So what you see here in the grant budget cycle
14 is 20 points. So for the budget alone -- and I had to
15 remove the -- two of the Board members did not score, and
16 to keep everything even, I removed the third member, just
17 so -- I want to be clear.

18 The budget was only scored by staff, the 20
19 points that are allocated, because I can't have --
20 mathematically, I can't have two people not do something
21 and then have the other one skew the results. So I took
22 all the Board members out of the budget calculation, and
23 so there's two staff members who scored the budget, and
24 so that -- the budget was 20 points.

25 And so what we did was -- so there was -- was

1 it reasonable? Number one. Was it clearly identified?
2 In other words, the contribution that that jurisdiction
3 was going to make to the program, was it clearly
4 identified.

5 And then the third -- were there adequate
6 descriptions and was it clear about what they were going
7 to do? Now, in other words, they -- if they were asking
8 for a position, what did the position do? What was it?
9 And so -- and the other thing about the budget is, I will
10 say, that -- to answer those questions, we have to toggle
11 between multiple sections.

12 You can't just look at what they said in the
13 personnel description, because if they said they were
14 going to paint horses red, and then you go to the
15 functions of the project and what they're describing in
16 the functions doesn't involve horses, then there's an
17 inconsistency that can't be accepted, and you have to
18 give them a low score.

19 And that happens a lot. I mean, obviously,
20 I'm being silly in my example, but the function --
21 whatever position they're asking for actually has to be
22 related to what they say they're going to do. A lot of
23 times, they'll say, the position is responsible for
24 covert operations and bait car operations.

25 You go to the functions. There are no bait

1 car operations, and there's no money in the budget
2 requesting bait car technology. It's just an example,
3 again. So then the second thing is need, and I did get
4 the Board to agree prior to 2018 cycle to at least allow
5 me to put two of those need categories into what's called
6 a -- two of them are an objective standard.

7 So we go to DPS data, and if that
8 jurisdiction -- even if it's the smallest jurisdiction in
9 that county, if that county -- because DPS puts out data
10 by county. That's the only reliable source. But if that
11 jurisdiction was located in Harris County, and that's the
12 highest, they get 10 points automatically.

13 Even if they only had two auto thefts, they
14 get 10 points because -- but at least it's subjective,
15 and they're located where high incidence of jurisdiction.

16 So it's not totally fair, but it's still a method to
17 assign what the location of that jurisdiction is.

18 Now, the second -- the other two, Issue No. 5
19 and 7, are -- those are -- were scored by the Board and
20 staff based on what was said. What did the grant tell us
21 in the applicant? So for instance, on page 28, you'll
22 see that they told us how many motor vehicle thefts that
23 they had in their jurisdiction, and you'll see in that
24 list on the -- I guess it would be the fourth column, so
25 page 28, fourth column -- you'll see that my staff and I

1 were able to confirm, based on DPS data, most of the
2 jurisdictions.

3 But there were some we could not confirm. And
4 then the other thing is, if you go over to the fifth
5 column, you'll see that some of the jurisdictions only
6 use their agency in making up the -- again, page 8 on the
7 fifth column, called How Confirmed.

8 So what's really critical is, when you're
9 scoring the section, you see one agency just used their
10 agency information by itself. They had -- I'm just
11 making up the number -- 1,000 auto thefts, just them
12 alone, while another agency not only counted their
13 jurisdiction, their immediate partners in this task
14 force, but then they also covered the giant swath of the
15 state, that maybe that they have occasional phone calls
16 or coordination with from time to time.

17 And so there's some of them that we confirmed
18 what they did. We could recreate -- in other words,
19 that's what this page is really about. Did we confirm
20 it? Yes or no. And we did confirm it, what -- where all
21 did we have to go to reconfirm that?

22 Now, this is not going to get you to a number
23 to -- on what to award, but it does give you some
24 veracity and some comparison, where one jurisdiction just
25 used their jurisdiction and they have 1,000 auto thefts,

1 and you don't have to look any further, and one might
2 have done 200 auto thefts, but if they'd include lots of
3 other jurisdictions that they've occasionally talked to,
4 they call coverage, then now they can get to 1,000, but
5 that's the only way they can.

6 They don't actually have officers in that
7 jurisdiction or those other jurisdictions. So going back
8 to page -- I left off the page -- I guess, 22. Twenty-
9 three was the Motor Vehicle Problem described in the
10 application.

11 That was still part of the need assessment.
12 Now, under the Board-adopted system, I wanted to be
13 really careful to make sure you understand why some of
14 these jurisdictions got -- later on, when we talk about
15 the sections that they're -- that the system itself said
16 this grant should not be funded.

17 And so if, under the Board-adopted system --
18 if they got a poor, they were automatically disqualified.

19 Now, what does poor mean? Poor means no auto theft was
20 occurring in their jurisdiction or very little, and it
21 also meant that they had no motor vehicle -- burglary of
22 a motor vehicle or very low incidence of motor vehicle.

23 So I want to be clear that when you look at
24 the needs section, that is an automatically -- under the
25 Board -- look. I didn't do this. This is what the Board

1 adopted. It's automatically disqualifying if they can't
2 get to the -- in other words, they have to be good or
3 higher to get considered for a grant under the Board-
4 adopted system.

5 Then after that we move into the Reasonable,
6 Timely section -- realistic. And again, each one of the
7 Board members were given this table and saying -- as well
8 as staff. We all used the same table, saying if you see
9 that most activities are consistent with the statute,
10 give them an eight. If they need major revisions, give
11 them a six.

12 So same with Reasonable Public Awareness Plan.

13 And then in number 10, if you -- and I know most of you
14 read the applications -- in number 10, you had
15 jurisdictions who were contiguous to other ABTPA-funded
16 task forces and other jurisdictions, that clearly
17 described how they were relating to those other
18 jurisdictions, and then you had others that never even
19 mentioned that they were next to or contiguous with.

20 I mean, the whole point of number 10 was --
21 and the instructions were to clearly describe how you
22 interface with other auto theft programs, especially ones
23 for ABTPA. So anyway, you get through 10, and then
24 there's the -- 11 moves on to how they'll evaluate the
25 system.

1 Many of the applications clearly describe how
2 they're going to collect the data, how they're going to
3 provide the -- fill out the reports, the ABTPA, but then
4 others did a great job of clearly saying, this will go to
5 command staff once a month.

6 It will be explained. It will be incorporated
7 with our CompStat system. We'll have full-time analysts,
8 and actually taking information that's being done in
9 their program and then fed back into their intelligence
10 system with their command staff, or in many cases --
11 there was a few of them that, as a board of governors of
12 multi-jurisdictions -- they'll feed back into that, to
13 make decisions about how to apply resources, people and
14 to come up with new strategies.

15 So huge difference on number 11. And then
16 finally, there's an extra credit. One was purely
17 objective. It's what was the percentage. Dan would go
18 through, carefully calculate, Dan Price, our accountant,
19 and he just applied the -- if it was 20 percent, they got
20 zero points.

21 If it was 20.01 and literally I think somebody
22 actually hit the .01 or .02, and still got two points of
23 extra credit, and on up like that. So -- and then the
24 last one was -- if they had new or innovative ideas that
25 we haven't done before.

1 Some of -- it was a couple of them I know that
2 I gave some additional points to, having full-time staff
3 assigned to ports, using new kinds of technology,
4 prosecutors -- in other words, things that we're not
5 doing now that are supposed to be new and innovative for
6 our program.

7 It may not be new and innovative in the entire
8 world, but it's new and innovative. Some of them had
9 regular -- discussed specific intelligence methodologies
10 that they would implement. So those were examples of
11 things that would have gotten five points on extra
12 credit.

13 So at the end of that, there was some rules on
14 page 27. We tried to apply those rules the best we could
15 on a spreadsheet that was developed by a statistical
16 genius from MIT or somewhere like that, that y'all hired
17 years ago before I got here.

18 We've modified to actually make the math work.
19 So that's how -- so when you -- in a minute, when we get
20 to the outcomes, you're going to have two columns that
21 you're going to choose from, and then you're going to
22 have a deliberation about what else you might want to
23 consider to get to a number to recommend for the grants.

24 So -- but I want you to -- I hope that was
25 helpful. Are there any questions about that issue?

1 MR. OWEN: No questions.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No questions?

3 MR. WILSON: All right. Then the last thing
4 that's under this -- and I don't have a developed motion,
5 because I don't know that you'll have anything as a
6 committee, but if there are other factors that you want
7 to take into consideration to see if we can monetize,
8 this would be a good time to provide that information.

9 So you know, I put some reference points on
10 here, like from page -- I had already told you about
11 page 28, whether I was able to confirm the numbers that
12 they provided. On page 29, I've given you some costs per
13 LEO, costs per clearance case for BMV, and costs per
14 clearance case for motor vehicle theft.

15 So if you accept their reporting on face
16 value, which sometimes might be questionable -- we
17 haven't been able to monitor as well as we could -- you
18 could have distortions in any one of these categories.
19 Probably the most standard is how much does it cost per
20 LEO on the task force itself?

21 And remember: This is based on the request
22 for what they requested in the new or continued. Now,
23 there's one other thing that I would like to say and make
24 sure that the Committee understands, is this data, this
25 scoring system, was only applied to new and continued

1 grants.

2 It physically, mathematically does not work
3 when I try to apply it to a subset, especially the way
4 that many of the grantees filled out the modified. They
5 left most of the -- many of the fields blank, so there
6 would be nothing to score, so they pretty much all come
7 close to zero or nothing.

8 Does that make sense? So they were -- if they
9 had a continued grant and they filled out a modified,
10 they were relying on the modified to be the controlling
11 document. So I can't apply a separate -- or apply this
12 scoring system to a largely incomplete grant application
13 on a modified.

14 They might have included something like, I
15 want a prosecutor to go with my continued grant, I want
16 an LPR to go with my continued grant. So there's nothing
17 I can really score or sink my -- I can't apply the
18 scoring system to a modified.

19 Okay. So that's all I have to say. So if you
20 have other factors, either today or prior to the meeting
21 tomorrow that you want us to find or to identify or to
22 gather, we will do our best to make sure that you have
23 that prior to your meeting tomorrow.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'd like to know if -- I know
25 we've got the arrest numbers and the recoveries. Do we

1 have or do you have, that your staff has, any mechanism
2 in place or a way to get -- as far as the task forces was
3 reporting to you, for budget purposes on time, you know,
4 the amount that is to be reimbursed back to them on time?

5 Is there anything that we have in place or TPS
6 in place that can get me those numbers or those task
7 forces that do that, you know, in a way where -- could
8 staff, your staff and yourself, in a way that you always
9 need to be moving back and forth and requesting certain
10 data from them that is the -- in a timely manner, and
11 it's not pushed back to the way it should -- and the way
12 other task forces do.

13 I'll accept that, and I know that we've got
14 the arrests and we've got the recoveries. Now, we're
15 also -- if you had that in case -- I would like to
16 have --

17 MR. WILSON: Okay.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- a list of task forces that
19 you shouldn't be having problems with.

20 MR. WILSON: Yes. We have what's called an
21 expenditure report and progress report, status report.
22 We do have very few -- usually every great once in a
23 while, a task force will call. They're in a major
24 operation. There's -- Hurricane Harvey was a good
25 example of last time.

1 We had, you know, Beaumont and many other --
2 couldn't even get to their office or couldn't -- so we,
3 you know -- but that's -- for progress report, it's very
4 rare. Every once in a while, I'll get a call, and it's
5 usually just one or two days late.

6 But on the expenditure reports, we do have
7 jurisdictions that have had significant problems and
8 numerous, numerous attempts to rectify -- quickly pay. I
9 would say, well over two-thirds of our grantees pretty
10 much submit one time.

11 Most of our costs -- as you know, or both of
12 you know, you know, police officers and what they get
13 paid or law enforcement officers and officials, are
14 standard, very standard. And so we do have a tracking
15 system that shows how many times we've had to push back
16 and return documents.

17 And so we have about three or four that are
18 consistently very difficult to pay, and we can provide
19 that information shortly after this meeting.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the reason I'm asking for
21 that -- it's not to make a decision as to who's going to
22 get funded or not. It's more for -- a specific task
23 force is doing that.

24 And that task force gets funded again, that we
25 bring it to the table and address the problem. Because I

1 know that there's task forces for that particular
2 problem, so that we bring it to the table and we address
3 that, and that -- pray not to happen again, and continue
4 happening.

5 There's a lot of things that I would like also
6 to discuss. It's a good thing that we have most of the
7 task forces here. Some -- allow them to talk to us and
8 exchange with us some of the questions that we have --
9 that I have.

10 I know that Justin has some too. So before we
11 make any recommendations, I would like to have that, you
12 know, and consider that, if they come forward.

13 MR. WILSON: Okay.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you --

15 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- help me?

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just for -- well, just --
18 yeah. '18 and -- for '18 and first quarters. I'm sorry.

19 What?

20 MR. RICHARDS: I agree. Don't go back too
21 far. I mean --

22 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

23 MR. RICHARDS: -- '18 is plenty.

24 MR. WILSON: Okay. Just -- '18 and first
25 quarter of '19. Thank you, Chairman. Anything else?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you want to take a break?
2 I will get those --

3 MR. WILSON: How long do you think it will
4 take, Dan? Oh, you have it?

5 MR. PRICE: Yeah. We should have to get it in
6 a format that we can give it to them, but we have the --

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It can just be a spreadsheet.
8 It doesn't have to be --

9 MR. WILSON: Okay.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- or just a list.

11 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

12 MR. OWEN: What's your feeling on the error
13 rate? Continue to be some grantees that consistently
14 permit the same errors after being --

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I -- in talking to Director
16 Wilson and talking to staff in the past, and it's being
17 brought up to my attention that some grantees continue
18 defaulting on the specific reports or reimbursement. And
19 I know it's not -- again, this is not -- it has nothing
20 to do with the officers and the investigators and command
21 doing their work.

22 It's got to do with keeping up with the grants
23 and keeping up with the specific rules that are in place
24 so that we can make this grant work. So every time that
25 we go back to the Legislature, there's no mechanism in

1 place that can push certain reports out.

2 One -- and I'll give you an example, is a task
3 force helps another task force or another city that's not
4 a grantee or is not funded by ABTPA. We help them. The
5 city makes an arrest. They execute a search warrant.

6 They execute multiple arrest warrants. And a
7 grantee sometimes does not put that as a stat, because
8 there's no mechanism in place to put that. Yes, they
9 will create an assist, but it doesn't create -- okay. We
10 did -- because of us, because of the expertise that we
11 bring to the table, you know, it wouldn't have happened,
12 if it wasn't for that task force to help.

13 So I'm trying to get, in talking in Bryan and
14 talking to Chairman Hansen is -- we need to start
15 creating a mechanism so that we can report those things
16 and we can better tell our story to the Legislature so
17 that we can get more funding.

18 I know that there is strict use. I know
19 tomorrow Chairman Hansen is going to address that, as far
20 as funding, but if we want to continue, for these
21 legislators to keep listening to us, we've got to change
22 our culture.

23 We've got to change the way we operate and the
24 way we do things. We're not just a recovery command.
25 We're not a -- we're not just going to be out there

1 recovering cars and saying we're the entity that helps
2 insurances recover cars.

3 I want to get away from that. I want to make
4 sure that when we talk about how -- we talk about the
5 nexus that that brings, that is this -- it's not only one
6 crime we're investigating. It's that one crime that is
7 connected to the murder, to a robbery, a kidnapping, to
8 certain gangs, to the cartels in Mexico, and how that,
9 you know, we can package it up and make sure that we set
10 our story into great work that we do, because right now,
11 the only stats that we provide is assist and amount of
12 arrests and amount of recoveries.

13 But when you say this to the legislators, to
14 me, it seems that maybe it's not that they don't care.
15 It's just that they lose interest, because to them, is
16 that's why you're getting almost \$13 million to do
17 prevention, and recovery is equal.

18 I think we start seeing the problem -- is that
19 this one crime creates, and the nexus that it has to
20 different things. I think we'll be in a better position
21 in the future, and this is -- I mean, I have a start date
22 here and an end date, and that's what I want to leave
23 behind.

24 I believe that, you know, we have been making
25 some things that can say our story better, that can put

1 our task forces out there and say what they're doing, not
2 only creating just numbers and stats, but saying, this is
3 what we do every day, and what we bring to the table.

4 And if we don't have these task forces out
5 there, you know, who else is going to do it? I know it's
6 going to be up to the chief of police and the sheriff to
7 continue doing what we're going, but at this point,
8 during these times, everybody needs money for their
9 budget, and it's hard.

10 It's hard. So that's what I'm trying to get.

11 And I also want to make sure that the grantees know that
12 we need to continue following the rules. If we're going
13 to put -- you know, we're going to do, you know, 10 OPRs,
14 you know, and you bring back to the table zero, if you're
15 going to be doing multiple, you know, operations and we
16 bring 50, and you bring back 10, you know, that -- we
17 need to make sure we address that and that every grantee
18 knows that we need to follow the rules.

19 We need to say -- when we say something, we're
20 going to do it, just to make sure that we push that for
21 the next legislative review.

22 LT. HANSEN: Question for the Chairman? Tommy
23 Hansen. Chairman Rodriguez, do you think or feel that
24 there's a possibility that when NIBRS goes on full effect
25 in Texas that this may help capture some of the

1 information that you're talking about linking, what these
2 folks are doing to all of this other criminal activity?

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. NIBRS to me, it's
4 another mechanism. Chairman Rodriguez for the record.

5 Again, Chairman Hansen, to me NIBRS is -- it's
6 just another mechanism to create stats. What I want to
7 do and what I want to convey here is that I just don't
8 want to give out numbers, and say this is what we're
9 doing.

10 Yes, it says a lot -- numbers don't lie. But
11 I do want to connect the great stories from every task
12 force. That's how -- and again, go back to the same
13 example that I was saying, that we go and assist and we
14 do a tremendous job assisting, but then we don't take the
15 credit.

