

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY

GRANTS BUDGET and REPORTING (GBR)
COMMITTEE MEETING

Inn of the Hills
Hotel & Conference Center
1001 Junction Highway
Kerrville, Texas 78028

9:00 a.m.
Monday,
June 12, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julio Gonzalez, Chair (absent)
Sharon Jones
Dean Smith

STAFF:

Joe Canady, Director
David Richards, General Counsel

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum	5
2. Pledges of Allegiance - U.S. and Texas	5
3. Comments and Announcements from Committee Chair, Committee Members and MVCPA Director	6
4. FY24 Taskforce Grant Application Review and Recommendation (Action Item)	6
CLOSED SESSION	
3. The Committee may enter into closed session under one or more of the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Chapter 551: Section 551.071 Section 551.074 Section 551.076 Section 551.089	none
4. Action Items from Closed Session	--
5. Public Comment	none
6. Adjournment	76

P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. JONES: Good morning.

My name is Sharon Jones, and I am pleased to open the meeting of the Grants Budget and Reporting Committee of the Board of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

It is 9:02 a.m., and I am now calling the meeting for June 12, 2023 to order. I want to note for the record that the public notice of this meeting, containing all items on the agenda, was filed with the Secretary of State on June 2, 2023.

Before we begin today, please place all cell phones and communication devices in a silent mode, and please, as a courtesy to others, do not carry on side conversations or other activities in the meeting room.

I want to welcome those who are with us for today's committee meeting. If you wish to address the committee or speak on an agenda item during today's meeting, please complete a speaker's sheet at the registration table.

Please identify the specific item you're interested in, your name and address, and whether you are representing anyone or speaking for yourself. If your comment does not pertain to a specific agenda item, we will take your comment during the general public comment

1 portion of the meeting.

2 In accordance with the department's
3 administrative rules, comments to this committee will be
4 limited to three minutes. To assist each speaker, a timer
5 has been provided by Director Joey, and he will let you
6 know when you're speaking time is up. Individuals cannot
7 accumulate time from other speakers. Comments should be
8 pertinent to the issues stated on the comment sheet. When
9 addressing the committee, please state your name and
10 affiliation for the record.

11 There are a few things that will assist in
12 making the meeting run smoother and assist the court
13 reporter in getting an accurate record: please identify
14 yourself before speaking, speak clearly and slowly, do not
15 speak over others, and please ask the chairperson for
16 permission to speak and be sure to get recognized before
17 speaking.

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

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

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

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

8 I see that Board Member Dean Smith is present
9 for discussion and gathering information.

10 And now I would like to have a roll call of
11 committee members. Please respond verbally when I call
12 your name.

13 Member Smith, are you present?

14 MR. SMITH: Present.

15 MS. JONES: And let the record reflect that I,
16 Sharon Jones, am here too. We have a quorum.

17 Let the record reflect that Chairman Julio
18 Gonzalez is absent today.

19 Please all stand to honor our country and state
20 with the pledge of allegiance. I now turn it over to
21 Member Smith to lead us in the U.S. Pledge.

22 (The U.S. Pledge was recited.)

23 MS. JONES: Member Smith, would you lead us in
24 the Texas Pledge.

25 (The Texas Pledge was recited.)

1 MS. JONES: Thank you, Member Smith.

2 I now move to agenda item 3. Comments and
3 announcements from the chair, committee members and MVCPA
4 director.

5 I don't have a lot of comments other than it's
6 great to see so many of you here. It shows that you are
7 committed to what we are about, MVCPA, It's really great
8 to see that. Today is going to go a little differently
9 than two years ago, so be prepared if we have questions
10 for you, whoever the appropriate person or persons are,
11 just be prepared to answer those questions.

12 Member Smith, do you have any comments?

13 MR. SMITH: I just appreciate everybody's
14 attendance today and look forward to a productive week.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. JONES: Director Canady, do you have any
17 comments?

18 MR. CANADY: Just that it's really good to see
19 everybody here. It's been a long time since we've been
20 together like this in one setting. It's going to be a
21 great week.

22 MS. JONES: I agree.

23 We will now move to agenda item 4 and hear from
24 Director Joe Canady.

25 MR. CANADY: Members, if pay attention to your

1 Board book beginning on page 10 for the fiscal year 2024
2 task force grant applications review. The purpose is to
3 provide a review and analysis of the applications received
4 for reasonableness, allowable expenditures, proposed
5 budget amounts, and the needs in each jurisdiction.

6 We authorized the issuance of fiscal year
7 '25-25 request for applications at the regularly scheduled
8 Board meeting in February of this year. MVCPA is
9 authorized in statute to provide grants to local law
10 enforcement to combat vehicle theft, burglary of a motor
11 vehicle and/or fraud-related motor vehicle crime.

12 Eligible applicants may request funds for
13 program operation by submission of an application
14 consistent with the information, including the
15 requirements and conditions stated in the RFA.

16 Twenty-six applications were submitted for FY
17 2024. To be eligible for consideration for funding, a
18 task force grant application must have been designated to
19 support one or more of the following program categories:
20 law enforcement detection and apprehension; prosecution,
21 adjudication, and conviction; prevention, anti-theft
22 devices and automobile registration, reduction of the sale
23 of vehicles or parts; educational programs and marketing.

24 Of the 24 grant applications, two were for
25 equipment-only applications and the total amounts received

1 was \$23,120,974. In working with TxDMV, we've identified
2 that there are \$22,279,972 funds available for grant
3 purposes, leaving \$600,000 for emergency use for grants.

4 In your big notebook there's each application
5 for each jurisdiction, and if it pleases the committee, we
6 would like to ask some questions of some of the grantees.

