

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

9:00 a.m.
Wednesday,
June 8, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mike Rodriguez, Chair
Charla Brotherton
Julio C. Gonzalez
Sharon Jones
Gilberto Salinas
Patrick "Dean" Smith
Katherine "Kit" Whitehill

STAFF:

Bryan Wilson, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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CLOSED SESSION

none

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 5. | The Board may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551:
Section 551.071
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Mike
3 Rodriguez, and I am pleased to open the Board meeting of
4 the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. It is 9:06
5 a.m., and I'm now calling the meeting for June 8, 2022 to
6 order.

7 I want to note for the record that the public
8 notice of this meeting containing all items on the agenda
9 was filed with the Office of Secretary of State on May 27,
10 2022. I want to welcome those who are with us for today's
11 meeting.

12 Face coverings and social distancing are not
13 required at this meeting, and each individual attending
14 the meeting has a right and responsibility to decide for
15 themselves, based on their personal circumstances. It is
16 your choice.

17 And you are welcome here at this meeting of the
18 MVCPA. Before we begin today's meeting, please call --
19 correction -- please place all cell phones and other
20 communication devices in a silent mode. And please, as a
21 courtesy to others, do not carry on side conversations or
22 other activities in the meeting room.

23 If you wish to address the MVCPA or speak on an
24 agenda item during today's meeting, please complete a
25 speaker's sheet at the registration table. Please

1 identify the specific item you are interested in
2 commenting on, your name and address, and whether you are
3 representing anyone or speaking for yourself.

4 If your comment does not pertain to a specific
5 agenda item, we will take your comment during the general
6 public comment portion of the meeting. We are recording
7 audio and broadcasting audio and video on publicly
8 available links that were posted with this meeting.

9 Comments to the MVCPA are limited to three
10 minutes. Anyone who comments must fill out a comment
11 sheet. Comments must be pertinent to the issue listed on
12 the comment sheet. Everyone who wants to address the
13 MVCPA must be recognized, and always state your name and
14 affiliation for the record.

15 There are a few things that will assist in
16 making the meeting run smoother and assist the court
17 reporter in getting an accurate record. Please ask the
18 Chairman to proceed and be sure to get recognized before
19 speaking.

20 Please identify yourself before speaking.
21 Speak clearly and do not speak over others. I would also
22 like to thank our court reporter who is transcribing this
23 meeting. To make sure we have an accurate recording of
24 this meeting, it is very important that members and anyone
25 presenting today identify themselves before speaking and

1 speak clearly and slowly.

2 Before we begin today, I'd like to remind all
3 presenters and those in attendance of the rules and -- of
4 conduct at our meetings. The Presiding Officer has
5 authority to supervise the conduct of meetings. This
6 includes the authority to determine when a speaker is
7 being disruptive or -- of the meeting or is otherwise
8 violating the timing or presentation rules I just
9 discussed.

10 We'll move on to roll call and establishment of
11 quorum. Now, I'd like to have a roll call of the Board
12 members. Please respond verbally when I call your name.
13 Member Whitehill?

14 MS. WHITEHILL: Present.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Salinas?

16 MR. SALINAS: Present.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Brotherton?

18 MS. BROTHERTON: Present.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Smith?

20 MR. SMITH: Present.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Gonzalez?

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Present.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Member Jones?

24 MS. JONES: Present.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And let the record reflect that

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

2 Please all stand and honor our country and
3 state with the Pledges of Allegiance. I will now turn it
4 over to Member Salinas to lead in the Pledge.

5 (Pledges recited.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas, and
7 thank you, Member Gonzalez, for leading us in the pledges.

8 Agenda Item No. 1.C, approval of transcript for
9 March 2, 2022 meeting as minutes. We will now move to
10 Item 1.C., approval of transcript from March 2, 2022
11 meeting as minutes.

12 Members, are there any edits to the transcript?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will now
15 entertain a motion to approve the March 2, 2022, meeting
16 transcript as minutes. I have a -- do I have a motion?

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Member Gonzalez.

18 I move to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2022,
19 meeting.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
21 Gonzalez. Do I have a second?

22 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill, second.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member
24 Whitehill. Let the record reflect that I, Mike Rodriguez,
25 support the motion. The motion passes.

1 Members, the next item of the agenda is
2 comments from the Board Chairman. I want to welcome the
3 newest Governor-appointed member, Dean Smith from North
4 Richland Hills. Dean is the Manager of the Special
5 Investigations Unit with Farm Bureau Insurance.

6 Mr. Smith, thank you, and welcome.

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much. I appreciate
8 the opportunity.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second, I want to remind
10 everyone that appointed members must complete a State-
11 mandated cybersecurity training each year. Please see the
12 material in the book on page 7 and contact the MVCPA staff
13 if you need assistance.

14 I know some of us, working for the cities, we
15 do go through that cybersecurity training. I know we've
16 done it in the past where we submit that certificate of
17 completion, and that would suffice to make sure that we
18 are going by what the State is mandating.

19 Finally, I want to congratulate Daniel Avitia
20 being selected as the new Executive Director for Texas
21 DMV. We look forward to continuing working together to
22 support each other as partner agencies serving the people
23 of Texas.

24 We will now move to Agenda Item No. 1.E.,
25 comments from Board members. Members, do any of you have

1 any comments to make?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We'll move on.

4 Commendations, Agenda Item No. 1.F,
5 commendations and congratulations. We have two former
6 Board members with us today. Is Ashley here? Okay. How
7 about Shay? Okay.

8 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record.
9 Shay said he was coming, but I don't see him, so --

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. Well, they both had
11 important roles in steering the MVCPA through some of the
12 activities we'll carry out later today. Both served the
13 State by working to improve the accountability and vision
14 of this agency.

15 Ashley Hunter was appointed by the Governor in
16 2013 as an insurance representative and reappointed to the
17 Board in 2019. Having served as a committee chair for the
18 MVCPA Grants, Budgets and Reports Committee, she was
19 instrumental in working with the staff and grantees to
20 ensure processes were a benefit to all of Texas.

21 Ashley is the President of HM Risk Group, an
22 international insurance and reinsurance brokerage. Prior
23 to founding HM Risk Group, Ashley worked in claims
24 management for multiple insurance companies.

25 Ashley, thank you for much for doing what you

1 did with this Board. And you know, the -- I remember when
2 I first saw you under the ABTPA, and I was a sergeant back
3 then, and I know that you always had the tough questions,
4 and I want to thank you for that, because that's what
5 makes us better.

6 And I really appreciate everything you did for
7 us, and I really appreciate when you were here as a Board
8 member, and those phone calls that you made. And again,
9 tough questions, and I really appreciate that, coming from
10 a Board member, because that's always what's going to make
11 us better.

12 And you know -- and at the end of the day, you
13 always, you know, seemed to be that type of person that
14 says, hey, you know what? If we fail, that's only going
15 to make us better. And I really like that about you. So
16 thank you.

17 And I know we have a little something for you.
18 So we're -- yeah.

19 (Pause for presentation and photos.)

20 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, Bryan Wilson for the
21 record. We can just go ahead and read in the record for
22 Mr. Gause --

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For the record. Yes.

24 MR. WILSON: -- and we'll mail his lovely
25 certificate.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So Philip Shay Gause was
2 appointed by the Governor in 2018 as an insurance writer
3 representative. He is currently the Client Success
4 Manager at Verisk. He worked for the United Services
5 Automobile Associations, USAA, as the director of the
6 Special Investigations Unit out of San Antonio.

7 He worked as a law enforcement officer from
8 1993 to 2001. When he began his career in insurance
9 investigations, his new job will keep him in our sphere,
10 since Verisk is an important partner company to law
11 enforcement, since they own the data law enforcement uses
12 to identify -- the data -- correction -- since they own
13 the data law enforcement uses to identify vehicles.

14 Now we turn to honor those who served Texas in
15 their communities. We appreciate the men and women in law
16 enforcement that serve their communities with honor and
17 diligence. We always take time in each Board meeting to
18 make comments or pass to Bryan Wilson for this item.

19 Bryan?

20 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record,
21 MVCPA Director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This meeting --
22 as I've told you in the past, I'd really like to -- we
23 have so many wonderful men and women in law enforcement
24 that serve this organization, that serve their
25 communities, specifically, and that we like to have this

1 part of the Board meeting to just put into the permanent
2 State record that they were here and served, and that we
3 appreciated them.

4 So today, we have -- we want to -- Jose Duran
5 of the Eagle Pass Police Department. He was a corporal --
6 or now, he's promoted to corporal, out of the Auto Theft
7 Unit, 18 years of service in the Houston Police
8 Department, served six years in our Auto Theft Task Force.
9 And we really appreciate his service in Eagle Pass.

10 We also have Sergio Lopez, Jr., El Paso
11 investigator, retired in 2022, this year, February, and
12 then 28 years of service to the El Paso Police Department.
13 And we're really grateful for that time, and most of that
14 is in the Auto Theft Unit.

15 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Bryan. And so is
17 Duran, the corporal from Eagle Pass, he was just promoted?
18 Is -- am I correct?

19 MR. WILSON: Yeah. In that case -- Bryan
20 Wilson for the record. They -- he promoted out of the
21 Auto Theft Unit.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: He promoted out of it?

23 MR. WILSON: Right.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Okay.

25 Members, we will now take up briefing and

1 action items. Agenda Item No. 2, MVCPA Education and
2 Legislative Committee Report. Members, we will now hear
3 the Education and Legislative Committee report.

4 The E&L Committee met on June 1, 2022 here in
5 Austin. The material will be presented by Committee Chair
6 Mr. Salinas and Director Bryan Wilson and designated
7 staff.

8 Chairman Salinas, you have the floor for the
9 E&L Committee report. We will stop, as indicated in the
10 book, to take up actions.

11 MR. SALINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Member
12 Salinas, for the record. The MVCPA Education and
13 Legislative, or that is, the E&L Committee met in a
14 posted, open meeting here in Austin on June 1, 2022, to
15 review material organized by staff after having a general
16 discussion on the MVCPA Board meeting on March 2, 2022.

17 This E&L Committee report is a summary of items
18 reviewed and action items that the E&L Committee
19 recommends that the full MVCPA decide. Before I begin to
20 report, I would like to call your attention to that
21 March 2, 2022, by either memory or by -- or recently
22 adopted transcripts.

23 The Texas DMV staff presented information about
24 the 88th Legislature meeting set to begin in January 2023,
25 and that several things are required of the Texas DMV and

1 the MVCPA prior to the Legislature's commencement. Ms.
2 Glenna Bowman, the CFO of the Texas DMV, explained in
3 March that the MVCPA must communicate the legislative
4 appropriations request and any exceptional items needed to
5 operate programs.

6 Mr. Yawn, of the Texas DMV Governmental and
7 Strategic Communications Division, discussed in March that
8 the Texas DMV has authority to submit operational
9 efficiency suggestions to the Legislature. The Texas DMV
10 processes both of these types of requests and incorporates
11 them into its own request, subject to the Legislature's
12 and State leadership budget submission instructions.

13 Texas DMV also must have its own Board review
14 and organize the entire request prior to submissions. The
15 E&L Committee asks the Board to take action on
16 recommendations or take note of the Committee's
17 recommendations or take note of the Committee's review of
18 the following items.

19 I'll start with Item 2.A and 2.B. Item 2.A,
20 the Committee learned that the Texas DMV included some
21 information about the MVCPA in its statutorily required
22 strategic plan, as shown on pages 13 and 14. And Item
23 2.B. in the Board book, the Committee discussed and made
24 recommendations for the fiscal year 2024-2025 legislative
25 appropriations request baseline, as shown on page 15.

1 The Committee recommends the MVCPA fiscal year
2 2024-2025 baseline legislative appropriations request be
3 \$14,979,605 per year, calculated at \$29,959,210 for the
4 biennium.

5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, for the record,
6 Bryan Wilson. So this is an action item that we're asking
7 the Board to adopt, and I've placed recommended motions on
8 the dais for Members if they want to choose. I rounded
9 off the numbers to -- in the motion there, and I think it
10 will carry the same weight.

11 So if -- at this point, I would call for a
12 motion, Mr. Chairman, on the baseline request, page 15 of
13 your meeting notebook.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So the 29 -- well,
15 29,959.210, that's what we are currently getting right
16 now?

17 MR. WILSON: Right. Under the legislative
18 instructions, every time a new Legislature comes in, the
19 starting point is called, the baseline, and the baseline
20 at this point is shown at the top of page 15 of your
21 board, as what we are allowed to ask for. So --

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And to increase that, that's in
23 another --

24 MR. WILSON: That's -- will be the next motion.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The next motion?

1 MR. WILSON: So we have to follow the
2 instructions of the Legislature on how we approach this.
3 So first, we have to make sure we communicate clearly that
4 we know we want what we had today -- as it's called in the
5 legislative appropriation process, the baseline.

6 And so we will ask for what we have this year
7 in this motion, and then -- and that's the way it has to
8 be filled out in the State's budget system. What is the
9 baseline, 29.959 for the biennium. It, of course, is a
10 breakdown per year -- is also on the top of the page.

11 And we'll take the second motion after that,
12 and that's called the exceptional item -- is what the
13 Legislature calls that.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And I'm trying to ask
15 this question so that everybody --

16 MR. WILSON: Yes. That's fine.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- that's in attendance can
18 understand what this is.

19 MR. WILSON: We're trying to explain and make
20 sure everybody's on the --

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

22 MR. WILSON: -- got the --

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Perfect. Okay. Do I have a
24 motion on Agenda Item 2.B.?

25 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. I think you have to

1 call for a motion, Mr. Chairman.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll call for a motion. I move
3 that the MVCPA --

4 MR. WILSON: Call for somebody else --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Do I have a motion for
6 Agenda Item 2.B.?

7 MR. WILSON: Right. But you need to call
8 the -- I mean, the -- this is a Committee motion --

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

10 MR. WILSON: -- that's already been heard by
11 the Committee. You can ask legal counsel if that's
12 sufficient, because the Committee has actually recommended
13 this action. So that's what Mr. -- Chairman -- Committee
14 Chairman Salinas has done. So --

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So do I have a motion?

16 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I make a
17 motion that we move that the MVCPA Board adopt the FY '24-
18 '25 baseline legislation appropriations request of
19 \$14,979,650 per year, calculated at 29 million and some
20 change for the biennial.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
22 Brotherton. Do I have a second?

23 MS. JONES: Member Jones, for the record.
24 Second.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any further discussion

1 on this item, Members?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll call for the vote. Member
4 Gonzales?

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzales, yea.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I'll take it back. All
7 those in favor?

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, motion passes.

12 Moving over to Agenda Item 2.C, discuss and
13 consider recommendations and exceptional item request for
14 the full appropriation of 20 percent of the amount
15 collected by the MVCPA. Chairman Salinas?

16 Director Wilson?

17 MR. WILSON: Yes, please. For the record,
18 could you go ahead and call that the motion passed,
19 please? Just go ahead and call -- it was -- I think it
20 sounded unanimous.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion on Agenda Item 2.B --

22 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- passed by unanimous.

24 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Mr. --

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We'll go back to Agenda

1 Item 2.C, discuss and consider recommendations and
2 exceptional item request for the full appropriation of
3 20 percent of the amount collected by the MVCPA. Chairman
4 Salinas, Director Wilson?

5 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.
6 Items 2.C(I) and 2.C(ii). As the Authority's main
7 priority, the E&L Committee discussed an exceptional item
8 request for the full appropriation of 20 percent of the
9 amount collected by the MVCPA and shown on page 14 of your
10 Board Book.

11 The Committee recommends the MVCPA fiscal year
12 '24-'25 legislative appropriations exceptional request of
13 20 percent of the MVCPA fee collected, which is estimated
14 to be an additional \$6,964,210 for fiscal year '24 and
15 \$7,288,503 for fiscal year '25, calculated at \$14,252,714
16 for the biennium.

17 Further, the Committee recommends the MVCPA
18 request fiscal year '24-'25 legislative appropriations
19 exceptional item estimated appropriations based on the
20 MVCPA fee collected through a rider or indicated in the
21 Texas DMV bill pattern.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas.
23 Board members, are there any questions?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have anybody for public

1 comment on this item?

2 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on 2.C(I)
4 and (ii)?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, Member Whitehill.
6 I move that the MVCPA Board adopt the fiscal year '24-'25
7 legislative appropriations exceptional item request to be
8 20 percent of the MVCPA fee collected, as required in
9 statute, which is estimated to be an additional
10 6.9 million for fiscal year '24, and 7.2 million for
11 fiscal year '25, calculated at 14 million for the
12 biennium.

13 Further, I move that the MVCPA Board request a
14 fiscal year '24-'25 legislative appropriations exceptional
15 item to establish an estimated appropriation for MVCPA,
16 that the estimate be based on the fee collected each year,
17 and that the estimate is established through a rider or
18 shown in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicle bill
19 pattern.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion from Member Whitehill.
21 Do I have a second?

22 MR. SMITH: Second. Member Smith.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion from Member Whitehill.
24 A second from Member Smith. All those in favor, please
25 say aye.

1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, please say
3 nay.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that
6 that the -- that I, as Chairman Rodriguez, also vote for
7 this item. Motion passes.

8 Item 2.C(iii), discuss and consider
9 recommendations related to the possibility of MVCPA
10 appropriations being deposited into a dedicated account.

11 Mr. Chairman Salinas, Director Wilson?

12 MR. SALINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Member
13 Salinas. The following item was included with the
14 appropriations exceptional item request that's shown on
15 page 16. In fact, this would be a statutory change.

16 The Committee entertained discussion related to
17 the possibility of MVCPA appropriations being deposited
18 into a dedicated account in the Texas DMV Fund, or Fund
19 10, or its own new dedicated account. While the Texas DMV
20 may decline to take up this matter at this time, the Board
21 would be taking the position to request that a dedicated
22 account be restored for MVCPA appropriations.

23 The E&L Committee recommends the MVCPA request
24 Texas DMV submit a statutory change on its behalf to the
25 88th Legislature to deposit MVCPA statutory or

1 appropriated funds into a dedicated account or a dedicated
2 sub-account in the Texas DMV Fund.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas.

4 Questions from any of the Board members?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any public comments on
7 this item, Yessenia?

8 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on Agenda
10 Item 2.C.(iii)?

11 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, for the record.

12 Members, do you have a motion on this particular agenda
13 item? If so, please state the motion. Thank you.

14 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. I move that the
15 MVCPA Board request in fiscal year '24-'25 the legislative
16 appropriations exceptional item that the 88th Legislature
17 provide -- that's the wrong --

18 FEMALE VOICE: That's the wrong one.

19 MR. SMITH: That's the wrong one.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
21 Smith. Do I have a second?

22 MS. BENAVIDES: Stand by, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Yes. I think we're on
24 2.C. --

25 MR. SMITH: Yeah. We have a motion missing

1 somewhere.

2 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, for the record,
3 General Counsel. Members, we just need a second to Dean
4 Smith's motion, please.

5 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I'll
6 second.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion from Member Smith.

8 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. Mr. Richards, this
9 is for the dedicated account?

10 MR. RICHARDS: This is for Item 2.C(iii).

11 MR. SMITH: (iii)? Okay.

12 MR. RICHARDS: Yes.

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR. RICHARDS: You're welcome.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have a --

16 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, this is Bryan
17 Wilson.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes?

19 MR. WILSON: May I be recognized? So yes.
20 The -- it looks the sample motions here were out of whack.
21 So what the Committee was recommending was that we --
22 that the MVCPA adopt a dedicated account, the request for
23 a dedicated account from the 88th Legislature.

24 I apologize for the confusion here. So -- but
25 that's what -- I think that's what Mr. Smith was trying to

1 do, when he realized and said, wait, this is wrong. So --

2 MR. SMITH: Yes.

3 MR. WILSON: -- I don't want that to be the
4 motion, so -- when we go back and look at the transcript.

5 So go ahead, Mr. Smith.

6 MR. SMITH: That is my intention with the
7 motion.

8 MR. WILSON: Okay. So the motion is --

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is for the dedicated account?

10 MR. WILSON: -- what the Committee has
11 recommended, the E&L Committee has recommended, that the
12 MVCPA request from the 88th Legislature -- I'll go ahead
13 and read it into the record -- that the MVCPA be provided
14 a dedicated account to deposit all appropriations, or
15 in -- I'll stop there, appropriations.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Wilson, for the
17 clarification.

18 MR. WILSON: So then --

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can we --

20 MR. WILSON: -- now, if you don't mind, Mr.
21 Chairman, I'm sorry. I messed this up. So Mr. Smith,
22 that's your motion?

23 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. That is the motion
24 that I --

25 MR. WILSON: And Ms. Brotherton, is that your

1 second?

2 MS. BROTHERTON: Yes, sir.

3 MR. WILSON: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we have a motion from Board
5 Member Smith and a second from Member Brotherton on the
6 appropriations being deposited into a dedicated account.
7 That is the item. All those in favor, say aye.

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, say nay.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
12 Mike Rodriguez, support this motion. Motion passes
13 unanimately. I would like to ask for a quick break,
14 10-minute break, before we proceed.

15 (Whereupon, a short recess was held.)

16

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It is 9:49 and we're coming
18 back to open session. Let the record reflect that Member
19 Jones stepped out of the room.

20 We are passing on item 2.C(iv), and moving on
21 to Item 2.C(v), discuss and consider recommendations and
22 increases in full-time employees for the MVCPA. I call on
23 Committee Chair Salinas and Director Wilson.

24 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chair, for the record, Member
25 Salinas. The E&L Committee discussed the increase in

1 full-time employees or FTEs for the MVCPA, as shown on
2 pages 17 through 18 of your Board book.

3 Ms. Glenna Bowman, the CFO for Texas DMV,
4 described to the Committee how an increase in FTEs would
5 be a part of the exceptional item request for the full
6 appropriation of the 20 percent of the amount collected by
7 the MVCPA. This item would involve collaboration with
8 Texas DMV to determine the staffing request, and Director
9 Bryan Wilson would report back to the Board.