16 We just say we took a number for assist, or we
17 don't get that -- those three or four arrests or the five
18 or 10 recoveries that happen. So I just think that we
19 should have just a better mechanism to how we -- you
20 know, we say what we did.

21 MR. WILSON: So Chairman, if you'll allow me,
22 the -- I just want to be clear that this specific agenda
23 item was for you to think about alternatives to what
24 we're fixing to talk about in the recommendations. So
25 what staff put together on the next pages, but I wanted

1 to at least give you the shot, you and the Committee, to
2 at least take a shot at something else that you might
3 want to consider as an alternative before we step into
4 the next thing.

5 And this is where I do the reveal of the
6 actual Board-adopted methodology and what those outcomes
7 are, and then what the director is recommending. So if
8 there's anything else, we're try to get that --

9 MR. PRICE: It's being printed right now.

10 MR. WILSON: Okay. It's being printed. And
11 so what -- the way we keep up with this kind of
12 information -- so we're in the second -- you know, we've
13 already passed the second quarter at this point.
14 We're -- I'm sorry. We passed the third quarter.

15 And so what the reports shows -- will show is
16 that, as of the fifth -- so here we are in the -- past
17 the third quarter, and I have one, two, three, four
18 jurisdictions that I still haven't been able to pay
19 because of conflicts that we have between simply telling
20 me how much you spent on the officers that were assigned
21 to this program and the cash -- the corresponding cash
22 match for the officers and any equipment or supplies or
23 things like that.

24 So -- okay. Yes. Thank you. I'll leave you
25 one, and hand one up there. So you can see between '18

1 and '19, we're getting better. Each submission
2 represents that there's some -- we've identified an
3 error. Some of them are typos, wrong labels, things like
4 that.

5 They're really -- these are fixed and they
6 turn right back around. But you can get a picture real
7 quick of some of the outliers on this sheet, that -- and
8 there's even one that really jumps out of '18, but then
9 there's been absolutely no -- hardly anything that
10 this -- is for this year.

11 Does this help answer your question, Chairman
12 Rodriguez?

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Thank you.

14 MR. WILSON: Right. And so of the -- so this
15 is not fully reflective because some of these already
16 include third quarter and some of them don't. But
17 they're -- of the four that are outstanding in '19 -- for
18 the first quarter of '19 or first -- yeah.

19 It looks like he put first two quarters of
20 '19. Do you have one, David? Okay. Okay. Anything
21 else? Then we're ready to move on?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Ready to move on.

23 MR. WILSON: Okay. So page 33, if you'll join
24 me on page 33, please, of your Board book? I want to be
25 clear that -- and as David has been around me for a

1 little while, he knows I like to rehearse this before we
2 talk about grants.

3 The statutory authority -- the only statutory
4 authority you have to give grants is in Subsection 6, and
5 it says that you must award grants based primarily on the
6 incidence of motor vehicle burglary and theft. So across
7 the state and not based on geographical preferences.

8 The Board, back in January, when I asked you,
9 what do you want to do -- you know, do you want to carry
10 forward the same RFA? I've got -- cleaned up some
11 language that y'all had questions about, the last cycle,
12 and you listed five things that you told the -- in other
13 words, the -- you know, this -- you're to fund motor
14 vehicle theft enforcement teams, but there are five
15 things that you said you would make a priority.

16 I asked you if you wanted to change them, drop
17 them, just, you know -- you voted to authorize me to
18 publish these five things out, and that's the cooperative
19 authority, the crime analysts, and trend analysis,
20 instead of just -- and instead of just having
21 investigators, that you would actually try to go out and
22 figure out -- like you were talking about, Chairman,
23 nexus, and looking at the stats and what's connected to
24 other crimes, that kind of analytical tools.

25 You said that you wanted to focus on economic

1 crimes, organized economic crimes, so you said you wanted
2 to do gangs and things where, you know, sophisticated
3 enterprise to steal cars, that we'd make a priority for
4 task forces to be housed together, if -- that that was a
5 big -- that was an important thing to this Board, that
6 it's not just random funding a bunch of guys around, but
7 that they would work together as an economic theft team,
8 as required in the statute.

9 And the last thing, that if we had the
10 opportunity, we would fund prosecutors, because over and
11 over and over, so many of these jurisdictions, they do
12 great work, and they get to the prosecutor's office, and
13 there's no assistance whatsoever.

14 We've seen it in insurance fraud, where it
15 came in as a motor vehicle theft. We see it in a lot of
16 the burglaries of a motor vehicle that are actually
17 closely related with what is now termed predatory theft
18 where we have some very serious actors doing some serious
19 crimes and harmful crimes to people.

20 So -- but a lot of times, it's a misdemeanor
21 BMV, and so just doesn't get the opportunity to be
22 prosecuted. So that was our -- that was your priorities
23 for that. So the statutory requirement and the
24 priorities -- I wanted to hold in front of you.

25 And so what I did on page 34 -- I took liberty

1 to ask the Board to take some -- to take, as you said
2 very eloquently, Chairman -- to change the culture.
3 Right now, we're more worried about funding than we are
4 of reducing victims or reducing auto theft as a culture,
5 and that's my assessment, and many of you -- and I'm not
6 talking about individual officers who are out there
7 busting their chops every day trying to stop it.

8 I'm talking about the system of how we should
9 make choices. It's about funding, a lot more about
10 funding than it is about what we can do as a system to
11 really change the outcomes of this state. So I'm asking
12 that you start with -- and again, not that that's a final
13 determination, but that you start with the system that
14 you adopted.

15 These priorities and the funding, the scoring
16 that these Board members and staff have done. I'm not
17 saying that's the end. I'm saying, start at that point.

18 I'm asking you as a Committee and as a Board. The
19 second thing is, I'm asking you to not fund any more than
20 one grant in any single county or part of a county.

21 As director, I'm been doing this now for, I
22 believe, I guess coming on six years, five years. And
23 I'm asking you -- the number one problem we have is when
24 we're going to the Legislature, it makes no sense that
25 everybody has a grant that stands on its own, and I'm

1 asking you to stop funding -- either require them --
2 almost every other state has gone to this type of model,
3 where you require jurisdictions to work together, if
4 they're going to housed in the same, or just fund one of
5 them, but don't do both or don't do multiples.

6 We have -- the other thing is to direct the
7 staff to negotiate with any jurisdiction that offerd to
8 go back -- in other words, if you choose to do number
9 two, if you choose to recommend number two, that you give
10 me the authority to go back and negotiate with the funded
11 grantee in that jurisdiction the opportunity to provide
12 additional funding to add those officers that are
13 being -- that are not being funded.

14 So for instance, if you decided that you've
15 got two competing grants in the same location, you agree
16 to fund one, or you -- this Board decides to fund one of
17 them, not both, that I have the authority to go and offer
18 the funded jurisdiction additional funds to -- at the
19 rate that I set in this -- in the document, to get those
20 officers to come into the new task force and be
21 reimbursed at the rate that we agreed to.

22 So up to that array. I mean, obviously, we're
23 not going to give \$100,000 if somebody only makes 50 or
24 whatever, but at least allow me to have the authority to
25 go and work with the funded jurisdiction to bring as many

1 officers, trained officers, back into the new
2 organization and thus meet your statutory requirements
3 for funding auto theft, economic auto theft teams, which
4 is -- that's your mandate.

5 The fourth thing that I'm asking is to decide
6 whether to provide a waiver to a new application that
7 includes supplanting. So if somebody applied for a grant
8 that had a grant last year -- so it's a new -- they're
9 asking to revamp it -- there's two jurisdictions that if
10 you decide to fund them, they apply as a new grant, and
11 if you decide to fund them, that the new result of
12 their -- of you deciding to fund them would result in
13 supplanting -- that you would be trading current money
14 that's being used at the -- that's being funded by the
15 local government -- you're going to pay -- use State
16 funds for them to replace their local funds for state
17 funds.

18 There's two -- at least two of those. I think
19 we have a page -- yes. It's part of this recommendation
20 on the side. So there's, I think, four or five. The
21 last thing that I'm recommending is that ABTPA should not
22 consider any modifieds unless they specifically meet a
23 statutory or priority standard.

24 Now, I don't think we have enough money to do
25 any of the modifieds, but if you decide that you do want

1 to spend some money, there's some of them that are
2 outside -- I think, after reviewing the grant, are
3 outside of our legal scope, and then -- but the rest --
4 there's only one that hits one of these items on your
5 priority list, which is a prosecutor.

6 So that's where my recommendations starts. Do
7 you want me to go on, Chairman Rodriguez, or do you
8 want -- have any questions thus far about my
9 recommendations?

10 MR. OWEN: Just to know for the record, I
11 didn't have the opportunity to be at the January meeting.
12 I just have a question. On these five preferred items
13 for the grant, could it be possible that those were going
14 to be used since the Board was expecting additional
15 funds, that's how they were going to divvy up the
16 additional funds as a priority?

17 MR. WILSON: It wasn't stated that way,
18 because at the time, we didn't know what our funds were,
19 so we -- like I said, cooperative priority means that,
20 you know, it's a multi-agency task force. So that's been
21 our priority for quite some time, as far as stated
22 priority in the RFA.

23 It could have been a really good way to award
24 additional funds, but most of the grants, I will say,
25 came in pretty much what they were asking for in the

1 past, so -- but if they were new, a lot of times, they
2 couldn't meet their -- either their local jurisdiction
3 couldn't meet the current standard -- because remember a
4 continued has to be substantially the same program, and
5 within 5 percent of any of the cost elements.

6 So that's the only way you could apply for a
7 new. If you want -- I mean, I'm sorry, a continued
8 application. The system would not allow you to go beyond
9 the 5 percent or if you radically changed what your
10 program was, it just didn't -- it wouldn't -- we wouldn't
11 have authorized that. So --

12 MR. RICHARDS: And that wasn't the intent. I
13 mean, it wasn't a contingency, regardless of what funding
14 you've got, these were the priorities that the Board
15 voted on.

16 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Richards.

17 MR. WILSON: Any other questions?

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead and continue.

19 MR. WILSON: Okay. So that's my
20 recommendations to this Committee. That's -- I want to
21 be clear about that. What you see on page 34 is the --
22 after we've spent hours and hours and hours carefully
23 going over this and spending years doing this work, we're
24 making these recommendations to this Board.

25 I want to be clear about that. This is not

1 binding on you or the Board. So if you start with page
2 35, and we'll just talk about the continued applications,
3 the -- when you look at the -- if you look at the amount
4 that they received in the second column, it's the FY '19
5 amount.

6 So that's why it's a continued -- is they
7 already have a grant. The amount requested is what they
8 asked for, for this cycle in this grant, and then I
9 applied your scoring system, the Board's scoring system
10 to this grant, that's the value in the fourth column that
11 the system -- that the spreadsheet provided.

12 So in that continued -- on page 35, you see
13 that there's three that are recommended not to fund --
14 four. Excuse me. And in one, two, three of those
15 continued grants, the system, based on the needs score or
16 the -- in other words, just applying the points that you
17 told us to go look at, three Board members and two staff
18 members -- the scoring system that you provided says
19 these are not supposed to be funded under our current
20 model.

21 And there is one on there that does have a
22 value, and it's mainly driven by the fact that, as I said
23 earlier, if you're a very -- a small jurisdiction in a
24 large place, then you would have a high value on the need
25 assessment.

1 So in that case, the system, the scoring
2 system that provided a grant amount, but the director is
3 recommending that you negotiate that into a different --
4 into a Houston grant. Go ahead. So I've finished with
5 the continued.

6 I was going to do one section at a time, so if
7 you have any questions or --

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's continuing the new
9 applications?

10 MR. WILSON: Okay, okay. In -- on page 36,
11 there were this group -- and the same pattern applies, so
12 they -- these also were scored by the three Board members
13 and the two staff. There's the -- now, if you'll notice
14 that all but two of them have a -- had an FY '19 grant.

15 And I did make an error on the bottom of the
16 spreadsheet, because there was a grant request for that
17 jurisdiction and I just -- I guess we just missed it. I
18 don't know what else to say. If you want to put in that
19 value, the grant request -- Dan, do you have it handy for
20 TAVTI on the bottom of page -- the chart on page 36?

21 If I can get to it -- but I just need to --

22 MR. PRICE: 49,000 -- my name is Dan Price for
23 the record. It's \$49,960 -- is the request.

24 MR. WILSON: 49,000 --

25 MR. PRICE: \$960.

1 MR. WILSON: -- \$60. Is that correct? For
2 the TAVTI?

3 MR. PRICE: That's the request for TAVTI.

4 MR. WILSON: It doesn't sound --

5 MR. PRICE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I am
6 corrected. That's the --

7 MR. WILSON: \$94,470.

8 MR. OWEN: Which column, Bryan, is that?

9 MR. WILSON: That is the third column under
10 TAVTI, Texas Association of Vehicle Theft
11 Investigators -- Motor -- no -- Vehicle Theft
12 Investigators. Sorry. Now, the -- one of the problems
13 with TAVTI is we couldn't score. That's probably why we
14 accidentally left the thing out -- is because it didn't
15 fit into the motor vehicle theft analysis or a lot of the
16 items.

17 So that is the exception. We could not score
18 that grant based on the information provided. So under
19 the fourth column, you see again that each one of the new
20 grants qualified for some level of funding, except for
21 the Hidalgo County Sheriffs Office, which was largely
22 incomplete.

23 It was scored, and did not meet the
24 requirements. And then the fifth column would be the
25 ABTPA's staff recommendation for these entities. So

1 again, the recommendation is to fund these, except for
2 the ones that -- so if it's -- if you see the word, fund,
3 and it's funding the motor -- in other words, the Board's
4 adopted system -- if it says, do not fund, you'll see a
5 note to the right, whether -- not to do anything or
6 whether to see another jurisdiction and ask that grant be
7 incorporated into an economic auto theft team.

8 Are there any questions?

9 LT. HANSEN: I have a question for the
10 Chairman. Tommy Hansen. Chairman Rodriguez, based on
11 the presentation here given for new applications that
12 continued, since that's our primary issue here, going
13 back to "director recommends," number two, this obviously
14 played a part in these -- okay.

15 This obviously plays a part in these
16 recommendations. I would like to know what the
17 Committee's take is on these questions concerning some of
18 the merging topics of number two -- was the Committee's
19 take on that.

20 MR. OWEN: Justin Owen. In a perfect world,
21 yes, that would be optimal. It would be great to have
22 just one in each county or each area, and they'd work
23 together. Thirty years in law enforcement has taught me
24 it's not a perfect world.

25 There are outside forces that sometimes

1 manipulate how things operate, and I'm not saying it
2 could never happen. I would love to see it happen, but
3 it needs to be started. That negotiation needs to start
4 and be given time.

5 I don't believe it should be forced upon
6 anyone.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Chairman Rodriguez for the
8 record. I agree with what you said -- just said, Justin.

9 I also believe that it is very hard to force task forces
10 to work together with other jurisdictions.

11 I don't see -- again, it shouldn't be up to us
12 to push that. I strongly believe that we should work a
13 lot closer. I think we should work a lot -- we have work
14 to do when it comes to working together, and I can tell
15 you this.

16 I went to visit the Dallas-area task forces,
17 and I was very impressed as to what I saw and I heard,
18 and I spoke to the detectives there in command. You
19 know, I still came back to Laredo, and to myself, I was
20 thinking that we have a lot of work to do.

21 And the reason I say that -- because some of
22 the issues that clearly come up is the fact that, you
23 know, we're good at sharing and assembling information
24 amongst an area, but the fact that we don't get together
25 and discuss the mission, discuss what's next, what we're

1 going to do -- it's not there.

2 And again, you know, I go back to the same
3 thing, that some task forces, to this day, they're still,
4 you know, romanticize about the past, how great we were
5 of finding VINs and we still say, you know what? We're
6 the only ones that can do that, when in fact you can do a
7 Google search and find that out real quick.

8 So to me, it's all about changes in culture.
9 It's about moving forward, and we're going to not
10 approach it by saying -- you know, to get a grant you're
11 going to have to be working with another grantee. We're
12 not going to do that.

13 We're -- I'm more inclined to say, let's start
14 pushing it by going out there, meeting with them, and
15 getting these commanders together, getting the chain of
16 commands together, because at the end of the day, this is
17 the reason why we're lacking funding.

18 This is the reason why we don't get funding,
19 because we don't -- again, we don't say what we do, and
20 we can do a lot better, if we do it together. So that is
21 my take on that.

22 LT. HANSEN: Thank you.

23 MR. WILSON: Can I get five minutes for a
24 rebuttal or --

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Bryan.

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I would like to say,
2 nobody's forcing anybody. That's not what the
3 recommendation is. But what the one thing this Board
4 has -- that lots of agencies have to deal with this
5 reality. Okay?

6 They're under-funded. They can't keep
7 duplicating services in the same thing. The grant asks
8 them to describe how they weren't going to duplicate the
9 services. And what this Board can do by driving the
10 process is, if it fits your adopted -- again, I didn't
11 recommend something like crazy idea that this crazy man
12 had.

13 It's this document that said, you will fund
14 multi-jurisdiction task forces, and if you have two of
15 them in the same place, you're only going to fund one.
16 And it's not forcing -- you'll give the opportunity. In
17 other words, we have a little bit of money that we could
18 at least give the opportunity to bring it in, no forcing.

19 The second thing is -- at least this Board can
20 make choices about what it has control over, and that
21 you're not going to keep funding the same culture that's
22 more worried about funding than it is about the impact of
23 the auto theft.

24 Again, I'm not talking about individual police
25 officers or sworn officers. I'm talking about systems

1 that are in place to discourage collaboration when -- if
2 there's only one in the area, everybody's going to go to
3 that one.

4 And so I just want to say, you know, for that
5 standpoint -- I wasn't talking about going to a
6 jurisdiction and say, you have to play nice together.
7 That's what the feds did in the Legal Services
8 Corporation.