7 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

8 MR. CANADY: Do we have someone here from the
9 City of Austin?

10 MR. SIMONEAUX: Good morning. I'm Sgt.
11 Simoneaux with Austin PD.

12 MR. CANADY: Good morning, Billy.

13 Why was there no overtime requested in the
14 application?

15 MR. SIMONEAUX: Because the City of Austin has
16 been paying for it.

17 MR. CANADY: The City of Austin has been paying
18 for it.

19 MR. SIMONEAUX: Correct.

20 MR. CANADY: I know we've heard at previous
21 committee meetings that overtime is a need for y'all in
22 your program, so they chose not to request. Okay.

23 Any other questions?

24 MR. SMITH: No, sir.

25 MS. JONES: No, sir.

1 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. JONES: That was easy. Right? He said,
3 Why am I here, why am I here?

4 (General laughter.)

5 MR. CANADY: City of Brownsville.

6 MR. DELGADO: I'm Sgt. Delgado, Brownsville PD.

7 MR. CANADY: We show in the application there
8 are five investigators and a sergeant for McAllen. Is
9 that correct?

10 MR. DELGADO: That is correct?

11 MR. CANADY: Can you explain why McAllen needs
12 a separate sergeant other than the commander?

13 MR. DELGADO: As far as I know, when I took
14 over in January, that is how this had been set up, so I do
15 know that that sergeant oversees their operations in the
16 City of McAllen.

17 MS. JONES: What's the sergeant's role?

18 MR. DELGADO: Also to assign cases among the
19 cities, personnel of the task force.

20 MR. CANADY: The five investigators for
21 McAllen, it looks like there 332 -- I'm sorry -- 63
22 vehicles stolen in FY22 for McAllen. If you compare that
23 to Pharr and Edinburg, in Pharr there was 112 vehicles
24 stolen and 232 in Edinburg. It looks like there's two
25 investigators for each of those jurisdictions versus the

1 five in McAllen.

2 MR. DELGADO: Yes, that is correct, and that
3 was actually something I was wondering if I was able to
4 move some of those investigators to the other cities to
5 handle that.

6 MS. JONES: You're going to move them or
7 they're moved already?

8 MR. DELGADO: No. Asked to, because on the
9 application they're still under McAllen.

10 MR. CANADY: That's all I have.

11 Any other questions?

12 MS. JONES: No, sir.

13 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

14 Corpus Christi.

15 MS. JONES: Good morning.

16 MR. CANADY: Good morning, Mark. If you would
17 you state your name for the record.

18 MR. TULEY: Mark Tuley, Corpus Christi Police
19 Department.

20 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

21 We noticed in the application there was
22 obviously an increase in funds requested from MVCPA, as we
23 had instructed all the task forces to ask for what you
24 need in your program, but the cash match didn't increase
25 as much with that.

1 In fact, there's, I think, a lower percentage
2 of cash match for this time around for FY 24, and we just
3 need to ensure that there's no local funds that are being
4 replaced that might be construed as a supplanting issue.

5 MR. TULEY: I'm sorry. So you're asking if
6 we -- can I get Andrew up here and maybe he'll answer the
7 question a little better than I can.

8 MR. CANADY: Sure.

9 MR. LIAROMATIS: Andrew Liaromatis, Corpus
10 Christi Police Department.

11 Could you repeat the question?

12 MR. CANADY: We noticed that there was
13 obviously an increase in grant funds requested for FY24;
14 however, the amount of cash match didn't increase as much
15 as the funds requested did, so you're asking for a lower
16 amount of cash match, and we're just concerned that there
17 could be some local funds being replaced with grant funds
18 that could be a supplanting issue.

19 MR. LIAROMATIS: Yes, sir. So last year or two
20 years ago we were asking in the '22 application to move
21 some of our cash match investigators to in-kind because
22 they existed before the grant as part of our budget, so
23 all we simply did was move them over there.

24 So the way that we're doing it this year, all
25 those investigators are -- the funds are still there; it's

1 just in-kind as opposed to a cash match.

2 MR. CANADY: So they're showing up as in-kind
3 and they're still the same positions devoted to the grant,
4 just captured differently by the City of Corpus Christi.

5 MR. LIAROMATIS: Yes, sir, that's correct.

6 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. JONES: Can both of you please repeat your
8 name for the court reporter.

9 MR. LIAROMATIS: Andrew Liaromatis, Corpus
10 Christi Police Department.

11 MR. TULEY: Mark Tuley, Corpus Christi Police
12 Department.

13 MS. JONES: Thank you.

14 Where are y'all going? You're trying to go out
15 the exit.

16 (General laughter.)

17 MS. JONES: Member Dean?

18 MR. SMITH: No questions.

19 MS. JONES: No questions.

20 MR. TULEY: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. CANADY: Burnet County. You're up, Howard.

22 MR. STINEHOUR: Howard Stinehour, Heart of
23 Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

24 MR. CANADY: Good morning.

25 MS. JONES: Good morning.

1 MR. CANADY: Can you provide more information
2 on the standard investigator setup for Williamson County
3 and for McLennan County in the budget?

4 MR. STINEHOUR: Yes, sir. We're requesting
5 Williamson and McLennan County to be part of our task
6 force. It's going to be both of them are existing
7 investigators that already have -- the detectives are
8 existing investigators. We cannot replace those with new
9 hires, so they're already experienced. Both of them have
10 already been through NICB training, so both sheriffs are
11 onboard.

12 MR. CANADY: Let me look and see if I can get
13 you a specific question here about that. In the
14 application it shows for each of those positions a
15 standard investigator setup, and I didn't notice any
16 information about what that also included.

17 MR. STINEHOUR: My understanding from a
18 standard investigator was they're at the pay that they're
19 at. If they're already a beginning investigator, a new
20 hire we're just going to keep them at what they are.
21 There won't be any pay changes from what their salary is
22 there through their agency. They're matching their
23 department policy and their HR pay scale, and nothing
24 would change. That's my understanding.