10 The E&L Committee recommends the MVCPA request
11 Texas DMV to submit a request for up to six additional
12 full-time employees or FTEs on its behalf to the 88th
13 Legislature, of which three positions would be grant and
14 law enforcement program management, and three positions
15 for fee collections to improve collected amount and
16 increase accountability for payors.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas. Do
18 I have any questions from Board members on this item?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comment on this
21 item, Yessenia?

22 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion for Item
24 2.C(v)?

25 MS. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chairman, Member Whitehill,

1 for the record. I move that the MVCPA Board request a
2 fiscal year '24-'25 legislative appropriations exceptional
3 item to the 88th Legislature to provide six additional
4 full-time employees, three positions for grant and law
5 enforcement program management and three positions for fee
6 collections to improve collected amount and increase
7 accountability for payors.

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

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I second.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
12 Whitehill, a second from Member Gonzalez. All those in
13 favor, please say aye.

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, say --
16 please say nay.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that I,
19 Mike Rodriguez, support the motion. Motion passes.

20 Items 2.C(I) to (iv)? This is done?

21 Okay. I call on Item 2.D(v), discuss and
22 consider recommendation related to Bait Car Coordination
23 program. Member Salinas, Director Wilson?

24 MR. SALINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
25 record, Member Salinas. In item 2.D(v), the statutory

1 related to the Bait Car Coordination program, as shown on
2 pages 23 through 24 of your Board packet. Director Bryan
3 Wilson briefed the Committee on how the MVCPA is not
4 listed as an agency that can own vehicles.

5 There are grant-funded bait vehicles that the
6 MVCPA owns through their grant program. Texas DMV and the
7 MVCPA could work together and manage the Bait Car program
8 if they ask the Legislature to add the Texas DMV to its
9 own alias title statutes.

10 This legislative change would be necessary for
11 the creation of a statewide Bait Car program. Under such
12 a program, the State could manage the transfer of bait
13 vehicles across police departments and sheriffs' offices.

14
15 The E&L Committee recommends that the MVCPA
16 asks Texas DMV to examine whether alias titles can be
17 issued to Texas DMV-owned and/or manage some vehicles and
18 consider submitting a statutory change in determined -- if
19 determined that the alias titles cannot be issued to Texas
20 DMV on behalf of a Coordinated Bait Car program for law
21 enforcement agencies.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Salinas.
23 Board members, are there any questions?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do we have any public comment

1 on this item?

2 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on Agenda
4 Item 2.D(v)?

5 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. I move that the
6 MVCPA Board request Texas DMV to examine the issue of an
7 MVCPA Coordinated Bait Car program for law enforcement
8 agencies and consider submitting a statutory change to
9 allow Texas DMV to issue alias titles to itself for law
10 enforcement purposes if it cannot.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I have a motion from
12 Member Smith. Do I have a second?

13 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. Second.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion from Member Smith,
15 second by Member Whitehill. All those in favor, please
16 say aye.

17 (A chorus of ayes.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

19 (No response.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that
21 that I, Mike Rodriguez, support the motion. Motion
22 passes.

23 Agenda Item No. 3, MVCPA Grant Budget and
24 Reporting Committee Report. Members, we will now hear
25 Grant -- Grants Budget and Reporting Committee report.

1 The GBR Committee met on June 7, 2022, here in Austin.

2 The material will be presented by Committee
3 Chairman Gonzalez and Director Bryan Wilson and designated
4 staff. Chairman Gonzalez, you have the floor for the GBR
5 Committee report.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Member
7 Gonzalez, for the record. As you stated, we met -- the
8 Grants Budget and Reporting Committee met yesterday to
9 discuss various items.

10 And I'll just kind of go over a general
11 overview of the particulars that we discussed, and I think
12 we can go into each one in greater detail as we move
13 through it.

14 One of the items that we took a look at is the
15 proposed budget for the upcoming year that was presented
16 by Director Wilson and his staff. In addition to that, we
17 also took a look at a travel reimbursement for Rapid
18 Response Strike Force grants to fully be able to reimburse
19 our task force officers for when they are traveling across
20 the state to provide TCOLE training, specifically with
21 respect to the fraud-related UUV training that the Houston
22 PD has had tremendous success with. In addition to that,
23 we took a look at Corpus Christi's request for a Rapid
24 Response Strike Force grant.

25 One of the larger items that I am extremely

1 proud of the Committee for taking a look at is for the
2 upcoming MAG grants. We were able to receive 43
3 applications for the MAG grants that will fund license
4 plate readers throughout the state of Texas, and we are
5 looking at establishing one of the largest networks of
6 license plate readers throughout the entire state.

7 This information, this license plate reader
8 data, we're going to make every effort that we can to
9 share that intelligence with our task forces, so that when
10 they are investigating vehicles that are stolen, they can
11 ask the LPR data from this large network of license plate
12 readers.

13 And in addition to that, we gain a significant
14 number of stakeholders into the MVCPA. So extremely proud
15 of the work the Committee did with respect to that.

16 And lastly, we took a look at our PEPA grant,
17 which is going to provide outreach and awareness for motor
18 vehicle theft. And what I'm excited for this PEPA grant
19 is, specifically, it is -- it has kept up with the times,
20 and I say that because one of the charges that they are --
21 that we'll be tasked with is reaching out to social media
22 influencers.

23 And these influencers, in this day and age,
24 have tremendous ability to carry forward the message that
25 has been tasked to us by the State Legislature. And so I

1 think that it's going to definitely going to be able to
2 carry our message forward and reach our intended
3 audiences.

4 I turn the floor back over to you, Mr. Chair.

5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman? Okay. Bryan
6 Wilson, for the record. Thank you, Chair -- Committee
7 Chairman Gonzalez for the overview of the report.

8 We'll go back now and pick up many of the
9 action items he just described. Sorry we didn't get to
10 lay out this part of the agenda quite as well, as we had a
11 week to work on Mr. Salinas's. So the -- we just finished
12 this Grants Budget meeting last night.

13 So the -- I wanted to go ahead and just then
14 back up to page 26, and call the Board's attention to page
15 26. And we'll start taking up the individual items if
16 you're okay with me, sort of, coordinating the rest of
17 this?

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So this is the discussion on
19 Agenda Item 3.A? Correct?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We're moving over to --

21 MR. WILSON: Yes, uh-huh.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- Agenda Item 3.A, discuss and
23 consider recommendations for fiscal year 2021 and fiscal
24 year 2022 budget.

25 MR. WILSON: Correct. Okay. So what you see

1 here is, you know -- when we -- so last -- I guess it was
2 June 30 of last year, we adopted the budget that you're
3 looking at, at the top of the page 26.

4 We thought we were going to try to hire a
5 contractor to help us with fee collections. It takes a
6 lot of work to fill out those forms and find a contractor.

7 And we just didn't have the capacity to do that this
8 year. So we had money set aside to buy -- what do you
9 call it -- marketing items, tape measures, squishy cars,
10 things that we give out, that our task forces give out.
11 We bought -- made some small purchases, but when we tried
12 to do a large purchase to catch up from the -- from FY '20
13 and '21, where we -- our supplies had diminished, we had
14 quite a bit of problems with new -- apparently, the bids
15 that we went out for three years ago or two years ago were
16 no longer valid.

17 And so we were going to have to go out for all
18 new bids, so -- even though those bids took a year and a
19 half to do. So we weren't going to buy anything.

20 So what I'm asking the Board to do -- a few
21 weeks ago, in March, when we met, I gave you a budget of
22 about \$250,000 for the MAG grant. And so what we're going
23 to do, on the -- on page -- or what I'm asking the Board
24 to do, on page 26, is take -- I've taken all the
25 categories where I think I have money that I'm not going

1 to spend between now and the end of the year, and I'm
2 pushing them into the grants category.

3 That's the middle table of the -- the middle
4 table on page 26. And so that when we get ready to
5 discuss some of these other items over the next few
6 minutes, we'll have the money in the right place to make
7 these awards.

8 So the Committee voted yesterday to recommend
9 that the budget in the middle of the table on page 26,
10 called, "Proposed FY '22 Budget" -- probably should be
11 revised or proposed new or whatever. But anyway, it says,
12 "Proposed FY '22 Budget."

13 We're asking that the Board make that our
14 current budget.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Are there any questions
16 for Committee Chair Gonzalez or Mr. Wilson?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, are there any public
19 comments on this agenda item?

20 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Do I have a motion on
22 Agenda Item 3.A.?

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, Mr. Chairman,
24 for the record. I move that the MVCPA Board adopt the
25 proposed FY '22 budget, showed on page 26 of the meeting

1 book.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion has been made by Member
3 Gonzalez. Do I have a second?

4 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I second.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion has been seconded by
6 Member Brotherton. Is there any other further discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Hearing none, I will
9 call for the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say
10 aye.

11 (A chorus of ayes.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record -- I, Chairman
15 Rodriguez vote aye. The motion passes.

16 Is there any further discussions on this
17 matter, on this agenda item?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion passes.

20 Discuss -- Item 3.B(I), discuss and consider
21 recommendations to Rapid Response Strike Force Grant
22 Program, policy change regarding travel for grantee
23 officers and agencies conducting MVCPA-sponsored TCOLE
24 training.

25 Chairman Gonzalez, Director Wilson.

1 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
2 Wilson, for the record.

3 So remember, the Rapid Response Strike Force is
4 a pretty new concept. We were looking for ways to augment
5 our existing task forces and provide them resources to
6 respond to kind of on-the-ground, quick items that were
7 going beyond their current capacity or what we're
8 generally funding.

9 So we started in 2019 and then pretty much
10 missed 2020, but in '21, we did several where you
11 authorized many jurisdictions that didn't have automatic
12 license plate readers, or in Laredo, we did an overtime
13 operation where we paid overtime for officers to look for
14 stolen cars used in human smuggling.

15 So you know, they've been -- we've done some
16 throughout the state for some, you know, really high --
17 intense programs. So what we -- I know Houston did one, a
18 small one, for fraud that was really, really successful.
19 It netted several hundred.

20 We spent, you know, basically \$2,500 and
21 recovered almost half a million dollars' worth of stolen
22 equipment and vehicles. So it's a good Return on
23 Investment (ROI) for us when officers can do these kind of
24 specialized programs. But what we learned in pilot
25 programs is, we set a policy and then we find that there's

1 little issues with the policy.

2 And so one of the things that Chairman
3 Rodriguez did last year after we went and spoke at the Tax
4 Assessor-Collectors Conference is, we made an adjustment
5 to this policy a few months ago to allow our task forces
6 to do training for tax assessor-collectors throughout the
7 state.

8 We were trying to do some TCOLE training
9 through our processes, but we found that in some cases, if
10 we use what is called the Direct State Contract with a
11 trainer, that their department will require them to take
12 leave, even though the training would technically be their
13 official duty for conducting training.

14 So what we're asking is a slight modification,
15 that when we ask an officer in one of our task forces who
16 have the most experience in this realm to conduct a
17 training, that we're changing our policy to allow us to
18 give the department a Rapid Response Strike
19 Force grant to pay 100 percent of the travel cost when
20 they're doing a training that we're authorizing.

21 I want to be clear about that. This is not any
22 TCOLE training anywhere in the world. It's a training,
23 like we have our own.

24 The Board adopted an intermediate motor vehicle
25 investigator training class. We have the advanced class.

1 And we've approved -- I told you at the March meeting.
2 We had approved for a fraud class that we had adopted as
3 one of our -- to train law enforcement agencies for -- to
4 fight dealer -- fraud and dealer, used cars and new car
5 sales.

6 So that's an approved training in our
7 portfolio. So when we ask them to train for us, then
8 we'll pay the travel for that through the grant so they
9 don't have to take leave. Are there any questions about
10 that?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: This is Chairman Rodriguez.
12 Director Wilson, how many structures do we have throughout
13 the --

14 MR. WILSON: Well --

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- task forces?

16 MR. WILSON: -- they change. I mean, we try to
17 bring new people in. I mean, I'd love to get somebody
18 from Laredo, but right now, I know we've got Matt Peterson
19 here.

20 I think Mansfield has provided -- I don't know
21 if Jim does it or somebody in Mansfield also does it. We
22 have two or three out of -- who else do we have? What
23 other jurisdictions? But we've been trying to build that.

24 Part of my deal with DPS when we first took
25 over this was to try to get, you know, officers from

1 throughout the state to do the training. So we try not --
2 I mean, we, in Harris County, had a bunch of officers that
3 were doing the training in Houston PD.

4 So wherever we have the training, we try to
5 minimize the travel. So we use -- when we're in
6 Metroplex, we use people in North Texas. When we're in
7 Houston, we try to use people in Houston.

8 MALE VOICE: And NICB also.

9 MR. WILSON: But then -- and then the NICB pays
10 for their own travel. That was part of our deal with them
11 supporting our training. But yes, we -- but it's always
12 minimized.

13 But we just don't want -- like, the dealer
14 fraud, for instance, was -- we did it in Dallas. We did
15 it in --

16 MALE VOICE: San Antonio.

17 MR. WILSON: -- San Antonio. And we're going
18 to do it in Austin. And we want to be able to reimburse
19 the City of Houston for that officer's travel, because
20 he's the only guy that's doing that training right now.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: How many -- you said we're
22 having an intermediate and advanced, and now we're adding
23 a fraud-related --

24 MR. WILSON: Right. A few months ago, I
25 reported to the Board that we had adopted a fraud training

1 developed by our task force in Houston, that we provided
2 the TCOLE certification, because I'm also -- I also serve
3 as the DMV's TCOLE curriculum advisory board chairman.

4 So DMV has a contract with TCOLE, another State
5 agency, to allow us to certify certain law enforcement
6 trainings. And so I work with DMV to make sure that we
7 have a cadre -- that DMV has a cadre of trainings, but
8 then, within that, MVCPA has its own trainings as well.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And these instructors,
10 they submit a curriculum as to what they're teaching?

11 MR. WILSON: We manage all that here at the
12 office. We have -- the training that we do on the
13 intermediate and advanced, that is managed here in this
14 office under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Crime
15 Prevention Authority. And that curriculum and the bios
16 and all that documentation is maintained in our office,
17 and the content. So --

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. What is the required
19 training that -- once a task force officer is assigned to
20 a specific task force, what is the required training from
21 MVCPA? Is there any requirement or is it just through
22 TCOLE or through a specific agency?

23 MR. WILSON: Well, yeah. So if a -- if one of
24 our task forces hires a new -- or brings in a new officer
25 into their department or into the task force, they're

1 supposed to get them into the intermediate class as fast
2 as they can.

3 We -- the reason it's not called, you know --
4 it used to be called beginning, but we were like, well,
5 they're already investigators. To get the job, you had to
6 be an investigator to walk in the door. So there's no
7 sense in saying it's the beginning investigator training.

8 So what we call it is intermediate. DPS called
9 it Auto Theft 1, Auto Theft 2. We just -- when the Board
10 told me, you know, whatever, five, six years ago to start
11 taking this on, we took DPS's material. We got with our
12 task forces.

13 So every new officer is supposed to go to the
14 intermediate. And then we're -- then whenever they're
15 available, we don't -- the advanced are much more harder
16 to do. They're limited on where we can do them, because
17 of the -- I won't say on the record, but there's only one
18 or two places in Texas we can have the kind of equipment
19 and vehicles, get access to unlimited number of vehicles
20 and -- but there's a company in Texas that has, for the
21 last 20 years, been providing the support for that
22 training for the advanced, to be able to identify.

23 MALE VOICE: For hands-on?

24 MR. WILSON: For hands-on training. So when we
25 can do those, then -- so that's what we require in our

1 task forces is intermediate and then advanced. And then
2 as I told you, about a year -- I don't know -- seven
3 months ago, we approved a new training that our task
4 force, for -- specifically for dealer fraud, used and new
5 car dealer, police officers dealing with those kind of
6 frauds. So --

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And where I'm going with
8 this -- I would like to -- I don't know that the -- I
9 don't know if it's something that we need to bring back,
10 as far as a curriculum goes, but training on the VCC --

11 MR. WILSON: Okay.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- the intermediate, as soon as
13 they join a task force, to make sure that they're trained
14 on VCC. The other thing, also, the nexus that auto theft
15 continues to have with violent crime, the nexus that auto
16 theft continues to have with officer safety, everything
17 that is all the moving parts that have been, you know,
18 happening these past years, you know, we need to update
19 that curriculum and make sure that our task force officers
20 and agents or investigators are up to date on all that,
21 especially on the current trends.

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I don't know if that is taught
24 in the intermediate or the advanced, but if -- I do want
25 to bring it back to see what kind of curriculum -- what is

1 it that we're teaching our task force officers? What is
2 it that we're requiring from them?

3 Especially on the VCC, it is something that
4 is -- that needs to happen. Communication, intelligence
5 sharing is key for us to succeed.

6 MR. WILSON: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. That's
7 not part of this meeting, but we can look at that and
8 bring back some suggestions or some ideas, as you were
9 talking, that I think we could make a big -- we could
10 actually do a beginning auto theft investigator class,
11 which is the VCC. So let me work on that.

12 But for today, the recommendation is that we
13 allow for Rapid Response Strike Force to include the
14 training of officers for TCOLE -- in other words, only
15 TCOLE approved by MVCPA Director, which I do that on your
16 behalf -- and that we would reimburse the Department 100
17 percent of the travel when they're doing it for us.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

19 MR. WILSON: So --

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And again, you know, we -- this
21 is something that is for discussion, for later to discuss.

22 MR. WILSON: Right.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You know, but reaching out to
24 the boots on the ground, making sure that, you know,
25 whatever they're seeing out there and they want to know

1 more about, to make sure we bring it to those trainings.

2 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'll just add one more
3 thing. For an officer to get the unlimited access to the
4 databases that are required to identify vehicles, called
5 SVIN and ISO, they have to complete these trainings. And
6 if they don't, then they have to have another type of
7 training offered by National Insurance Crime Bureau, one
8 of our partners, who trains most -- 17 of our 32 hours in
9 our training are provided by the National Insurance Crime
10 Bureau, and then the rest is filled in.

11 We don't pay NICB anything. They take care
12 of -- that's their deal to us, is always take care of it.

13 But the officer cannot get the ISO and SVIN access, the
14 unqualified, full access for manufacturer certificates,
15 certificates of origination, all the things that an
16 officer needs -- they can't get that without going through
17 this class, or we have to make arrangements within NICB
18 for that officer to attend ours.

19 And we still make them come back and do the
20 full class with us. Okay. So I want to be clear that
21 that is a critical part of being an auto theft
22 investigator.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Board members, any
24 questions?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

2 MR. WILSON: So I'll recommend a policy change,
3 as provided on page 28 through 31.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any public comments on
5 this, Yessenia, on this item?

6 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So a motion on Agenda Item
8 3.B.) (i)?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Member Gonzalez,
10 for the record. I move that the MVCPA Board amend the
11 Rapid Response Strike Force policy to allow task force
12 grantees to apply for travel at 100 percent reimbursement
13 for their officers to conduct TCOLE or TAC training that
14 is approved by the MVCPA Director.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

16 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I second.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion has been made and
18 seconded. Is there any further discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
21 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote

1 aye. The motion passes.

2 Okay. Moving on to Agenda Item 3.B.(ii),
3 fiscal year 2022, Rapid Response Strike Force grant to
4 Corpus Christi.

5 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Bryan Wilson, for the record. I do want to point out on
7 the next agenda item is an error in the posting or the
8 creation. I don't know.

9 So -- but we're going to do this item, but
10 just -- I just want to call your attention that the next
11 item on the agenda is taken care of in both of the things
12 we've just done, so that's why you see it stricken in your
13 book at the beginning of the cover page.

14 So I call your attention to page 34. Page 34
15 is the Rapid Response Strike Force application from the
16 City of Corpus Christi. And so the Rapid Response Strike
17 Force -- so it's 3.C -- is the error.

18 I just wanted to make sure. 3.C is the error.

19 So strike through on your agenda. Okay.

20 So we have Corpus Christi here, if you need any
21 questions about the details of this grant. But just a
22 high level -- what they're asking for is -- there's a lot
23 of auto theft. There's a big spike in auto theft. Again,
24 the Rapid Response Strike Force is to try to deal with
25 exigent or emergency situations in jurisdictions.

1 The issue is that a lot of vehicles that are
2 stolen in Houston or parts north are coming through
3 Corpus, getting to -- trying to get to the border. It is
4 a major thoroughfare. So what they're offering to do is
5 asking us to buy some ALPRs within -- with this Rapid
6 Response Strike Force.

7 They are designated by the Legislature as a
8 border and port jurisdiction for our funds. So we've
9 adopted a policy that they can request 100 percent funding
10 for this, for these items. And then they're also asking
11 to work with their surrounding areas to provide these
12 ALPRs in their jurisdiction and around -- or surrounding
13 areas, in their own vehicles.

14 So they're not going to, like, give the ALPRs
15 to other people. But they're going to use them across the
16 whole area. And then they're going to run overtime with
17 their responses to these.

18 Because one of the problems is when you get all
19 these hits, sometimes you've got to -- I mean, who's going
20 to go, you know -- I mean, Joe's through at 2:00, and
21 Billy's through at -- you know, at 4:00. And who's left
22 to do this? Well, we're going to pay overtime to go find
23 and recover these vehicles.

24 So it's a pretty good program, that -- it's
25 consistent with what we would normally fund, adding to --

1 remember the Rapid Response is only available to our task
2 forces, and it's only an augmentation to respond to
3 immediate and exigent circumstances.

4 I think they've made their case in this
5 application, and I recommend that we fund the \$57,925 to
6 the City of Corpus Christi to operate this program.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Director Wilson, I have a
8 question. How many -- do we have a year-to-date as far as
9 how this goes for Corpus Christi?

10 MR. WILSON: Like I said, I have them here
11 today, if you want them to respond.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is Corpus here?