9 It doesn't work. They've done it in
10 numerous -- child protection. They've done it in other
11 areas. They've tried in substance abuse. It doesn't
12 work. You can't force people. But you can open
13 opportunities for dialogue with funding.

14 So I just want to be clear about that issue,
15 on what that recommendation is. Only fund one. Make the
16 opportunity available for the ones that didn't -- that
17 might get excluded this time.

18 The second thing -- I do want to make sure
19 if -- not related to what you just said, but there's --
20 that there was -- that the last column on these two pages
21 is what I was talking about earlier when I was
22 introducing this section, that there are people -- I'm
23 sorry -- groups, applications that did not meet a
24 threshold or changed so that -- that's that yellow -- I
25 mean, that -- yes -- in the supplanting issue. So I will

1 call one out.

2 I'm not trying to embarrass anybody, but I
3 will call one out, that it's a shock on this page to
4 anybody who looks at this page, and that's the City of
5 Houston, over 11,000 auto thefts a year, probably closer
6 to 18, is recommended for \$343,000 on the Board-adopted
7 system, yet we have almost, I guess, about a one-third of
8 all the thefts in Texas occurring in one place, but
9 they're recommended under this system.

10 And the reason is, is that yes, over on the
11 far, right-hand side. Last year, they contributed
12 \$1.4 million to this program -- in other words, in this
13 current year, FY '19. They lowered that in the new
14 request to about a little over \$600,000.

15 And so the equation that we used takes that
16 into consideration, because proportionally we cannot --
17 we can't replace local dollars with State dollars. And
18 they may have a good answer for that. I'm just telling
19 you -- I'm looking at the numbers and that's what
20 happened here.

21 You see something similar in Harris County who
22 has, again, really high numbers for auto theft, and
23 they've got a very low number, and it's not because of
24 their auto theft. It's because they reduced the amount
25 of contribution.

1 Now, by contrast, I want to show you that San
2 Antonio did largely the same thing that the City of
3 Houston did, where they spent 561,000 of their own money
4 in this next year, and they agreed in the future year, in
5 FY '20, in their application, to still spend \$561,000,
6 but then they asked for 2.2 million or really large
7 amount.

8 So I want you to see how the formula works,
9 because if you held -- if you offered to spend the exact
10 same amount of money, and just asked for more money, then
11 you -- then they're still committed to the same level, so
12 therefore they didn't reduce their obligation.

13 Does that make sense? But when you lower your
14 obligation and ask for a bunch more State money, the
15 equation just strips out all the money, because
16 proportionately, you can't pass that threshold in the
17 equation. Okay?

18 MR. PRICE: Mr. Chairman, may I make a
19 comment, please?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

21 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, member Owen, I've
22 been with this program, advising, for going on six years.
23 One of the themes throughout my tenure here as legal
24 counsel has always been my concern about the structural
25 integrity of this program.

1 But it's not about -- as Mr. Wilson said, the
2 program people, the staff, the Board, have great
3 integrity and do great things. The fact of the matter
4 is, y'all are respected, as you should be, and it keeps
5 going back to the structural integrity in my mind.

6 Take for example, more from a legal point, the
7 Board met in a called meeting back in January, and
8 adopted a request for applications and set forth the
9 criteria that the Board set, and I dare say, it was
10 probably a unanimous vote.

11 It was important to them, based on the law
12 that governs the Board and this program, based on the
13 rules that govern this program, and I'm concerned for the
14 structural integrity going forward, that if you're not
15 going to follow -- and I'm not saying you, but if the
16 Board as an entity is not going to follow what they vote
17 upon as being the criteria they're going to judge grant
18 applications, then that to me is just another negative
19 mark that doesn't need to be brought to bear.

20 The funding -- I mean, the bad thing about the
21 funding episode -- we were all excited. We thought we
22 were going to get more money this time, and oh, they
23 passed one bill and said we're going to get 20 percent.
24 Lo and behold, they didn't put it in the appropriation
25 bill, and we're still where we're at.

1 And so I think we really need to be mindful of
2 what the Board is charged with doing. If you're going to
3 create a roadmap, i.e. through a document such as the
4 RFA, that you're telling the world and you're telling
5 your grantees who are seeking funding that this is what
6 we as a Board appointed by the Governor believe and work
7 for this Board to continue, this program to continue
8 statewide, will maintain the integrity of the program.

9 You know, I don't doubt that a dialogue needs
10 to be had with the grantees and the multi-jurisdictions.
11 There's always the human nature issue that factors in,
12 and factors in, in the legal profession as well.
13 Meanwhile, back at the ranch, we're still not getting
14 more money.

15 The bad thing about this is we're -- hard
16 decisions need to be made. They're tough decisions.
17 They may impact some jurisdictions versus others. But as
18 Bryan said, sometimes as a Board we have to make hard
19 decisions to force the process forward, and you know, to
20 totally negate or -- I mean, again, I don't have a vote.

21 Y'all can vote however you want to do it. You
22 can say that the RFA that we put out and told the world,
23 told the Governor, told the Legislature we're going to
24 abide by, we had, you know, a change of heart six months
25 later.

1 But my concern for the structural integrity
2 going forward of this program -- just based on the fact
3 that -- I mean, y'all did great work. The task force did
4 great work, but you're not compensated each time, and
5 while we thought we were going to get more money this
6 last session, it didn't happen.

7 So I think, you know -- my recommendation to
8 y'all, and again, it's -- I don't have a vote -- is to
9 think outside the box. That's why Mr. Wilson came
10 forward with his proposals. And at the same time, have
11 those negotiations in your jurisdictions to cooperate.

12 But you know, sometimes the hard decision of
13 forcing that discussion has to be made by a board, and
14 that's what you're charged with doing. That's my two
15 cents to that. I do -- I am concerned that you pass an
16 RFA.

17 You voted on an RFA that may or may not be
18 followed. You can tweak it, sure. However you want to
19 do it. But I want to -- I mean, from a legal standpoint,
20 I want to make sure that you're mindful of the fact that
21 we do take a vote in an open meeting that -- and I'm not
22 just talking to you two.

23 I'm talking to the other two as well, and I'll
24 say the same thing to the Board tomorrow -- that you take
25 it seriously, and either follow to the letter or at least

1 follow as best you can. So thank you.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, David.

3 MR. GAUSE: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind?
4 Shay Gause.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

6 MR. GAUSE: Director Wilson, you mentioned the
7 county aspect here, and I know we may have moved a little
8 away from alternatives, but to your point, we made a
9 recommendation. We put an RFA out, and now it's
10 uncomfortable and the idea that we could move from it is,
11 for me, even more uncomfortable. Right?

12 Oh, sorry. Do I need to start over?

13 MS. MENOSKEY: No. Just --

14 MR. GAUSE: We're good for now. All right.
15 Thank you. So given that, and understanding the county
16 aspect that you referenced, are there other alternatives,
17 apart from, like, county, city, municipality reference?
18 We're talking about co-location. We're talking about
19 working together.

20 That is, I was scoring -- it's pretty
21 difficult to use some of the system as you mentioned, but
22 one of the things I was able to do was go back to the
23 Senate district and see who was within a Senate district.

24 That gets close to the county but not exactly the same.

25 Are there other alternatives outside of this

1 county-driven mindset that can cause -- if I heard -- not
2 to put words in your mouth, but if I heard the sandbox
3 theory right, it can be an issue. If we're in a Senate
4 district, it may not change it that much, but it takes
5 the label off the county problem to some degree, where
6 there are multiple agencies.

7 I don't know that that follows as a
8 recommendation or a thought, but I mean, this is
9 difficult. This will be tough. If a label is causing a
10 problem, are there alternatives to the label?

11 MR. WILSON: Part of the scoring system --
12 thank you for the question -- part of the scoring system
13 is that the DPS data is organized in a way -- because
14 this is supposed to be a data-driven process. Right? In
15 other words, if you have -- you have two pieces of the
16 statute.

17 It says you -- this Board will allocate funds
18 based on the incident of motor vehicle theft and
19 burglary. We've got that. The second part -- there's a
20 later statute that says the Board shall rely on DPS data
21 for their allocations.

22 So the -- you know, that's the limiting
23 factor -- is -- while there are 4,286, on or off, because
24 some check in and some check out all the time -- there
25 are about 4,000 individual law enforcement reporting

1 agencies in the state of Texas. But DPS, at least
2 sanely, organizes all of them into the 254 reporting
3 jurisdictions or counties, so that at least we can know
4 where the stand -- now, jurisdictions that fall across,
5 you know, multiple counties -- they report contiguously
6 into two different -- or you know, they report to two
7 different counties for their summary totals.

8 I've seen that in the DPS reports before,
9 where somebody -- like Plano is probably an example of a
10 large -- really large jurisdiction that lies across two
11 different jurisdictions. So I hope that answered your
12 question.

13 But that's the drive. We -- and to fill in
14 the rest of you, for legislative sessions, we programmed
15 our system to be able to report by Senatorial and House
16 district, but again, if any part of a jurisdiction lies
17 in a county, then -- so you know, have a Senatorial
18 district that goes across two counties.

19 Well, both of those counties are reported in
20 our system. It was just a way for us to be able -- when
21 Mr. Hansen was going around talking to Senators, we could
22 quickly print out who was involved, how much money, what
23 kind of data was available.

24 So there's one other consideration, and then
25 I'll stop talking altogether on these -- this set of

1 pages -- or I guess two more. Turn to page 37. You'll
2 see the list of modified applications I've already
3 mentioned before.

4 But I do want to tell you that if you follow
5 either one of my recommendations, to follow your Board-
6 approved allocation or my recommendation, you will not
7 meet the statutory obligation in the appropriations
8 Article 9 that requires you to spend \$5.2 million on
9 border and port security.

10 I want to be clear. This Committee needs to
11 know that neither one of these recommendations -- that
12 the Legislature this session has doubled our -- more than
13 doubled our border -- almost doubled, from 5.7 per
14 biennium to 10.4.

15 And so if you -- I might need Dan's help on
16 this, but if you follow your process, we'll be \$1 million
17 short, and if you follow my recommendations, we'll be a
18 million and a half short of meeting the obligation in the
19 first year of the biennium.

20 We'd have to either ask for a waiver -- now,
21 that's assuming we don't go back and fix these
22 supplanting issues, like with Houston and Harris because,
23 you know, that would fix a big part of it. But I just
24 want you to know, in considering this, you have one other
25 thing that the Legislature threw at you as a Board that

1 we weren't prepared to meet, and that's the new
2 requirement of \$10.4 million a year to -- 10.2 -- 10.4 --
3 \$10.4 million per year -- per biennium just for border
4 and port jurisdictions.

5 And that's a problem. I don't know what to do
6 other than -- you should apply the system the best you
7 can, to the incidence of motor vehicle, and we have to go
8 back later and vote to ask the LBB and the Governor to
9 waive that requirement -- I don't know what else to do.

10 Or you have to shore up the borders and ports.

11 (Pause.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Wilson, how much did
13 you say it was for border security? It was 10.2?

14 MR. WILSON: It's 10.4 per biennium, so that's
15 5.2 per year of this biennium.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

17 MR. WILSON: And just for the record, that was
18 an earmark of existing funds, no additional dollars
19 provided.

20 (Pause.)

21 LT. HANSEN: Tommy Hansen. A question for
22 legal. On the LBB issue concerning the port deal --

23 MR. RICHARDS: Are we talking LBB what now?

24 LT. HANSEN: On dealing with the LBB
25 concerning adjustment of the port earmark, what would

1 be -- would it be appropriate for the Board -- the
2 Committee to recommend to the Board that we begin moving
3 forward with a request to modify that?

4 MR. RICHARDS: For a waiver?

5 LT. HANSEN: For a waiver?

6 MR. RICHARDS: That's one avenue you could
7 undertake. Sure, absolutely.

8 MR. WILSON: Well, it's not posted, though.
9 So we couldn't do it at this meeting.

10 LT. HANSEN: No, I know. But I mean, I'm just
11 looking for -- to move forward.

12 MR. WILSON: It's already -- I mean, once the
13 Board makes a decision on grant awards, if they fall
14 short, then I would already begin that process and bring
15 it up to the Board to authorize, like we did the UB
16 authority two years ago.

17 So I would generate that and make sure that
18 the Board took action on it. But we wouldn't -- we
19 couldn't do it in this meeting.

20 MR. RICHARDS: Either August --

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I mean, it would have to
22 be a meeting that was properly posted and included as an
23 agenda item.

24 LT. HANSEN: Thank you.

25 (Pause.)

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Wilson, do you know
2 where the -- what page is the previous years' awards, the
3 numbers for the previous years?

4 MR. WILSON: On page 35 and 36, the first
5 column is what they got the current year.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody from Brownsville here?
7 Brownsville? Brownsville? Hidalgo County? Corpus?
8 Can I invite him up to speak?

9 MR. WILSON: Make sure to turn the -- have you
10 filled out a card?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm sorry?

12 MR. WILSON: Have you filled out a card?

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: He doesn't need a card. I
14 just have, like, a --

15 MR. WILSON: Okay.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- question for them.

17 MR. WILSON: Okay.

18 MR. PRICE: Yeah, but he'll need to fill out a
19 card, though, to --

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

21 MR. PRICE: -- at some point.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Will you fill out a card so I
23 can just ask a question?

24 MR. WILSON: I mean, you can do the card
25 afterwards. Just -- I'm just -- I'm sorry, Chair. I'm

1 sorry, Chairman. I was just trying to make sure that --
2 you can ask anybody a question that you want, but we're
3 still going to -- we need a written record of them
4 speaking. So --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you come over here so we
6 can use the mic, please? The task force from Corpus.

7 CAPT. ASBERY: I'm the captain over the
8 Criminal Investigation Division. The supervisor of the
9 task force is out of town. He wasn't able to attend.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I want to make it very easy
11 for you. So the question that I have is we have 916 auto
12 thefts per year. Am I correct?

13 CAPT. ASBERY: Correct.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: In your city?

15 CAPT. ASBERY: All right. I'm going to pull
16 up the numbers so I can go along with you, what we
17 reported.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you just state your name
19 for the record?

20 CAPT. ASBERY: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry about
21 that. My name is Denny Asbery, and I'm a captain with
22 the Corpus Christi Police Department, and yes, that is
23 the numbers we reported.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you know the previous
25 years?

1 CAPT. ASBERY: Whoops.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What was the number reported
3 the previous years?

4 CAPT. ASBERY: Let's see. For auto thefts?
5 In -- you're talking about 2018?

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 2018.

7 CAPT. ASBERY: '17?

8 MR. WILSON: '17.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: '17. I'm sorry.

10 CAPT. ASBERY: '17. We reported 731.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 731. Have you identified
12 what's the reason for the increase?

13 CAPT. ASBERY: Yes. As a matter of fact, we
14 had quite a bit of discussions last month with our chief
15 of police about it, because across the board, not only
16 the auto thefts but the auto burglaries went up
17 dramatically between '17 and '18, and one of the
18 things -- we had an anomaly in '18.

19 We had a large number of individuals that were
20 involved in both auto burglaries and auto thefts,
21 robberies, and a group or crew that was actually stealing
22 vehicles, robbing stores, and committed a homicide.
23 These individuals were -- continually were being arrested
24 prior to the homicide, and prior to some of the more
25 violent crimes -- were being arrested and PR bonding out

1 immediately, and continuing to do the crimes again.

2 Some of them, we made numerous cases on before
3 they were finally locked up. Those individuals are
4 currently in jail and that -- as soon as that started
5 happening, our numbers started going back down again.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I know I've -- I spoke
7 here before with other commanders, past commanders, when
8 I was a sergeant for Laredo Auto Theft --

9 CAPT. ASBERY: Yes, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and all this always -- the
11 mission of Corpus always to decrease that number. But I
12 think that does -- some of the -- also the problems that
13 are occurring in the city of Corpus is the fact that some
14 of the incidents that we've got is the fact that they're
15 stealing the cars in your city and taking them to Mexico.

16 CAPT. ASBERY: Correct.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think that that's a big
18 problem, and that's the reason why -- I'm not just -- I'm
19 wanting to ask you for an increase, because there's been
20 an increase in -- I know it's not been said in the news,
21 but -- and the problem that Mexico is having, but the
22 bottom line -- I think it remains a problem, not only in
23 your city but also in San Antonio, the Austin area.

24 CAPT. ASBERY: Yes.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: These individuals keep doing

1 this. So we -- I would like to take this opportunity to
2 extend the help of the border task forces to your task
3 force.

4 And this is what I -- when I talk about
5 collaborating and talking more often, is that we share
6 this information and we move forward, like working
7 together and trying to figure out who is doing what in
8 your city to make sure that we decrease this number, and
9 at the end of the day, when we fund a grantee, is to be
10 able to do that.

11 That should be our mission, to decrease the
12 number of auto thefts in our city. Starting back in
13 2009, the city of Laredo had upward 1,800 auto thefts per
14 year, and now it's only 169, and this is the reason why I
15 always stress the fact that we need to work together,
16 because that number didn't just come from ABTPA grant
17 organizations.

18 It was because of the collaboration with other
19 agencies and working together with other task forces, that
20 we were able to accomplish that.

21 Captain, I do want to -- of course, I read your
22 application, and I applaud the City of Corpus for being
23 all-in, because your application says that the amount of
24 money that you get supported in, it's really good. So I
25 just want to applaud the City of Corpus for doing that and

1 for believing that this is a number-one priority for the
2 City of Corpus Christi.

3 CAPT. ASBERY: Thank you. And I wanted to
4 point out also -- we've been looking at our numbers for
5 2019, and they're substantially lower. They're going back
6 to more -- to a level similar to 2017.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Captain. I
8 appreciate it.

9 CAPT. ASBERY: Sure.

10 MALE VOICE: Are you still going to hold me to
11 it?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Eagle Pass? Are we going to
13 hear from Eagle Pass?