25 MR. CANADY: I'm just trying to determine what

1 exactly that entails, because there's already salary and
2 fringe in the budget and just wasn't clear on what this
3 particular item was.

4 MR. STINEHOUR: I think the word "standard"
5 came up when she was trying to gather what they needed,
6 theirs was going to be different from what ours was, so
7 Williamson County put out a standard to what do they need
8 to supply for a standard investigator; would they need to
9 add more to it or would we supply equipment and things
10 like that.

11 MR. CANADY: That answers my questions for now.

12 MR. SMITH: No other questions.

13 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

14 Dallas County.

15 MS. KNIGHT: Cpt. Shelley Knight, Dallas County
16 Sheriff's Department.

17 MR. CANADY: Good morning.

18 MS. JONES: Good morning.

19 MR. CANADY: We noticed in the application
20 there was a request for -- bear with me one moment. It
21 helps if I'm on Dallas County and not City of Dallas.

22 There was a request for \$420,000 worth of
23 vehicles. Can you expand more so on that, on the need for
24 vehicles and what you're looking for?

25 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, sir. All of our vehicles are

1 pretty much outdated. In fact, the last vehicle we got
2 was a 2018 that we just had to replace the motor for
3 because there was some defect that they had, and I think
4 the next newest vehicle from there is like a 2016, and if
5 we get the extra investigators that we're asking for, we
6 need to give them vehicles also.

7 And I currently don't have a vehicle. I gave
8 my vehicle to my investigators so they'd have an extra
9 vehicle when they have to turn one in.

10 MR. CANADY: You're looking at purchasing a
11 \$60,000 bait vehicle?

12 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. CANADY: Would you consider utilizing one
14 of your vehicles as a bait vehicle if you were given funds
15 to replace that vehicle versus putting a new vehicle out
16 there to be used as bait?

17 MS. KNIGHT: Definitely.

18 MS. JONES: What are you driving? You said you
19 don't have a car?

20 MS. KNIGHT: I drive my personal vehicle. The
21 county gives me a car allowance since I don't drive their
22 vehicle.

23 MS. JONES: Is that normal for your county, or
24 they just did it since there was no option?

25 MS. KNIGHT: We have that option at our county,

1 yes. And I just decided to do that instead of reserving
2 that vehicle for me.

3 MS. JONES: The vehicles that you have now,
4 what's the mileage on each one, are they high, low?

5 MS. KNIGHT: The 2012 Tahoe, I know that one is
6 about 160,000, the other ones are -- my newer ones are 60-
7 to 80,000 but the rest of them are over 100-.

8 MR. SMITH: Member Smith, for the record.
9 How many vehicles do y'all have now that are
10 operational?

11 MS. JONES: Partner, come help her.

12 MS. KNIGHT: Sarge.

13 MR. JONES: Jerry Jones, Dallas County
14 Sheriff's Office.

15 Current we have two Ford F-150s, the older
16 model Chevy Tahoe that she's talking about that our task
17 force uses. We have ordered -- I'm sorry -- Dallas County
18 Sheriff is providing one vehicle that is somewhere in
19 production, I don't even know if it's on the ground.

20 It's somewhere, but it's a marked vehicle they
21 provide for us. They've given us an old canine vehicle to
22 borrow while our stuff is down. As far as our other grant
23 vehicles, we have two old pickups from investigators years
24 ago that have well over 100,000 miles on them. Those are
25 our current vehicles. Anything else, we have to beg and

1 plead to get.

2 MR. SMITH: So is that six, something like
3 that?

4 MS. KNIGHT: Five.

5 MR. JONES: I apologize. We do have six; our
6 department guy has one pickup.

7 MR. SMITH: We've had these discussions in the
8 past Board meetings about vehicles and the expenses
9 associated with buying or leasing vehicles, and so I think
10 part of the questions are breaking down the cost and what
11 is it that you're looking for with, you know, \$420,000,
12 almost half a million dollars, I mean, what are you
13 looking to replace them with? What are we shopping for?

14 MS. KNIGHT: We're open on that. The main
15 thing, we do want -- we need a 4X4 vehicle because there's
16 a lot of backwoods areas of Dallas County that we're
17 having to recover vehicles from.

18 MR. SMITH: Sure.

19 MS. KNIGHT: And we're not asking for everyone
20 to have one of those; we just want one for our guys to be
21 able to utilize to get into those areas. The rest of the
22 vehicles, we're looking to give to -- if we get the new
23 officers granted to us. It's mainly just to replace
24 those, and I believe Dallas County is also going to
25 replace with one or two vehicles. I can't remember the

1 exact amount.

2 But we're asking for five additional
3 investigators on there. Some of them are being given to
4 us by other agencies, and the rest of them we're asking
5 for the grant just to get our numbers back up. But it's
6 just so those individuals will have vehicles to drive, but
7 we're open to the different types of vehicles. We're not
8 stuck on a certain type; we're looking for the best value
9 for what we get.

10 MR. SMITH: Okay. I think this is probably a
11 common question among the Board members that looked at
12 this. How many vehicles are you looking to purchase with
13 \$420,000? And what you're saying is you don't have a
14 model specific request. We want to help you; that's the
15 reason I'm asking these questions. Do you know how many
16 vehicles you plan to purchase with \$420,000?

17 MS. KNIGHT: About four or five vehicles.

18 MR. SMITH: Four or five?

19 MS. KNIGHT: Yes. And we just wanted to make
20 sure there was enough there to be able to cover whatever
21 we need, because that includes all the lighting equipment
22 or anything else that we need to put in the vehicles; it's
23 not just the vehicle itself.