13 MR. WILSON: Lerma and Tuley, do y'all -- do
14 you want to say anything to that, Lieutenant?

15 LT. TULEY: Lieutenant Mark Tuley, City of
16 Corpus Christi, Auto Theft Task Force Commander. And I'm
17 sorry. What was your question, sir?

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: LT, how many -- year-to-date,
19 how many auto thefts do you have?

20 LT. TULEY: Year-to-date? I'm sorry, sir. I'm
21 going to have to -- my internet's not working here, and I
22 brought my phone. So I apologize.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No.

24 LT. TULEY: We do have a 15 percent increase
25 over last year. I know that offhand, but I don't have my

1 exact numbers in front of me.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's 15?

3 LT. TULEY: Yes.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: One five?

5 LT. TULEY: Yes.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

7 LT. TULEY: And what we're trying to do is get
8 with our outlying areas, San Patricio County and Nueces
9 County. And we're in the process of trying to add Live
10 Oak County as a covered agency also. That's why we are
11 asking for the three mobile ALPR readers that can be used
12 in those areas also.

13 Live Oak doesn't have any coverage agency right
14 now, and we're trying to add them so we can try to help
15 them out. That covers I-37, and most of our stolen
16 vehicles are going up that way or coming from that
17 direction.

18 And we have already gotten with some of the
19 county officers there and given them access to our HIDTA
20 information, and they've already recovered vehicles using
21 that just in the last month. And so I do believe this
22 will be very successful.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You said they're coming from
24 what jurisdiction?

25 LT. TULEY: From Live Oak County on I-37.

1 That's just north of us. And so San Patricio County is
2 the county directly north of us, but it's real short.

3 And right above that is Live Oak County. And
4 that covers a big span, all the way up towards Pleasanton
5 and that area. And so we have a very high level of stolen
6 vehicles coming from there and going that direction, vice
7 versa, when they're stolen, obviously being used to run
8 drugs up and down, before they're recovered. And so we
9 had 1,008 stolen vehicles at the end of 2021 -- is how
10 many we had last year.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And your recoveries are coming
12 mainly from that jurisdiction, Live Oak and --

13 LT. TULEY: They recover several of our
14 vehicles. Yes, sir.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So from Corpus -- do you
16 have any recoveries from Corpus? Or are they all going
17 south?

18 LT. TULEY: No, no -- yes. We absolutely have
19 recoveries in Corpus as well. Yes.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I read an intel report,
21 where there is a -- the cartel activity is picking up a
22 lot in Corpus --

23 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- together with some of your
25 Texas gangs, Hermanos Pistoleros and Mexican Mafia.

1 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And then, again, you know,
3 we've always talked about, you know, how that's a concern,
4 to -- for us as MVCPA, and of course, to your
5 jurisdiction. But I want to, you know, tell you that
6 let's start reaching out to other task forces, see what we
7 can communicate, especially the task forces in
8 Brownsville.

9 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: See if there's any recoveries
11 on their end that's coming from your jurisdiction and make
12 sure that we collaborate the information, if there's
13 something that they can pick up.

14 We've done, you know, things for San Antonio,
15 where we're picking up prints on vehicles that are being
16 driven, not because we want to get to the driver, as far
17 as who else touched that vehicle that we can identify,
18 things like that that we are doing to make sure that we
19 identify, you know, individuals that are driving that car.

20 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Again, you know, there's a lot
22 of things happening from Corpus all the way to the border,
23 and not only that, but from other jurisdictions around
24 your area of responsibility. And again, we fully support
25 anything we can give you to help, and give you the tools

1 to help you, you know, in trying to decrease that number.

2 I know in the NCIB report here, your city is up
3 there --

4 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- as far as auto theft goes.
6 But yeah, anything that we can help and we can reach out
7 to other task forces to make sure that we give the
8 information back and forth. That's what's going on. That
9 will be great

10 That's something that we want to make sure that
11 we put out there whenever we talk to our legislators and
12 asking for why we need the additional information, and
13 just because we need that extra collaboration. We need
14 those jurisdictions.

15 And I'll tell you. In my area of
16 responsibility, you know, we've got a lot of cars, you
17 know, being recovered in Freer, Texas, that have nobody --

18 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- there that can work those
20 cases. So we end up going up there, and it takes a toll
21 on our jurisdiction, just because we have our own work.

22 But again, you know, this is something that I
23 know you're tracking because this is your city, but it's
24 also a concern to MVCPA. So anything that we can do to
25 help, please do not hesitate to reach out.

1 LT. TULEY: Yes, sir. I appreciate it.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other members have
3 questions?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, LT.

6 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman? Thank you,
7 Lieutenant Tuley.

8 Mr. Chairman, may I?

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

10 MR. WILSON: So what is particularly
11 interesting about this to me as Director is, as you
12 know -- so you know, all of these cities, whether you're
13 dealing with Dallas or -- no matter where you're dealing
14 with, these are State resources that are paying for these
15 task forces.

16 And what they're offering to do is very
17 consistent in this particular grant because, right now,
18 it's the City of Corpus Christi. It's a good-sized, you
19 know, 300,000, 400,000 city. It's one of the larger ones.

20 And they also sit on the confluence of --
21 excuse me -- 281, 77, 37. All of the roads come through
22 Corpus. So it's a really critical place to have.

23 And what really intrigues me and what I think
24 is consistent with our mission -- I want to make sure the
25 Board understands -- is that they're reaching out to the

1 neighbors with their people and our resources. So this is
2 a really good win for us as a Board and it supports our
3 mission.

4 So I would recommend that you award the full
5 amount, and because it's a border and port security
6 designated area, that it will be funded at 100 percent,
7 available to the City of Corpus Christi, but also
8 available to the surrounding jurisdictions that they
9 proposed in this application, and --

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the record reflect that
11 Chairman -- correction -- Board Member Sharon Jones is
12 back with us. The time is 10:29 a.m.

13 Do I have a motion on Agenda Item 3.B.(ii)?

14 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Member Gonzalez,
15 for the record. I move that the MVCPA Board fund the City
16 of Corpus Christi PD Rapid Response Strike Force grant
17 application in the amount of \$57,925 and waive the cash
18 match requirement.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

20 MR. SMITH: Member --

21 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. Second.

22 MR. SMITH: Sorry.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: A motion has been made and
24 seconded. Is there any further discussion?

25 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, you need to call --

1 Smith and Whitehill both called at the same time. And if
2 you would please call one of them as the second?

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I wrote down Whitehill.

4 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So I got a motion from
6 Member Gonzalez and second from Member Whitehill.

7 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion has been made and
9 seconded. Is there any further discussion?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
12 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, say nay.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
17 aye. The motion passes.

18 Okay. Moving on to Agenda Item 3.D in 3.

19 Correct?

20 MR. WILSON: Is that correct?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is that correct?

22 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh. Yes.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Discuss and consider
24 recommendations, fiscal year '22, Motor Vehicle Crime
25 Prevention auxiliary grant, MAG applications, and

1 recommended awards, and consider exceptions and
2 modifications of fiscal year 2022, MAG applications.

3 Chairman Wilson?

4 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Bryan Wilson, for the record.

6 So this is kind of an exciting and historic
7 moment for our little agency. We've been working on this
8 for about five years. When the Board directed -- and
9 chiefs of police and sheriffs all over the state, we sent
10 out a survey and said, what do you need?

11 And they said, well, we don't have any more
12 officers to create task forces. We need some technology
13 help. And just around that same time, I was meeting -- I
14 think Chairman Rodriguez and Tommy Hansen and I were
15 meeting with Lieutenant -- I mean, Colonel McCraw,
16 Director McCraw, Public Safety Director.

17 And he said, we just need a lot more LPRs out
18 there to find stolens faster, you know. And so this is --
19 it's taken a long time to work through this. We've gone
20 through some budget cuts and some really rough times, but
21 we've stuck to our guns and we know what it takes.

22 And so today is -- back in March, we finalized
23 the RFA. You issued -- you directed me to issue the RFA.

24 So we reached out to our partners at A&M to do a really
25 fast, online process. We'll talk about that in a minute.

1 But through the online process, we were able to
2 solicit lots of jurisdictions. And like I said, in March,
3 you only budgeted 250,000, but you just moved whatever --
4 eight -- what is it -- 860,000 into that category. So
5 for -- to do these awards.

6 That's what our budget -- so we've had -- so 62
7 jurisdictions requested an account. We only create
8 accounts in this particular category for law enforcement
9 agencies that met the criteria, and the criteria was, it
10 had to be a county sheriff's office or a municipal police
11 department.

12 There's lots of other law enforcement agencies
13 out there, but we didn't -- we knew we didn't have the
14 money to take on the whole universe. So we limited that
15 to that. I know Major Jones had helped suggest it. We
16 just tried to bring it to cities.

17 So thank you for that and -- because we
18 couldn't handle -- you know, there's something like 3,800
19 law enforcement agencies of different calibers, private
20 entities, as well as -- what do you call it? Like --

21 MS. JONES: The ISDs.

22 MR. WILSON: ISDs and constables and all kinds
23 of things. So this was intended to be limited.

24 So 62 accounts were requested. We created 59
25 accounts in the system. We -- in other words, we sent

1 back credentials to allow somebody to apply.

2 And out of that, we got 43 applications. And
3 out of these, 24 are directly covered. That was one of
4 the things we said in the RFA, and when we talked in
5 March, is -- we wanted our task forces to reach out to
6 their partners around them and provide -- help them get
7 these funds.

8 And that's -- so we see that many of the ones
9 did a good job. We'll take notes of the ones who didn't.

10 So -- just kidding, I hope, but we'll see. But everybody
11 should have tried to get their coverage agencies, if they
12 had a coverage agency on this list.

13 Okay? So this is my recommendation -- is, on
14 page 41, that this Board authorize me to issue \$20,000
15 grants. Remember, this is a one-trick pony. It's
16 \$20,000, and you can only do one thing with it: buy LPRs.
17 You can either lease them or buy them.

18 You can see in column five -- four, which ones
19 we -- the local jurisdictions, based on their strategy,
20 have chosen what they're going to do. They have to
21 provide a 20 percent match in each case, even if they're
22 border or port security in this case, because we don't --
23 we didn't make an allowance.

24 Excuse me. And so there's three of these
25 grants that the information or the application is somewhat

1 conflicted with other information we have. One of the
2 thresholds we said is we would only award these grants if
3 the loss value exceeded \$60,000, which is three times the
4 grant.

5 It's not a very high -- I mean, you know, it's
6 just -- what is that -- six cars? So it's basically five
7 or six cars. So if they didn't report at least \$60,000
8 worth of loss damage, we said we would not consider a
9 grant.

10 So in this slate, on page 41 --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 60,000, five cars? I think
12 that's one car.

13 (General laughter.)

14 MR. WILSON: I'm using the DPS average value.
15 I don't know if you've been to my ranch, but I have cars
16 that are not quite up to \$60,000. I would say, all of my
17 cars are not up to \$60,000, even today. So it's a
18 different world.

19 I mean, on average. So what is -- the
20 standard, I think, is \$12,000 per car. So it's five cars,
21 on the average stolen car.

22 So -- all right. So we've got -- I'm asking to
23 put a special requirement on three of them. I've
24 indicated them in column three, that I need to go back and
25 talk to that police chief or that sheriff to say, please

1 give me some more information, and let me see what you
2 reported to DPS. Okay.

3 I'm going to ask Major Jones to cover her ears,
4 but sometimes the DPS data on their website is not
5 perfect. That's all I'm saying. So we'll check to see
6 what they reported, and it might be some difference, but
7 quite honestly, you know, in seriousness, a department can
8 report -- and maybe a report was in error.

9 I mean, something could have happened to the
10 report. There's things that happen in electronics
11 reporting systems.

12 So I'm asking you to adopt the entire slate.
13 We're going to award 43 grants, but three of them are
14 marked "special," you're going to give me the authority to
15 check before I issue the award.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And Director Wilson, can you
17 share with the task forces here one of the requirements of
18 them getting these LPRs is, they have to check off --

19 MR. WILSON: Yeah. That's on the next item --

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

21 MR. WILSON: -- but yes, sir, that's correct.

22 So one of the things, and Lieutenant Gonzalez had
23 suggested that as much as possible -- there's different
24 technologies for ALPR. I want to just be clear about
25 that.

1 But one of the requirements of this grant is
2 that if we're going to fund it and that vendor provides
3 the opportunity to share the reads with other law
4 enforcement, not private companies, only law enforcement,
5 they have to select that if they're using our funds.

6 So thank you, Chairman. That's really
7 important. That's going to be a standard condition of
8 this grant.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions?

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.

11 Director Wilson, can you estimate about the number of
12 LPRs that this proposal will fund?

13 MR. WILSON: I think that's 16 indicated as
14 leased. That's going to be 10 ALPRs. So that's going to
15 be 160 cameras there.

16 The purchases, if you add that, it's going to
17 be almost 200 cameras that we know of. Some of these
18 might be stationary cameras. There are some other
19 technologies out there.

20 So it could be well over 200, but I would say,
21 a conservative estimate, almost 200 cameras will be added
22 to the network.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay. And then -- and this
24 probably needs to be in a classified document or
25 something. But if we can get a map of, you know, our

1 coverage --

2 MR. WILSON: Okay.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: -- of the state of Texas, and
4 obviously, limit distribution of --

5 MR. WILSON: Sure.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: -- that? But I would like to
7 see where, you know, we're lacking and where we need to do
8 a little bit more outreach --

9 MR. WILSON: Okay.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: -- to get some more LPRs.

11 MR. WILSON: We have an intern we can assign
12 as --

13 MR. GONZALEZ: Excellent.

14 MR. WILSON: -- it's a perfect intern project.

15 So --

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Is there any public
17 comment on this, Yessenia?

18 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Do I have a motion on
20 Agenda Item 3.D and 3.F (sic)?

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.

22 I move that the MVCPA Board award FY '22 Motor Vehicle
23 Crime Auxiliary Grant, MAG grants in the amount of \$20,000
24 to each jurisdiction listed on page 41 of the MVCPA
25 meeting book.

1 Further, MVCPA Director is directed to confirm
2 that the stolen vehicle loss values reported to DPS by the
3 jurisdiction exceed the minimum set by the RFA, that the
4 three applicants indicated in the special requirement
5 column in the table on page 41 meet or exceed the
6 requirements prior to issuing an award to those
7 jurisdictions.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just for a -- this is Item 3.D,
9 3.E, not 3.F. Yes. Okay.

10 I have a motion from Member Gonzalez. Do I
11 have a second?

12 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I second.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have -- a motion has been
14 made and seconded. Is there any further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
17 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
22 aye. The motion passes. Okay.

23 Moving on to Item 3.F, discuss and consider
24 recommendations for fiscal year 2022 MVCPA MAG statement
25 of grant award, including standard and special conditions.

1 Member Gonzalez, Chairman -- I mean,
2 correction -- Director Wilson.

3 MR. WILSON: Hi. Bryan Wilson, for the record.
4 I did -- I failed. I should have said this earlier. You
5 may or may not have figured it out.

6 I certainly announced it to the world in all
7 the agendas. But these meeting is being broadcast on the
8 internet through this little camera, that every time you
9 speak, the camera focuses on you.

10 And so I just wanted to make sure that you
11 remembered that -- in case I go into one of my cussing
12 fits, that y'all, you know, tell me to be quiet or
13 whatever. No. But everybody, you know, try to look your
14 best, but just remember, it is being broadcast right now.

15 So I'm sorry, I didn't tell you at the
16 beginning of the meeting, but we did announce it. So for
17 this Item 3.F., as -- just a reminder that under
18 Transportation Code 1006, everything that we do as far as
19 the staff and operations, how we buy things is by and
20 through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

21 And they run the management of the operation
22 and that you determine -- but the one exception is on the
23 issuance of grants. You issue grants in your own name.
24 And so because of that, you have to adopt a specific
25 document to issue for the MAG grants.

1 So on page 43 and following to 45, I'm asking
2 you to adopt the statement of grant award and the special
3 and standard conditions form that are required for this
4 grant. And that includes the terms that you mentioned a
5 minute ago, Chairman Rodriguez, that if they -- if the
6 vendor provides an opportunity for this technology to
7 share with other law enforcement agencies, they will have
8 to do that.

9 That's on the -- I think it says, "Now,
10 therefore, as awarded" -- is that where it is, Joe? Or --

11 MR. CANADY: Yes.

12 MR. WILSON: Okay.

13 MR. CANADY: Also, webinar.

14 MR. WILSON: Oh, and then we also asked them to
15 join the webinar for the duration of this grant period.
16 So we do a law enforcement intelligence-sharing webinar
17 every month, and so somebody from this jurisdiction is
18 going to have to participate in that as well.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Members, do we have any
20 questions?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comments, Yessenia?

23 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion for Agenda
25 Item 3.F?

1 MS. BROTHERTON: Member Brotherton. I move that
2 the MVCPA Board approve the MVCPA MAG statement of grant
3 award including special and standard conditions form or
4 format?

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

7 MS. JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a second from Member
9 Jones. Is there any further discussion?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
12 the vote. All those in favor of this motion, say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, say nay.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
17 aye. The motion passes unanimously.

18 Item 3.G, discuss and consider recommendations
19 for the fiscal year 2022 Public Education and Public
20 Awareness Grant applications and recommend awards or other
21 actions.

22 Member Gonzalez, Director Wilson?

23 MR. WILSON: For the record, Bryan Wilson. I
24 just wanted to, kind of, bring you up -- also, on March 2,
25 you asked me to issue a request for applications for the

1 Public Education and Public Awareness Grant. We call it
2 PEPA just because it's fun to say.

3 And so what -- to be clear, there's not many
4 people operating in this space, because our requirement
5 was, you already had to be engaged in statewide activity
6 to participate in this grant. So for -- so there's --
7 that leaves, you know, National Insurance Crime Bureau,
8 Insurance Council of Texas (ICT).

9 Chief of Police Associations does, you know,
10 several different programs that they've done over the
11 years. You know, I think TMPA has done some things. So
12 there's not very many people that do statewide operations
13 and communications about our area.

14 So we -- so right there, it's a limited thing.
15 We still post it on eGrants to give any nonprofit that's
16 operating in a public space like this -- but after putting
17 it on eGrants and sending it out to the known participants
18 in this space, we got one application back.

19 And this application was from the Insurance
20 Council of Texas, who -- this is a first-time grantee, but
21 they actually managed this program for the National
22 Insurance Crime Bureau when we made that award back in
23 2019.

24 So in 2019, we issued the PEPA grant for -- I
25 think it was \$200,000, and National Insurance Crime

1 Bureau -- it might have been three -- went out, developed
2 the Gary P. Nunn, and then the Spanish, "Si Te Gusta,
3 Ciérralo." And they created that program.

4 We did advertising spots on television. We
5 basically spent about \$150,000 with Texas Association of
6 Broadcasters and got over \$5-1/2 million worth of play
7 time and earned advertising.

8 This time, though, ICT is coming in as --
9 instead of going through NICB, they come in as their own
10 grant applicant. They are asking to remove the bond
11 requirement, because this is a reimbursement grant. We're
12 only going to pay for what we know is legally authorized,
13 so only the things that are authorized.

14 So the bond probably doesn't make sense in this
15 case, because they're going to turn in a bill, and if we
16 don't like the bill, we're not paying it. I mean, that's
17 just the way it is. It has to be consistent with the
18 grant and reasonably necessary under grant law and
19 processes.

20 So it's \$350,000, and we talked earlier that
21 we're going take 175,000 out of the current year's budget
22 and 175,000 I'm proposing to take out of the FY23 that
23 we'll talk about in a minute, and go ahead and fund them.

24 I still need to work on the contract and clean up a few
25 things that are a little confusing to me about details,

1 but they're already proposed their -- their new slogan is
2 "Lock It Down, Texas."

3 And so it's a cool proposal. It's going to
4 include something that you asked for, Mr. Chairman -- was,
5 you wanted a lot -- to see a lot more presence in social
6 media, Facebook, and online advertising, as opposed to
7 traditional radio and television spots. But they're
8 actually proposing all of the above.

9 They're going to build media packets for all of
10 our task forces. So Sergeant Tarrant and Lieutenant
11 Harrell can be handed a packet that they can go to their
12 local newspaper, the local digital billboards. They'll
13 already have that content available electronically.

14 So whatever they can do locally to take beyond
15 what we do, what we're able to do at the State level,
16 they'll be able to have those accesses. So -- and even
17 Laredo.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: And Mr. Chair, Member Gonzalez,
19 for the record. I just want to also state that I asked
20 Director Wilson to -- at the conclusion of this grant,
21 should the Board adopt it, that the vendor put together an
22 after-action review so that the Board can see the reach
23 and influence and what it is that we got for the money,
24 and present that to us. So --

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Very good. Now, does this

1 applicant have a -- they're going to provide us with a
2 year -- I guess, schedule, marketing campaign? Is that
3 what they're going to -- that's what they're going to do
4 also?

5 MR. WILSON: Yeah. They'll actually be
6 managing it for us, and then they'll reach out to the task
7 forces, they're proposing. And that's part of the
8 thing -- I have to clean up some of the language and make
9 sure I understand what they are saying. But it looks like
10 they're going to reach to -- and they list on one of the
11 pages the task forces that they're going to try to
12 leverage their presence.

13 Like, Laredo already has a social media
14 presence. So they'll be reaching out to how to coordinate
15 with that. But yes.

16 We'll need to -- we need to nail down what's --
17 what I would -- Lieutenant Gonzalez's request is about the
18 report. So whenever we issue a grant, we develop the
19 report up front. It's going to have an after-action.

20 But it will -- this grant will run from now --
21 with these funds, will run from now till September --
22 August 31, 2023. And then the Board, if you do it before
23 the end of August 31, 2023, the Board could, at that
24 point, extend this contract to another year and provide
25 additional funds, if you wanted to, the way the RFA is

1 written.