14 SGT. CARDONA: Yes.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And if you want to fill out a
16 card, please, and state your name and your rank.

17 SGT. CARDONA: Sergeant Rene Cardona with Eagle
18 Pass Police Department.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: As you can see, Rene, this is
20 an mechanism that was put in place to kind of grade the
21 application that you put in.

22 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It shows you're under Not Fund.

24 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And along this the fact that

1 you're a border city, and the other thing is that I know
2 that the numbers that were put in as -- the numbers that
3 are -- there were put into your application, was that for
4 Maverick County and Eagle Pass, the City of Eagle Pass, or
5 was just that -- just for the task force itself?

6 SGT. CARDONA: Just the City of Eagle Pass.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we didn't take into
8 consideration Maverick?

9 SGT. CARDONA: No, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the reason I'm asking you
11 is because in your application, you put in that you're
12 also serving Dimmit County, so -- I'm sorry. Maverick,
13 Uvalde, Valverde, Del Rio, and Zavala County?

14 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir. It's secondary
15 coverage. We usually respond upon being called for
16 inspections or assistance and vehicle crossings and so on,
17 and that's within our area of responsibility and
18 expertise. That's what we provide for the surrounding
19 counties.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: By any chance do you have the
21 numbers for those areas, the amount of auto thefts that
22 happen --

23 SGT. CARDONA: No, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- in those areas?

25 SGT. CARDONA: No, I don't.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And I'll tell you what,
2 Rene, the problem is -- the problem that I think that is
3 happening in Eagle Pass -- it's not only that the amount
4 of cars that are being stolen in your city, it's the
5 amount of cars that are going through your city.

6 It would just need to be again -- do a better
7 job in trying to capture and be able to respond to those.

8 And I know that you requested an OPR on your modified
9 one, and that's a good start. The other thing is also the
10 collaboration with CBP and BP and Department of Public
11 Safety --

12 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- because that collaboration
14 you put in, that -- those briefings that you have on a
15 daily basis with your guys, you know, with patrols and all
16 that, what to look for and all that. I know you're doing
17 it, but the amount of cars that are being -- compared with
18 the amount of arrests that I have seen in your application
19 and as stats, you know, it cannot be -- to me, it doesn't
20 seem like a real number.

21 I think that we -- either we're doing something
22 wrong, and I would like to go back and see what can be
23 done in your area, because I do not want to leave it open.

24 We already had to reopen --

25 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and we need Eagle Pass open.
2 You know, it's going to be hard to get you guys back in,
3 when we start seeing that there's a problem, and we've
4 already seen it. There's multiple sources that tell us
5 that there's vehicles going through your city --

6 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and so again, to me, I --
8 this is the problem. When we go -- this is what creates a
9 problem in this mechanism that we use when we're creating
10 applications, that we don't see hotspots, and obviously
11 Houston is one.

12 You know, how can we give Houston \$343,000,
13 when I know that there's probably 11,000, 12,000 cars
14 stolen a year? But again, this is something that I want
15 you to keep in mind. If you get funded, this is a cycle
16 that we need to just do a lot. I guess, the approach to
17 your operations has to change.

18 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Completely. Just because of
20 the mere fact that the numbers -- we just talked about it
21 with Justin and we just know on your end, it shouldn't be
22 that. It should be a lot more.

23 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So just wanted to ask you about
25 that. If possible, you can text somebody or make a phone

1 call. If we could get the numbers for Maverick, Uvalde
2 and --

3 MR. WILSON: I have it here, sir.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You have them?

5 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Can -- do you have that
7 number?

8 MR. WILSON: Yes. It's -- Dimmit is seven,
9 Dimmit County.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Dimmit.

11 MR. WILSON: Kinney is zero. Maverick is five.
12 Uvalde, 11. I'm sorry -- and then that's the SO, and PD
13 is 13. Valverde, five. That's the SO. Del Rio, 18. And
14 Zavala is two. Sixty-one total, a grand total of 77.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Rene.

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. OWEN: Is there a representative from
18 Paris? Please come up. And yes, sir. If you hadn't
19 managed to fill out a sheet, please do so.

20 MR. WILSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

21 (Pause.)

22 MR. OWEN: Please state your name for the
23 record.

24 DETECTIVE ROWTON: Yes. I'm David Rowton. I'm
25 a detective with the Paris Police Department and Auto

1 Theft Task Force there in Paris.

2 MR. OWEN: Thank you, sir. We had some -- we
3 just wanted to clarify some things about your grant. The
4 number that you're claiming, recoveries and arrests and
5 such, are those only being claimed in the Paris area, or
6 your coverage area?

7 DETECTIVE ROWTON: I believe it's just -- I
8 didn't prepare it. My partner did. And I believe he's
9 just recording just the city of Paris, because the -- when
10 I've seen the numbers, that's kind of low --

11 MR. OWEN: That's --

12 DETECTIVE ROWTON: -- that was on the
13 application. I believe Grayson County and Bowie County
14 are NSV hotspots. We cover both of those areas, and we
15 have nine total. I know Grayson County has quite a few,
16 because I work with them quite often on some of the
17 investigations.

18 So -- yeah. Those numbers to me look a little
19 low.

20 MR. OWEN: That's why I called you up, because
21 they look low to us too.

22 DETECTIVE ROWTON: Yes, sir.

23 MR. OWEN: Would you be able to -- can you call
24 somebody to provide some documentation, or Bryan, can you
25 pull those up?

1 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm working on it. So do
2 you want to know what the '18 data that they reported as
3 their task force collecting?

4 MR. OWEN: I want to know their coverage area,
5 what that data is as well, kind of like you did with the
6 coverage area for Eagle Pass.

7 MR. WILSON: Oh, that sheet. Okay.

8 MR. OWEN: Because I believe they're not
9 claiming their coverage area. They're just claiming
10 Paris.

11 MR. WILSON: Okay. So Paris was 45 by
12 themselves, and then their coverage includes 641, but it's
13 got 40 or 41 different jurisdictions included in that.

14 MR. OWEN: Sure.

15 MR. WILSON: Now, that's just their auto theft.
16 I want to be clear on what I'm talking about there.
17 Motor vehicle theft.

18 MR. OWEN: On that coverage area, is there any
19 overlapping with other task forces?

20 MR. WILSON: I don't think so.

21 DETECTIVE ROWTON: No. The closest one is, I
22 believe, Smith County and -- but I don't think -- there's
23 none of our task forces overlap at all.

24 MR. WILSON: Because they're pretty much along
25 the Red River all the way to Texarkana. Smith doesn't go

1 past, I guess, Marshall -- or what's -- Longview, Cass
2 County.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. WILSON: So Mr. Chairman -- so that sheet I
5 gave you earlier today -- so when you talk about the task
6 force officers -- what I was giving you a minute ago was
7 motor vehicle theft. The task force officers in '18
8 reported for Paris that they recovered 72 vehicles, and
9 they -- so far this year, 51 vehicles, so they'll be on
10 track to be around where they were last year.

11 As far as the number of persons arrested --
12 still off that same sheet I gave you earlier. Last year,
13 they reported -- and this is just the task force
14 officers -- 77 arrests last year and 248 so far this year.

15 MALE VOICE: That's in Montgomery County.

16 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. Okay. I guess I
17 should get a piece of paper then while I adjust for that.
18 Twenty-four, and then 47. It still went up. Not quite
19 that much.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Pasadena?

21 (Pause.)

22 SGT. MOON: I'm Tim Moon, I'm a sergeant,
23 Pasadena PD. I'm sergeant over the Auto Theft Division.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sergeant, you signed up?

25 SGT. MOON: Yes.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You signed up to speak
2 regarding --

3 SGT. MOON: Yes.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- item 6?

5 SGT. MOON: Right. Because we're not -- you
6 know, it's proposed for us not to be funded. I'm the
7 small city in a large county that I think he brought up.
8 We only fund one officer. We have actually six officers
9 and a sergeant that's assigned to our Auto Theft Division.

10 We serve pretty much southeast Harris County in
11 assisting them. We do all the 68-A's. You know,
12 Houston -- you know, they have a lot of 68-A's that they
13 do on their own. They don't do any outside of the city of
14 Houston.

15 We do all of Baytown, Laporte, all the -- in
16 south Harris County. We've even started doing them from
17 Pearland, as far -- just the 68-A's alone. We -- our
18 burglaries, our car burglaries have gone through the roof
19 this year.

20 Houston, everybody in Harris County, the
21 burglaries have gone through the roof, and as far as what
22 Justin Owen talked about, you know, the culture and all
23 that -- it's just -- we have our own fish to fry, and
24 Houston, Harris County, they have their own fish to fry,
25 and us to work as a task force -- it sounds great on

1 paper, but it's just not that feasible.

2 I mean, we interact. We interact with Houston
3 sometimes. We interact with Harris County sometimes. But
4 I mean, we go into Houston on our own. We follow crooks.
5 We put trackers on cars. We follow them all over the
6 place.

7 You know, our crooks are our crooks, and their
8 crooks are our crooks, but we have our own entity, and
9 this is -- you know, it's like I've said, it's just --
10 \$68,000 is what is y'all are saying that we would get if
11 y'all would fund us, and that's not even completely one
12 officer.

13 But we do -- all six of the officers and the
14 sergeant, we all participate in this.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sergeant, do you remember the
16 amount of vehicles that were stolen in your city last
17 year?

18 SGT. MOON: I don't have the numbers in front
19 of me that were stolen last year.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Because right now, I think for
21 '18, it's 345.

22 SGT. MOON: Okay.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And Bryan, do you know the 2017
24 stat for the city?

25 MR. WILSON: I can get it real quick. I

1 thought you were going another way, and I'm trying to
2 anticipate, and you took off to the left. So -- okay. So
3 in their grant application, they said 417. I don't have
4 the DPS report.

5 We focused our efforts on '18.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we can say that the number
7 has been reduced?

8 SGT. MOON: Yes, sir. Our car burglaries have
9 gone up, but the auto thefts have gone down.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, and I think
11 Pasadena -- you know, Deer Park is right next to it?

12 SGT. MOON: Right.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I know that that's the home
14 to the World Series for the ponies --

15 SGT. MOON: Uh-huh.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and it's an event that, you
17 know, I've been there myself, and I think it's very
18 important that we keep on pushing. You know, like you
19 said, the burglaries are up to the roof, and now that you
20 have a decrease in auto theft, I think you're doing a
21 great job.

22 SGT. MOON: Yeah. The -- right now, auto
23 thefts have gone to the side as far as -- you know, what's
24 so sad is, you know, BMVs are misdemeanors and district
25 attorneys' offices just -- I mean, it's just a revolving

1 door.

2 I mean, we've had -- we had one that filed on
3 about a month ago that had 15 convictions, was out on bond
4 from Brazoria County, \$20,000 bond, and he got arrested
5 again and got another bond. And so I don't -- he got no-
6 bonded.

7 He hadn't been caught yet. We filed on him,
8 but he hadn't been caught yet. What they'll do is --
9 they'll see the judge, and then he'll get another bond.
10 So that's the biggest problem right now with our car
11 burglaries is -- there's no -- I mean, it's a part of
12 doing business.

13 We had a -- in our city, we have ALDIs, all
14 around the Harris County area. They're kind of a unique
15 grocery store, because the fact that you have to get a
16 cart -- like at -- like going to the airport. We used to
17 have to put a quarter in to get a cart.

18 That's how they do it. And what the -- this
19 one guy was preying on women that would put their purse in
20 their seat and go back up and return it. And we ended up
21 making arrests, just a traffic arrest, because we didn't
22 have anything on him.

23 We knew he was good for them. We followed him.
24 We put a tracker on his car. We followed him for
25 probably three weeks. No telling how many hours we put

1 in. I don't -- I couldn't even calculate how many hours
2 put in, of watching him go to all these stores, very, very
3 patient.

4 We finally got him over in west Harris County
5 in Cinco Ranch. I mean, we caught him for a misdemeanor
6 and he got -- he was already out on a case in Houston, a
7 felony in Houston, \$10,000 bond. He got another \$1,000
8 bond.

9 So that's our problem right now. That's our
10 problem right now that we're concentrating on.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I think it's mostly
12 everybody's, you know, same problem, are the repeat
13 offenders.

14 SGT. MOON: Uh-huh.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, and the fact that,
16 you know, it's the drug user that's out there.

17 SGT. MOON: Uh-huh.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It comes from the drugs, and
19 then, you know, breaking into vehicles to get those
20 drugs -- fund those drugs. But you know, I just want
21 to -- again, you said that you have how many officers,
22 aside from --

23 SGT. MOON: We have six officers that are
24 assigned to our Auto Theft Division, and me, and I
25 participate. I even work cases myself.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

2 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I make a
3 comment?

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure.

5 MR. WILSON: I just want to point out a couple
6 things. Now, I have the utmost respect for Tim and his
7 staff. I've been there. But I want -- you know, in their
8 own application, which you have in front of you and you've
9 reviewed, both the burglaries and the thefts have gone
10 down in the application.

11 Now, I don't have the burglary information, but
12 this is what is in the grant application that we were
13 scoring. So you know -- so that the issue is, when you're
14 talking about what the result of your operation was,
15 there's part of it -- I said we looked just at the
16 application.

17 And it goes from 1,000 to -- you know, 979,
18 down to 897. So I just want to advise the Board -- or
19 this Committee to be careful about changing information or
20 relying on other information than what was submitted,
21 because it is -- it's really a slippery slope that you're
22 embarking on, asking questions that might end up with a
23 different result.

24 We have jurisdictions in this room that have
25 one officer for three to 500 cases. And you have other

1 jurisdictions, as we heard a few minutes ago before this,
2 that you have one officer for 15 cases -- or actually,
3 7-1/2 cases.

4 You've got to put this in context when you're
5 talking about what the recommendations of the Board's
6 process resulted -- and it's not demeaning anybody,
7 because we all live in different places and have different
8 work.

9 But I want to remind this Committee that there
10 are already 4,000 plus police agencies, law enforcement
11 organizations in this state that are responsible for
12 all -- their sworn officers uphold the laws in their
13 community. This Board's only obligation -- this
14 Committee's only obligation in the determination in
15 this -- the overall ABTPA is only to fund above what a
16 police agency is able to do in creating an economic auto
17 theft team.

18 So I just would like -- I mean, if we proceed,
19 that's fine, on asking individual jurisdictions questions,
20 but you're missing the cultural strategic opportunities
21 that are in front of you before these -- that are on these
22 applications.

23 And again, I'm not going to tell the Board what
24 to do or this Committee what to recommend, but I do want
25 you to know that there's information you might glean

1 that's different and contrary to what the application
2 itself says, or what the official record that's managed by
3 DPS, according to our own statutes, because we have to use
4 DPS data. So --

5 SGT. MOON: And I was just talking about, you
6 know --

7 MR. OWEN: Recent.

8 SGT. MOON: -- in the last -- this is recent.
9 I mean, they're recently -- I mean --

10 MR. WILSON: Okay.

11 SGT. MOON: -- this has been in the last
12 couple -- two or three months that --

13 MR. WILSON: For this year, '19. Okay.

14 SGT. MOON: -- I mean, this is not --

15 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I wouldn't want --

16 SGT. MOON: -- yeah. This is just -- I mean,
17 this is just -- because believe me. We've been kicked in
18 the teeth by the administration over these burglaries,
19 wanting us to fix it, when you know, we're trying to find
20 patterns.

21 So it's -- it hasn't been over a long period of
22 time.

23 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

24 SGT. MOON: This has just happened in the last
25 two or three months. This has increased.

1 MR. WILSON: And thank you for that, Tim --

2 SGT. MOON: Yeah. I mean --

3 MR. WILSON: -- because I want to be clear
4 that --

5 SGT. MOON: Yeah. I mean, I'm not --

6 MR. WILSON: We're talking -- we're making
7 sure --

8 SGT. MOON: -- trying to, you know, jimmy the
9 numbers here. I'm just telling you what we're facing.
10 You can ask everybody in Harris County, all the agencies
11 in Harris County right now. Everything's through the roof
12 as far as the hotel burglaries at night, different things,
13 the car burglaries.

14 But to get back to one of the reasons I wanted
15 to speak, you know -- if they do create a task force, if
16 Houston ends up getting this, and you don't fund us, you
17 know, number one, we find this out, all this out,
18 yesterday.

19 I find this out yesterday at six o'clock, 6:00
20 p.m., and we had to scramble so I could get here this
21 morning. You know, this would have been nice to know that
22 this was going to happen, you know, and y'all --
23 supposedly this has been discussed for quite some time,
24 and we find out about it six o'clock yesterday evening.

25 You know, luckily, my chief was in this

1 morning, and I was able to speak to our chief of police
2 about this. And as Bryan said, you know, it's -- if y'all
3 fund it and no one else participates, then we don't
4 participate, but we will not be sending anybody to the
5 task force, and that's coming from my chief, if they do
6 not fund us and then fund Houston.

7 We will not be participating in that.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Sarge.

9 MR. OWEN: Justin Owen. I've got a request for
10 some information. You told us if we followed the Board-
11 approved method, we'd be a million off -- or one was a
12 million, one was 1.5. The information --

13 MR. WILSON: Border security.

14 MR. OWEN: -- what I want -- I'd like to
15 know -- the funding that was given last year, how far off
16 are we?

17 MR. WILSON: Not far at all. It was 5.7 for
18 this year, for the biennium.

19 MR. OWEN: I mean, the border money. Sorry.

20 MR. PRICE: They base -- Dan Price.

21 MR. WILSON: Yes, come over here, Dan.

22 MR. OWEN: Let me just clarify, based on -- I'm
23 not being clear, and I'm sorry.

24 MR. WILSON: Oh, I understand. What is it now?

25 MR. OWEN: Every --

1 MR. WILSON: Okay.

2 MR. OWEN: -- entity that was last year was
3 funded identically this year. How far off the border --

4 MR. WILSON: I understand.

5 MR. OWEN: -- are we?

6 MR. WILSON: Right now?

7 MR. PRICE: Basically, the LBB based their new
8 requirement on last year's number. So that was the
9 number, essentially. Pretty darn close.