24 MS. JONES: So it's the vehicles and make
25 ready.

1 MS. KNIGHT: Yes. That's the way our AFC gives
2 us the prices, is this is how much you're going to need
3 for these vehicles.

4 MS. JONES: And how many vehicles?

5 MR. SMITH: So that's over \$80,000 a vehicle.

6 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, sir. That's pretty much what
7 they're telling me every time I ask. And it's so hard for
8 us to get vehicles. When we ordered a vehicle for one of
9 our detectives last year, it got on the ground in August,
10 and he just finally received it just waiting on the parts
11 to be able to make it make ready. He was able to finally
12 get it in January.

13 MR. JONES: Roughly January-February.

14 MS. KNIGHT: Just to get the stuff to make it
15 make ready. He had already been waiting for a year and a
16 half on the vehicle just to get there. We had the VIN for
17 at least six months to eight months before we ever
18 received the vehicle to make it make ready.

19 So that's part of the problem is the prices,
20 trying to find the vehicles, and getting the vehicles has
21 been very hard for our department. I assume it's a
22 statewide thing; at least that's what I'm being told.

23 But the prices, we found a Ford F-150 for
24 \$35,000 and it was actually going to fit everything and we
25 got everything approved, and by the time we got it

1 approved, it was no longer on the lot; we couldn't find
2 it. So we're looking for cheaper vehicles but it's just
3 not happening.

4 MR. CANADY: Okay. Do y'all have any
5 questions?

6 MS. JONES: So to be clear, how many do you
7 need, how many vehicles do you need?

8 MS. KNIGHT: We will need five vehicles if we
9 get the investigators that we've requested.

10 MS. JONES: So five investigators, five
11 vehicles. What about a vehicle for you? Are you fine?

12 MS. KNIGHT: I'm fine with the way that it is
13 right now. I like driving my Jeep.

14 MR. SMITH: So do you get a stipend each month
15 or is it mileage and expense based?

16 MS. KNIGHT: It's a stipend.

17 MR. SMITH: Are there any other investigators
18 on your team that operate under a stipend agreement?

19 MS. KNIGHT: No, sir.

20 MR. SMITH: It's just yourself.

21 MS. KNIGHT: Correct.

22 MS. JONES: The five investigators, are you
23 going to get five, are you hoping to get five? Are there
24 other agencies have they already committed and said I'm
25 going to give you one, I'm going to give you two, and you

1 came up with five?

2 MS. KNIGHT: The City of DeSoto has guaranteed
3 us one investigator full-time. Kaufman County has said
4 that they are willing to try and work with us if we can
5 help with their pay for one, and the same with Rockwall
6 County.

7 Collin County, I'm in talks with them now and
8 they're talking about sending two part-time, but I've
9 already told them I won't have any vehicle or anything for
10 them, so we're just in talks with them.

11 I have Irving PD that's also asking to come on.
12 And Collin County and Irving are not even on my
13 application. The others are, but I have requested three
14 additional positions for Dallas County, one for Kaufman
15 County, and one for Rockwell.

16 And I have to correct that. It is six
17 vehicles, because I told DeSoto I'd try to get them a
18 vehicle if they would give me a person.

19 MR. CANADY: Now, was it Kaufman County that
20 you were looking at adding a deputy constable, is that
21 correct?

22 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, sir.

23 MR. CANADY: When looking at your numbers for
24 the statistics to support the grant problem, you have the
25 highest numbers in the state of Texas.

1 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, sir.

2 MR. CANADY: In looking at actual numbers from
3 DPS statistics, that's not the case, because you've
4 included countywide numbers versus from the individual
5 agencies, say from the Dallas County Sheriff's Office,
6 from the Denton County Sheriff's Office, Kaufman County
7 Constable's Office.

8 Now, you did include specific data for
9 Corsicana PD and DeSoto PD. What we were looking for was
10 numbers from your jurisdiction, not just the entire
11 county, unless y'all are working cases for the City of
12 Dallas.

13 MS. KNIGHT: When I did the numbers, I just did
14 the counties because I knew we were supposed to be
15 countywide. We do some in the City of Dallas but we try
16 to defer to them, but there are several that we do work in
17 the City of Dallas.

18 MS. JONES: I don't have any further questions.

19 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. KNIGHT: Thank you.

21 MR. CANADY: Eagle Pass.

22 MR. FUENTES: Good morning. Lt. Gerardo
23 Fuentes, Eagle Pass PD.

24 MR. CANADY: Can you provide more information
25 about the vehicles that you are looking to request to

1 purchase?

2 MR. FUENTES: Right now one of our oldest
3 vehicles is like 2014. Eagle Pass is pretty much a small
4 community, therefore, mileage is not significantly high,
5 but the wear and tear is rough on those vehicles, and
6 they're due for an upgrade.

7 MR. CANADY: Can you talk a little bit more
8 about what level of support that Eagle Pass provides to
9 your coverage agencies, Maverick County, Dimmit County,
10 Zavala, Uvalde and Del Rio?

11 MR. FUENTES: Pretty much to the level that's
12 based on I guess area agencies going through in our area
13 the shortness of staff; we are suffering a 25 percentage
14 shortage in our staff.

15 I have one sergeant we have not been able to
16 replace or cash match due to our several shortness of
17 staff in our department. To the level that we assist
18 other communities, Zavala County is one we have very close
19 ties with Sheriff Eusevio Salinas from Zavala County, and
20 he calls us every once in a while for stolen vehicles but
21 mostly for the 68-As. That's what we help with Uvalde,
22 Carrizo, Crystal and Del Rio and Bracketville.

23 But we cannot stretch -- I have one sergeant
24 and two investigators and it's hard to stretch. And
25 myself, I'm technically part of the grant myself, I'm

1 overseeing other areas of the department as well.