2 Does that make sense? So it could be a two-
3 year program, but it would have to be done before
4 August 31, 2023.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. And so the only thing --
6 I just don't want them to create a brand, as far as, you
7 know, "If You Like It-Lock It," and for that digital
8 toolkit to be passed over to the task forces and let them
9 run with it.

10 We are -- that would -- that's something that I
11 like, that they're going to have their own digital
12 toolkit, and they can manage as a -- as whatever they want
13 to put out there. But I think that one of the things that
14 we also need from them is that they have a clear direction
15 as to what the -- what demographic are we targeting --

16 MR. WILSON: Right.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- you know, especially in
18 cities that, you know, they can tell you where their
19 hotspots are, and we're going to put a digital board or
20 campaigning via social media very heavily on an area
21 that is not being hit by burglaries or auto thefts, then
22 we're spending our money, you know, not very wisely.

23 So I just want to make sure that they
24 communicate with the task forces, and if there's a
25 specific area, and --

1 MR. WILSON: Sure.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- either in Dallas or El Paso
3 or Houston or --

4 MR. WILSON: Yeah. That is their proposal, is
5 to work closely -- in other words, they'll be doing
6 statewide purchases on their own with our funds, but
7 they'll also be providing the same material so that the
8 task forces can make choices with the same content.

9 So let me be clear. Because they probably
10 won't be able to buy every place in Houston or Dallas that
11 they need to buy, but if -- or Austin, but if Neal Tarrant
12 or Lieutenant Harrell walks over there and hands them, and
13 they've got some filler time, you -- I mean, you -- we all
14 see the billboards, "Advertise here." Right?

15 Well, if there's some filler time, and they
16 have the electronic media, they can put that up there
17 where they need to put it. So does that make sense?

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

19 MR. WILSON: So --

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That makes sense.

21 MR. WILSON: They are doing a statewide content
22 distribution through this grant. They're also
23 coordinating with our task forces of, here's the content.
24 Now, you figure out locally where you need to use it, in
25 addition to what we're doing. Not instead of, but in

1 addition. Take it farther than we can take it on our own.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And just something that
3 we -- just to put out there, we -- I want to make sure
4 that they're doing -- that the marketing they're
5 providing, you know, that that's something that -- of
6 course, you know, billboards, and you know, social media.

7 That's what to them might work and what we're
8 saying might work. But again, if we're going to be
9 providing, you know, keychains, or you know, things that
10 they can carry with them, but I think, things like the
11 card-holders on phones, that's always going to be in your
12 mind, because you're always carrying your phone.

13 You're always going to remember to lock your
14 car, things like that, that I think is very important for
15 them to understand that it always has to be on the
16 communities' mind that they need to lock their doors,
17 especially in hotspot areas in their city.

18 MR. WILSON: Correct.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Any other questions from
20 any other --

21 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- Board members?

23 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record. Is
24 there continued requirement for them to keep us informed
25 of the marketing and where they're spending? For

1 instance, if they put a billboard on Fifth Street in
2 Austin, are they going to tell us that, keep us informed?

3 They bought 50 keychains and they gave it to whomever?

4 MR. WILSON: Yeah. There's two ways that that
5 is taking place. So number one is obviously if they
6 spent, you know -- I'm making up a number. I have no idea
7 what this stuff costs, but \$5,000 in the Austin market.
8 They'll have to tell us.

9 I mean, what we usually get is a list of where
10 did you spend in the Austin market? I mean, I spent 5,000
11 on -- I'm just -- I'm making up numbers. But I spent
12 \$5,000 on Pandora. I spent \$15,000 on Facebook. And I
13 targeted just the major cities.

14 So only IP addresses that come back from the
15 cities. Or they say, well, we're going to do it in Laredo
16 or whatever. So we can -- we'll know when we get the
17 reimbursement request what they spent the money on. But
18 they'll also have what's called a progress report, much
19 like what you see the grantees get.

20 We have two levels. Right? We get a -- what
21 did you spend? Well, I spent -- Officer So-and-So and
22 Officer So-and-So. And we can see what hours that are
23 anticipated. But then we also say, well, how many
24 vehicles did you recover?

25 So we have to work with the vendor to do that,

1 to identify those progress report items, to -- before we
2 sign the contract. Again, I want to make clear. I don't
3 just run out of here and say, here's 350,000.

4 I have to write a contract with Legal. I have
5 to write it with the vendor, and making sure we know what
6 we see when we're, you know --

7 MS. JONES: Right. I understand that. I just
8 want to make sure -- if they turn in something and it's
9 for \$5,000, I want to make sure that there's some kind of
10 checks-and-balance system, like, prior to. Like, if
11 they're -- are they telling this? I'm going to put --
12 we're going to put a board on a certain location, and run
13 it for three months.

14 Is there a check-and-balance system to make
15 sure the board is up before they actually turn in an
16 invoice to be paid?

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Under State budget
18 processes, they would have had to pay for that billboard
19 before they can turn it in for -- or whatever the item
20 is --

21 MS. JONES: Got it.

22 MR. WILSON: -- but whatever --

23 MS. JONES: Okay.

24 MR. WILSON: -- you can't -- under State law,
25 for our grant -- there are some Health and Human Services

1 grants and other kinds that you can put out money first,
2 but under our State law, we can only do direct
3 reimbursement of actual expenses.

4 MS. JONES: Okay.

5 MR. WILSON: So if there's not been a
6 billboard, you can't turn in a receipt.

7 MS. JONES: That's the checks and balance
8 I'm --

9 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

10 MS. JONES: -- looking for. Perfect.

11 MR. SMITH: Member Smith. So essentially, they
12 have to front the money before we can pay them?

13 MR. WILSON: That's why I'm asking for no bond,
14 is because they're going to pay the money out of their own
15 budget, their own operation budget, and then we'll
16 reimburse them based on legal and appropriate expenses,
17 the ones that we -- that were consistent with our
18 contract.

19 So it just again, a strange option. If they
20 went out and bought a billboard about hurricanes and then
21 turned it into us, we're not paying for it, right? I
22 mean, we don't do hurricanes.

23 We only do auto theft. So I know that's
24 probably a perverse example, but I'm just trying to be
25 clear that we can only reimburse what is reasonable and

1 necessary for the activities of the award that you're
2 issuing today.

3 We can't do anything extraneous to this. So --

4 MR. SALINAS: Yeah. Member Salinas. And just
5 to add to what our fellow Board members are saying, you
6 know, if -- and I know, you know, a lot of marketing
7 entities can do this, is providing a -- like, a dollar
8 value in return.

9 So it's \$350,000, and three impressions, so on
10 and so forth. They can come back and say, well, that was,
11 you know, worth, you know, \$5 million in advertising
12 and publicity, so on and so forth. So if they can do
13 that, that would be fantastic.

14 MR. WILSON: Yeah. So what they did last time,
15 and this is ICT again managing it for NICB -- they didn't
16 just send me a list saying, we got \$5 million worth of
17 advertising. They literally sent me a list that's saying,
18 in Longview, at two o'clock in the morning, this
19 commercial ran.

20 You know, this 30-second commercial ran for,
21 you know, two -- whatever -- \$150. It ran in -- at five
22 o'clock p.m. in Dallas for, you know, \$2,000. So I mean,
23 literally, it wasn't, like, this random -- do you know
24 what I'm saying?

25 It wasn't like this random \$5 million, you

1 know. It was literally every radio and television spot
2 that they ran our commercials in. I don't know what it's
3 going to look like on social media, but I'm going to try
4 to find that out before I sign the contract.

5 It's kind of interesting, sorry to -- I don't
6 want to belabor this too much, but Salinas hit on a really
7 frustrating point for me when I first got here. This
8 Board was spending about \$1 million worth of advertising
9 every year, and sometimes, it went up to \$2 million per
10 year.

11 And when I asked for the records, all I got was
12 impressions, and they were doing gasoline -- you know, you
13 go fill up your gas and somebody starts talking and it
14 kind of creeps me out. But anyway, that's -- make it
15 stop.

16 But the -- but that's all that was. I mean,
17 movie theater impressions. I mean, like, there was three
18 people in the movie theater or there was 200 people in the
19 movie theater? They couldn't say.

20 They just said an estimate. And I said, no,
21 we're not doing that. That's not how we're going to use
22 State funds.

23 And so we ended up doing away with this whole
24 program and put the money towards officers. I said, well,
25 I can't lose officers -- when we got some funding cuts, I

1 said, we're not going to lose officers.

2 The Board supported me. And we kept our
3 officers. We -- I think we lost, I guess, five that year.

4 Right, Mike?

5 I think we lost five officers that year, but we
6 would have lost 25 officers if we hadn't moved that
7 million dollars, or 20 officer, whatever it was. So
8 that's been our priority, take care of our law
9 enforcement. We cannot do anything without law
10 enforcement in the communities, State-funded, just like
11 what Tuley said a minute ago.

12 They're officers of Corpus Christi, but they're
13 reaching out. Because they get State funds, they're
14 reaching out.

15 But now we're trying to crawl back into this
16 space, but our priority is going to -- you know, I mean,
17 you guys set the priority, but my priority in working for
18 you has always been, take care of our law enforcement.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And again, the end goal
20 is to see how many, you know, people we reach with that
21 marketing. And then the end is -- you know, most of our
22 task forces are running on fumes. You know, they have a
23 lot of cases.

24 And you hear from them where, you know, they
25 have a hard time, you know, trying to get more rest and

1 more people prosecuted. And what -- I think what the
2 Board wants is, if we are engaging in this marketing
3 campaign and if it -- we want to know what's working so
4 that we can continue pushing that note of -- you know,
5 marketing is going to be a prevention tool.

6 And if it's going to decrease Dallas or Houston
7 or El Paso or Laredo, Lubbock, whatever jurisdiction, by a
8 one percent, even by -- decrease by three automobile
9 thefts, then that's a win. And if it's going to help us
10 achieve that through this marketing that we want to do,
11 you know, I think this is worth it.

12 And if we need to -- next year, if we get more
13 funding, or you know, we can pour more money into that to
14 help our jurisdictions with that.

15 MR. WILSON: So in this particular case, I've
16 placed on -- Bryan Wilson, for the record. Thank you,
17 Chairman.

18 On page 46, I've placed kind of the conditions
19 of the award. And rather than stand here and read them
20 all back to you, what I'd recommend is that you award up
21 to \$350,000 for the PEPA Grant to the Insurance Council of
22 Texas, according to the -- and I would just say, the six
23 items that I have indicated on page 46.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Questions from any other Board
25 members?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comment on this,
3 Yessenia?

4 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on Agenda
6 Item 3.G?

7 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I move that the
8 MVCPA Board issue a grant to the Insurance Council of
9 Texas for up to \$350,000 for the development and
10 implementation of the media campaign with all the proposed
11 elements recommended on page 46 of the Board book.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion by Salinas. Do I have a
13 second?

14 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones. Second.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion has been made and
16 seconded. Is there any further discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
19 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed, nay.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
24 aye. The motion passes unanimously.

25 We're going to take a 10-minute break. It is

1 11:05. We'll be back at 11:15.

2 (Whereupon, a short recess was held.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We're back in open
4 session. The time is 11:17. Okay.

5 Agenda Item 3.H, discuss and consider
6 recommendations for fiscal year 2023 budget. Member
7 Gonzalez, Director Wilson?

8 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record,
9 MVCPA Director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 So I want to call your attention to page 61.
11 So I told you a minute ago when we were talking about the
12 175,000 we allocated for that PEPA Grant, we also now need
13 to adopt a budget for FY '23 because we need to also award
14 some other grants here in a few minutes.

15 So we set the budget -- I just want to be
16 clear. No obligation under any circumstances under State
17 law can take place before the Legislature has authorized
18 the period. So what we're doing is setting up the shell,
19 which will be filled in later when the State budget is
20 issued.

21 So right now, there's nothing in the State
22 budget for this appropriation. But this Board has to make
23 determinations about how to do -- and how to obligate
24 money. You're not spending money today. You're
25 obligating it.

1 So what we've done is, if you were to compare
2 the budget that we have on page 61 to the budget we looked
3 at earlier, you'll see that there's stark similarities for
4 the operating expenses, and very similar grants. But what
5 we're going to do is obligate or set the budget, FY '23
6 budget for next year. And then we're going to -- I
7 have -- I put another table on there called the obligation
8 table that says, this is what we're planning on doing.

9 So we're going to obligate enough money for the
10 administration. We're going to obligate enough money for
11 the grants, the task -- what we call the task force
12 grants, the PEPA Grant, the 175- we talked about a few
13 minutes ago and that you just obligated.

14 And then we do TCOLE training. We've never
15 spent 20,000, but we always obligate 20,000 for that.
16 This is to run the intermediate and advanced training
17 classes that I told you about earlier.

18 And then we'll have about \$300,000 for other
19 types of grants that come up. Say Rapid Response Strike
20 Force comes in, and we'll be able to respond to those.
21 Okay?

22 Now then you see this line says "unknown."
23 Well, a few years ago, I know it was -- Chairman Rodriguez
24 went and testified at the Capitol. We're a grant program.
25 We're not a direct expenditure program.

1 And for -- one of the good -- for that year,
2 the only good thing that came out of that year was we got
3 what was called unexpended balance authority for our
4 expenses. So when we give these task force grants,
5 Grant A may have two retirements that year, and to fill --
6 and some of these organizations are civil service
7 organizations. So to backfill that position might take
8 anywhere from two weeks to eight weeks to have a
9 sergeant's board and make a selection.

10 So if they don't have any other auto theft
11 investigators to put in that slot, then they're just not
12 going to spend the money. Long story short, sometimes we
13 end up with anywhere from about -- I think the lowest has
14 been around 150,000. The highest has been about 450,000.

15
16 That money comes back that the grantees don't
17 spend in their budgets, that we had obligated this year.
18 They don't spend it. And that money -- the Legislature
19 rolls anything that's not spent into our budget.

20 So somewhere between 150- and 450- is what that
21 will be in this unknown category, and once that comes
22 back, we won't really know until December. Sometimes we
23 know in November. We'll be able to obligate that to do
24 more MAG grants or something else that you might want to
25 do at that time. Okay?

1 Does that make sense? So I'm asking you to
2 adopt this FY '23 budget for use, as we get into the next
3 year.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board members, are there any
5 questions?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are there any public comments
8 on this, Yessenia?

9 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion for Agenda
11 Item 3.H?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I move that
13 the MVCPA Board approve the FY '23 budget and obligation
14 table, as shown on page 61 of the Board book.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
16 Gonzalez. Do I have a second?

17 MR. SMITH: Member Smith.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
19 Gonzalez, second from Member Smith. Is there any further
20 discussion on this?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
23 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

24 (A chorus of ayes.)

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
3 aye. The motion passes unanimously.

4 Moving on to Agenda 3.I, I move that the MVCPA
5 discuss and consider requests for modifications to fiscal
6 year 2023 Continued Taskforce Grants.

7 Member Gonzalez, Director Wilson?

8 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bryan
9 Wilson, for the record.

10 Just draw your attention to page 62 of your
11 Board book. This experience has taught us over the years
12 that when we do the what we call -- these are continued
13 grants. So we issued a request for application in FY '21
14 for '22 and '23 grants.

15 So this will be the second year of continuing
16 the existing grants in the same amounts, but what we
17 learned over the years is that we need to take up
18 exceptions first and then we award. Because sometimes the
19 exceptions can change the amount that's being awarded.

20 So in the past, we had a grantee ask for less
21 match and the Board said, okay, fine. We'll give you less
22 match, but we'll lower the award to keep it consistent.
23 Okay.

24 So those are things -- so that's why this -- it
25 may feel a little awkward to you. But because we've had

1 times in the past -- this isn't one of those, but we deal
2 with exceptions first. Then you do the award. So you
3 know, make sure that the exceptions will not affect the
4 award amount.

5 So in this case, none of the grantees asked for
6 a different award amount. And one or two may be providing
7 a little bit of extra grant match, which is not -- that's
8 acceptable. We don't want to go lowering the match
9 without the Board making a selection.

10 So grantees can ask for more match without
11 affecting their award, but they can't ask for less unless
12 the Board gets to say. So in this case, the only
13 exception is not going to affect the award amount.

14 It's Dallas County. We gave them money in FY
15 '22. They placed the orders for their vehicles, issued
16 what's called a purchase order. That's an obligation
17 order.

18 But they're being told that there's no way
19 they're going to take delivery on the vehicles in time --
20 City of Dallas. I'm sorry, City of Dallas. They're not
21 going to be able to take -- in other words, the vehicles
22 aren't going to get here in time for them to spend any of
23 this year's money.

24 And rather than deal with the issue next year,
25 they're asking for them to have authority to lease

1 vehicles. However, our policy for all grantees is that
2 \$600 -- and this was a little bit of an arbitrary policy,
3 that when the Legislature cut \$2-1/2 million about four
4 years ago, we had to come up with a way not to lose
5 officers.

6 I told you already earlier, we just cut the
7 advertising budget right off the top. The other way was
8 to limit -- the Chairman at that time said, well, I don't
9 want to pay more than \$10,000 or whatever, \$15,000 for a
10 vehicle, whatever. Was it 20-, 25-? And then it was \$600
11 for a leased vehicle.

12 Now, again, those were just -- those were not
13 science-based, carefully researched decisions. They were
14 like, we're trying to save our skin here. So Dallas, to
15 be able to use any of their money, they need to be able to
16 lease at higher than the rate.

17 So our suggestion is to grant them the
18 authority to spend more than \$600, up to \$1,500, to lease
19 vehicles until they can get delivery of new vehicles. And
20 this was not taken up by the -- it was passed by the
21 grants and I want to -- because we're doing a Committee
22 report, or we're walking through a Committee report.

23 And I just want to be clear. This issue was
24 not taken up yesterday in the Committee, so there is no
25 recommendation by the Committee. This is for you to

1 figure out and make a decision on.

2 Staff recommends that you grant it up to
3 \$1,500.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So this would be the 750 per
5 vehicle? That's how much --

6 MR. WILSON: No. It's \$1,500 per vehicle.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, per vehicle.

8 MR. WILSON: Per vehicle. Yes.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: For clarifying.

10 MR. WILSON: Thank you. It's a lease.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And it's a lease?

12 MR. WILSON: It is a lease. They want to --
13 they still have money to buy a vehicle in the grant
14 program. They're going to keep their obligation for this
15 year to -- hopefully, that something will turn around and
16 they'll get a vehicle.

17 But they're also going to carry that vehicle
18 forward into next year. But they're going to obligate one
19 of these until the supplies and DOE line to lease two
20 vehicles, to make sure that at least their officers don't
21 have to walk anymore.

22 Is that what's happening?

23 SGT. RODEN: Yes, sir.

24 MR. WILSON: Oh. So Bryan Roden can speak to
25 the details, if you'd like, Mr. Chairman, if you want to

1 call on him?

2 MS. JONES: Yes, we'd like. Oh, sorry. I'm
3 not the Chairperson.

4 (General laughter.)

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Bryan.

6 SGT. RODEN: Thank you. I'd be happy to answer
7 any questions you guys might have on this. But you know,
8 the quick talking points, the reason you got here -- and
9 by no means am I trying to make this a long-term solution
10 for problems and I'm not trying to change the policy.

11 And you know, I kind of know that that might be
12 wary to some people. I'm just trying to get a little
13 stopgap until we get our fleet mobile again.

14 As you pointed, Mr. Rodriguez, \$60,000 isn't
15 much on a vehicle, when we were talking about prices a
16 while ago, and inflation is a real problem. What we could
17 get for 600 bucks, you know, eight years ago, we just
18 can't do that now.

19 So I'm just kind of humbly asking the Board if
20 we could, you know, up that until we're able to get these
21 vehicles purchased and delivered to us. The way the City
22 works, our contracts -- we placed an order with our
23 last -- when we got awarded last year, we immediately
24 placed an order for an F-250 truck. And our contract
25 before allows the trucks to built after we place the

1 order, so we get them pretty cheap.

2 Historically, Dallas has kind of been a penny-
3 pincher on this. We've purchased two base model Ford
4 Fusions, which I think I lost one at a chop shop. I
5 haven't seen it in a while, but I know we have them.

6 And we go above and beyond to try to save money
7 on these vehicles. And you could look at our -- you know,
8 in our historical records and you can see that. But you
9 know, when we purchased that order -- or we made that
10 order in August, it hasn't even been assigned a VIN yet.
11 So that means that they haven't even, you know, scheduled
12 to manufacture that truck.

13 And it's just due to inflation, but the chip
14 shortage that everybody's, you know, aware about too, just
15 the -- which makes our used cars, you know, more
16 susceptible to theft. And you know, the price of
17 everything has gone up. As you can imagine, you know, the
18 inventory for used cars are at an all-time low too.

19 And that just goes without saying, you know,
20 with our leased vehicles. And I know there's some
21 confusion with lease and rentals. We're talking about
22 rental, rental vehicles.

23 And I'm thankful for Mr. Wilson's staff. If
24 they have any ideas on where we could get some cheaper
25 leased vehicles, by all means, you know, we're willing to

1 save money on anything. But I'm just proposing this so we
2 can keep mobile until hopefully this inflation and
3 shortage -- and chip shortage passes soon. And then we'll
4 be able to go back to business as normal.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: What's the make and model of
6 this vehicle?

7 SGT. RODEN: The one that we ordered is an
8 F-250. I have no idea about the rentals yet. I didn't
9 want to make any type of, you know, budgetary, really,
10 modification until I got the approval from the Board to be
11 able to do that.

12 So it would be something -- as you all know,
13 that the heavy-duty type trucks suits our profession more
14 than the vehicles, just from where we have to go. There's
15 been several times we've been at chop shops where we're
16 way out in the boondocks, you know, salvage yard
17 inspections with, you know, craters the size of Mars.

18 It's just -- we've had to fix our smaller
19 vehicles several times just because of the terrain that we
20 have to go through. So the F-250s or anything three-
21 quarter-size ton and above seem to be more appropriate for
22 our job duties.