10 MR. OWEN: So I'm not saying this is a
11 recommendation. I'm just asking a question. If the
12 entities that were funded last year were funded
13 identically this year, we would be close?

14 MR. PRICE: We would be very close. We would
15 probably be there. I would have to go verify that, but
16 it's very, very --

17 MR. OWEN: Okay.

18 MR. PRICE: -- close.

19 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

20 MR. WILSON: We have a border security report.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to go ahead and
22 take a break.

23 (A short recess was taken.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to go ahead and
25 reconvene. It's 5:55 p.m.

1 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Bryan.

3 MR. WILSON: Yes. This is Bryan Wilson for the
4 record. Just wanted to say that while we were on break,
5 we went and did go and check our border security report
6 that we submitted to the Legislature, and the total was
7 \$3.1 million that we spent in border security for the FY
8 '18 cycle.

9 And the construct is that we did have some
10 additional funds that we carried forward from that year
11 was -- that LBB considered part of that, that brought it
12 up higher. So the way -- like, we were talking earlier
13 today about rolling forward up to 800,000, that if we
14 assigned all of that 800,000 to a border security grant,
15 then that entire amount would be then classified as border
16 security money.

17 So some of it is a little bit of a shell game,
18 but we wouldn't make it the 10.4 -- we wouldn't have made
19 it this last year, and we will have great difficulty
20 making it. No matter what options you choose, we will
21 have difficulty making the border security.

22 And to your point, during break, Major Owen
23 is -- the definition of border security -- and we have --
24 David wrote a memo that went into a Board packet two years
25 ago, I guess, and that is defined as touching a -- a

1 jurisdiction that touches an intercoastal waterway or the
2 U.S. border with Mexico.

3 And the only exception that we notified the
4 Governor's Office and LBB, based on that ruling, was that
5 we counted everything in Harris County because that's
6 where the Port of Houston is. Even though it technically
7 doesn't touch the Intercoastal Waterway, it is the
8 third -- nation's third largest port, and we claim that as
9 a border security -- border -- I mean, the statute is
10 called Border and Port Security, and so that's why we
11 claim everything Harris County, Houston, Harris County,
12 Pasadena, and then everybody else, according to the legal
13 definition.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

15 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

16 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 MR. OWEN: Would the representative from the
18 TAVTI grant please come up?

19 (Pause.)

20 MR. MARSHALL: My name's Brandon Marshall. I'm
21 the current president of the Texas Association of Vehicle
22 Theft Investigators, also part of the Pasadena Task Force.

23 MR. OWEN: We'd like some information regarding
24 your grant request. As you know, currently training is
25 being handled, and we wanted to give you an opportunity to

1 explain the extra benefit that we will receive from TAVTI
2 for the almost \$100,000 request.

3 MR. MARSHALL: We were under the assumption --
4 so I'm going to try to make a long story short. A few
5 years back, it was going to be in conjunction with
6 ABTPA/TAVTI. Most of the members of TAVTI are also part
7 of this grant as well.

8 So we're all kind of intertwined in this auto
9 theft world, but it was put on TAVTI to come up with
10 training. Brian Johns who's here also is actually on the
11 committee to put the training together. It was put
12 together by Brian, had a curriculum set.

13 It just wasn't -- takes some time to put that
14 stuff together. We were supposed to be working in
15 conjunction with the grant. And at the time, I don't know
16 where the wires got crossed, but the grant ended up pretty
17 much taking it on and doing that.

18 They've done a great job. The training has
19 been good. We want to see a more centralized -- kind of,
20 centralized training, where we're all -- not just grants,
21 but any auto theft investigator that wants to be trained
22 in the state of Texas to have the ability to do so.

23 By having a training coordinator on staff, that
24 would be his or her job to do so -- is to find the
25 training, to schedule the training, to have the

1 instructors. I'm more -- preferably, I like having the
2 same guy teaching the same class.

3 I think under -- and correct me if I'm wrong,
4 Bryan. I haven't been to one of your -- I've already been
5 through the basics, so I haven't been to a class, but the
6 instructors kind of change as you go to different areas
7 where it's taught.

8 We also want to establish a more professional
9 appearance for auto theft investigators, meaning we want
10 to go back to the basic, intermediate, and maybe a master
11 auto theft investigator. And to me, that's selling to our
12 legislators, hey, this -- they're special.

13 There's something special about what these guys
14 are doing, and not everybody can do it. I do think we've
15 done a poor job in the past of selling ourselves on what
16 we do and how important is, what we do, and how auto theft
17 is a gateway crime into larger crimes.

18 So along with that, we also wanted to set up a
19 central location for intelligence to run through to where,
20 you know, intelligence from all parts of the state can
21 come through to one area, can be distributed out through a
22 secure server, if we could get one to do that.

23 So really, the money for the coordinator would
24 be for the salary, and of course, some travel and things
25 like that, pay maybe some instructors. And our goal for

1 TAVTI is to grow TAVTI. As we grow TAVTI, that gives us
2 more money to have, you know, paid instructors to come
3 into some of these classes and specialized classes.

4 But that's kind of the goal for me, as being
5 the president of that organization. I want to leave a
6 mark as well, and this was one that hadn't been done. It
7 had never been done. Mr. Wilson was very gracious in, you
8 know, helping kind of through this process and what we
9 could do, Tommy as well.

10 And we just thought it would be a great idea to
11 really centralize that, to pinpoint it down, to have one
12 person take control over it, take ownership of it, and run
13 with it.

14 MR. OWEN: Okay. And I did read your grant,
15 but excuse me. I've read 30 others and I'm --

16 MR. MARSHALL: I understand.

17 MR. OWEN: -- sorry. I can't remember. I know
18 the training element was in there. Did the grant
19 specifically state anything about the intelligence
20 element?

21 MR. MARSHALL: I do believe that was a section
22 in there, over the goal.

23 MR. OWEN: Okay. Because --

24 MR. MARSHALL: We wanted to --

25 MR. OWEN: -- we are kind of required to go

1 back by what's in the grant. That's all I'm --

2 MR. MARSHALL: Correct.

3 MR. OWEN: Okay.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we're talking about the --
5 almost the same thing that Bryan Sudan is doing. Correct?

6 MR. MARSHALL: Correct. Yeah.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And when we're talking
8 about basic, intermediate, and master -- this person would
9 be the one handling the curriculum for this --

10 MR. MARSHALL: Correct. Yeah.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- training?

12 MR. MARSHALL: And that would be -- like I
13 said, it's going to take time to get it going. I mean,
14 this isn't something we can -- you know, if we're funded,
15 we can't say, tomorrow we have classes. It's going to
16 take time to get on the ground and go.

17 But I think, as that grows and the vision
18 grows, TAVTI's such a close-knit group. I know y'all know
19 it is. That there's so many guys that have so much
20 knowledge that I've relied on through my career, that
21 still are willing to help with TAVTI with training, even
22 they're retired and they still come and help because they
23 want to be a part.

24 And I think it's a great way to keep those guys
25 who have retired that had 30-plus years of training in

1 auto theft that you just can't replace, to be able to
2 retain that knowledge and pass it on to other folks.

3 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, if I may?

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

5 MR. WILSON: The main reason -- look. Bobby
6 Bailey -- I don't know how many presidents ago -- was
7 president when I came and begged them to take this, when
8 DPS informed me they weren't going to do the training.
9 That's who was president at the time.

10 So I'm in favor of this concept. What I'm
11 not -- what -- the reason I'm asking it not to be funded,
12 and to just set it aside, because number one, it raises
13 the complexity when we're trying to deal with what to do
14 about Houston or Dallas or all these other places.

15 Just set it aside for now. We have other
16 mechanisms available. You recently just turned a Texas
17 A&M research grant into a -- you know, \$35,000 to do the
18 bait car research that you had authorized back in -- we
19 converted that into a grant, because we've gotten word
20 from legal counsel.

21 The Comptroller has made some changes to cause
22 us -- to put greater pressure on us, to how -- that we
23 really need to do more grants and less other kinds of
24 transactions like contracts and things like that. The
25 other thing -- like, in ICB, we just did a \$200,000 no-

1 match grant.

2 Was that in January? You authorized us to go
3 forward with that. And so I think we just need to set
4 TAVTI aside. It's what we want done. It's what they want
5 to provide, but this isn't the right context, and so I
6 would really press on you to set that aside when we're
7 talking about officers and departments and things like
8 that.

9 If you would set that aside for now. Let's get
10 through the really hard stuff that -- all these people are
11 actually here in the room, including Pasadena. Let's deal
12 with that and then we get a -- develop a plan that's more
13 like what we did with A&M and NICB, with TAVTI, that can
14 go forward and actually provide, I think, both
15 organizations a really healthy long term solution.

16 MR. MARSHALL: Can I just say real quick? The
17 plan's been in place, and per a conversation with you, it
18 was going to take stress of you for us to be doing this --

19 MR. WILSON: Again --

20 MR. MARSHALL: -- so that's why we went ahead
21 and submitted. I don't think it would put any more
22 pressure on the grant for us to take the training from
23 them. For me, it would relieve you of pressure, of what
24 you're dealing with currently.

25 But that's your decision. I just want say

1 that, you know, we've had different conversations, and
2 it's a different conversation today than what we had,
3 which is fine. But I don't see where it would cause more
4 trouble for us to take training over in the state of
5 Texas.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you. And
8 again, you know, to me it's a consideration of everything
9 that we're going through right now with the amount of
10 money that we have, and you know, the recommendations that
11 was given by staff.

12 The reason we're bringing up these different
13 cities and the entity like TAVTI is just so we can budget
14 what we're -- the amount of money that we have to work
15 with. Anybody that needs funding -- we're not -- if yes,
16 then we need to add that to the other side of the --

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I -- again, I do want to
18 reiterate. As director, I've talked to Brandon. I've
19 talked to other people about this grant.

20 It is something we need to do and move outside
21 of our department, but right now, we're handling it for
22 about \$11,000 a year. If he put in the grant everything
23 that we need done, combined intelligence operations -- you
24 know, years ago, I got the FBI to agree to put up a full-
25 time server, much like what DPS has currently, four

1 virtual command centers operating in the FBI server.

2 So I do want to stress that it is what we want
3 to get done, and it would help our task forces operate
4 more like a unit, a cultural change, a major one. But at
5 the same time, it's just not the one for today, and -- but
6 the grant couldn't be scored as if it were -- it was
7 put -- and my suggestion, to Brandon's point -- and my
8 suggestion -- it was put into this mix, because this was
9 the cycle we had.

10 It just -- when it came to scoring and
11 reviewing it and looking at it in context of 15 officers
12 in Houston and six in Dallas, and you know, it doesn't fit
13 into this mix. We need to do another strategy.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. MARSHALL: So Bryan, the 11,000 -- are
16 you -- is Bryan on staff to do your training or no? But
17 you don't pay him to do the training?

18 MR. WILSON: Question from Mr. Marshall was
19 about the roughly 11,000 that we currently spend on
20 training. The question was that -- is that what we --
21 that's only what we pay for travel, supplies, acid for --
22 DPS provides the acid, but we buy the material, tape
23 rolls, rubber gloves, loupes -- what do they call them --
24 loupes, or whatever, to inspect -- whatever.

25 Those little eyepieces that we buy the

1 investigators and long mirrors and things like that.

2 So --

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have anyone from Harris
4 County?

5 LT. WAGNER: Bryan.

6 MR. WILSON: Yeah? Thank you.

7 LT. WAGNER: Lieutenant James Wagner, Harris
8 County Sheriff's Office, Auto Theft Task Force.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I see you signed up to speak on
10 this item.

11 LT. WAGNER: I was going to provide that, but
12 did you have some questions, or would you like for me to
13 go first?

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Going with what the grant
15 application that was submitted by your agency, I noticed
16 that there was a lot of changes to it.

17 LT. WAGNER: Yes, sir.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there a reason why there was
19 a large reduction in the amount of -- against the funds
20 that were put in from Harris County towards the ABTPA
21 grant?

22 LT. WAGNER: Yes, sir. As you all know, the
23 Harris County Sheriff's Office went through a restructure
24 process. We started out with 32 persons assigned to the
25 task force last year. During a needs assessment, the

1 Sheriff's Office observed that there were these 32 persons
2 assigned over there, and realized that there was a need to
3 address issues with the Persons Crimes Unit, specifically
4 Violent Crimes Unit, family violence, child abuse, so on
5 and so forth.

6 There was an excessive number of auto theft
7 investigators, as compared to violent crimes
8 investigators, so the decision was made to reallocate
9 those positions, and along with that, the funding for
10 those positions, in order to address those concerns.

11 One of the things that we decided to do along
12 with that, and I thought maybe there was a
13 misunderstanding during the grant application workshop --
14 I thought that we were told that in order to avoid any
15 problems with the grant, that -- to reduce the cash match,
16 we would have to apply for a new grant.

17 So that's what we did, and we thought that that
18 was the way to avoid any type of supplanting issues, that
19 we could reduce our cash match by doing a new grant.
20 We're going to have to do a new grant anyhow because of
21 the number of investigators that we had reallocated and
22 lost to the grant.

23 So with that being said, since we were losing
24 funding, also, to Violent Crimes, we decided to go ahead
25 and ask for the maximum amount: the 80 percent requested

1 from ABTPA, versus a 20 percent cash match on the part of
2 the Sheriff's Office.

3 We realized we probably wouldn't get that, but
4 that's what we were asking for in the application process.
5 What we were intending to do is, if we were awarded a
6 grant and allocated whatever funds we had available to us,
7 then we would come back and make a decision on how to use
8 those funds, whether it would be to put up additional cash
9 match on the part of the Sheriff's Office, or to reduce
10 our personnel even further and reallocate additional
11 personnel, based on what we could afford to fund at the
12 Sheriff's Office for ABTPA purposes.

13 So there's the reason behind it. And
14 basically, this -- Harris County Sheriff's Office -- this
15 would be the 27th year of partnership with the ABTPA and
16 of course we'd like to continue that relationship. We
17 currently have 23 personnel assigned over there to the
18 unit.

19 Splitting that up and assigning only one or two
20 people to HPD just really isn't feasible. I mean, we have
21 a large county. There are 2 million people, the
22 population in the incorporated areas of the city, and
23 another 2 million outside in the unincorporated areas. So
24 to combine that into one task force centralized within the
25 city, we just wouldn't be able to address the concerns.

1 I think with the city and the county as large
2 as it is, you do require two additional task forces. We
3 do collaborate with other entities, maybe not specific
4 other task forces or law enforcement-related. But some
5 area.

6 In other words, we have two specific
7 officers -- three, a supervisor and two investigators,
8 that are assigned directly with DPS Violent Crimes Task
9 Forces, and they go out and investigate strictly violent
10 crimes associated with vehicle thefts, carjacking,
11 violent -- stolen vehicles used to commit robberies, and
12 so on and so forth.

13 We also have an NICB agent embedded with our
14 task force that works out of our offices with us. We have
15 a DMV criminal investigations agent that is embedded with
16 our task force. So we have other entities that we work
17 with in Harris County, and then alongside of that, we do
18 collaborate with any bordering, you know, jurisdiction,
19 whether it be HPD, Pasadena, or any other task force.

20 We're working with Laredo, Grand Prairie, you
21 know, Tarrant County, and across the state. You know,
22 we're working with Florida on some cases, as well as
23 California on some cases right now. So --

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let's see. You went from 32
25 investigators to 23?

1 LT. WAGNER: Thirty-two people. We have
2 clerical staff on that also. So we had four clerical
3 persons. So it was 28 certified officers. There were
4 also four supervisors and myself included on that.
5 Currently, what we have is 15 actual investigators, four
6 sergeants, myself, and then two clerks and grant manager,
7 and that makes the 23.

8 So 15 actual investigators.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll see the amount of totals
10 for Harris County was 5,955 for DPS stats. Is that
11 correct? And then Houston had 11,661. Is it that --
12 Houston's number, is it a combination of both the county
13 and them --

14 MR. WILSON: Oh, well, that --

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- or is it just for the city?

16 MR. WILSON: -- spreadsheet. Now, every time I
17 think you're going left, you go right. So okay. Here we
18 go. Let's see. You want Harris County. So Harris County
19 is 5,955 -- is just Harris County.

20 LT. WAGNER: Correct.

21 MR. WILSON: That's the unincorporated area of
22 Harris County.

23 LT. WAGNER: That's our agency. Yes.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the city of Houston has
25 11,661?

1 MR. WILSON: 11,661. Yes, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And that's just for the city?

3 MR. WILSON: That is just inside the city
4 limits of the city of Houston.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So in combination, we're
6 talking over 16 -- almost 17,000 cars stolen in that area,
7 in that jurisdiction?

8 MR. WILSON: Yes. It stays right around 18 to
9 19,000 every year in that jurisdiction. So -- because
10 you've got to remember, part of Houston actually goes
11 into -- and I don't -- this is one of those details about
12 DPS data I mentioned earlier.

13 I'm really not quite sure, but the city of
14 Houston actually does go into Fort Bend County, and it
15 also goes into Montgomery County. And so there's some
16 numbers here -- I don't know if you're reporting -- or
17 that we put together the whole county of what.

18 I guess I could compare it to Montgomery real
19 quick, but there's -- there are parts of Houston that are
20 in other counties. So something to keep in mind, that --
21 when they do that. We have the same issue with Austin as
22 well, where you're actually covering -- the city of Austin
23 goes into three different counties.