2 MS. JONES: The vehicles that you're asking
3 for, are they in addition or replacements?

4 MR. FUENTES: Replacements.

5 MS. JONES: So you don't have high mileage. Is
6 there a lot of maintenance?

7 MR. FUENTES: Yes. The maintenance is up
8 there. I guess it's some of the rough terrain that these
9 officers have to go through; it does take a toll on the
10 vehicles. When I say not high mileage, I'm talking about
11 110-, 80,000; it's still up there.

12 For us, I heard another department say that
13 it's hard to find vehicles. Yes, we've been waiting for a
14 fleet. We bought 12 units for our regular patrol officers
15 and there's no telling when we're going to get them, so
16 it's causing us a problem with this department. So we're
17 having to use some of our fleet vehicles sometimes that
18 are way up there in mileage, and that's what we depend on.

19 MR. SMITH: So you're asking for two vehicles?

20 MR. FUENTES: Yes.

21 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

22 MR. FUENTES: Thank you.

23 MR. CANADY: Galveston.

24 MR. BARROW: Good morning. Lt. Hal Barrow,
25 Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force.

1 MR. CANADY: Hal, I was a little confused on
2 the make-ready amount for the vehicles that you're
3 requesting to purchase. It looks like you're requesting
4 three trucks?

5 MR. BARROW: Yes, sir.

6 MR. CANADY: And there's \$21,000 make-ready and
7 supplies and DOE.

8 MR. BARROW: Right. I think that includes
9 putting printers in all the trucks.

10 MR. CANADY: I mean, my question was what that
11 was going to be, if it was going to be lights and MDTs or
12 printers or whatever is needed.

13 MR. BARROW: Yes, sir, and the three would be
14 fully rigged, lights, MDTs; we'd have to buy one laptop.
15 If Brazoria County gets approved, that would be buying one
16 laptop and then putting printers in all the vehicles.
17 Like when you go out and do the 68-As, you're having to
18 come back to the office and drive 20 or 30 miles to get
19 back, so if we have the printers we can print the 68-As in
20 the units.

21 MR. CANADY: Right.

22 MR. BARROW: And one vehicle is adding -- not
23 that he'd get that vehicle, but it would be a vehicle in
24 the fleet to be added too.

25 MR. CANADY: Right. And that makes more sense.

1 That may be something we'd have to move out of supplies
2 and DOE up into as part of the vehicle package. That
3 answers my questions.

4 MR. SMITH: And three trucks is 180 grand? Is
5 that what you're asking for?

6 MR. BARROW: I think that's correct.

7 MR. SMITH: Just making sure.

8 MR. BARROW: Sixty thousand each. And they're
9 four-wheel drive because we have the beach area and stuff,
10 and you get on the beach, you can't drive a two-wheel
11 drive.

12 MR. SMITH: Most everybody asks for four-wheel
13 drives.

14 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

15 MR. BARROW: Thank you.

16 MR. CANADY: City of Houston.

17 MR. HARDING: Good morning. Tolan Harding,
18 Houston Police Department.

19 MS. JONES: Good morning.

20 MR. CANADY: Good morning. You're asking for a
21 little over \$1.5 million in grant funds. Is that correct?

22 MR. HARDING: Yes, sir.

23 MR. CANADY: Does this cover all of the needs
24 that the City of Houston has concerning the program to
25 combat these motor vehicle crimes?

1 MR. HARDING: I believe so, yes, sir.

2 MR. CANADY: Does this also include the vehicle
3 finance fraud division as part of the grant?

4 MR. HARDING: Yes, it does. There's specific
5 items requested in equipment that were specifically for
6 the fraud squad, including two laptop computers that they
7 requested, and then additionally in supplies -- it's not
8 specifically in supplies, but they had asked for some very
9 expensive printer cartridges.

10 MR. CANADY: If the Board ultimately decided
11 to -- or if there was a need for additional funding to
12 your program, would you be able to utilize that?

13 MR. HARDING: Yes, sir, we would.

14 MR. CANADY: Can you explain some situations in
15 which you might could?

16 MR. HARDING: I didn't put in any request,
17 because the information I got back initially from our bait
18 car people were they were happy; they seemed to be fine.
19 After they reviewed their vehicles, they determined they
20 could really use a newer bait vehicle.

21 After we submitted the application and looking
22 at some of the grant-owned vehicles that we have already,
23 we could trade those in and possibly buy one of the GMC
24 pickup trucks that's being targeted right now. We just
25 got them a 2016 Hellcat from a seizure. That would be one

1 area that we could address.

2 Beyond that, a little additional travel and
3 training, but I think we're good right now.

4 MS. JONES: So you don't need anything, is what
5 I'm hearing you say.

6 MR. HARDING: I need \$1.5 million.

7 (General laughter.)

8 MR. HARDING: That's what I asked for. If
9 there's additional funds, I've got additional uses for it.
10 But we didn't put them in at the time. I thought I asked
11 for a reasonable amount with a significant increase from
12 the year before, but money can always be spent, equipment
13 can always be bought.

14 As we see the new trends, new equipment, the
15 new crimes that are being committed, we try to adapt to
16 it, and I can't predict what we'd need in the future
17 because I don't know what the crooks are going to do in
18 the future.

19 MR. SMITH: Do you have any bait vehicles on
20 loan or through an NICB agreement out in the field?

21 MR. HARDING: Not that I'm aware of. No, we do
22 not.

23 MR. SMITH: Have y'all asked or requested any
24 of that?

25 MR. HARDING: We're working on one GMC dually

1 that's going to be an insurance salvage. We're working on
2 trying to get that right now. I'd have to check with
3 Major Adrian Cortez with NICB what they have available,
4 what they might be able to get us.