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, and the reason I question
24 the amount is because we're having the same issues in
25 Laredo. So what we found was that what we're paying right

1 now for a Nissan Ultima, which is about \$900, we -- the
2 City ends up putting the rest, apart from the 600 that's
3 available through MVCPA.

4 But what I found out was that there are other
5 task forces that are renting -- or I'm sorry, leasing
6 vehicles at much lower rates. So we end up getting some
7 information from Director Wilson and Dan here.

8 And I know that there was some good information
9 that you might want to look into it, just because for the
10 amount that we're authorizing, the 1,500, you can get two
11 vehicles. So it would be a total of four vehicles that
12 you have. I know that there's some good information that
13 Dan dug out, and I know that it would be beneficial to the
14 task forces to get that information.

15 I know one of them is GSA. Am I correct, Dan?

16 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And the other one, what was it?

18 MR. PRICE: Acme Auto in El Paso --

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. That was Acme Auto
20 Rental. I know that El Paso is the one using that Acme
21 Auto Rental, and I think their rate is somewhere around
22 600?

23 MALE VOICE: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 675?

25 MR. PRICE: 695.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 695.

2 SGT. RODEN: All that information is quite
3 welcome, sir. Like I said, this is not set in stone for
4 us for a permanent fix in the future, but any information
5 they would give us to be able to save money would be
6 welcome for sure.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Director Wilson, you had
8 some --

9 MR. WILSON: Just -- but some of these
10 solutions, if they were -- are not reasonable, because
11 the -- you know, the waiting list is eight to nine months,
12 or we're right back to where we started. I mean, we need
13 to get the officers -- or you know, what we're trying to
14 do, right, is we're trying to provide funding and rules
15 for jurisdictions to make their own decisions.

16 And so I just want to be clear that, while we
17 will continue to work with all the grantees to try to find
18 better solutions, what's on the agenda today and on the
19 Board meeting is only to consider exceptions specifically
20 requested in the statement of grant award applications
21 that have been submitted.

22 Now, next we can deal with, through grant
23 adjustments or through other processes, the overall lease.

24 Like if Laredo wants to, you know, put more -- 300 more,
25 or Houston or Harris or anybody else, we can take those up

1 individually. Not part of the award, but under the grant
2 adjustment process.

3 I have two levels. I just want to make sure
4 everybody knows. So when a grant is active, like we've
5 got FY '22, any grantee can ask me anything that they want
6 to change about the contract. And as long as it's not
7 against the law, there's certain things that the Board has
8 delegated to me to do what's called a grant adjustment.

9 And I can say -- if you don't mind me picking
10 on you, a few years ago, Chairman? Laredo, their cameras
11 broke. And they had a condition of the grant that they
12 had to re-deploy license plate readers at the bridge so
13 many times a year.

14 Well, if your camera breaks, you can't do that.
15 Right? So they sent a request, please give me -- you
16 know, my camera broke. I can't meet the obligation of the
17 grant to read license plates, the number of license plates
18 read going across the bridge.

19 So they sent it in. I say, yes. Other
20 people -- like, a policy -- like, the only reason you're
21 dealing with this is because it's an exception in the
22 statement of grant award being submitted in this cycle.
23 But had they -- they could have applied for it and done it
24 a different way.

25 But if I don't have the authority to give the

1 approval, the second thing is, I can bring it to the
2 Grants Committee. Chairman Gonzalez, Salinas, and --
3 who's the third one?

4 MALE VOICE: Jones.

5 MR. WILSON: Jones. Sorry. And so they're on
6 the Grants Committee. So anything I can't do, I'll talk
7 to Legal about, hey, I think this needs to go to Grants
8 Committee. And then we can work that out.

9 And if they don't come to an agreement or we
10 don't think that they really have the authority to do it,
11 I'll bring it back to the Board. So we can look at the
12 policy at the next meeting, even -- you know, maybe in
13 August, maybe in -- sometime in the fall, to talk about
14 the grant -- you know, the policy itself.

15 But for this, Mr. Roden wrote a specific
16 exception under Item 3.7 of the application process
17 saying, are you asking for an exception of the Board for
18 any item in the FY '23? And so that's all we're dealing
19 with today is their request. And so you can either
20 approve the request at \$1,500 -- that's what staff
21 recommends for this particular grantee at this particular
22 time.

23 And other grantees are paying attention, so
24 they might want to do the same thing as quickly as
25 possible. But -- or you can lower it. You can say, not

1 1,500, but 1,000, because you have that authority to do
2 that.

3 Or you can say, no, you can't have that
4 authority and we'll take it up in August or whenever, at
5 the next Board meeting, and do everybody at the same time.

6 I just want to be clear about what this agenda item is
7 about.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And completely
9 understand, but I think it's good that we do give a
10 recommendation as to what's out there. Am I correct?

11 I mean, this is something that I know that
12 Bryan, you know, has brought up. And you know, there's a
13 sense of urgency to it, but if there's something that can
14 be recommended, you know, that can -- he can get more
15 vehicles for the same amount --

16 MR. WILSON: Sure.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- I think that's something
18 that Dallas PD would want to jump into.

19 MR. WILSON: Yes.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think that the information
21 should be given to them as to -- I'm not saying, okay,
22 you're going to go with it, because we're giving it to
23 you. But at the end of the day, the information is given
24 to them and they do their own research.

25 MR. WILSON: Correct.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: They can make up their minds
2 and say, you know what? I'll get four vehicles for the
3 amount that I'm going to be paying for this too. So
4 that's all that we're talking about here, Bryan.

5 SGT. RODEN: Yes, sir.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But I'll -- you might just want
7 to get together with Dan and find out about this
8 information --

9 SGT. RODEN: Yes, sir.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- and see where that takes
11 you.

12 SGT. RODEN: I will do, sir.

13 MS. JONES: Wait. I have a question.

14 SGT. RODEN: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. JONES: Thank you. Have you -- Sharon
16 Jones, for the record. The vehicles that you need, you
17 don't have them at all? You don't have anything? But do
18 you need them, like, right now, right now?

19 SGT. RODEN: Yes. And --

20 MS. JONES: Do you need a lease -- what I'm
21 asking --

22 SGT. RODEN: Yes.

23 MS. JONES: -- but do you have two officers who
24 literally do not have vehicles? That's my question.

25 SGT. RODEN: Okay. I have a few detectives

1 that are sharing vehicles, and there's a whole issue with
2 that. But matter of fact, the City -- you know, that
3 really don't show on my in-kind statement, but the City
4 rents vehicles for me. That's outside the jurisdiction --
5 or outside the MVCPA here, just to keep us moving.

6 MS. JONES: Okay.

7 SGT. RODEN: I've been trying to slowly, you
8 know, replace older vehicles when money has
9 become available, and it's available last session and this
10 session. So that's when we immediately applied -- or for
11 the F-250 to be built, and it's not yet, you know, been
12 built or anything. And what I really don't want to do is
13 give money back and say that we weren't able to spend it.

14 MS. JONES: Got it. Thank you.

15 SGT. RODEN: For the record, I don't think I
16 did this, but Bryan rode with the City of Dallas, for the
17 record.

18 MS. JONES: So Mr. Wilson, I have a question
19 for you. And I understand the Chairman's position. So if
20 we move on, is there a way to tweak this to include what
21 the Chairman wants, what he requires? Instead of just
22 saying the 1,500, can we maybe add on -- if they do the
23 research and the research shows that, hey, I can go
24 through Acme and get two, three cars for the same price,
25 can we tweak the motion? Or do we -- what do we -- what

1 can we do?

2 MR. WILSON: Well, so the recommendation here
3 is just that they can spend up to \$1,500 per vehicle, and
4 I'm just going to tell you what I think. I think you
5 should just approve the motion to allow them to have up to
6 \$1,500.

7 And I'm going to tell you why. It's because
8 it's always in their interest to get four where they can
9 two. Right? I mean, it's just -- the City cares -- just
10 what you just heard Roden say, is if he can get four, he
11 would get four, not two.

12 All's we're doing -- remember, the grant
13 standards are already in place, what's called the Texas
14 Grants Standards. And every jurisdiction here that we
15 give money to is responsible for reasonable and necessary
16 operation of the grant program.

17 So if we come and do an audit and say, you
18 could have -- well, right here it says you had this bid
19 for \$200 per vehicle, but you took the 1,500 and it's the
20 exact same vehicle. Now if it's a -- what did you say --
21 a Fusion or -- Bryan said a Fusion and one's a truck.
22 Okay, well, that's reasonable and necessary. You should
23 have paid the \$1,500.

24 But if it was an F-250 and an F-250 from two
25 different companies and you decided to pay 1,500 instead

1 of 200, you're going to have to give back the money under
2 State law. You would have to give back the money. That
3 is -- you know, we have a contract that says if you misuse
4 or lose the money, you have to return it to the MVCPA.

5 So I think -- given the other conditions of the
6 grant and the other structure, I think you should just
7 adopt what -- and then Dan and I will work with Dallas and
8 any other grantees. The problem with the Acme contract is
9 it's eight months out. They need cars today.

10 MS. JONES: That's why I was asking.

11 MR. WILSON: Right.

12 MS. JONES: That's specifically why I asked.

13 MR. WILSON: So we'll work with the grantees on
14 all these other things that you might be concerned about,
15 but I would just recommend, since it's an exception that
16 was written into a grant application, that you accept the
17 exception.

18 MS. JONES: Thanks for the explanation.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. And again, you know, if
20 it's a need, you know, it's great. But if it's a want,
21 you know, it's something totally different.

22 You know, we don't want to send the message
23 that we're okay paying \$1,500 for a Chevy Tahoe all souped
24 up that is not needed. I can tell you every auto theft
25 investigator from Laredo is driving really small cars

1 right now, just because it's very expensive to get trucks.

2 So we have to be -- we have to look out for
3 that, because the last thing I want is for somebody to
4 come to this Board and say, hey, well, you're giving away
5 \$1,500, \$2,000 for souped-up cars. And that's what we
6 don't want.

7 MR. WILSON: Sure. And that's why I said you
8 can lower if you want. If you -- instead of 15-, you can
9 say, well, fine. We'll do it for X.

10 So that is within your -- to Major Jones's
11 point, that's certainly within your purview. If that
12 seems too high, then you can set it somewhere else, but
13 that's what the request is.

14 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman? I kind of -- Dean
15 Smith, for the record. I echo what, you know, the
16 Chairman says. It's the optics of turning loose \$1,500 a
17 month for a vehicle, you know, when there certainly should
18 be other options available to us.

19 We all want them to have their vehicles. I
20 just -- you know, I'm wonder if there's, you know, some
21 additional research that can be done to get them in the
22 vehicles that they need to get at a price point that's not
23 so arbitrary.

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah. I will call
25 your attention to page 64 -- I think it's what my old eyes

1 are telling me. That's the current lease standard for all
2 of our agencies that are leasing.

3 Keep in mind, part of the driver of this
4 request was the fact that they -- that we, MVCPA, approved
5 them to buy two vehicles this year. They placed their
6 order with the proper processes and they can't get
7 delivery. This is -- I think it's June. Right?

8 So we've got July and August, and the fiscal
9 year is going to be over, and they don't have vehicles.
10 And they're fixing to step into the new fiscal year.
11 That's what the basis of this request is.

12 I'm not disagreeing with you at all, but my
13 point is, it's okay. Like, if you want to raise it, but
14 not raise it that high, that's certainly the Board's
15 prerogative.

16 But I think you should address the exception
17 somehow, and then make your choice and then we'll work
18 with the other grantees, because you can see -- so I think
19 it's -- what's the star for El Paso? So El Paso is 695.
20 So that means \$95 is outside of the -- outside of our
21 grant. Right? That's what that means.

22 And then Harris County is 532, but you see that
23 they're paying higher rates for the trucks and the cars on
24 that double asterisk. So, and then you see Laredo -- is
25 that right?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh.

2 MR. WILSON: Laredo, \$900?

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. That's correct.

4 MR. WILSON: So that means the City is carrying
5 \$300 outside of the grant. So --

6 MS. JONES: So it seems that you've already
7 done the research. You've done the homework. You know
8 that they ordered the vehicles.

9 It's taking further, which we can't control
10 that. Also, the contract, if you go with another company
11 that's less, that's cheaper, that's still a hold on it.

12 So the efficiency is basically, we give them
13 the 1,500, but we expect -- and you already said, you're
14 going to work with them to figure out if it's 1,500,
15 whether it's 1,000. We're not going to sit over here and
16 nitpick --

17 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh.

18 MS. JONES: -- and decide, well, we're going to
19 lower it, because we don't know. And so 1,500 -- you're
20 basically saying if you can get it for 800, that's what
21 you're going to do. So that's what I'm hearing you say.
22 Correct?

23 MR. WILSON: That is exact -- Bryan Wilson, for
24 the record. That is exactly correct. They --

25 MS. JONES: Okay.

1 MR. WILSON: -- made a specific request. We
2 grant them the request, but knowing that we're going to
3 continue to monitor the situation, work with Dallas and do
4 whatever we can to make sure that -- it might be more.
5 Hopefully, it's not going to be 1,500, but we're not going
6 to have detectives walking or sharing.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think it's a problem that I
8 think every task force is going through. The cars are
9 very expensive. Again, \$900 for a Nissan Altima, but
10 that's a rental.

11 Again, we got the information from Dan. I know
12 Laredo is moving into leasing vehicles, you know, and I
13 know it puts us in a situation where if a car gets burned,
14 it's going to be hard to get out of the car in order to
15 exchange it. But those are things that we're dealing with
16 right now. We're going to have to adapt.

17 And then the other thing that I was going to
18 say is, I know that Dallas in a very different situation
19 right now. It's not like they're asking for something
20 new. It's something that -- it's money that they already
21 have.

22 You know, it puts them in a very different
23 situation. But I just want to make sure that everybody,
24 you know, in all our task forces -- that this Board is not
25 going to approve for cars that are, you know -- that it's

1 a want that is not a need.

2 I can tell you that task force officers do not
3 need Tahoes, you know, brand-new Tahoes. I can tell you
4 that all task force agents that work for their
5 jurisdictions are not going to need, you know, specific
6 cars that are very expensive to be able to do their job.

7 I know there are some rural areas that they
8 need the specific trucks. But again, you know, those are
9 things that they have to decide on their own. Once we
10 approve the grant, that's out of our hands.

11 But we just want to make sure that they're not
12 going to be investing or -- not investing, but purchasing
13 those type of vehicles. That's it.

14 MR. WILSON: Understand.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Bryan, did you have something
16 to say?

17 SGT. RODEN: No, sir. I just sort of -- I just
18 came back up here in case there was another question or
19 anything like that, that I could help you out with.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. No. We're good.

21 MR. WILSON: Again, this is not a Committee
22 recommendation. Bryan Wilson, for the record. This is
23 something that you have to take on.

24 MS. JONES: So it's on --

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Item 3.I.

1 MS. JONES: So it's on here as a motion. So we
2 proceed as we normally would?

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on Agenda
4 Item 3.I?

5 MS. WHITEHILL: Member Whitehill. I move that
6 the MVCPA Board approve the exception from MVCPA policy to
7 allow Dallas PD to lease two vehicles and spend up to
8 \$1,500 per month per vehicle in fiscal year '23.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
10 Whitehill. Do I have a second?

11 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones. Second.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All right. I have a motion
13 from Member Whitehill and a second from Member Jones. Is
14 there any further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I'll call for the
17 vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
22 aye. The motion passes unanimously.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman,
24 if you can let the record reflect that I abstained from
25 the vote.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That is correct. You cannot
2 vote, Member Gonzales.

3 MR. GONZALEZ: Correct.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Good job.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let the -- okay. Motion
7 passes. Moving on to Agenda Item 3.J, discuss and
8 consider the fiscal year 2023 MVCPA Taskforce Grant
9 amounts and recommend award amount and any standard or
10 special conditions.

11 Member Gonzalez, Chairman -- correction --
12 Director Wilson.

13 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. I
14 call your page -- attention to page 67 of the Board book.
15 It's kind of wacky-jawed, but you'll have to turn your
16 book sideways for a minute.

17 And basically, because of what we've just done
18 and the grantees didn't ask for any exceptions, that I
19 think, beyond this, we can vote on a slate. We do have
20 some members of the Board represented on the slate, but
21 because we're just doing a slate based on what we've done
22 in the past, there's really no need to recuse, or if you
23 vote on the entire slate, my recommendation is to vote the
24 grant awards on page 67 and just adopt them.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Director Wilson, if you can

1 clarify? Is now the time to discuss the direction that
2 the Grants Committee gave to you and your staff regarding
3 future grant awards and --

4 MR. WILSON: No.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: -- scoring?

6 MR. WILSON: No, sir.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Okay.

8 MR. WILSON: This is just a straight-up FY '23
9 award.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Got it.

11 MR. WILSON: So --

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So before we vote on this, was
13 there any -- I know that the Committee met yesterday with
14 several agencies. And is there a report on that before we
15 approve this?

16 MR. WILSON: No. Well, not for this item. The
17 report is on other items.

18 I mean, at this point, we're reporting as
19 staff. Bryan Wilson, for the record. At this time, we're
20 reporting as staff that everybody is submitting progress
21 reports.

22 Everybody is submitting expenditure reports.
23 They're all in good standing. They're making their
24 progress towards the current FY '22.

25 And under the '22-'23 request for applications

1 that we're funding under, all of these grants are in good
2 standing. And we have nobody that we think is delinquent
3 or otherwise not discharging their duties under this
4 grant. So --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: But so where are we going to --
6 where would I -- where would we get a report as a Board as
7 to the discussions or the presentations that were done
8 yesterday?

9 MR. WILSON: Right. That was not related to
10 their funding. That was related to their operations.
11 That's on the next -- the following pages. So --

12 MR. GONZALEZ: That's Item 3.M. Am I correct?
13 Or 3.L?

14 MR. WILSON: Three -- yes, 3.L.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: But I know the Chairman can skip
16 around, if we wants, but --

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah. You're welcome to do that.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. I would like to go to --
19 I want to skip to 3.L., just so that the Board members can
20 have this ability as to what we're --

21 MR. WILSON: Certainly.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- giving the grantees, and
23 that way, the -- Member Gonzalez and Member Salinas, and I
24 know, Member Jones was not here yesterday. And I would
25 like to give her an opportunity to -- if she has any

1 questions in regards to those discussion, that she makes
2 those questions.

3 So I would like to skip to Agenda Item 3.L, the
4 report from Member Gonzalez and the Committee.

5 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So
6 yesterday, the Grants, Budget and Reporting Committee met
7 and had three task forces present various dimensions and
8 aspects of their program and what it is that they are
9 doing.

10 Those three task forces were Brownsville, Eagle
11 Pass, and Austin PD. And so I'll kind of -- I'll go in
12 the order, you know, that they presented in.

13 To summarize, we met with Brownsville, and
14 Brownsville PD is the recipient of over one million
15 dollars per year from this body. The Brownsville State
16 Task Force consists of investigators from Brownsville, as
17 well as from Pharr, Edinburg and McAllen PD -- so across
18 various counties. And as we were discussing during their
19 presentation, they've expressed -- and we noticed some
20 concerns regarding their communication, as well as their
21 ability to operate as a task force.

22 You know, we asked them about their operations
23 and their proactive measures to perform auto theft
24 interdiction. And to say that, you know, we didn't get a
25 satisfactory answer -- I think that would summarize it

1 pretty well.

2 And so you know, there are challenges that they
3 have given, that they are so spaced-apart. I want to say
4 that, between McAllen and Brownsville is probably about an
5 hour, a little over an hour's drive.

6 And so the Committee strongly encouraged
7 Brownsville to seek more collaboration with the members of
8 that task force. And we emphasized the importance of the
9 proactive operations to interdict auto theft.

10 Specifically, you know, there are 11 ports of
11 entry -- or there are 11 bridges in the Valley. And it's
12 important, as is mandated by the Legislature, that we, you
13 know, conduct these operations to stop the ebbs and flow
14 of stolen vehicles into Mexico.

15 We also encouraged them to conduct, you know,
16 clandestine and covert operations to be setting up, you
17 know, purchases of stolen vehicles online, you know, and
18 arrest individuals that way. We encouraged them to expand
19 their investigations to find more chop shops.

20 And I also encouraged them to shadow a couple
21 of my counterparts, Commander Harrell and Commander
22 Peterson, because it is an unique -- they do have unique
23 challenges to manage a task force that is spread across,
24 you know, various counties. However, we know that it can
25 be done to great success. And I point to my counterparts

1 over there, because I know that they are doing wonderful
2 things over in Tarrant County and Dallas County.

3 So with respect to Brownsville, again, we
4 intend to be working closely with Brownsville. And
5 hopefully, we can get them, you know, to better execute
6 goals and vision of this Board, and as well as the
7 Legislature.

8 With respect to Austin PD, they have a unique
9 set of circumstances, I'll say that. They have a unique
10 set of circumstances with respect to -- they are
11 undergoing the reimagining over law enforcement. And
12 they've faced some significant cuts to their agency.

13 And so you know, they expressed the need, you
14 know, for additional overtime funding, as well as
15 assistance with getting license plate readers. However,
16 that's going to be with their City Council.

17 So they have a unique set of circumstances that
18 are impacting their task force. And so I feel for them.
19 Certainly, I feel for them.

20 And with respect to Eagle Pass, you know, we
21 had to take kind of a strong stance and issue somewhat of
22 a direct line with respect to the Virtual Command Center.

23 And I say that because during our discussion, you know,
24 we were talking about how -- or the presenter was speaking
25 about, you know, heavy caseloads, and you know, the

1 difficulty that it is to get around to posting on the VCC.

2 And you know, we need to remind all task forces
3 that this is not optional. This is a -- our task forces
4 are contractually obligated through the statement of grant
5 award that they sign and accept to participate in the
6 Virtual Command Center. Because, you know, the suspects
7 that are in Eagle Pass that are stealing cars are the same
8 suspects that are, you know, in Houston and vice versa.