24 Now, we don't claim -- or they generally don't
25 claim the entire area. I don't know. Houston, do you

1 know --

2 FEMALE VOICE: Only the City of Houston cases.

3 MR. WILSON: Okay.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And 11,661?

5 FEMALE VOICE: Correct.

6 MR. WILSON: Regardless of the county.

7 Correct?

8 FEMALE VOICE: Correct. HPD works at its
9 [inaudible].

10 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So it's obvious we have a
12 problem in Harris County and Houston. And I believe we
13 now have 15 officers within the county to -- not officers,
14 staff?

15 LT. WAGNER: Fifteen investigators.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Fifteen investigators?

17 LT. WAGNER: Twenty-three staff.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Twenty-three staff.

19 LT. WAGNER: Yes.

20 MR. WILSON: Lieutenant Wagner, that's 20 sworn
21 officers. Correct?

22 LT. WAGNER: Yes.

23 MR. WILSON: Twenty sworn officers. I just
24 want to be clear about that.

25 LT. WAGNER: So myself, a lieutenant, four

1 sergeants, and then 15 investigators, and then there's
2 three clerical staff, a grant manager and two clerks.

3 MR. WILSON: Sorry. I just didn't want that --

4 LT. WAGNER: Okay.

5 MR. WILSON: -- to get --

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

7 LT. WAGNER: Yes, sir.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have Houston?

9 MR. WILSON: Before that, can I respond to one
10 issue that brought this particular grant down, if you
11 follow your process. And so that -- in FY '19, the
12 current year, even if you take away the -- we just did a
13 de-obligation, which would have reduced the city of -- I'm
14 sorry -- county of Harris down by -- down to \$2.1 million,
15 that the new grant application is requesting the same or
16 more money, and their obligation is only 500,000.

17 So under the supplanting law that I mentioned
18 when I was doing my laying out the information, I just
19 want you to understand as a Board and as a Committee, you
20 have to deal with two issues for Harris County. You have
21 to deal -- are we going to fund? And then you would have
22 to deliberately either waive or require additional match
23 funds to meet their obligation, which they might not do.

24 I don't know. But I'm just telling you, you
25 have to address that, either through a waiver or through a

1 requirement, a special condition of that grant, saying, we
2 will give you X amount of dollars if you provide
3 additional match.

4 And it can be -- again, as a Board, you have
5 the authority to make choices. You just have to make them
6 as wisely as you can, subject to the body politic of not
7 just these people, but other jurisdictions that are also
8 being grant funded, at different levels, in this room,
9 representing anywhere from 20 percent match all the way up
10 to -- I think -- I don't know.

11 I know that at least -- I mean, Harris County
12 has traditionally been at over two-thirds match in the
13 history of -- as far as I know, they've always been at
14 two-thirds or greater, and there's a few more that are
15 like that, that they only get -- some grantees only get
16 reimbursed 20 cents on the dollars.

17 So Harris County has been at 33 cents on the
18 dollar for several years, because as each successive
19 grant, we've got cut. We got a \$2-1/2 million cut here.
20 This -- they pick up the slack. They picked up the slack.

21 So several -- Houston, others, have picked up the slack
22 over and over and over, and now they're at the breaking
23 point.

24 So I'm -- I guess not breaking. Nobody's going
25 broke, but I'm saying it just changes the dynamics.

1 LT. WAGNER: Well, that's what we -- during the
2 needs assessment, the realization came about that we were
3 funding these task forces at 66 percent. Harris County
4 Sheriff's Office was putting up 66 percent, and ABTPA was
5 putting up 33 percent, and that weighed in on some of the
6 determination to take some of that funding and say, hey,
7 we could better use our own funds over here at this other
8 area.

9 Now, again, depending on what, if anything, we
10 are awarded, we'd make a decision on how we would allocate
11 that money, whether we would have to cut additional
12 positions or whether we would have enough to go ahead and
13 maybe step up a little bit more and add additional cash
14 match.

15 I can't make that decision here. Obviously,
16 that would be for the command staff. But there's other
17 options out there and available for us to move forward.
18 Again, when we did the grant, we were under the impression
19 of -- if we were going to have to do a new grant and we
20 might as well ask for the 80/20, and it was a request.

21 MR. WILSON: That was the instructions, but the
22 thing is, it still requires the Board to make a choice.
23 So I want to be clear about that.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

25 MR. WILSON: Thank you, James.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The City of Houston?

2 MS. HITZMAN: We already filled out a form.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You already filled it out?

4 MR. WILSON: Go ahead and identify yourself.

5 CDR. HITZMAN: Okay. My name is Dana Hitzman.

6 I'm the commander of the Auto Theft Division for the
7 Houston Police Department.

8 MS. HOANG: And my name is Leann Hoang. I'm
9 financial manager.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That goes -- can you explain
11 why the award amount that the employee recommended was
12 343,000 for Houston?

13 MR. WILSON: This goes back to the -- sorry.
14 I'm trying to get over there.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Page 36.

16 MR. WILSON: This goes back to the calculation
17 I explained earlier, the -- they spent about one point --
18 well, set aside -- City of Houston spent \$1.4 million in
19 match last year. They applied -- they followed the rules.
20 They applied for a new grant, but under the scoring
21 system, the -- to address the supplanting, that when you
22 go through -- they're only offering in the new grant cycle
23 602,000.

24 So the Board would either grant a same -- just
25 exactly what I just said for Harris County. You know,

1 they'd have to change the amount, grant a waiver, or fund
2 a higher amount, and then ask them to contribute more.

3 So --

4 MS. HOANG: Well, let's clarify it. On the
5 cash match, it's 602, but in-kind match is also -- it's
6 602. That's -- the City of Houston still committed
7 \$1.2 million. Last year, when we do the -- we did the
8 budgets, we didn't know it reimbursed based on cap of
9 34 percent.

10 So I went to Director Wilson and we
11 discussed -- and Director Wilson, Mr. Wilson, suggests --
12 this is how we do our budgets, so if we put an in-kind
13 match, still a cash match through the City -- the City has
14 to pay for that position, any positions.

15 So -- but if we didn't meet the cash match --
16 just say we have one person turn over, leave the position,
17 we can use that cash match to move that person in, and
18 still, we'll hire that person, but we'll take time to
19 hire, so we would meet the cash match, for us to collect
20 the 34 percent.

21 Last year, we had a lot of turnover, so we have
22 some saving, but then we don't need the cash match.
23 Therefore, we didn't get reimbursement based on our actual
24 costs. So actual costs to us is \$809,000, but we didn't
25 get reimbursed by that, because we didn't meet the cash

1 match.

2 So my concern to Director Wilson, and he
3 recommended that's how we do it, so that's why we do what
4 we did. And now, I don't know why it's become a problem,
5 because if you add in cash match and in-kind, it's
6 \$1.2 million.

7 And we add additional FTE positions into the
8 grant. That's why we asked for more money. If you --
9 just like Harris County, if you're not funding us for that
10 position, we can always go back and readjust our grant
11 applications, you know, but you have to consider cash
12 award and in-kind costs, total amount, not just cash match
13 only.

14 The City has to pay for both in-kind and cash
15 match.

16 CDR. HITZMAN: And I'd like to -- the cash
17 match is 20 percent, but we're actually at 28 percent, so
18 we're still above what was asked.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: In the application?

20 CDR. HITZMAN: Yes.

21 MS. HOANG: Yes.

22 MR. WILSON: Do you want me to respond or --

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can you respond to that?

24 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I -- to be clear, City
25 of -- you know, this is -- you hear me say this theme a

1 lot. Everybody has a police department. They're already
2 on the ground. Our job is not to fund police departments.
3 Our job, in my reading of the statute, is to fund over
4 and above.

5 Now, what my recollection of this conversation
6 that Ms. Hoang is referring to is, there were -- there's
7 two -- there's actually four distinct units that are in
8 the auto theft section. Two of them are reactive. Two of
9 them are proactive.

10 I suggested that, for the clarity, such as San
11 Antonio and several of the larger jurisdictions -- I know
12 El Paso does this. They actually have a much bigger
13 structure on the in-kind and the combined together. So I
14 had suggested that they take their other unit that's not
15 grant-funded, not shown on the in-kind at all, and move
16 those to in-kind.

17 For instance, last year, San Antonio had a big
18 officer shortage. They took their in-kind officers, moved
19 them over to the grant. They get reimbursed at the full
20 rate, and when those positions get filled, they move them
21 back or they can leave them there, whatever best --
22 again, I don't tell cities how to organize their business,
23 but you have to have officers on in-kind.

24 I think the distinction or the misunderstanding
25 here is, they took -- instead of bringing that other 16-

1 unit -- that's the proactive, and moving them onto the
2 grant as in-kind, so now they have the flexibility to move
3 people in and out of the grant, they just reduced or took
4 half their expenses and put them in in-kind.

5 So it was a miscommunication, misunderstanding,
6 but at the end of the day, I was trying to get Houston to
7 have greater flexibility. The meeting that we were having
8 was the fact that if Houston doesn't spend all of its --
9 in other words, if they don't spend all of their money,
10 they can't get all of our money.

11 And the way that larger jurisdictions like El
12 Paso and San Antonio solve that problem is, keeping a
13 cadre of sworn officers that are involved in the grant,
14 the same level of work, the same type of work. It can't
15 be some random patrol officer over on the other side in
16 another unit that has nothing to do with auto theft, but
17 people that are working on the same types of cases that
18 can't necessarily be shown as match.

19 So again, it's a structural issue. But this
20 Board, in continuing to fund all kinds of variation -- and
21 I'm not -- I'm just not -- I'm not criticizing the Board,
22 but some of this is -- you're making -- it's because
23 instead of just doing economic auto theft teams above
24 police departments and focusing your efforts on that, you
25 get all kinds of permutations of things that have

1 different structures, different rates, different
2 reimbursement rates.

3 You know, again, we just talked Harris
4 County -- two-thirds is their money, one-third ours, and
5 then you turn right back around, and you'll see several of
6 these grantees are reflected in this document that are
7 right at the minimum.

8 They barely make the minimum. Some of them --
9 questionable whether they -- if it wasn't for DPS or NICB,
10 they wouldn't make the minimum. But the Board is
11 authorized to allow that to count, which a city like
12 Houston who is running a huge operation, doesn't have the
13 same tactical advantage to do that kind of budgeting.

14 So again, it's a procedural issue at one level
15 and a misunderstanding at another. So --

16 MS. HOANG: Let me clarify what Mr. Wilson
17 said. All these positions are 100 percent worked on
18 grants. We have an auto theft division which Commander --
19 they are totally different. Office positions are
20 enhanced, what all the divisions from HPD is doing.

21 These 22 law enforcement is working on --
22 directly on this grant, ABTPA grant. So it was not
23 supplanting. We don't put them -- but I don't put them in
24 in-kind match, just in case, because pensions change. All
25 those people go -- you know, move away, get promotions.

1 You know how the law officers do. They get
2 promoted. They go to other divisions. They change all
3 the time. So the people we might hire to come in might
4 not be the same pay rate. They might get hired at lower.
5 If higher, it's great.

6 We met the cash match. If it's lower, we will
7 not. But when the cap is 34 percent, that's when we
8 dinged on. That's why I want to make sure that I put them
9 in-kind, so with the in-kind flexibility, we will meet the
10 cash match of 28 percent, which the grant only requires
11 20 percent.

12 The City still committed \$1.2 million last --
13 like we did -- they did 1.4, but we didn't meet that 1.4.

14 So I budgeted to \$1.2 million this year, still a cash
15 back to the -- there's still cash to the City of Houston,
16 forked out from the budget.

17 It's not --

18 CDR. HITZMAN: I'd also like to make a couple
19 points, just from some earlier conversations, and just to
20 get a scope of how Houston works. We have over 50
21 classified officers in the Auto Theft Division, another
22 classified, when you include auto dealers, which is
23 part of the Auto Theft Division that managers and has
24 oversight over the automobile industry for the city of
25 Houston.

1 In some points, I feel like we're being -- you
2 know, it's a disadvantage to us to be a large agency.
3 Some of the things that were discussed earlier, such as
4 intelligence methodology -- you know, they're looking for
5 new things to be brought to the table.

6 We already have that in Houston. We have an
7 entire division for criminal intelligence. Auto Theft
8 Division has our own criminal analyst, a crime analyst
9 assigned to the division that works only for us and our
10 abilities.

11 We -- the crime analysis is expanding
12 throughout the department. We're sending more officers --
13 I just sent two people last week to an link analysis class
14 from Auto Theft Division. Something else that was
15 mentioned about the predatory theft legislation.

16 That came from the City of Houston, actually
17 from the former lieutenant of the ABTPA grant in the
18 Harris County District Attorney's Office. That's the kind
19 of work that you get out of the City of Houston for auto
20 theft, and that is what we bring to the table. We're, you
21 know, not looking just for funding for the sake of
22 funding.

23 We're looking to have an impact on auto theft
24 crimes in the city of Houston. This grant also addressed
25 juggling, an emerging crime, all across the state, but in

1 the city of Houston, and not only -- the cash match was
2 reallocated to in-kind, but we also added additional
3 positions -- we'd like to add additional positions to
4 address that jugging operation.

5 Those are manpower-intensive, when you have to
6 set up surveillance on these crooks for jugging
7 operations. So that's what we bring to the table. The
8 \$343,000 was certainly disappointing, you know, and for
9 what we bring to the table and the resources that we bring
10 to address auto theft crime.

11 We're asking for the Board to reconsider and
12 fund us at our proposed amount.

13 MR. WILSON: So I do want to say that the City
14 of Houston grant, as written, notwithstanding the
15 supplanting issue or what appears to be supplanting, was
16 one of the highest-rated grants for the quality of what we
17 were trying to fund.

18 It includes something that we're statutorily
19 mandated to do, such as having officers assigned to the
20 port. 70,000 vehicles, the application says, go out of
21 that port every year. We have no --

22 CDR. HITZMAN: It's 115,000.

23 MR. WILSON: Okay. I read your application.

24 CDR. HITZMAN: Okay.

25 MR. WILSON: A hundred -- we have -- we don't

1 have a full-time, dedicated presence. And maybe DPS does,
2 but auto theft doesn't. I mean, you've met with CBP. I
3 mean, it's a core mission. It's what we're responsible
4 for, and we don't do it.

5 CDR. HITZMAN: We have Sergeant Raul Cruz
6 who --

7 MR. WILSON: Okay.

8 CDR. HITZMAN: -- works under the grant at the
9 port.

10 MR. WILSON: Okay. Full-time? Okay. Ninety-
11 nine percent of all available points went to Harris -- I
12 mean, to -- excuse me, City of Houston. So this funding
13 allocation is not based on the quality of the proposed
14 work.

15 It's not based on the quality -- it's a problem
16 that they made in -- whether misunderstanding or if I told
17 them false information, whatever they want to say -- the
18 issue was about last year, they spent 600 -- I mean, what
19 I said a minute ago -- City of Houston, 1.4 million.

20 That's for new application, and they dropped
21 the -- and I hear what Ms. Hoang is saying with the -- but
22 when you move that to the right side of the equation, it's
23 no longer match. Cash match is what's on the barrel-head,
24 exchanging -- you provide the funds, and we reimburse a
25 specific percentage of that funds. So --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I agree. I agree with
2 what you said, and this is the reason why we're here,
3 because I know that when you look at the book and you see
4 that funding, it doesn't make any sense, but that's the
5 reason why we're here.

6 And at the end of the day, it's going to be up
7 to us to find out who is going to get what. I know that
8 we're short on funding. Houston does a very good job in
9 everything that you guys do, but going back to the
10 analysts and the counterintelligence, I know that there
11 were certain PDs and certain SO's that have it already in
12 place.

13 And what I keep telling everybody is that we
14 need to start sharing, and we need to start connecting so
15 that we can tell our story at the end of the fiscal year.

16 At the end of every fiscal year, we have that document,
17 because we're very bad at doing that, and because it's
18 my intel. It's my source. It's my CI, and I'm not going
19 to share it. But within our auto theft group, we need to
20 just get better at that.

21 I'm not about who's going to get the credit.
22 I'm about, at the end of these two years, we're going to
23 get more funding, because at the end of the day,
24 everybody's going to get the credit. So that's what I'm
25 talking about, when we have these intelligence divisions,

1 that we share with everybody what we're doing.

2 And Laredo shares with Houston. Houston shares
3 with Brownsville, Pharr, Mission. We have task forces
4 over there that when I went to the Valley -- and we have
5 task forces over there that really don't know what's going
6 on in Houston.

7 And to me, that's very important for them to
8 know, the biggest city up north, what's going on, and they
9 don't -- they didn't know. So that's very concerning to
10 me. And again, I keep pushing for that, because that's
11 what's going to get us past what where we're at right now.

12 So again, I applaud Houston for everything that
13 they do. I know that I went to your website and saw
14 everything, something that you just said that you have.
15 So again, you know, it's not about your operations. It
16 was about mainly financial items, and again, that's the
17 reason why we're here.

18 So thank you. Thank you for the information
19 you gave to us today.

20 MS. HOANG: Thank you.

21 CDR. HITZMAN: Thank you.

22 (Pause.)

23 MR. OWEN: Is there a representative from
24 Dallas PD? Please. Have you done the sheet yet, sir?

25 SGT. RODEN: Yes. I have a few of them.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Bryan, did you do that?

2 SGT. RODEN: Yes. I filled one out. I can
3 turn one in, and I can fill another one out.

4 MR. OWEN: All right. Please state your name
5 for the record.

6 SGT. RODEN: Bryan Roden, sergeant over the
7 Auto Theft Task Force there.

8 MS. TABER: And Johnna Taber. I'm with the
9 Dallas Police Department, Financial and Contract
10 Management.

11 MR. OWEN: Thank you. So your amount requested
12 more than doubled, and naturally, I did read your
13 application. Could you real briefly tell us -- don't go
14 into great detail. Real briefly tell us what we get for
15 double.