5 MR. SMITH: You have that in flux but that's
6 the only one?

7 MR. HARDING: Yes, sir.

8 MR. CANADY: That's all I have.

9 MS. JONES: Nothing else.

10 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

11 MR. HARDING: Thank you very much.

12 MR. CANADY: Montgomery County

13 MR. K. SMITH: Kelley Smith, Montgomery County
14 Auto Theft Task Force.

15 MS. JONES: Good morning.

16 MR. CANADY: Good morning.

17 Kelley, one of the things that we had noticed
18 on the Montgomery County application request was also
19 there was additional funds requested -- I believe you're
20 looking to add some additional sub-grantees to your
21 program.

22 MR. K. SMITH: Yes.

23 MR. CANADY: And very good video, by the way,
24 that the sheriffs provided for the previous GBR Committee
25 meeting. That was very good information.

1 MR. K. SMITH: Thank you.

2 MR. CANADY: But we're looking at the cash
3 match percentage didn't seem to increase as much when
4 you're requesting additional monies. Kind of like the
5 same question we had asked Corpus, you know: Are you
6 replacing any local funds with grant money that could
7 become an issue of any supplanting?

8 MR. K. SMITH: No. As in the past, the grant
9 has been basically flip-flopped, which the county funds
10 have been here and the grant funds have been here, so
11 we're trying to move that to the 80/20 back to what it's
12 supposed to be.

13 MR. CANADY: I'm good. Any questions?

14 MR. SMITH: One quick one. It's probably just
15 I'm missing it in the data. Requesting speed trailers.

16 MR. K. SMITH: LPR speed trailers.

17 MR. SMITH: Okay. That answers my question.
18 It wasn't really clear.

19 MR. CANADY: Thank you.

20 MR. K. SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR. CANADY: Paris, Northeast Texas Task Force.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. CANADY: Potter County.

24 MR. McBROOM: Patrick McBroom, Potter County.

25 MS. JONES: Good morning.

1 MR. McBROOM: Good morning.

2 MR. CANADY: Kind of the same question for you
3 in reference to the cash match, just to ensure that
4 there's no supplanting or potential supplanting issue with
5 that, because it looks like you're asking for additional
6 money, of course, but the cash match portion, the
7 percentage didn't go up as well with that, so if you could
8 explain.

9 MR. McBROOM: Sure. So the Amarillo Police
10 Department has moved out of the task force, so that's over
11 half of our cash match percentage.

12 MR. CANADY: So that's losing Amarillo PD.

13 MR. McBROOM: That's correct.

14 MR. CANADY: That's all I have.

15 MS. JONES: What happened to Amarillo PD?

16 MR. McBROOM: They decided they want to go in a
17 different direction, so they pulled all of their officers
18 out in August.

19 MR. CANADY: Did they explain what the
20 direction was, or would there be any insight?

21 MR. McBROOM: I've heard different things, and
22 even from the chief I've heard different things, so that's
23 something I can't answer.

24 MS. JONES: Is it something that we need to
25 work on, MVCPA?

1 MR. CANADY: We had a meeting with them up
2 there, and the Amarillo PD is looking to reorganize
3 internally, and they want their own investigators staying
4 within their department and not assigned at this point to
5 a task force or another jurisdiction.

6 Now, they still are going to participate with
7 the task force, and in fact, the Amarillo Police chief is
8 still part of the board of governors.

9 MR. McBROOM: He has been taken off.

10 MR. CANADY: But who are you adding to replace?

11 MR. McBROOM: We will add a Potter County
12 investigator. The crime prevention coordinator will be
13 flipped over to the investigator side.

14 MS. JONES: Amarillo only had one person
15 assigned?

16 MR. McBROOM: They had three.

17 MS. JONES: So they pulled three, and you're
18 replacing with one.

19 MR. McBROOM: With one, yes, ma'am. The
20 caseload will go down less a few hundred since we will not
21 be working any APD cases, because we were assigned all the
22 APD cases and we won't be working any of those cases.

23 MS. JONES: Okay.

24 MR. CANADY: Is there anyone here from River
25 Oaks?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. CANADY: How about San Augustine?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. CANADY: Victoria.

5 MR. KELLY: Detective Kelly, Victoria PD.

6 MS. GABRYSEN: Erin Gabrysen, Victoria PD.

7 MR. CANADY: Good morning.

8 MS. JONES: Good morning.

9 MR. CANADY: In the application narrative there
10 was a city-funded detective that was mentioned. It
11 doesn't appear that it's listed anywhere in the grant as
12 far as either a cash match or in-kind match. Can you tell
13 us more about that position?

14 MS. GABRYSEN: So he does like BMVs that are
15 assigned on a priority basis, so he has always been there;
16 we always have someone in that position. We can
17 definitely put it in.

18 MR. CANADY: Just thinking that if he's not
19 really listed in the grant per se, then the ability for
20 him to utilize any grant-purchased equipment is going to
21 be limited.

22 MR. KELLY: He currently doesn't because we
23 don't have him listed in the grant. If it's something we
24 need to change to where he can, I just don't know how that
25 would work, I guess.

1 MR. CANADY: Sure. There as a sergeant
2 position that was previously not part of the grant.

3 MR. KELLY: The sergeant position is the same
4 thing as that investigator where it's funded by the city
5 and is not technically part of the grant but oversees our
6 grant, so we applied for this next year for that sergeant
7 position to be part of the task force.

8 MR. CANADY: Now, is that sergeant position
9 going to be replaced internally within Victoria PD?

10 MR. KELLY: Do you mean going forward?

11 MR. CANADY: Is the sergeant that's going to be
12 assigned or added to the grant with grant funds, is that
13 position going to be replaced within the Victoria PD? Is
14 there going to be an extra sergeant per se? If you're
15 moving a sergeant on to the grant paid with grant funds,
16 where does his old position go paid from city funds?