9 And there's so much intelligence-sharing that
10 has to happen in order for the goals of MVCPA to be
11 reached. We have to share intelligence. And so that's
12 something that we reminded Eagle Pass about.

13 And then finally, there's a discrepancy with
14 respect to the number of cases that are being presented by
15 the Maverick County Court system, and what's being
16 reported. And so we're going to look more into that to
17 see where that breakdown in communication is, because
18 Maverick County is reporting zero cases for auto theft for
19 the past two years, I believe.

20 However, we know that cases are being filed by
21 those investigators. So we don't know what is going on
22 with respect to that, but we do intend on looking more
23 into it.

24 Member Salinas, do you have anything to add to
25 that?

1 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chair, just every -- you
2 know, the departments that came in yesterday, I mean, they
3 presented, again, like you said, some very unique
4 challenges. Everybody had a very different situation.
5 And it just goes back to the state of Texas, you know,
6 being such a large state, that every region is very, very
7 different.

8 And you're looking at, you know, Brownsville,
9 for instance. I mean, they cover the entire Rio Grande
10 Valley. That's a region of about 1.6 million people,
11 11 international bridge crossings, and also four port, you
12 know, deep-water ports -- or at least, you know, one is a
13 deep-water port.

14 So that's, you know, quite a few challenges
15 there. Then you get, you know, to Eagle Pass, and you
16 know, they -- you know, working with the tribal police and
17 some of the counties that are there as well. And then you
18 just heard Chairman Gonzalez say that, you know, Austin
19 also has some very -- having to work with their Council as
20 far as trying to get certain things approved for them to
21 just police in general.

22 So very unique for all three of them. That's
23 it.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any other member has any
25 questions for the Committee?

1 MS. JONES: I do, sir.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead, Member Jones.

3 MS. JONES: I apologize. Sharon Jones, for the
4 record. I apologize for not being here yesterday. I
5 could not morph myself into being three places at the same
6 time. I tried.

7 So I understand Austin PD's -- I understand. I
8 understand. So simply because I'm in the Austin area, so
9 I understand their challenges.

10 What I do not understand is the challenges for
11 Brownsville, and also -- what was the second? The --
12 Eagle Pass, simply because I understand there's a vast
13 amount of responsibility, but also, at the end of the day,
14 there's a statute that we're supposed to be following for
15 productivity.

16 So I don't -- I wasn't here. I don't know what
17 is the reason for the -- I think someone said efficiencies
18 or difficulty or the lack of effectiveness. But also, to
19 be fair to them, is it possible for those two to just kind
20 of explain to us while they're here, if they are here,
21 what needs to be done? What wasn't done? And how we, as
22 a Board, can assist them to make them successful?

23 Because I was clear from -- when we had our
24 last grant, I don't want to -- I want us to follow what
25 we're supposed to be doing. And also, we're going to be

1 held accountable for every single penny.

2 And I do not want to just sit and vote to give
3 grant funding, if they're not -- I'm not saying they're
4 not being used for what they're not supposed to be. I
5 don't know that. But I would like an explanation, because
6 I'm not just going to just vote and just say yes.

7 So is it possible, Chairperson, that maybe a
8 representative from Brownsville and Eagle Pass can address
9 the Board?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Do we have the
11 representatives from Brownsville? Anyone here from
12 Brownsville?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. We'll go to Eagle Pass.
15 Eagle Pass?

16 SGT. CARDONA: Sergeant Rene Cardona, with the
17 Eagle Pass Police Department.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, Rene. So I
19 opened it up to the Board to ask any questions in regards
20 to your operation. I know you explained some of the
21 operations you're carrying in your jurisdiction, but I
22 know there's going to be a couple of other questions as to
23 how we're doing to improve your operations down in Eagle
24 Pass.

25 So I'll open it up to Member Jones.

1 MS. JONES: Can you give a brief overview of
2 what you discussed yesterday in reference to where you are
3 and the funding that you guys were given?

4 SGT. CARDONA: The brief summary that I gave
5 yesterday with regards to our operations, I don't have my
6 notes with me. I wasn't expecting this part.

7 I do want to touch on what you were commenting
8 on as far as the VCC issue or the challenge that we were
9 faced with. We did converse about that, as far as us --
10 or me not presenting to the VCC due to the lack of time,
11 per se.

12 MR. WILSON: Can you speak a little closer?

13 SGT. CARDONA: Sure. So the issue was there --
14 is that I actively engaged in the case, as well as my two
15 other detectives. We're shorthanded at this point in
16 time. So that's basically the foundation of that issue.

17 It was presented to the Board yesterday. And
18 what we finalized with that was -- it's going to get
19 better. We are going to include more members into the VCC
20 to better maintain that flow of information to a greater
21 extent, and that's to answer that question.

22 With regards to other operations, well, we deal
23 with, of course, the auto theft, crime and burglary and so
24 on. And right now, our particular circumstances with
25 illegal immigration and so on -- so we're dealing with

1 alien smuggling.

2 So we're working with not only just Customs,
3 with the exportation of illegal -- of stolen vehicles,
4 Border Patrol, the Maverick County Sheriff's Office and
5 all surrounding counties that we have. With the recent
6 addition of our license plate readers, our productivity
7 has increased immensely.

8 So we're networked currently with the
9 surrounding counties. And we're very blessed that all of
10 the LPR systems are under the same company, which is
11 Vigilant. So everybody is talking to each other. So
12 we're tracking vehicles that are coming straight out of
13 San Antonio and going back and forth.

14 So that's what we're currently working on.

15 MS. JONES: Are the stolen vehicles being
16 reported? I know everyone blames DPS for their numbers.
17 We only give you back what you give us.

18 So are you -- are those numbers being
19 reported --

20 SGT. CARDONA: As far as --

21 MS. JONES: -- as stolens?

22 SGT. CARDONA: -- as far as our recoveries are
23 concerned, what we -- our basic understanding is that
24 whenever we recover a vehicle and it's not reported stolen
25 by us or entered by us, we're not going to be able to take

1 the credit. So that's the basic, bottom line on that one.

2 The way we're taking the credit is that we're arresting
3 people.

4 MS. JONES: Okay.

5 SGT. CARDONA: If we identify the vehicle --

6 MR. WILSON: Can I -- I want to clarify that.

7 SGT. CARDONA: Okay.

8 MR. WILSON: Are you -- when just -- we have
9 two report systems. So I want to -- what you said --
10 sorry to interrupt, Major, but I really -- we really need
11 to know this particular issue. Are you talking about your
12 task force reporting or your agency reporting to DPS?

13 SGT. CARDONA: To DPS.

14 MR. WILSON: Okay. I just --

15 SGT. CARDONA: Yes.

16 MR. WILSON: -- want to be clear, because we're
17 also collecting about stolens that you recover. So I just
18 want to make sure that the -- especially since we're
19 talking in this Board, and we have a report. So --

20 SGT. CARDONA: Yes. Now, we are taking the
21 credit for the recover on that stolen, but as far as our
22 NIBRS reporting and UCR reporting, well, we can't do that.
23 So -- but as far as us reporting to you all, yes.

24 Aside from what I was mentioning is that if we
25 identify a vehicle going into the Republic of Mexico and

1 can identify the driver, we're able to file charges
2 against that individual, even though we don't recover the
3 vehicle yet.

4 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, those are all my
5 questions for Eagle Pass.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Member Jones. Sarge,
7 the grant covers two officers -- two detectives?

8 SGT. CARDONA: It's three detectives -- a
9 sergeant, two detectives, and a cash match. But due to
10 our personnel issues and so on, short-staffed and people
11 promoting, like we mentioned earlier, but one of our
12 newly-assigned corporals, it's taking time to replace that
13 personnel. So right now, we're having to deal with me
14 actually going out to the field and engaging in casework.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So the 138- covers for three
16 investigators?

17 SGT. CARDONA: Yes.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's including fringe
19 benefits, Director Wilson?

20 MR. WILSON: Well, I don't have the application
21 here in front of me, but yes. What he was saying is,
22 there's technically four people in your unit. Is that
23 right?

24 SGT. CARDONA: Yes.

25 MR. WILSON: Okay. There's a what they call --

1 I mean, it's the -- the way they think -- the local think
2 is cash match and grant-funded positions. So there's
3 three positions, but the percentage -- it's his entire
4 unit, to answer your question. But it's not all of their
5 salaries nor all of their -- I think it's all their --
6 most of their fringe or all of their fringe.

7 But we try to pay for the -- what we've
8 always -- our model is, we want to pay for the officers
9 and have the local jurisdiction pay for the fringe. That
10 way -- because fringe varies a lot, you know. I mean,
11 it's just how much insurance, this selection, that
12 selection, things like that.

13 But try to get them to put the officers'
14 salaries -- but without getting into too much detail here,
15 there's four investigators in the unit, funded at some
16 percentage by MVCPA.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Because I see that their
18 cash match is at 783,000, right? So what's your auto
19 theft rate, year-to-date, today?

20 SGT. CARDONA: Year-to-date? Again, I don't
21 have my notes so I can't think of it off the top of my
22 head. I did include it on the summary.

23 Year-to-date, from September 1, I want to say,
24 we're about 53, as far as new UMV cases that are
25 developed. Our actual auto theft rate in Eagle Pass, it's

1 not that great. What's keeping our new UMV up are the
2 exportation of stolen vehicles, or the vehicles that are
3 going through our jurisdiction.

4 MR. WILSON: Sarge, here's your --

5 SGT. CARDONA: Okay.

6 MR. WILSON: We -- some of the -- Mr. Chairman,
7 Bryan Wilson, for the record. We didn't put the entire
8 reports that they submitted, because some have sensitive
9 information that we don't necessarily want released as a
10 public document.

11 It's not law enforcement confidential, but some
12 of it would qualify as law enforcement sensitive. So we
13 just didn't want to -- I'm sorry. We didn't pass it out
14 to the entire Board. We didn't know at what level we
15 would be getting into this.

16 The summary documents are on page 72 to 74,
17 five, six. I will say -- well, I had one victim brave the
18 fire. It looks like City of Austin was here earlier, and
19 I don't see them now. And then I don't think Brownsville
20 came this morning, maybe.

21 MS. JONES: My concern with Brownsville is --
22 it was mentioned that maybe the area of responsibility may
23 be too vast. I don't know what the solution is to make
24 them successful, if we need to split it up, or maybe hold
25 more feet to the fire.

1 I will say that, as a Board, we expect answers.
2 And not showing up for a Board meeting, no
3 representative, that doesn't look good. And not having
4 answers, as was presented yesterday, that's not a good
5 look either.

6 And so we need to hold people accountable for
7 the funds that we are granting to them.

8 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record.
9 Major Jones, we didn't invite them to this meeting. We
10 invited them to the one yesterday.

11 I just want to be clear. They're -- all
12 grantees are welcome to come to all Board meetings. But
13 in this case, I just want -- I don't want the Board to --
14 misunderstand.

15 I only directed these grantees to come for the
16 Committee meeting with the requirement. I want to be
17 clear. The difference between -- all grantees are
18 always -- when I took over the program eight years ago, we
19 were spending about \$30,000 per Board meeting every time
20 for all the grantees to -- the requirement was, every
21 grantee has to come to every grant meeting.

22 And I said, no. We want money to be used in
23 the communities, not here. So I apologize if I didn't
24 make that clear. I told them -- I mean, whatever --
25 yesterday, but I didn't say anything about today.

1 MS. JONES: Okay. Understood. However, let me
2 repeat that any grantee we give funds to needs to be held
3 accountable. And apparently, from what I've heard today,
4 it's not working in Brownsville.

5 So we need -- as a Board, we need to figure
6 what we need to do to make them successful.

7 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I was agreeing with
8 that part. I was just fixing the part about the
9 invitation. So, okay.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. I agree with Member
11 Jones on that. And I think that the -- if we're going to
12 change the dynamics of how we respond to when agencies,
13 you know, put their reports in, and then we see some gaps,
14 this is going to be the place to address them. Because if
15 a phone call or a visit is not going to fix it, then this
16 is where it's going to get fixed.

17 I think that it has to be called upon those
18 agencies just to answer the questions that we have. I
19 think it's important that the members that are non-law
20 enforcement in our Board understand the whole concept of
21 what MVCPA is.

22 And I think that's what I'm trying to do here,
23 so they can understand, in talking to the Sarge here, you
24 know, the reason that we fund these agencies is because
25 there's a problem. There's an auto theft problem. But if

1 you come in here and you're saying that there's zero
2 prosecution in those jurisdictions, somebody is going to
3 ask the questions on what are we doing. And it's going to
4 be very hard for this Board to answer those questions.

5 So I don't want myself or any member of this
6 Board to be put in that predicament. So this is the
7 reason why we're asking these questions, because we see
8 that there's gaps and we just want to address them.

9 It doesn't mean necessarily that we're going to
10 take away any grants or say that there's going to be some
11 sort of repercussions placed against that agency just
12 because of that. But we want to make sure we address
13 those gaps.

14 Sarge, the auto theft rate went to -- it keeps
15 going up, from 2019 to 2021. And then it went down on --
16 well, actually, you might be having another increase in
17 2022, by the way I see the numbers here. So you went from
18 52, 2019, to 62 auto thefts in 2020, to 75 in 2021, and
19 then in 2022, year-to-date, you're at 46.

20 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So based on that, I think
22 you're going to have another increase. And I know that
23 Member Jones here -- what we're trying to get to is, okay,
24 what are we doing to make sure that we keep it steady
25 here, that we don't have another increase coming your way?

1 What are we doing as far as -- well, let me ask
2 you this. I know you have a new Chief. How is he
3 attacking the problem with auto theft? How does he look
4 at it?

5 SGT. CARDONA: He's in total support of the
6 program. As a matter of fact, we are starting, based on
7 what we know as far as auto theft is concerned, and --
8 that the traveling or the exportation of the vehicle, it's
9 directly linked to the organized crime issue.

10 So he's very specific or very driven towards
11 that type of unit. So that's what is currently in the
12 making. And it already has -- it has already been
13 launched, so we're just trying to make it better.

14 One of the things that I do want to point out
15 is that like I mentioned, the current situation there in
16 our county, in our jurisdiction and surrounding counties,
17 is that we do have three or four tiers of law enforcement
18 presence. We have right on the river, then we've got our
19 local jurisdictions, State, and then it moves on from
20 there.

21 Right now, the influx of DPS in our area is --
22 it's great, but it's expected to leave. So we're having
23 great success with our license plate readers and so on,
24 and during -- in a certain diameter. But as soon as that
25 leaves, we're going to have to step it up so we can

1 start -- keep on detecting these vehicles coming into our
2 jurisdiction.

3 So that's current status. So we're expecting
4 that it's going to -- our activity is going to have to
5 increase.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.

7 And yeah. I do want to clarify that, you know, your
8 answers were satisfactory, and it definitely seemed -- I
9 got the impression that you're very much engaged, you
10 know, with the auto theft issues, you know, with Eagle
11 Pass.

12 But I do want to bring one item of attention to
13 the Board with respect to Brownsville. So it's important
14 that this body understands that Brownsville -- this body
15 gives the State Task Force the third highest amount of any
16 other task force in the state. And so we are giving them
17 over a million dollars for 346 offenses.

18 Their budget is comparable to Houston, who has
19 20,000 offenses a year. And so while, again, to echo
20 Chairman -- the Chairman's responses about -- we're not
21 trying to, you know, slash and cut funding where we don't
22 have to, but I think that there's so much more potential
23 for the Brownsville Task Force.

24 In my opinion, Brownsville Task Force should be
25 the crown jewel of the MVCPA with respect to the

1 interception and the interdiction of auto theft or of
2 stolen cars that are flowing into Mexico. I just want for
3 this body to get its million dollars' worth, if that's the
4 direction that we're going to go in.

5 And so I think I made my expectations
6 incredibly clear of, you know, this body expects, you
7 know, these proactive operations. And you know, we expect
8 a whole lot more to stop and combat auto theft than what
9 is currently happening.

10 Because like I said, as of now, we are spending
11 one million dollars a year on 346 offenses, when Houston's
12 budget is comparable, and they have 20,000. So the
13 expectations have to be higher for Brownsville.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones. Okay. Go --

16 MR. SALINAS: Mr. Chairman, Member Salinas.

17 And to add to Member Gonzalez's comments, just kind of,
18 like, you know, the bigger picture, from what I could
19 gather -- we could gather at the presentation yesterday
20 from Brownsville was there seemed to be some kind of
21 breakdown in communication between Brownsville Task Force
22 with the ones in McAllen and Edinburg, which again those
23 are about an hour apart from each other.

24 And that breakdown in communication essentially
25 was starting to affect their processes. So just kind of,

1 like, you know -- that's at least, you know, what we took
2 from the report yesterday.

3 MS. JONES: Sharon Jones, for the record. If
4 there's a breakdown in communication, we need to do
5 something about it. It's our job as a Board to make sure
6 that they're successful.

7 And I had the same issue last year when we gave
8 out the funding. Like, I made it clear. I'm not
9 understanding the numbers as far as recoveries.

10 And comparing them to agencies like Houston and
11 Dallas, it did not make sense then, and it's not making
12 sense now. I agree with the Chairperson that for our non-
13 commissioned Board members, we're not saying they do not
14 understand, but we owe it to them to give them a true
15 picture.

16 Instead of just having them vote and say yes to
17 something, we need to let them know, like, here's a true
18 picture. Here's what we're voting yes on. And at the end
19 of the day, we're going to be held accountable to the
20 taxpayers for every single penny.

21 And we're -- and again, we're not saying we
22 want to slash, but I am saying, the math is not adding up
23 to me. It does not make sense.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.
25 And I do want to clarify that Director Wilson yesterday

1 asked for direction with respect to grant scoring and the
2 award process.

3 And so my response was Texas Transportation
4 Code 1006.151, and that we have to do better to better
5 address this statute that was mandated to us by the
6 Legislature that says the authority shall allocate grant
7 funds primarily based on the number of motor vehicles
8 stolen in or the motor vehicle burglary or theft rate
9 across, and the number of fraud-related motor vehicle
10 crimes committed in the state, rather than based on
11 geographic distribution.

12 Now I understand it does say "primarily based."

13 I think that there's a lot of work to do and I think that
14 we can certainly make improvement to better address that
15 section of the statute.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So going back to what
19 we're talking about here, and again, you know, one of the
20 things that I've seen that works is if we're going to stop
21 somebody from stealing cars for criminal organizations, we
22 have to target hard our bridges.

23 We're going to have to target hard those
24 jurisdictions like Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Laredo, El Paso,
25 Brownsville, McAllen. All those areas have to be -- I

1 want to say our job as a border is to make sure that we
2 stop those vehicles from going into Mexico. That's where
3 the money is.

4 If somebody stealing a car from Houston is
5 going to go to the Valley, if somebody is stealing a car
6 from San Antonio, who is also having a problem with auto
7 theft and burglary of vehicles -- it's a big city, and
8 they're going to go to Laredo.

9 If somebody's stealing a car from San Antonio,
10 they're also going to go to Eagle Pass. Dallas, same
11 thing. It's going to go to the border, if they can reach
12 the border.

13 But as a border, you also have different things
14 going on. You have stolen vehicles not only crossing the
15 border, but you have stolen vehicles that are stolen from
16 San Antonio and north of Texas -- I'm sorry. The fact is
17 that all these jurisdictions that are working very
18 aggressively to stop auto theft, you know, sometimes
19 they're not seeing the bigger picture.

20 And I know that -- and I can speak for Laredo.

21 You know, I see these tankers that are stolen from San
22 Antonio, driven back to Laredo, and then being used to
23 transport illegal aliens into -- you know, up north. So
24 that's a big case right there, just to follow up and sit
25 on that tractor-trailer for hours, to make sure that we

1 identify the players.

2 We identify where it's going. And then from
3 there, we have to communicate with our other jurisdictions
4 to let them know, hey, this tractor-trailer went up, and
5 they gave us this name, and he is Dallas and he is in
6 Houston and he is in San Antonio. And we need to continue
7 that follow-up.

8 So it takes a lot of -- it's a lot of work.
9 It's very labor-intensive when we're talking about those
10 type of cases. But when I went to the Senate Committee on
11 Border Security, I saw the presentation that was put
12 together by ABTPA, which -- I mean, correction -- by
13 MVCPA, which was great, but there was a lot of gaps in our
14 orders, really, not only Eagle Pass, not only -- El Paso
15 too, and Brownsville.

16 And I'm not saying Laredo is perfect, but the
17 majority of the conversation, if you look at that
18 meeting -- you know, the majority of the conversation was
19 about how is it that those tankers are getting from Laredo
20 to San Antonio, from Laredo to Dallas?

21 A lot of the conversation was how is that
22 they're monetizing bodies? You know, and how is it that
23 they're using those stolen vehicles? And why would
24 somebody drive it from San Marcos to Laredo to use that
25 vehicle?

1 Well, there's a reason for it. I'm not going
2 to discuss it here. These are things that are
3 confidential, but there's a reason why they do that.

4 There's a reason why they don't -- there's
5 people from Laredo that we know, known gang members,
6 known -- people that we know there. They steal cars, but
7 there's a reason they don't do that, because we'd be able
8 to identify them.

9 So there's a reason why they come from out of
10 state or even from within the state to do those type of
11 crimes. But all that was all in that communication to the
12 Senate. And I didn't see that El Paso, from Eagle Pass or
13 from the Valley.

14 And I think it was very important for us to
15 make sure we provided that information to them, and say,
16 hey, every jurisdiction in the border is having the same
17 issues.

18 Because believe me, Sarge, and if Brownsville's
19 here or El Paso's here, it's happening in jurisdiction.
20 We just have to look for it. They're monetizing those
21 bodies, and that's how they're making a lot of money.

22 Those cartels, they're making money based on
23 that. And again, it's not drugs. They don't have to grow
24 it. They don't have to do anything to it.

25 The body gets caught, gets sent back. They

1 charge him again, very simple. So we need to get on board
2 with this.