16 SGT. RODEN: Well, what we --

17 MR. OWEN: Be brief. I don't want to --

18 SGT. RODEN: Well, I mean --

19 MR. OWEN: I mean, if you're adding people,
20 say, we're adding X number --

21 SGT. RODEN: Well, we --

22 MR. OWEN: -- of this. We're adding intel.

23 SGT. RODEN: We're adding -- I've already
24 expanded the operation by two people, and I got approved
25 to add a third, if funded, and if -- y'all have all seen

1 the news lately. Getting officers to come to cities has
2 kind of been a problem, and the command staff has believed
3 in what I pitched to them about this grant, and I've said
4 good things about this grant, and you know, the decisions
5 behind it, and so I was able to add people onto the grant.

6 We was able to upgrade our office assistant to
7 a crime technician, and just like in most big cities, we
8 have a huge fusion center that's federally funded, and we
9 have the ability to send out information. The office
10 assistant, with that upgrade, will allow us to send this
11 information out to other grantees and other agencies
12 around us, not just grantees, because you know, there's a
13 lot of agencies around us who we work with that are a part
14 of this grant.

15 That's a little bit, in a nutshell.

16 MR. OWEN: That was good. So you did mention
17 you're working outside the city of Dallas?

18 SGT. RODEN: Yes.

19 MR. OWEN: Okay.

20 SGT. RODEN: Yes. If you -- I guess if you
21 looked in the back of your packet, there's a commendation
22 from an adjacent city that we try to help cover, due to
23 their manpower that, you know, they -- I guess it's in
24 your -- the last page of your packet there.

25 Just one quick example, and there's other ones

1 too. Carrollton, we go up to Carrollton, helped them out,
2 arrested a cargo theft suspect up there. We have federal
3 investigations that lead all around the city into the
4 county.

5 So we go outside the city quite often to arrest
6 our suspects.

7 MR. OWEN: Just bear with me just for a second.

8 SGT. RODEN: Take your time.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The -- you also have the same
10 structure as -- well, not the same, but you also have
11 another unit that also works the burglary of vehicles and
12 auto theft-related investigations. Correct?

13 SGT. RODEN: Yes. We --

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's the agency, right, no
15 only the grant-funded one?

16 SGT. RODEN: Yes. There is a unit that --
17 well, BMVs get outsourced to the station. That's not our
18 bread and butter. We do work them. We work all of our
19 tailgate offenses and things like that, because there's a
20 lot of that stuff -- comes on line, and we do a lot of
21 the, you know, internet stuff with that kind of stuff.

22 There is a unit that does no-leads cases, that
23 you know, you can -- we've had over 5,500 offenses this
24 year in the city of Dallas. You know, a lot of those no-
25 leads cases go to Downtown Auto Theft, and they will work

1 those.

2 We're not going to -- we can't get burdened
3 down with those, when we're out there trying to arrest
4 people and put people in jail and interview suspects, and
5 you know, kind of the -- you know, I don't want to
6 downplay what they do, but the -- you know, the kind of
7 high-profile cases we work with.

8 MR. OWEN: We're just looking at the arrests
9 and the vehicles right now. We'll see if there's
10 anything -- I don't have anything further.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No. Thank you, Bryan.

12 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

13 SGT. RODEN: Is that -- I did fill out one of
14 these, and are we going to open it up to the end, to speak
15 on certain items, or is this my time to do that too?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead. This is a good time.

17 SGT. RODEN: Well, you know, I know this is an
18 emotional time for everybody in here. There's a lot of,
19 you know, sad faces and I sympathize with everybody, and I
20 wish that the world was perfect and we could get what we
21 want.

22 It's my understanding, you know -- as officers,
23 we're inclined to enforce the law without that emotion.
24 We're able -- we're tasked to do a job and we do it. I
25 would like to think if somebody in here caught a brother

1 or a family member doing something wrong, that they would
2 make that arrest and do the things that they're supposed
3 to do.

4 I just believe that the RFA is made to take
5 that emotion out. We're tasked to do a job, and I'd kind
6 of like to reiterate what the -- you know, the attorney
7 said. I forget his name. But our integrity is on the
8 line here. We need to do what's right, and put the money
9 where the problem is, and be able to fund the areas that
10 need the funding.

11 I don't understand, you know -- if somebody
12 asked me if -- if we can't follow the RFA, then how can we
13 judge other grantees when they don't turn stuff in at a
14 proper time? If we're all to follow the rules -- and I
15 think we all need to follow the rules.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

17 MR. OWEN: A representative from Dallas County?
18 Please state your name for the record.

19 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: I am Shelia Carter-Bass,
20 captain of the North Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

21 CHIEF FOSTER: And I'm Debbie Foster. Was
22 assistant chief deputy at the Dallas County Sheriff's
23 Department.

24 MR. OWEN: We're just looking over -- right
25 now, I'm looking at the number of persons arrested for

1 motor vehicle theft, and according to the figures that we
2 received from staff, in 2018, Dallas County reported 28
3 arrests, and 2019 reported 812.

4 That's a massive increase. Is that an error
5 possibly, or did you change the way that arrests are
6 documented? We just need some kind of clarification.

7 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Definitely an error. I did
8 not report 812 arrests. We did not have 812 arrests for
9 '19.

10 MR. OWEN: That's what I thought. Thank you
11 for clarifying that. Do you -- off the top of your head,
12 do you have any idea of a rough number of what you do have
13 so far this year, just roughly? About 250, 230?

14 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Twenty-something less than
15 50.

16 MR. OWEN: Okay. So it's within line with
17 last -- the previous year --

18 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Yes.

19 MR. OWEN: -- you're saying?

20 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Uh-huh.

21 MR. OWEN: Okay, okay.

22 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Yes. And we define --
23 those arrests are arrests that are made directly by the
24 task force rather than the collaborative work.

25 MR. OWEN: Yes, ma'am. Okay. Just pardon me

1 while I go up to the stolen vehicle rate. Okay. And
2 1,200 for '18 and then 809 so this year, so -- do those
3 sound accurate --

4 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Yes.

5 MR. OWEN: -- to you?

6 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Uh-huh.

7 MR. OWEN: Thank you. Okay. On your grant
8 application, you're requesting less money than last year.
9 Would you like to expand on why? And if it's already in
10 the application, forgive me, again. I can't remember all
11 the applications.

12 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: They -- we lost the DPS
13 representative on our -- for 2019. So in order to meet a
14 cash match and to provide the services that we needed, we
15 needed to drop that amount down. And on the other hand,
16 Dallas County would put in more funds than previous year.

17 MR. OWEN: I'm not trying to put you on the
18 spot, but with the large number of vehicles that you've
19 recovered, the arrests do seem a little low. I understand
20 with LoJack operations and other different types of
21 things, there aren't a lot of arrests, but being a
22 grantee, it kind of surprises -- and I'm a little tired.

23 Do you have any explanation for the disparity?

24 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: I believe it's the
25 definition of what we've used for an arrest. Our arrests

1 or county -- when we actually put the hands on a suspect
2 and take them to jail, those are the numbers that are
3 reflected there.

4 It does not reflect collaborative arrests,
5 where we may have worked with one of the agencies in our
6 coverage area of the next county that resulted in an
7 arrest.

8 MR. OWEN: There's not a lot of unincorporated
9 area in Dallas County. Is that accurate?

10 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: That is very accurate, in
11 that there is even more unincorporated in areas in other
12 counties, Kaufman, Rockwall, and we also address those
13 areas, and the cities within those other four counties.
14 We work closely with -- very closely with some of these
15 cities within the other counties and others, not so much.

16 But even in those collaborative efforts, those
17 arrests would not necessarily show up on our progress
18 report, because of the way we report it, which how it was
19 in place when I went -- came to the task force two years
20 ago.

21 MR. OWEN: Do you have anything brief you'd
22 like to add regarding your grant?

23 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: I did sign up to speak, and
24 that was to oppose the recommendation by Director Wilson
25 to not fund Dallas County. I would like the ABTPA Board

1 to the authorization, the 725,000, I believe it was. I'm
2 sorry.

3 I don't have that in front of me. But Dallas
4 County is in a unique situation. Most of the area in
5 Dallas County and the other urban counties in that area
6 have been annexed. So 23 years ago, even when we started
7 figuring it -- when it started under the District
8 Attorney's Office, the whole concept was to support and
9 provide services across the jurisdictions.

10 We continue to support and work with other
11 agencies throughout what I call the greater Dallas County,
12 Kaufman County, Collin County, Rockwall County, even
13 Denton County. We continue to provide support there, and
14 we -- you don't see the direct dollars, but funding --
15 Dallas County pays for efforts and services through these
16 other counties that would show in an in-kind, but that's
17 something that hasn't been tracked.

18 And it's important for us to be able to get
19 across to the Board that, even though these numbers within
20 the unincorporated area, which is a very small area, do
21 not represent the services that we provide.

22 It does not represent the needs that are out
23 there for the North Texas area.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Captain, knowing the amount of
25 recoveries that you've done and knowing the amount of

1 arrests, there's room for some tweaking, improvement, to
2 get the number of arrests up, as opposed to just
3 recovering the vehicles.

4 Do you feel that there is a big gap in those
5 numbers and that we can improve those numbers if we fund
6 you for another two, three years?

7 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Yes.

8 CHIEF FOSTER: Most definitely.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

10 MR. OWEN: Thank you, ma'am.

11 CAPT. CARTER-BASS: Thank you.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Richard Hale?

13 SGT. HALE: Thank you, Board, for having me
14 here today. My name is Richard Hale. I'm a sergeant with
15 the Travis County Sheriff's Office. I supervise the
16 Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force, comprised of
17 17 counties. We submitted a grant request for \$673,933.

18 That amount included a pay raise and some DOE
19 expenses. It was a very simple request, and the way that
20 the response has been with the recommended amount by the
21 ABTPA would leave us \$13,762 short on paying our salary
22 obligation.

23 So at a minimum, I would request that we be
24 allowed to meet the minimum salary for all the grantees,
25 and that amount would be \$645,253, and that's all I have.

1 MR. OWEN: Could you repeat that amount please?

2 SGT. HALE: I have it down as 645,253, just to
3 cover the salaries. The other addition to that was for
4 DOE. We incur about \$33,000 a year in expenses. They
5 usually come from program income, and that's not a solid
6 number from year to year.

7 So those services from time to time aren't
8 used. And to answer -- or to address the Board in other
9 area, what the task force does, we do collaborate within
10 all the counties, with the cities that are in our
11 jurisdiction that request our assistance, and we work the
12 IH-35 corridor with the Austin Police Department.

13 We work closely with their bait unit, and we
14 also are concentrated on prolific auto theft offenders and
15 organized crime. We've worked cases with Laredo. And we
16 have -- are still working cases where vehicles are being
17 stolen, taken directly to the border to pick up illegals,
18 human trafficking, coming back to destination points of
19 Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio.

20 And those continue to be a struggle for us, and
21 we've reached out to our partners to try to collaborate
22 even more to conduct LPR operations, interdictions. But
23 all those things take time and money, and you can't really
24 fund those if you don't have the money to do it.

25 MR. OWEN: Your arrests jumped quite a bit in

1 '19 over '18, according to the numbers we have, about four
2 times -- a little over, maybe.

3 SGT. HALE: So we had debate over the
4 statistical gathering of -- when you have an arrest, is it
5 an actual arrest that the task force person touched or was
6 part of, and not that patrol arrest. So we tried to
7 refine that in a way that -- if our investigators were
8 contacted and had some part in that recovery, then they
9 were told to count that.

10 So that might be the spike that is showing, but
11 we're constantly looking at that to make sure that we
12 don't double-dip, so to speak, and count a patrol arrest
13 on a vehicle versus an investigator being involved in that
14 investigation.

15 MR. OWEN: That was my concern. Yeah.

16 SGT. HALE: Yes.

17 MR. OWEN: All right. Thank you.

18 SGT. HALE: Thank you.

19 MR. OWEN: Did you have anything else to say?
20 You signed up.

21 SGT. HALE: No. I just wanted to encourage the
22 Board to consider everyone's request here. I know mine
23 seems inconsequential to what everyone else is asking for,
24 but I think -- you know, one thought pattern might be
25 that -- I know there may be additional funding that is

1 coming.

2 I don't know for sure, but you know, I've spent
3 countless hours at the Capitol with Chairman Hansen to try
4 to make this happen, and again, the funding may or may not
5 happen, but it seems like everyone hears now. We were
6 begging at the Capitol, and now we're begging for money
7 here, and everyone here has been doing a very good job for
8 the most part in doing what the grant has asked them to
9 do: meet the GSAs, meet their targets, be proactive in
10 every way that they can.

11 And if there's a way to perhaps give everyone a
12 starting point, if we do get this funding, that might be
13 something that the Board could consider, and then if the
14 funding does come through, then you have a new starting
15 point to see what we can do with additional funding,
16 opposed to the framework that we're in.

17 We're kind of in that box, where we have to
18 stay within those financial guidelines, and if something
19 changes, it may change the way that everyone operates.
20 That's all I would have to say. Thank you.

21 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Stan Davis?

23 CAPT. DAVIS: Good. I'm Stan Davis. I'm a
24 captain with Mansfield Police Department. I'm also the
25 commander of the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force, where

1 I've served since we've implemented it in 2011, and I just
2 want to say -- I see the recommendation by the ABTPA staff
3 to not fund us.

4 I'm not 100 percent sure why that is. I think
5 it could be in part that, because we have two task forces
6 in North Central Texas that border up to each other. I
7 want to say to you that in no way is there any duplication
8 of any efforts by both of these task forces.

9 We work extremely close together. Probably
10 within every two-week period, we're asking for their
11 assistance or they're asking for our assistance, because
12 we do work so closely together. Now, we do have a couple
13 of cities, Mansfield PD and Burleson.

14 These cities lie both in Johnson and Tarrant
15 counties. So Tarrant County serves Tarrant County. We
16 serve Johnson and Ellis counties, and just the cities that
17 lie just inside Tarrant County. It's just on the southern
18 edge of Tarrant, so it's just a small area.

19 And I would say this. If I saw the
20 recommendation right, it would fund two Mansfield
21 officers. To do away with this task force to me would be
22 disastrous. Our stats -- if you look at our stats,
23 comparative to some of the larger agencies, most agencies
24 in our area, we're pretty comparable.

25 And if you took our numbers, and I'm just going

1 to use a number as -- for fun, for random, but if you took
2 our numbers and we had 1,000 recoveries and 500 arrests,
3 and a neighboring agency had the same numbers, and you did
4 away with our task force and you put us with them, it's
5 not like those two numbers are going to double.

6 Those numbers are going to go away. They're
7 not going to -- that other agencies' numbers are going to
8 stay the same. If they do increase, they're going to be
9 so slight -- they're going to be very marginal. So doing
10 away with our task force would be disastrous.

11 I don't believe we are supplanting. If there
12 are supplanting issues, I believe that we can handle those
13 quite easily. So that's really what I wanted to say.

14 MR. OWEN: Okay. Your request was not three
15 times, but well over what you thought you -- can you real
16 briefly explain the reason for the jump?

17 CAPT. DAVIS: Yes, sir. When I started in
18 2011, it was myself and two other investigators. I
19 remember the first day we sat down, I said, are we going
20 to have enough to keep us busy? And I've been a police
21 officer with Mansfield for 37 years.

22 I've busier than I've ever been in my life.
23 This is insane, what we do. It's not necessarily the
24 cases that come in that victims report, but the things
25 that we do, that we find on our own, that more than

1 likely, outside of law enforcement expertise, no one else
2 would ever find: VIN switches and cars hitting in
3 locations and changing it up.

4 So it's just been astronomically the amount of
5 cases and the workload that our guys have. They love it,
6 but the stress on them is extremely high. Our
7 anticipation was -- let's bring some agencies on. We're
8 obviously going to do more, but we hoped to bring the
9 workload down a little bit more, and at the same time,
10 increase our stats.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Wilson, the numbers on
12 the -- reported by DPS on the City of Mansfield is 145 --
13 I'm sorry -- 140?

14 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It was 140 reported by DPS?

16 MR. WILSON: Was that for Midlothian? Twelve.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For Mansfield.

18 MR. WILSON: Midlothian is 123, Alvarado is 10,
19 Burleson is 52, Kennedale is 17, and Mansfield is 49, for
20 a total of 140.

21 CAPT. DAVIS: Is that for recoveries or is
22 that --

23 MR. WILSON: It's DPS motor vehicle thefts
24 reported.

25 CAPT. DAVIS: Okay. And the numbers we

1 recorded was because we service all of Johnson and Ellis
2 County. We included all of those numbers as well. So
3 the -- I think it's 455 total --

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 445.

5 CAPT. DAVIS: I'm sorry. Yeah. Okay.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you have any task force
7 officer from Burleson?

8 CAPT. DAVIS: Yes, sir.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you, Stan.

10 CAPT. DAVIS: Thank you.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Now, some of you already came
12 over and spoke, but I have a couple of other requests
13 here. And if you already said what you had to say, you
14 can just say, I'm ok. Dana Hitzman?

15 CDR. HITZMAN: I've already spoken.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Shelia Carter? Tim
17 Moon? Marshall? Jerry Sepulveda? And Herschel?

18 SGT. BUCK: I'm Sergeant Buck with the Victoria
19 Police Department. I supervise the Auto Theft Task Force,
20 but I also supervise the Major Crimes Division, which is
21 person crimes, murder, robbery, that kind of stuff. So --

22 DET. SEPULVEDA: I'm Detective Sepulveda,
23 Victoria Police Department.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do you want to talk --

25 SGT. BUCK: Yeah. I appreciate the opportunity

1 to talk to the Board. We appreciate it. I just want to
2 run down a couple things, and I have a couple of them.
3 Starts -- I'll try to be brief. We work mainly the 59/77
4 corridor.

5 Not only do we service obviously the Victoria
6 Police Department, but we cover Dewitt, Lavaca, Calhoun,
7 and Goliad, and Victoria County also, within that area of
8 our coverage. These are the only two specialized, trained
9 detectives that I supervise in auto theft and auto
10 recovery, VIN recovery, those type things.