17 MR. KELLY: So his position is just over our
18 task force currently, so basically of we're giving a grant
19 spot for a sergeant. He's not going to move anywhere;
20 he's just going to become the task force sergeant.

21 MS. JONES: Backup is coming.

22 MS. MOYA: Exactly what he said; we're not
23 going to replace that sergeant.

24 MR. CANADY: Can you identify yourself, please?

25 MS. MOYA: Elaine Moya, Victoria PD.

1 So for personnel being grant-funded, we're not
2 using that position anywhere else.

3 MS. JONES: So you're actually going to have a
4 reduction in force to your department, you're going to be
5 short one sergeant that there was. That would be probably
6 close to supplanting.

7 MS. MOYA: So today that we can't replace
8 because of manpower, so moving forward we would like to,
9 but they're not going to give us any money. So I think
10 the accurate answer is yes, but we just don't have the
11 manpower to.

12 MR. CANADY: Sure. I understand.

13 MS. JONES: Ma'am, what's your name again?

14 MS. MOYA: Elaine Moya.

15 MS. JONES: Thank you.

16 MR. CANADY: That's all I have for now.

17 MS. JONES: We'll take a five-minute break. It
18 is 10:01.

19 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

20 MS. JONES: We're reconvening at 10:23 a.m.

21 MR. CANADY: El Paso.

22 MR. PORRAS: Good morning. My name is Lt.
23 Ricardo Porras. I'm the task force commander for the El
24 Paso PD.

25 MR. NAVARRETE: Sgt. Luis Navarrete, the

1 program manger.

2 MR. CANADY: El Paso's grant application is a
3 little over \$2 million. Is that correct?

4 MR. PORRAS: Correct.

5 MR. CANADY: Can you talk about the increase in
6 funds and what you're going to do with it, as well as the
7 amount of overtime?

8 MR. PORRAS: Okay. So the majority of the
9 increase has to do with salaries. So currently -- well,
10 let me go back, I guess, four years. Four years ago when
11 MVCPA approximately was cut, we sustained a cut in
12 funding, so in order for our program to stay afloat we
13 kind of had to move some money, so one of the big things
14 that we moved were our leases.

15 Our leases were covered at the time with MVCPA
16 funds, and they were moved over into two categories. Some
17 of it was covered under cash match, the other was covered
18 under our in-kind match. So as part of this application,
19 what I'm trying to do is, I guess, get to a 20/80 balance,
20 or close to, so we brought the vehicles back into the
21 grant -- or hoping to bring the vehicles back into the
22 grant, which are 15 leased vehicles. That's one thing.

23 As far as the overtime, we're asking for
24 \$250,000 based on the salaries that we're currently
25 applying for. I know at one point MVCPA had us capped at

1 5 percent, and I think we're asking for 7 percent,
2 approximately, in that amount.

3 And the reason we're asking for that amount is
4 I'm the administrator for another local border security
5 grant, and my guys do a lot of real good work on that
6 grant; however, we do not have the capability of counting
7 those stats towards MVCPA, and we're shortchanging the
8 grant when it comes to that.

9 So for instance, we go out there, we do a lot
10 of auto theft stuff under the LBSP grant, and all of the
11 arrests and everything that we generate out of there, we
12 have to keep it separate, we can't double-dip. Of course,
13 everybody knows it's a violation of the law.

14 And therefore we're asking for those dedicated
15 funds for our task force members to be able to go out
16 there and keep doing what we're doing but actually take
17 credit for what we're doing under this grant, and I think
18 it will be a benefit for not only us to show the work that
19 we do but for the program in its entirety when we present
20 stuff to the legislature.

21 Those are pretty much the big increases.

22 Let's see, I have numbers here. Currently for
23 FY23 I have 16 people that are funded under in-kind, and
24 for FY24 I'm asking for ten to be funded, so the shift is
25 under the grant-funded people.

1 So currently I have 12 people that are
2 completely grant funded that includes one sergeant, two
3 detectives, seven officers, one auto theft senior
4 administrative assistant, and one public awareness
5 manager.

6 So with the new FY24 application what I'm
7 asking for is one sergeant, four detectives, eleven
8 officers, the senior admin assistant and the public
9 awareness officer, for a total of 18 people total.

10 As far as our percentage of cash match,
11 currently we're at 38.80 percent, and with the proposed
12 we'll down to 28.03; however, currently our cash match
13 amount is \$378,000, approximately, and it's going to
14 increase to \$563,656, so it's actually an increase money-
15 wise but percentage-wise, yes, it came down to 28.03
16 percent.

17 Anything else that you may want to ask me?

18 MS. JONES: What's the name of the second
19 grant?

20 MR. PORRAS: The Local Border Security Program.

21 MS. JONES: So your team works auto thefts on
22 that grant and you can't claim it.

23 MR. NAVARRETE: Correct.

24 MS. JONES: So what are the numbers, what's the
25 percentage?

1 MR. PORRAS: As far as numbers, as far as stats
2 go, approximately -- and again, I didn't know you were
3 asking for stats. I could get them to you so I could have
4 precise numbers, but if you're asking --

5 MS. JONES: Do you have those?

6 MR. NAVARRETE: Not the exact stats on that.

7 MR. PORRAS: His computer died on us, but we'll
8 have it back, and going and I could get you precise
9 numbers on that. But approximately, just to give you an
10 idea, felony arrests -- because I just did Q-3 for total
11 arrests -- we're up to like 26 arrests just on that
12 overtime grant, and granted that's just in addition to our
13 normal work that we do here.

14 So my people love to work, they're out there.
15 And unfortunately, just like everybody else, we do have a
16 couple of people shortages. Our department is allowing us
17 to fill those positions and we're in the process of
18 getting, I guess, the current vacancies taken care of.