3 If your auto theft rate is not like Houston's
4 or San Antonio's or Dallas', we need to make sure that the
5 money being used by you is being put to good use in your
6 jurisdiction. And you can come back with those and say,
7 hey, I'm recovering vehicles. I'm doing this to make sure
8 that there's -- we have that nexus of violent crime and
9 illegal alien smuggling to auto theft, so that when we go
10 ask for additional funding, this is what we're presenting.

11 So all I'm asking is for those jurisdictions in
12 the border, especially Brownsville -- of course, we have
13 that communication issue that they brought up. We're
14 going to fix it. We're going to have to fix it. We owe
15 it -- like Member Jones said, we owe it to the taxpayers,
16 that we have to fix it.

17 So again, I want to thank you for coming up
18 here and giving your facts. And again, you know, I know
19 that you guys are also, you know, very, very busy. And I
20 heard you yesterday, you know, the communication, the
21 collaboration you have with U.S. Customs and even the
22 Mexican Customs. That is key.

23 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I want you to continue doing
25 that. But again, let's focus a little more on hardening

1 that area of Eagle Pass and Maverick County.

2 SGT. CARDONA: Yes, sir, definitely.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else have any
4 questions?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

7 SGT. CARDONA: Thank you.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we are going back to Item
9 3.J. We are going back to Item 3.J, discuss and consider
10 the fiscal year 2023 MVCPA Taskforce Grant amounts and
11 recommend award amount in any other standard or special
12 condition.

13 Member Gonzalez and Director Wilson?

14 MR. WILSON: This is 3.J?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: 3.J.

16 MR. WILSON: I guess I -- Bryan Wilson, for the
17 record. Before we proceed to 3.J, I'm just wondering if
18 we should open 3.I back up for exceptions, and I'm posing
19 this question to Gonzalez, Salinas and Jones, the third
20 member.

21 Yeah. Do we need -- it won't be a committee
22 issue, but do we need to do something with Brownsville as
23 an exception to -- I mean, do -- I mean --

24 MS. JONES: You're reading my mind.

25 MR. WILSON: Hold on. The Chairman hasn't

1 called 3.I, but I'm just --

2 MS. JONES: Sorry, sir.

3 MR. WILSON: -- making sure. I want to ask
4 that question of the Chairman or the members, generally,
5 before we do anything in detail. Just -- do you want to
6 call 3.I, and then talk about exceptions? Because it
7 sounds like Major Jones might want to do that.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Let's call back 3.I.

9 MR. WILSON: Okay. Now --

10 MS. JONES: So 3.I pertains to the chart that's
11 on 67. Correct? Where -- is that -- I want to make sure
12 we're on the same page.

13 MR. WILSON: No. What I'm saying is three --
14 we dealt with the \$1,500 as an exception --

15 MS. JONES: Correct.

16 MR. WILSON: -- first, and then as I was
17 telling y'all, we have to deal with exceptions before we
18 deal with awards.

19 Now, if you want to change the amount, then we
20 need to call 3.J and change the amount, but that's not
21 what I thought I heard this discussion around. If you
22 want to put an exception in the contract --

23 MS. JONES: This is --

24 MR. WILSON: That's 3.J, the award itself. But
25 in 3.I, we talked about the exception process, that if the

1 Board -- that we were going -- if the Board wanted to
2 place an exception on any particular grant, that was the
3 place to do it. 3.I, to say we want -- I don't know.

4 Gonzalez, we talked about having -- we want a
5 special requirement to provide a clearer plan of
6 operation. I mean, I don't know what it is. I mean, if
7 you want to talk --

8 MS. JONES: Okay.

9 MR. WILSON: -- to 3.I, he's called 3.I back
10 into discussion. So you can talk about whatever exception
11 you might want to see.

12 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman?

13 MR. WILSON: Go ahead.

14 MR. RICHARDS: David Richards, General Counsel,
15 for the record. If I may?

16 Mr. Wilson, I read this agenda item not as a
17 global grant exception policy. This specifically talks
18 about Dallas PD. That's what the motion was: "I move
19 that the MVCPA Board approve the exception from MVCPA
20 policy to allow Dallas PD to lease two vehicles and spend
21 up to \$1,500 per month for a vehicle in FY '23."

22 My concern is, Brownsville is not here. Should
23 they be? I think they should, personally, but they're
24 not.

25 And I don't -- that's my concern with your

1 comment that we can go back to 3.I and address Brownsville
2 or any other grantee at this time. I think, if we were
3 going to do that, it would be -- yes, it came up during
4 the meeting, but it wasn't posted as such.

5 So my concern, Mr. Chairman, is that we allow
6 Brownsville to be here -- and yes, they should be here --
7 to address this before we consider. Because the agenda
8 was not posted as such, and I think, had it been posted as
9 such, they would have been here.

10 MS. JONES: So Mr. Richards, can we then
11 address that when we're discussing this chart on 67?

12 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. JONES: Okay.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So we'll go back to 3.J.

15 MS. JONES: We'll try to get it right.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We have to get it right.

17 MS. JONES: We have to get it right.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So we'll go back to Item 3.J
19 and discuss and consider fiscal year '23 MVCPA Taskforce
20 Grant amounts and recommend award amounts in any standard
21 or special conditions.

22 Director Wilson, this is what we're going to
23 discuss.

24 So Member Jones?

25 MS. JONES: So I am not comfortable just

1 approving the entire list. I'm not comfortable, and I'm
2 not picking on Brownsville, because all of the task forces
3 are on here.

4 So I don't know what the solution is, but I'm
5 not just -- I'm not comfortable just saying yes, because I
6 don't agree with every single task force -- I would like
7 some transparency, some more questions answered, and
8 especially when the task force for Brownsville
9 encompasses -- it doesn't just encompass Brownsville.
10 There are other cities.

11 And so I don't think it's fair to hold
12 Brownsville necessarily accountable for all of the other
13 cities, when we have not heard from them. But also as a
14 task force of Brownsville, it is that person's
15 responsibility to make sure that they're communicating
16 with the others. And if there's a communication
17 breakdown, then we need to figure out what we need to do
18 for the task force commander to be successful in being
19 able to present to us.

20 So I'm not comfortable with just saying yes to
21 this entire page 67. But I don't know what the solution
22 is, Mr. Richards. If we can just --

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Can we -- Chairman Rodriguez,
24 for the record -- can we put special conditions on the
25 amount -- on the specific task force that we have

1 identified?

2 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman, David Richards,
3 General Counsel, for the record. I believe at this time
4 you can do that. If you want to go down the list and have
5 items of exception you want to apply to the agenda, or to
6 each grantee.

7 MS. JONES: And also my concern is for -- I'm
8 using Brownsville, because Brownsville was here yesterday,
9 and they had the -- I heard the comments from my
10 colleagues. Austin PD -- I understand Austin PD, but I
11 don't know -- simply because I live in Williamson County,
12 but I don't know if the other Board members understand
13 Austin PD.

14 So do we need to have it to where -- I don't
15 want to pick on Brownsville. So, and I also don't know
16 what is happening in Lubbock. I don't know about
17 Pasadena, Potter County.

18 So I don't know if maybe the proper and the
19 fair thing to do is to have all of the grantees explain.
20 I don't know what the solution is, but I don't want it to
21 be where we're just focusing on Brownsville, because when
22 we're focusing over here, we may miss someone else.

23 MR. WILSON: So this Board -- you can make
24 whatever choices that you want. I want to be clear about
25 that. But what we issued in March 2023 -- I mean, excuse

1 me -- 2021 was a request for application, that we would
2 consider funding for FY '22 and '23, and that the values
3 that were assigned in '22 would be carried forward to '23.

4 So that's not addressing special conditions,
5 special needs, special considerations. It's just the
6 volume -- the amount of money that it takes for cities and
7 counties to go to the commissioners courts and to their
8 city councils or commissioners court and adopt and to go
9 through their processes to obligate the match funds and
10 all their processes.

11 So this is already June. A lot of times, you
12 know, we're supposed to do this -- city budgets and county
13 budgets are done in March and April. What we were doing
14 was doing what we said we were doing.

15 I mean, what I was proposing is just do what we
16 said we were going to do in the request for applications
17 that we issued a year and a half ago. Now, to special
18 conditions, we can apply those. We can have another
19 meeting about special conditions to say, well, for this
20 one, we need for you to address this issue or that issue.

21
22 But for the finance side, what cities and
23 counties need right away is certainty about their -- what
24 their city budget is, because they have to have --
25 everybody has to have their tax rate done by September 1.

1 That's State law.

2 They don't have time to work through -- are we
3 going to get funded or not? So --

4 MS. JONES: Well, I understand that they need
5 the certainty, but I need certainty in where the grant
6 funds are being used.

7 MR. WILSON: And that's fine. I guess what I'm
8 trying to tease out with you and others -- are we talking
9 about the award? Because this page is only about the
10 award. Or are we talking about conditions that we want on
11 these awards to make sure that we increase the
12 accountability or transparency or operation, to Lieutenant
13 Gonzalez's earlier point that we're -- you know, we know
14 that some of these grants have operational defect.

15 We had that on display yesterday, I think.

16 MS. JONES: So both for me, simply because if
17 we give you 500,000 and you're doing a campaign where,
18 don't lock your -- don't leave your keys in a car, and
19 that is 100,000, and you haven't done anything else per
20 statute, then the extra 400,000, you don't need it.

21 We can give to another city, task force, who's
22 actually -- who actually needs it and are actually
23 following the statute. Those are my thoughts. And I
24 don't know how we move forward from here and neither does
25 Mr. Richards.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So what if -- Chairman
2 Rodriguez, for record -- what if we put those special
3 conditions based -- so we approve --

4 MR. WILSON: You're going to have to --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- we approve the amount, but
6 we put for this fiscal year, since this is what has
7 already been -- well, yeah. I mean, this is what they've
8 already been instructed on doing. Okay.

9 You're going to be applying for the same
10 amount, because that's what we're basing ourselves on.
11 But we put those special conditions -- one, I think that
12 we identify the communication gap that there is, that
13 exists.

14 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Number two is we need to have
16 better numbers. Right? We're not placing a quota as to
17 how many arrests they make. We're not doing any of that.

18 But I think that there has to be a special
19 report coming from those task forces that we've
20 identified, coming to the Board members on a monthly basis
21 so that we can have a better picture as to what's going
22 on. I know that there is something here by just looking
23 at the numbers, but I think the root cause of the problem
24 is the fact that they're not communicating. And everybody
25 is within their own jurisdiction, doing whatever it is

1 that they're doing --

2 MR. WILSON: Sure.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- but the fiduciary agency is
4 Brownsville.

5 So we need to identify -- if that's what
6 they're doing -- they're all reporting the same numbers,
7 you know, saying that it's just one task force. But in
8 reality, after, you know, speaking with Member Salinas and
9 Member Gonzalez, it's pretty much just four jurisdictions
10 doing, you know, their own thing.

11 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I think that's a major gap,
13 and we're looking at it very differently. So I want to
14 see if maybe we can do some special conditions, and saying
15 we need additional reporting on your jurisdiction, and
16 we've identified that there is a gap in communication, and
17 you need to address as soon -- you know, effectively
18 immediately, you need to address that.

19 And if we need to go sit down with the chiefs
20 from Brownsville and McAllen and Edinburg, we'll do that.

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

22 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Chairman? David Richards,
23 General Counsel, for the record.

24 This agenda item is posted specifically: the
25 Committee recommendations on FY 2023 MVCPA Taskforce Grant

1 amounts, and any standard or special conditions. So
2 you're perfectly within the agenda posting to add special
3 conditions, whatever they may be, under this agenda item.

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Member Jones, what do
5 you think? Are we okay with that? Okay.

6 MR. WILSON: So some of these things that Major
7 Jones and Lieutenant Gonzalez are bringing up are very
8 complicated. I'll just say that. So I'll make a new
9 recommendation, because we can't solve this in the next
10 three to six hours.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Are we talking about the
12 communication part?

13 MR. WILSON: I'm talking about the special
14 conditions, to know how to apply special conditions.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well --

16 MR. WILSON: So if you would allow me, Mr.
17 Chairman? Bryan Wilson.

18 What I would like to propose -- back to this
19 sheet on page 67, what I would like to propose is that
20 under the conditions that Major Jones is concerned about,
21 that we award the grants so that we can get the business
22 end out of the way and meet our obligations under the RFA
23 that was posted, and so that the amounts will be continued
24 for this purposes, but that this -- and David, you'll have
25 to say if this is okay -- but that the Committee, the

1 Grants Budget and Reporting Committee, meet with the
2 Director to set -- to review some of the documentation.

3 That means we're going to have to either have
4 an electronic or a face-to-face meeting in the next few
5 weeks, that the Board just refer the matters of the law
6 enforcement special conditions to the Committee for us to
7 work out, and what special conditions should be applied to
8 which grantee. Because that way, we get the awards and
9 all the cities and counties can get busy doing their city
10 and council -- city council and commissioners court -- and
11 then we can come.

12 The three Committee members can sit down and
13 say, okay, let's talk about Lubbock. Let's talk about,
14 you know, each one, go through. Do we need a special
15 condition here? And then notify the grantees.

16 That way, I can give them the amount that
17 they're moving forward on, but then I -- before I issue --
18 just like we -- I mean, y'all -- I know Gonzalez worked a
19 little bit.

20 Chairman, you worked with me on the negotiation
21 phase with several grantees, where they need to know -- I
22 mean, there's one thing they need to know. It's the
23 money. Do we have the money? Yes.

24 But then if we're going to do special
25 conditions, then I need to send them -- saying, here are

1 things we're concerned about, as you were on some phone
2 calls with Chief Rodriguez, with me. Before I would issue
3 a grant award, I actually placed items for consideration
4 for that chief of police or that sheriff to deal with
5 before we could do that.

6 Now that's what I'm proposing. That way, we
7 can do what we need to do today, and then move forward to
8 address Major Jones's concerns.

9 MS. JONES: So Mr. Chairman, I have a quick
10 question. So based on what you just said alone -- so
11 page 67, Austin PD is first. Well, the City of Austin is
12 first.

13 So if we vote and we all agree, all the Board
14 members -- so are you saying that this 411,000, this 411-,
15 that is designated for the City of Austin. Correct?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Correct.

17 MS. JONES: And then we're going to -- that's
18 going to be basically reported to them or however they get
19 it, that they're getting 400,000. But what if, after
20 our -- we're having our Committee meeting, and we
21 determine that Austin PD, the City of Austin, this
22 400,000, they didn't spend it as they should and maybe
23 200,000. So then how --

24 MR. WILSON: Oh, oh. Is that what you mean?

25 MS. JONES: -- so am I way -- am I off-base?

1 MR. WILSON: No. Well, I -- okay. So remember
2 earlier, I was talking about -- in one of the budget
3 pages, I was talking about unexpended balance. So I -- a
4 grant, like we have, by State law -- I mentioned to y'all
5 that -- sorry. Bryan Wilson, for the record.

6 A grant -- like ours, there are some Health and
7 Human Services grants, or whatever. They say, here's
8 \$50,000. Go do whatever you've got to do.

9 Our grant -- we issue a grant, and then we can
10 only reimburse the city or county for whatever. And
11 remember, I was talking about the unexpended balance,
12 where we're going to get back from these grantees, all 24
13 grantees -- we're going to get back anywhere -- the lowest
14 it's ever been is, I think, is 137- or 150, all the way to
15 450-.

16 We're going to get all that money. I mean,
17 when I say, get it back, it didn't leave our office. I
18 only -- if you get a \$411,000 grant, I'm only reimbursing
19 you -- it's still sitting in the State Treasury, and I'm
20 only cutting warrants off of what you actually -- so you
21 said you were going to have five officers, but two of them
22 retired.

23 So you only spent one-third of your budget for
24 that quarter. I'm only giving you one-third of the budget
25 that you actually spent.

1 MS. JONES: Correct, but what I'm asking, is
2 there expectation from the city, when we say 400,000, and
3 the city's budgeting -- oh, we're going to get 400,000,
4 and they're budgeting for this 400,000 --

5 MR. WILSON: They're budgeting 411- -- in the
6 city budget, they're going to budget \$411,300 of State
7 money in their budget. And then they're going to budget
8 their match at the same time of one hundred and --
9 that's -- what is that? Like, the seventh column, eighth
10 column.

11 MS. JONES: 175-.

12 MR. WILSON: 175,841. They're going to move
13 tax dollars from their general revenue account, and lock
14 up their 175,000. Okay? So that -- then -- so that's the
15 total program costs.

16 But we only reimburse based on a percentage.
17 So once we sign the contract, I only pay -- so every
18 dollar that you spend, I'm only paying you the 60 cents or
19 the 80 cents of whatever. And so if you don't spend all
20 the dollars that's in that budget, the money's already --
21 always been in the State Treasury.

22 It doesn't ever leave the State Treasury, and
23 we owed no -- we owe nothing more than what they actually
24 spent.

25 MS. JONES: Okay. So how does the formula that

1 we applied -- my first go-round -- that formula that was
2 applied to allocate funding. Remember, they submitted
3 and --

4 MR. WILSON: Well, right. There was --

5 MS. JONES: -- then we -- there was a
6 formula and it's like, hey, this person gets 500-. This
7 person gets 800-. How does that formula --

8 MR. WILSON: That's what Gonzalez was talking
9 about, and we talked about in the meeting yesterday, is --
10 he's directed us to -- we're not going to use that formula
11 again, that in FY '24 -- that the citation he read a few
12 minutes ago on the Transportation Code 151 -- 1006.151,
13 that's what he was saying.

14 We're starting now. It's due in January --
15 December. We have to have a formula.

16 What the Committee was talking about is, we're
17 changing the formula. We'll look at some of the same
18 criteria. Clearly, you know, one of the criteria that we
19 currently use is your auto theft rate, your burglary rate.

20 That's the citation he read out of the statute.
21 And we're going to follow that. We have been following
22 that.

23 I want to be clear. It's just that the
24 previous Boards have assigned different values and
25 calculations. What he's saying is, we're going to work

1 through the whole process, not for this grant that we're
2 talking about today, but for the next cycle. Because the
3 next cycle will also be a two-year cycle, but we're going
4 to change the formula for the first year, the cycle,
5 going -- that will be carried into the second year next
6 time.

7 MS. JONES: Thank you.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez, for the record.

9 And so basically, to sum it up, the Board had already
10 decided, hey, for the two years, it's going to be a two-
11 year grant, and so it's too late at this point to figure
12 out the exact formula that we want to use, based on the
13 statute.

14 However, starting now, we're going to figure
15 out. And moving forward, after this particular grant, we
16 will have a formula that is more geared towards, you know,
17 our statute and that is a little more fair to be able to
18 implement our goals.

19 So basically, we ran out of time. This was the
20 first meeting of the Grants Committee since I've been
21 here. I mean, whenever -- so it just had not been done,
22 but it -- I assure you. It will be done now.

23 If we've got six months to do it, we'll do it
24 in six months.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I just think that most of these

1 gaps that we've identified go back to that. It's an easy
2 fix. You know, communication, you know, I can tell you,
3 you know, we're -- the ones that are police officers here,
4 anybody from -- that's a supervisor -- it's not going to
5 be an ask.

6 It's going to be an order to communicate. And
7 that can be easy to fix. So that, in itself, we can visit
8 with any high-ranking chief, or go over there and let them
9 know, we -- you know, we -- we're not asking. We're
10 telling you, you need to communicate.

11 It's very easy to fix. So that in mind, like I
12 was saying, put those special conditions on those -- on
13 that task force. It's -- I'm going to be very, very
14 up-front here. The only one that I see some issues is
15 one -- right now, is Brownsville.

16 We've talked about other ones. We've
17 addressed -- we've already communicated with them. We're
18 expecting for them to come back with results.

19 I had a conversation with a couple of them that
20 we've spoken with before. And again, you know, we are
21 expecting results. But what gets to me is the fact that
22 it's just things that we can just easily fix, bottom line.

23 So again, putting those special conditions to
24 them, awarding the amounts, and then making sure that we
25 follow up with them and have that reporting come back to

1 each Board member and saying, this is what they're doing.

2 We're working together with MVCPA, with our staff, and
3 that we're working together to make sure we address these
4 issues.

5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, for the record,
6 Bryan Wilson. So I'm going to kind of rephrase this,
7 that -- and Major Jones, also to you. I recommend that
8 we -- to follow the recommendation, the award schedule.

9 And then I still would like, because I think
10 I'm going to need some help from Jones, Gonzalez and
11 Salinas to review special conditions. I understand what
12 you're saying about Brownsville, but I still would like to
13 review special conditions on all the grantees before I
14 issue an award.

15 That's what I'd like to do, if the motion would
16 be that this body, this Board, would just defer to the
17 Grants Committee to help me identify all special
18 conditions, because there might be more. I'm not
19 discounting what you say, Mr. Chairman, but there might be
20 more that we probably should address, that came up a few
21 weeks ago when you had a meeting.

22 And I think there's probably one or two that
23 staff might want to ask the Board -- to ask the Committee
24 about, that maybe we wouldn't want to necessarily discuss
25 in a Board meeting like this. So if you're okay with

1 that, that's -- so you'd modify the motion to award the
2 grants as a slate, on page 67 of 90, and refer the
3 consideration of special conditions to the Grant Budget
4 and Reporting Committee before the statement of grant
5 award is issued.

6 And if somebody wants to just say, so moved,
7 you don't have -- that's just -- it just got read into the
8 record, so we don't have to redo the whole thing.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on the
10 agenda item with special conditions?

11 MR. WILSON: What I just said, as opposed.

12 MS. JONES: So we need to say, so moved.

13 MR. WILSON: So moved.

14 MS. BROTHERTON: Yeah. Member Brotherton. I
15 so move.

16 MR. WILSON: Okay.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So moved.

18 MS. BROTHERTON: Thank you.

19 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I second.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: The move has been made and
21 seconded. Is there any further discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, I will call for
24 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: All opposed, nay.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
4 aye. The motion passes. Yes.