11 I've been to the specialized training, but I'm
12 not on the grant. I help them when I can, probably a
13 third of my time, which is not listed on the grant right
14 now. Right now, our juggings are skyrocketing. We just
15 did some training in Houston on Monday that was excellent
16 with one of their detectives that specializes in juggings,
17 and we actually caught some a couple weeks ago, learned a
18 lot of stuff.

19 And then we went to the training and learned a
20 lot more, but because of their efforts to catch them and
21 bait them and stuff, obviously they're moving out of the
22 area. We're collaborating with Corpus and departments
23 along that line, so those are on the way up.

24 Without the grant funding, I don't know that we
25 would have the time and opportunity to develop those

1 relationships and spend the time outside of our
2 jurisdiction to combat those type of crimes. We actually
3 had a special operation set up for the day after we caught
4 the juggers, with the help of Wharton County and Victoria
5 County, to work with Corpus and these other jurisdictions
6 in the corridor, because all of the juggers are -- a lot
7 of the juggers are coming out of Houston.

8 The resources and funding is a big deal for us.
9 We're a small department. I feel like if -- or without
10 the grant, we're going to -- obviously, we would -- our
11 guys would focus more on Victoria, not that we wouldn't
12 collaborate.

13 But by focusing more on Victoria, all we're
14 doing is pushing those guys out to these other agencies
15 that we highly collaborate with now, and it's just going
16 to put a bigger burden on them, because now, our --
17 because without the grant, we're focused more on Victoria.

18 Just to give you an idea, within the last year
19 or so, we conducted a special operation with Dimmit --
20 with our -- using our license plate reader, which would go
21 away without the grant, with Dimmit County. That also was
22 Customs and Border Patrol, Homeland Security
23 Investigations, Dimmit County -- were all involved in
24 that.

25 Dimmit County is southeast of Eagle Pass. We

1 went up there and recovered a vehicle out of San Antonio,
2 a vehicle out of Austin, like, the Austin/Travis County
3 supervisor mentioned, that both of those vehicles are
4 stolen and made it across the border and then back for the
5 illegals.

6 Our operation was to hopefully interdict them
7 prior to going across the border, none of which we did,
8 but we learned a lot, and we're hoping to plan another
9 operation with them. Without the grant funding, those
10 type of operations, we would not be able to do.

11 In addition to that, we've also collaborated
12 with Austin PD, Williamson County, Bexar County, DPS,
13 Houston PD on these recent juggings, and those are the --
14 like you talked about, the collaborations are important to
15 us.

16 But with our staffing and budget issues, like a
17 lot of departments have, without the grant funding, some
18 of that's going to go away. Last but not least, we feel
19 like, for the two detectives and what you guys get for the
20 area that we cover, you get the best bang -- you got a lot
21 of bang for your buck.

22 And we're very good stewards of the money that
23 the State gives us to do the best for our partners in our
24 area, and especially given the 59/77 corridor, and now
25 what we're finding out with the 183 corridor running up,

1 because these gangs out of Austin/Williamson County,
2 everything from San Antonio, all the way to Georgetown.
3 And we've met with APD on that, because they're coming to
4 Victoria and committing carjackings and stealing vehicles
5 and getting in pursuits.

6 So that's kind of where we're at. I have more
7 on my list, but I think those are the high points.

8 DET. SEPULVEDA: If I may speak as well? One
9 of the things -- I've been in law enforcement 20 years, 17
10 with the Victoria Police Department. I'm new to ABTPA.
11 I've been on the grant for a year and a half, and of a
12 year and a half, just four months ago, I was assigned the
13 task force manager.

14 So when I did the application, if it's
15 incorrect or not to the standards, I plead ignorance,
16 because this is my first time. The previous grant writer
17 had no input. He just quit. He said he was kind of tired
18 and burned out, so he was burned out, and what happened
19 was -- I was just left there doing this on my own, the
20 first time ever doing it.

21 So if I were to have this little score sheet
22 here, that would have been really, really helpful. I
23 didn't -- I never knew this was around. So this was
24 available. That would have been great for filling out
25 this grant.

1 That would have helped immensely, because I had
2 a lot of questions, and I wasn't sure if I was putting too
3 much, too little. I had never done it before. I
4 basically went off what was done before, the previous five
5 years, and I actually expanded on a lot of it, and now
6 it's -- I'm just kind of worried that it was previously
7 accepted, and it was kind of -- to be honest with you, it
8 was rubber-stamped.

9 And when I went into more detail and expanded
10 on all the activity we were going to -- we are going to
11 increase our activity on 59 and 77, targeting juggings and
12 stolen vehicles. We're going to hit that highway really
13 hard.

14 And you know, the task force guy before had a
15 different mindset. It's me and a new guy, where we're go-
16 getters. We're hard-chargers, and we're out to get the,
17 you know -- we'll get the best bang for your buck. And if
18 this goes away, we won't be able to do that.

19 Those juggings -- there's a lot of preparation,
20 days in advance, before we caught those guys. It was
21 supposed to -- our operation was for Friday, but when they
22 hit us Thursday, we had everything set up, all the
23 contacts up and down 59, even south, if they went south.

24 We made all the efforts. All we did was, get
25 on the phone, say, hey, it's happening today. Let's go.

1 We hit the streets, and through those efforts and all that
2 work, we were able to catch those guys before they made it
3 back to Houston.

4 So that wouldn't be happening if the task force
5 wasn't around. I'd be at my desk looking at videos, and
6 that's our suspect. I could send it to Houston. Maybe
7 they knew who it is. That's it. But there would be no
8 proactivity whatsoever.

9 It would be just all reactive.

10 SGT. BUCK: And to your point, and I think
11 you're kind of seeing a theme here, the way the stats are
12 kept and how we submit them, and they're counted, and how
13 we count arrests and how we count recovered vehicles and
14 things. We -- it's been within the last couple of years.

15 I know Director Wilson tried to address it, but
16 I don't believe we still have a consistent way for all of
17 us to report our stats, to where you guys have a
18 consistent story to go tell the Legislature and stuff on
19 what we're doing and how we're doing it, because we all
20 count them different.

21 Most of the stuff that you have on our grant is
22 our stats within the incorporated city limits of Victoria.

23 To include these other stats, we can do that, but then
24 we're not sure if we're stepping out, and it's going to
25 make the grant get refused because our numbers look really

1 weird like some of these other guys' numbers. And as far
2 as what constitutes an arrest on our part, you know -- if
3 they call us and we collaborate and we help them find a
4 VIN or something like that, you know, do we count that?

5 If we went out there and did that, they're
6 going to count it too, so now are we double-dipping? So
7 the stats is -- to me is a really big deal, on how this
8 stuff is graded and scored, and how you guys, you know,
9 get a handle of what we're doing, especially a small
10 department that has a big footprint in the area.

11 And I didn't even mention 68-A's. If we quit
12 doing them, they're going to have to go to Corpus.
13 They're going to have to go to San Antonio. They're going
14 to have to go somewhere else, because we do not only the
15 on-site, but we do off-sites all over that five-county
16 area.

17 DET. SEPULVEDA: And another thing was the
18 numbers are being reported to DPS. I know we may have low
19 numbers as far as vehicles being stolen, but there's a lot
20 of stolen vehicles that go through Victoria County.
21 You -- 59, and you know, U.S. 59 and 77, that's a major
22 corridor that goes to Mexico.

23 You know, they take the stolens there, and then
24 bring them back, and they're going through our town, and
25 quite often, we have no resources, if this isn't there, to

1 actually go into to catch them, and that's what we have
2 planned.

3 If you look at our grant application, I put in
4 there that we were going to target those major highways,
5 and even if we push them out to the smaller towns, we
6 can -- you know, they are neighboring agencies, so we can
7 help them. But if they start moving out -- Port Lavaca is
8 Calhoun County.

9 A lot of times we find that they take 35, which
10 is up the coast, to bypass 77 and 59. So we can -- if it
11 starts to move that way, we have that jurisdiction, to
12 move over to help those guys, and we have good connections
13 with those guys, that they call us whenever they have a
14 rise or a spike in crimes.

15 So that's just the collaborative issues that we
16 have if that goes away. It just -- it would be -- it
17 just -- it would help out a lot, as far as catching these
18 guys.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let me ask you a question. The
20 assist you did at, you said, Dimmit County?

21 SGT. BUCK: Yes, sir, that's correct.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Would you classify that stat as
23 an assist?

24 SGT. BUCK: We worked with NICB, and like --
25 and that's what got me going. It's an assist. Now,

1 granted, Customs and Border Protection chased those
2 vehicles down, but we went in, did the -- actually the
3 calling to San Antonio and to Travis County or Austin,
4 where they were stolen at, to see when they were stolen,
5 when did we think they went to Mexico, what can we do
6 better to interdict those vehicles?

7 So yes. And the other stat was just an assist.
8 We worked with Israel out of NICB. He was there on scene
9 with us to help us with logistical issues and things like
10 that. But yeah. That's what I'm talking about. We
11 didn't count those as recovered vehicles.

12 We didn't actually stop them, but we went there
13 and actually conducted the investigation on where they
14 came from, you know, talked to APD and talked to San
15 Antonio PD or Bexar County about where they came from, all
16 that kind of stuff.

17 So that -- and that's exactly what I'm talking
18 about.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Herschel.

20 SGT. BUCK: Thank you.

21 DET. SEPULVEDA: Thank you.

22 (Pause.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can we ask Dan's help here on
24 figuring out some numbers?

25 MR. WILSON: Sure. Yeah. Mr. Roden would like

1 to say something, though.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right.

3 MR. RODEN: Just one more thing. I know
4 everybody is pressed for time, but my lovely finance
5 officer wanted me to remind something -- that the money
6 that we've got, the 555 -- that was the cap. And that
7 yes, we are expanding, but that money was capped when it
8 was cut several years ago, and we were normally getting,
9 you know, seven, six, seven, 800,000.

10 And some of that money that we're asking for is
11 just for us to catch up from the inflation that we were
12 from when we were being capped at. The expanding and all
13 that stuff is still taking place. But she wanted me to
14 remind you guys of that.

15 I appreciate it.

16 MR. OWEN: Kenneth, would you come up, please?

17 You signed up to speak.

18 MR. RICHBOURG: Yes. I'd just like to address
19 the --

20 MR. OWEN: I'm sorry. You need to say your
21 name for the record.

22 MR. RICHBOURG: Kenneth Richbourg. I'm with
23 DPS, and I'm the commander of the Smith County East Texas
24 Auto Theft Task Force. I'd just like to talk to you all
25 about the funding issue, like everybody else has. Over

1 the past several years, we've reached out and -- not
2 myself so much, but had my sheriffs and representatives
3 spoken to.

4 They've supported ABTPA. They've filed bills
5 on our behalf, and I think we've had a lot to do with
6 that. The funding level that we have recommended now is
7 quite a bit less than what the current year is. I think
8 for us in our rural East Texas area, that means the loss
9 of an investigator.

10 I know everybody else is facing that problem
11 also. I think -- maybe I'm wrong, but I think in the
12 rural area it's a little more difficult to absorb than it
13 is in a big city. So I would like y'all to consider that.

14 So the amount of loss would probably be the loss of an
15 investigator.

16 So I would just ask that you maintain our
17 funding as close as possible to what it is. Two years
18 ago, I sat here, had the same situation. Although I was
19 going to get additional funding, came back the following
20 day. Learned that it had been dropped again.

21 So I asked that if possible -- that it be
22 maintained so we can maintain our personnel, and we are a
23 multi-jurisdictional task force, which is, I think, what
24 all of y'all have asked us to do. That's all I have.

25 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

1 (Pause.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We'll take a short recess,
3 15 minutes.

4 (A recess was taken.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're going to reconvene at
6 8:43 p.m.

7 Again, this was a very tough -- these numbers
8 are -- you know, I like numbers, but you know, budgeting
9 and numbers, when it comes to money and when it comes to,
10 you know, making cuts -- because we have to make cuts.

11 We're at \$12.2 million for our budget. I know
12 that Director Wilson conveyed to us that last year, the
13 previous biennium, that he had about \$1 million that we
14 were -- it was spent in the past years' grants. So with
15 that in mind, this year, we didn't have that 1 million.

16 So we're back to 12.2. So making the hard
17 decisions as to who was going to get funded and who's not,
18 well, I can tell you that tonight, everybody -- we came to
19 a decision and a recommendation from me and Board member
20 Owen that everyone is going to get funded.

21 The grantees that were with us this past
22 biennium, they're going -- you're going to get funded.
23 There's going to be some cuts. Some are going -- we're
24 going to have to take some cuts, just because we don't
25 have the money that we had last year, the previous

1 biennium.

2 So -- but everybody is going to get money.
3 There's going to have to be some changes, of course, to
4 the grant management of it. But I can tell you tonight,
5 you know, that you -- the grantees that were with us the
6 past fiscal year, you're going to get funded.

7 There is -- the recommendation is going to be
8 put out tomorrow. You should be getting the awards that
9 we're recommending for each entity within the next two
10 hours. That's what Daniel is doing right now.

11 And then that way, you can come back tomorrow,
12 and with the Board in mind, because they're going to have
13 to make also decisions, tough decisions, together as a
14 Board, as to if we're going to move forward with our
15 recommendation or if we're going to have to make some
16 modifications. So I expect for all of you to be here
17 tomorrow, and again, if any Board member has a question,
18 then maybe you can respond to those questions.

19 So again, the tough part was that we only have
20 \$12.2 million, and there has to be some cuts made. And
21 you take into consideration not only, you know, the fact
22 that some people had arrests, some people don't have
23 arrests, or the amount of recoveries -- and we took a lot
24 of things into consideration.

25 But at the end of the day, is -- okay, if we're

1 going to give an agency \$1 million this year but then next
2 year, you're going to have an increase in auto theft, and
3 we're going to give you another \$1 million, and we're
4 going to keep investing in your agency, but then we're not
5 getting a solution, we're not getting a decrease; we're
6 back to the same number or an increase.

7 So we looked at all that. We looked at
8 history, as to how much our money -- what you're doing
9 with the amount of money that ABTPA is giving you, and if
10 we're just recovering vehicles, and we're not making any
11 arrests, then that puts up a red flag for this -- for us
12 and of course for the Board.

13 But at the end of the day, there was a lot of
14 things that we're taking into consideration, not only --
15 you know, this is why we're here tonight, and the fact
16 that there was a mechanism in place to grade each
17 application -- I understand what our counsel said, and I
18 understand what Director Wilson said about the way
19 everything was graded.

20 But I also understand the concept, you know,
21 that when we're -- as law enforcement officers, when we're
22 out there, when we're working with data and when we're
23 working with hotspots, especially in the area of Houston,
24 Dallas, you know, those places where we know that we have
25 to put in the effort and the money to continue decreasing

1 the amount of auto thefts -- you know, I'm not going to --
2 I'm not just going to turn away and say, well, I'm going
3 to go back to what's in here.

4 I can't. We can't. If you want to continue
5 with this mission of reducing the auto theft, you know,
6 we're going to have to make some changes. And tomorrow,
7 with the recommendation, I know that there's going to be
8 some recommendation by staff as to how we're going to
9 change the amount of money that was put in place by your
10 agency in the application, and then the amount of money
11 that was recommended for your agency, what changes we're
12 going to have to make to be able to allocate those funds
13 to y'all.

14 So with that in mind, Justin, do you have
15 anything to say?

16 MR. OWEN: Thank y'all for your patience. I
17 know it's been a long night, and please try to get some
18 rest tonight. I know that may not be easy. I appreciate
19 all the testimony, those of you that testified with
20 passion, and the work that you're doing.

21 We really do appreciate it. Thank y'all, each
22 and every one of y'all.

23 MALE VOICE: For clarity, are y'all emailing
24 out the recommendations in two hours?

25 MR. WILSON: Well, again, this is Bryan Wilson

1 for the record. I just want to be sure that they're not
2 able to take a vote right now. So tomorrow, it will be
3 two members, rather than the Committee. It will be two
4 members of the Committee who will present a slate of
5 recommendations, which I'll send out in about an hour or
6 two.

7 We want to go home, too.

8 MALE VOICE: That's --

9 MR. WILSON: Yeah. We have a distribution
10 list. So if you got the Board packet electronically,
11 you'll get this.

12 MALE VOICE: Okay.

13 MR. WILSON: If you didn't, then I don't know
14 what to tell you. Just get it from somebody -- at this
15 late hour, just please get it from somebody that is
16 getting it. So at that point, you -- there will not be a
17 Committee recommendation as a result of today's --
18 tonight's action.

19 There will be a recommendation by two members
20 of the Committee who will move and second, and then the
21 Board will take up the full deliberation. Does that
22 make -- normally, you would go from a committee
23 recommendation into a Board meeting.

24 This time, it's too complicated. We can't come
25 up with the slate fast enough, so they'll just consider

1 the -- there will be two members of the Board who will
2 present to the full Board tomorrow. Okay? And so keep in
3 mind, this is only a draft of their proposed solution.

4 It's not an official, voted -- it's not an
5 official recommendation of this Committee. Okay? So it's
6 not a done deal until --

7 MALE VOICE: No. The Board --

8 MR. WILSON: It has to go before the Board. So
9 it is only two members that will propose a recommendation
10 of two members. Okay? Thank you.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Does someone want to forgo Item
12 No. 7, No. 8 on the agenda?

13 MR. OWEN: Move to adjourn.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion to adjourn.
15 Meeting adjourned.

16 (Whereupon, at 8:51 p.m., the meeting was
17 adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 MEETING OF: TxDMV ABTPA Grants, Budget & Reports
4 Committee

5 LOCATION: Austin, Texas

6 DATE: July 10, 2019

7 I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
8 numbers 1 through 147, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
9 and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
10 made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before
11 the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

12 DATE: July 18, 2019
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17

18 /s/ Nancy H. King
19 (Transcriber)
20

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