5 Moving over to Item 3.K, discuss and consider
6 recommendation to authorize an additional payment to Texas
7 A&M for the development and implementation of the online
8 MAG application, report, and financial process.

9 Director Wilson, Gonzalez?

10 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. Mr.
11 Chairman, would you like to open this section with what
12 you -- with what the Webb County Sheriff's Office told you
13 about what I'm fixing to talk about?

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, definitely. So one of
15 the things that I've asked is how easy it is to get
16 through the process for this MAG application. And one of
17 the things that was very favorable coming from the
18 applicants was that it was fairly easy.

19 There were no glitches. There was no back-and-
20 forth as to, okay, now, I need to do this. I need to do
21 that. It was, you know, very upfront as to how it wanted
22 the structure of that application.

23 So they were very happy about that. They still
24 don't know if they have been awarded. So I'm thinking
25 that they're going to be even happier with that. So thank

1 you for moving on and coding that part of the application.

2 So I know it takes some time, so thank you for
3 that, Director Wilson.

4 MR. WILSON: Thank you for that preface, Mr.
5 Chairman, because this is one of those situations where we
6 issued a grant to Texas A&M University to run our Grant
7 Management and Tracking System. They are just wonderful
8 partners.

9 They really go out of their way. They provide
10 all kinds of free service to us all the time. If you can
11 ask most of the grantees, I think they'd tell you that
12 that system is operational. If they want to work on it at
13 two o'clock in the morning, or you know, 10 o'clock in the
14 morning, it's going to be ready to whenever they need it.

15 As part of this grant award, we built a -- this
16 Board issued the award with \$5,000 of contingency funds.
17 That's probably not a good word, but of development funds
18 in this contract. But when you awarded the -- the way
19 that that was supposed to work is, I was supposed to write
20 up this long functionality sheet, or what's called the
21 statement of work, turn it over to the vendor.

22 They look at it, and then they would say, okay,
23 we'll do that for, you know, X amount of dollars. In this
24 case, the Board voted. We were trying to figure out, are
25 we going to try to do this whole MAG thing by paper?

1 Are we going to -- like, a fax machine?
2 Remember those? I mean, we -- you know, back to the
3 future? The -- so we -- you know, so they -- we told them
4 what we were looking for, and I said, can you help me
5 write the statement of work?

6 Well, they started programming and actually had
7 the portals ready to go. Because you know, we have to
8 establish -- it's a law enforcement-sensitive system that
9 we run on the A&M servers. We had to establish those.

10 So anyway, long story short, they did the
11 entire development, got the grant available to me. I
12 didn't have time to write the statement of work. They --
13 as you saw in the earlier pages, that was an all entirely
14 online system that the chiefs and sheriffs just went in
15 and clicked on a button, told us what the DPS data was,
16 and submitted the grant.

17 And now, it will track it all the way through
18 the payment process. We'll even have an online payment
19 process. So what I'm asking you to do, since I didn't do
20 the statement of work first, I'm asking you to authorize
21 me to make the \$5,000 payment.

22 It's already budgeted. It's under our current
23 contract with Texas A&M. And it's just -- so I'm asking
24 you to authorize me to make the payment, because we have
25 the system. We don't have the statement of work.

1 And it worked. The system worked. And I'm
2 very happy. And I think we had two quick downtimes, or
3 some -- couple of little glitches, bugs, that we worked
4 out immediately within less than an hour.

5 A&M was on it, fixed it, and we got it. And
6 that's -- the report turned into to you in this book from
7 MAG was run right out of our system. It was totally
8 online. We didn't even have to recreate it.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Very cool.

10 MR. WILSON: So --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any questions from the Board
12 members?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Questions? Any public comments
15 on this?

16 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a motion on Agenda
18 Item 3.K?

19 MR. SALINAS: Member Salinas. I move that the
20 MVCPA Board authorize the Director to approve an
21 additional payment to Texas A&M in the amount of \$5,000
22 under the current contract and budget for the additional
23 features and new user interface development for the MAG
24 grant application award and payment process.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Do I have a second?

1 MS. JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have a motion from Member
3 Salinas and a second from Member Jones. Is there any
4 further discussion?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hearing none, we'll call for
7 the vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Opposed, nay.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I, Chairman Rodriguez, vote
12 aye. The motion passes.

13 Now we have the item for the amounts. No,
14 we've already voted on it. Is there a part where myself
15 and Salinas have to abstain from that vote? No?

16 MR. WILSON: No. We checked with legal
17 counsel. We did it as a slate and we did it under the RF
18 20 -- FY '22-'23 RFA. As long as we stuck with the entire
19 slate, then we were good to not have to deal with
20 exception, because we're just following our own written
21 policy.

22 You're not making determinations about your
23 awards or the amounts or anything about your grant. Next
24 time, when we do the next cycle, you -- it will be
25 different, because we'll be determining the actual amounts

1 each time.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

3 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Bryan Wilson, for the
4 record.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Agenda Item 3.L and 3.M, we've
6 passed already. I think 3.M. was the scoring system?
7 We -- I mean, we discussed it. Correct? You talked about
8 it?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Yeah. That's what we were
10 saying with -- we don't have one right now, but within the
11 next six months, we have to have a better scoring system
12 to apply.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Board members, any questions?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Any public comment on this,
16 Yessenia? Okay.

17 Agenda No. 4, Director's report, MVCPA
18 Director's report. Director Wilson?

19 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson, for the record. I
20 just wanted to introduce Gresham Kay. Just a little bit
21 of information. I always make everybody write their own
22 bio.

23 But Gresham joined us from the Texas Department
24 of Agriculture and was doing financial work over there,
25 and is already a -- he's a big -- very helpful on a lot of

1 the things that we're doing here in the operation, and
2 helping Dan get our payments done quicker. That's been
3 one of our frustrations is, we're not paying as quick.

4 The Legislature's watching our budget to see
5 how much we're expending. DPS is a direct operation
6 agency. When they get money, they're spending it
7 immediately.

8 We have to wait till the grant -- remember, I
9 talked about reimbursement. We have to wait till the
10 grantee spends it. Then we can reimburse them.

11 Well, we're always a quarter behind. They're
12 calling me, saying, why didn't you spend any money? Well,
13 I obligated it, but it's not the same.

14 So then we -- Iris Shay is our summer intern, I
15 think till -- through August. And we're glad to have her.

16 She's -- there's a little information, but
17 she's kind of our media guru, but she likes the online
18 stuff. So I say, let her go. Get out of the way.

19 So do you want to report on the statutory
20 measures? I'll turn it over to Joe Canady for the -- some
21 of the other report items.

22 MR. CANADY: For the record, Joe Canady, MVCPA
23 Law Enforcement Program Specialist. Beginning on pages 89
24 of your Board book, just the statutory measures --

25 MR. WILSON: Eighty-one.

1 MR. CANADY: I'm sorry. Eighty-one. It's been
2 a long morning. That's reporting on statutory measures
3 from the 2021, the final Q4. In addition, also, FY '22,
4 year-to-date.

5 These are the measures that the grantees are
6 reporting in their progress reports, as progress -- or as
7 they've made target numbers for the measures that they
8 can. Some of the statutorily-required targets, they are
9 not allowed to set, but they are required to report on.

10 One of the items of interest on FY '22 for the
11 first quarter through current, it's going to be for the
12 next -- hopefully, for the next meeting, is license plate
13 reader, the number of responses, number of vehicles
14 recovered. We're hoping that the increase in grantees for
15 the MAG grants is going to have an effect on these
16 numbers, and also an increase on the collaborations
17 between the law enforcement agencies.

18 Do you have any questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. WILSON: Okay. Bryan Wilson, for the
21 record. On the next item, Grant Adjustment Report.

22 Just letting you know -- so one of the
23 principles that I put in when I first came here was -- so
24 you know what Major Jones was talking about earlier, the
25 contracts, like we have with Brownsville, and you know,

1 they have specific statements and conditions. But
2 sometimes, these grantees ask for exceptions.

3 I'll talk about grant adjustments later. But
4 it's really important for y'all to know and for us to be
5 able to describe to you what happened since our last
6 meeting.

7 So each Board meeting, you'll always see the
8 grant adjustments that have been taken care of. Now, I
9 know there's one for Travis County that's pending, I
10 guess, my review. And then Paris has one that -- and so
11 anything that I don't have authority to do -- remember, I
12 go to the Grants Budget -- but then I'll always publish to
13 you what it is that I did while you were gone, right?

14 You were out of the office, so they asked me.
15 If I can't fix it, it goes to the Grants Committee, and if
16 then they can't fix it, then we do the -- we go to -- come
17 back to the Board. Okay?

18 So any questions about grant adjustments since
19 the last Board meeting?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. WILSON: Okay. Moving on, Mr. Chairman,
22 I'm just taking liberty here to go to the next agenda
23 item. The -- this is a kind of quick summary on page 84
24 about our training.

25 Do you want to say anything about that, Joe?

1 MR. CANADY: Joe Canady, MVCPA. Just that our
2 upcoming class, the next class, will be at the end of this
3 month in El Paso. We're looking forward to traveling out
4 there to train officers from El Paso and other
5 jurisdictions that have a need for this training so they
6 can further -- more successfully do the duties of --
7 perform the duties of their job.

8 In addition to -- for El Paso, we're also going
9 to invite, as space is available, investigators and
10 officers from New Mexico. There's very little resources
11 available for this type of training. As Director Wilson
12 had mentioned earlier, there's very few statewide and for
13 the state of Texas even on resources on this, and we've
14 become the premier for providing this training.

15 And so we want to extend this to the
16 investigators from New Mexico, so -- because oftentimes,
17 they collaborate with the El Paso Task Force for the crime
18 occurring through jurisdictional boundaries.

19 Any questions about that?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah. That was one of the things
22 that Major Jones's predecessor, Major Wynn Reynolds --
23 when we set this up, the DPS used to train most of the
24 other states around -- touching on Texas, and that was
25 built into our commitment -- was to make sure that, when

1 we have a training, it's available to other states in our
2 area.

3 So Rick Porras is here from El Paso, and they
4 work with both Las Cruces and Albuquerque constantly.
5 That's where the stolens are coming and the recoveries
6 that they do. And so having those officers in New Mexico
7 train helps our officers be more effective. It's really a
8 win-win.

9 And Major Jones, I appreciate you driving and
10 helping us drive, because we need to keep these trainings
11 going. And you've asked several times, and -- you know,
12 when are they? And so we do need to step up getting more
13 trainings scheduled with -- because we do, or have in the
14 past, trained a lot of DPS officers also.

15 Dan, there's really nothing -- well, go ahead.

16 MR. PRICE: So as far as fee collections go, we
17 have had some issues in getting the reporting out of the
18 Comptroller's Office. It's been delayed. But we were
19 able to obtain reports we need on filings and collections.

20 And in October 2021, we sent collections from
21 our office out to 66 insurance companies, indicating that
22 they were not in compliance with the filing requirements.

23 And of those, 22 were brought into compliance and did
24 file missing reports.

25 The list of the 22 are on this page. Most of

1 them filed zero, but we did have six of them that did owe
2 us money, and they filed and we were able to collect an
3 additional 107,704.

4 Now, we do now, by statute, have the ability to
5 assess late filing and late payment penalties, and we have
6 not yet begun that process, but we're currently reviewing
7 these to see who, if anybody, we're going to go ahead and
8 begin that process with.

9 MR. WILSON: So one of the issues, you know,
10 not having full-time dedicated staff to this, you know --
11 to this part of our program is, we can't always get the
12 information from the Comptroller in the time that we need
13 the information to make it timely, because TDI, Texas
14 Department of Insurance, is the only hammer we have, that
15 this Board has to, you know, request to TDI to suspend the
16 license.

17 But the problem is, if I can't get the
18 information in time, and TDI operates under a three -- is
19 it a two-year window? It's a two-year window. And so if
20 I can't get the information from the Comptroller in time
21 to turn around and ask the TDI to do something, they're
22 going -- I'm sorry. It's outside of our statute of
23 limitations for administrative action.

24 Now, we have had some success. Last year, we
25 did a -- I think, from the year before, we -- last year, I

1 reported from the year before, I did 18 investigations,
2 opened 18 investigations on insurers that weren't paying.

3 So we're trying, but if we cant get the
4 information, we can't really do a lot on our own. So
5 we'll keep working on it. That's the main thing, is --
6 we're going to keep working on it.

7 But I'm pretty jazzed about, you know -- we've
8 got another \$107,000 into the State Treasury that wasn't
9 going to be there. The only sad thing is as a probation
10 officer for six years, I used to write, pay your fine or
11 I'm going to have an officer pick you up to take you to
12 jail. And for insurers, I can't write that. I can only
13 say, pay your fine.

14 So -- but hey, we're making progress. Just
15 kidding, Ms. Brotherton.

16 So next thing, do you want to talk about the
17 next page, Joe? Joe Canady?

18 MR. CANADY: Again, Joe Canady, MVCPA. When we
19 talk about law enforcement operations and collaboration,
20 in this case, we're specifically talking about the MVCPA
21 Virtual Command Center.

22 The second paragraph, located on page -- I
23 believe that says 86, thank you -- is the second
24 paragraph. That indicates the number of active members
25 that are in the Virtual Command Center at this time, and

1 the number of task forces that are representative.

2 Several agencies -- I believe we've reported on
3 this before -- or several grantees have multiple members
4 of their task force that are members of the VCC, and
5 actively participate. Again, with the increase in the
6 number of grantees as a result of the MAG grants, we
7 believe that participation will increase tremendously in
8 the Virtual Command Center and the sharing of valuable
9 intelligence between agencies, and resources we will see
10 reported in there.

11 And hopefully, as we've identified previously,
12 with the VCC, jurisdictions will post information about a
13 crime, and the other jurisdiction reads that and realizes,
14 hey, that's happening here. That sounds exactly like what
15 my suspect is doing here or has done, on the way it
16 happened.

17 And sure enough, they were able to identify
18 their suspect off of one of the -- what was previously
19 posted in the Virtual Command Center. So it's a great
20 tool and a great resource for all grantees and additional
21 law enforcement throughout the state, because the more law
22 enforcement from the agencies that are not part of the
23 MVCPA that subscribe to this -- they not only learn what's
24 going on in the motor vehicle theft world, but they become
25 a part of it and can help provide solutions and resources.

1 Any questions about that?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. WILSON: That concludes the Director's
4 report, Mr. Chairman.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any public comment,
6 Yessenia? TAVTI?

7 MR. STACEY: For the record, my name is Reed
8 Stacey. I'm with Dallas Police Department, and I'm a past
9 president with TAVTI, Texas Association of Vehicle Theft
10 Investigators. Mr. Chairman and Board, I appreciate
11 y'all's time, y'all's efforts, y'all's energies.

12 I've been a grantee for almost 15 years, and
13 I've, you know, had great successes through the grant, and
14 I hope to continue for another 15 years. With that said,
15 TAVTI -- you know, there's a lot of new faces on the
16 Board -- TAVTI was established in 1975.

17 And what it was was a bunch of auto theft
18 detectives, like-minded individuals, that came together
19 and realized the need for the State to have a unified body
20 to express and challenge laws and things to that nature.
21 And then, you know, in 1991, TAVTI assisted with
22 establishing the first grant authority, which is today's,
23 you know, Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

24 And then in 1998, the group came together and
25 was presented by the International Association of Theft

1 Investigators, IAATI, with a possible resolution of the
2 two associations coming together and basically being in
3 affiliated associations. And the general board and
4 membership agreed to that and signed it into a resolution,
5 and that was in 1998.

6 And that established the South Central Regional
7 Chapter, SCRC, of IAATI. And what that encompassed was
8 Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas, so
9 five states in the South Central.

10 Currently, there's about 350 members of TAVTI,
11 and of that, about, you know, 95 percent are Texas, either
12 Texas officer, Texas insurance, or anybody in like-minded
13 field. You know, it could be just anybody in the auto
14 theft or the auto industry.

15 So the reason why I'm standing here today is,
16 in 2020, almost two years ago, we learned of a potential
17 lawsuit and a conflict within IAATI. There was a couple
18 of members that were having a lawsuit towards each other.

19 One was directed at the executive director. And these
20 were under sexual allegations, harrassment-style.

21 So at that time, and you know, moving forward,
22 in -- around 2021, our current president, Brian Jones, he
23 established a committee to -- an insight committee to see
24 if there's fact or finding to this deal and what effect
25 would it be on us and our investigators here in Texas.

1 And I was part of that committee.

2 And so by looking into that, we quickly saw
3 immediate facts -- or immediate issues and factors was the
4 inability for us to partnership with NICB, National
5 Insurance Crime Bureau, agents. At that time, we had 28
6 agents that were active members on, you know, our
7 membership roster. Those agents are mostly law -- Texas,
8 you know, peace officers, retired, and they were actually
9 active instructors who taught at our annual conference,
10 which is a major benefit that we provide for our
11 memberships -- is an annual training seminar.

12 Those agents were directed with a cease-and-
13 desist. They could no longer participate with our
14 membership. They could no longer participate at our
15 training. They could -- they just had to walk away from
16 everything, leaving positions vacant and things of that
17 nature.

18 So moving forward, we came together and as a
19 committee, we presented it to our board, our executive
20 board, and in October '21, we were ready to move forward
21 with a decision if we wanted to stay as an affiliated
22 member, association-wise, as an affiliated membership with
23 IAATI.

24 The lawsuit was still dragging on. There was
25 no real end in sight. We had numerous conversations with

1 the executive director, the newly-appointed executive
2 director, Chris McDonald, and at that time, the IAATI
3 president, Thomas.

4 Still, no end in sight. And, you know, when
5 there's type of litigations and stuff, they don't have a
6 whole lot of control, and they couldn't really give us an
7 answer. We decided to push our vote out of October '21
8 into February, giving them more time.

9 With that said, in February, the ninth, of '22,
10 this year, our general membership had a vote, and at that
11 time, it was voted that we would disassociate ourselves as
12 an affiliated membership. So a lot of people ask, well,
13 what does -- you know, what does that leave membership to
14 if we're no longer part of IAATI?

15 Well, like I said, TAVTI was established in '75
16 as a very strong body. Financially, we're very solid. We
17 cover all of our debts.

18 We still will carry our annual training
19 seminars without any hiccup. We'll be down in Corpus
20 Christi this year, October 19. And we're already
21 scheduled to be up in Dallas in '23, and then probably in
22 El Paso in '24.

23 So there's no issue on training. We'll still
24 be there. We rewrote our constitution and bylaws to the
25 effect that we're still a State of Texas association, but

1 that doesn't negate anybody on the outlying -- or any
2 state.

3 As long as you're willing to conduct yourself
4 in the proper manner and you are an auto theft-minded
5 individual and in that type of realm of investigations,
6 anybody can be part of our association. With IAATI,
7 moving forward, we will still, as an individual,
8 participate and help and work, you know, investigations,
9 but we're not going to have our association tagged as an
10 affiliated association to IAATI, because of the conflict
11 with our NICB agents.

12 As a current member of IAATI -- I'm still a
13 current member of IAATI -- I'll strive with other members
14 to try to fix some of the issues, but we'll do that on an
15 individual basis, because we have to take care of our
16 base. And like I said, of the 350 members, it's not right
17 to drag all them along through these investigations.

18 After the vote, we learned that there's another
19 investigation coming to -- with IAATI. So with that said,
20 it's kind of -- you know, I just want to present to you
21 guys, because we're all on the same page.

22 We're all working through, you know --
23 combating auto theft. We try to, you know, use our time,
24 our energies, properly and not be distracted by other
25 things, especially on -- as a personal opinion, on an

1 association that's too big and overreaching, I have zero
2 control and very little voice of actions of others.

3 But as a smaller group of 350 guys here
4 locally, we can talk and converse a lot better and have
5 more control over somebody's actions and thoughts and
6 practices.

7 So with that said, you know, we'll still -- as
8 an individual myself and a fellow member who serves on
9 their board, we'll still strive to work with and correct.

10 Maybe in four or five years, we come back
11 together and say, hey, they got their, you know, train
12 going down the right track again, and we'll come back and
13 assist. We're not going to, you know, shun our brothers
14 in the outlying -- brothers and sisters of the outlying
15 states. That's not an issue.

16 They're still always welcome to come to our
17 training. Your geographical residence has nothing to do
18 with who can be trained in our state. Same thing with the
19 membership.

20 So that's kind of it, in short. You know, I
21 just wanted to -- I know there was a lot of staff that has
22 been going on for the last two years, and now you guys
23 kind of understand where TAVTI is and why -- you know, if
24 anybody had heard why we decided to step away from IAATI.

25 So if there's any questions or concerns?

1 MS. JONES: Thank you for the explanation,
2 because every time I asked, I got a different story.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. STACEY: There's a long list I can share
5 with you of why. All right. Thank you, guys.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yessenia, any other comments?

7 MS. BENAVIDES: No, sir. That was the only one
8 I got.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: We will now move to Agenda Item
10 No. 5, closed session. We do not have any items in this
11 closed session. And so we'll move to Agenda Item No. 6.
12 We do not have any action on Agenda Item No. 6.

13 Then, Item No. 7, public comment. Well, we
14 discovered right now. Correct?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Motion to adjourn?

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Member Gonzalez. I make a
18 motion to adjourn.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And a second?

20 MS. JONES: Second. Sharon Jones.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Call for a vote to adjourn.

22 All in favor of the motion, say aye.

23 (A chorus of ayes.)

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Opposed, say nay.

25 (No response.)

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Unopposed. We are adjourned.
2 (Whereupon, at 1:30 p.m., the meeting was
3 adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 MEETING OF: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

4 LOCATION: Austin, Texas

5 DATE: June 8, 2022

6 I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
7 numbers 1 through 179, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
8 and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
9 made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the
10 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

11
12 DATE: June 21, 2022
13
14

15
16
17 /s/ Adrienne Evans-Stark
18 (Transcriber)
19

20 On the Record Reporting
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24