19 For instance, one of my sergeants -- some of
20 you may remember him and know him, Sgt. Horn [phonetic] --
21 he retired after 30 years of service, so that was a great
22 hit, I should say, for our program. Very knowledgeable
23 gentleman, we wish him well, he's still going to continue
24 working somewhere else in law enforcement. However, we're
25 still having to replace his spot within the task force.

1 But going back to the stats, I can get you
2 precise numbers.

3 MS. JONES: The 26 you said, 26 felony arrests?

4 MR. PORRAS: Felony arrests, correct.

5 MS. JONES: Over what period of time?

6 MR. PORRAS: Three quarters, so we're talking
7 about nine months, more or less. Right?

8 MR. NAVARRETE: Right. And this is on an
9 overtime basis, usually we do one overtime operation a
10 week, so this is not five days out of the week, it's just
11 typically one day out of the week that we'll work LBSP,
12 and then we'll come across auto-theft related, either
13 warrant subjects that we worked up during MVCPA and then
14 we find them and pick them up, or we get anything on view
15 and stuff like that during LBSP, then that's usually where
16 those come from.

17 MS. JONES: Anything else?

18 MR. CANADY: No, ma'am.

19 MR. PORRAS: I thought you were asking us about
20 the helicopter or the tank that we're ordering or
21 something like that.

22 (General laughter.)

23 MR. PORRAS: Thank you.

24 MR. NAVARRETE: Thank you.

25 MR. CANADY: City of Paris.

1 MR. LOGSDON: Det. Cody Logsdon with Paris
2 Police Department, Northeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

3 MR. CANADY: Cody, can you describe -- you're
4 looking to add the New Boston Police Department and
5 Hopkins County. Is that correct?

6 MR. LOGSDON: Correct.

7 MR. CANADY: And can you describe the need in
8 each jurisdiction, especially for New Boston?

9 MR. LOGSDON: So currently we only have the two
10 officers on our task force; we cover the nine counties
11 across northeast Texas. We actually cover ten, we just
12 never included Franklin County, so we were trying to
13 include that this year as well.

14 New Boston has an officer that already has NICB
15 training, he's been doing 68-A inspections. And we've
16 found several stolen vehicles in Texarkana, and they don't
17 know a lot about them, so we've been trying to teach them
18 about them, so we want to bring in New Boston because it's
19 right there in Bowie County, close to Texarkana, to help
20 with that large area.

21 MR. CANADY: Do you have the numbers? I didn't
22 notice in the application any specific motor vehicle theft
23 numbers for New Boston.

24 MR. LOGSDON: I did not bring them, no, nothing
25 specific.

1 MR. CANADY: Do you have just an approximate --
2 their need for their jurisdiction?

3 MR. LOGSDON: I can't even think of it off the
4 top of my head. I know theirs was one of the higher ones
5 for Bowie County out of all of our counties.

6 MS. JONES: Can you find out and let us know?

7 MR. LOGSDON: Yes.

8 MR. CANADY: It looks like I have those numbers
9 here, I'll look them up.

10 MR. SMITH: Member Smith, for the record.

11 On your vehicle request, another time that this
12 comes up -- or actually your equipment, let's start with
13 vehicles. You're asking for \$155,000?

14 MR. LOGSDON: Correct, for three vehicles.

15 MR. SMITH: How many vehicles are you looking
16 to obtain?

17 MR. LOGSDON: Three vehicles.

18 MR. SMITH: Three?

19 MR. LOGSDON: It would be two for each of the
20 new investigators if they're funded, and one to replace
21 one. Currently we have a City of Paris vehicle that's
22 being loaned to us, but it's needing to be replaced.

23 MR. SMITH: The MDTs, docking stations,
24 printers, again, how many data terminals and docking
25 stations do you need?

1 MR. LOGSDON: It would be one for each
2 vehicle -- no, the MDTs it would just be two, because we
3 already have one in the current vehicle.

4 MR. SMITH: And printers, three?

5 MR. LOGSDON: Three, because we're down to one
6 printer right now. We're having to share it between us
7 two, and then we'd need for each of the new vehicles.

8 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. JONES: So it's like \$52,000 per vehicle,
10 is what you're asking for?

11 MR. LOGSDON: Yes. That is the quote I
12 obtained. That's for all emergency equipment, everything
13 on it.

14 MS. JONES: What are you buying?

15 MR. LOGSDON: That's for Chevy Silverado 1500,
16 four-wheel drive, crew cabs.

17 MS. JONES: Those of you who have the \$80,000,
18 see him.

19 (General laughter.)

20 MR. CANADY: It looks like that going to the
21 DPS stats for New Boston, there was ten.

22 MR. LOGSDON: New Boston is fairly low.

23 MR. CANADY: Which county is New Boston in?

24 MR. LOGSDON: In Bowie County.

25 MR. CANADY: Did Bowie County approach?

1 MR. LOGSDON: My predecessor, Det. Rowton, he
2 had spoke with -- from my understanding speaking with him,
3 he had spoke with them, and they were not very interested,
4 versus New Boston was very interested, and like I said,
5 they already have someone with some training, so that's
6 why we went with them.

7 MR. CANADY: Do you know what the population of
8 New Boston is, just approximate?

9 MR. LOGSDON: I do not have any idea.

10 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

11 City of Dallas.

12 MR. CRUMP: Lt. Crump with Dallas PD.

13 MR. RODEN: Bryan Roden, Auto Theft Task Force
14 commander, Dallas PD.

15 MR. CANADY: Bryan, previously with the GBR
16 Committee, had discussed lease vehicles for City of
17 Dallas. What's going on there as far as leased vehicles
18 and what you're requesting for this next year on the
19 number of vehicles and the cost?

20 MR. RODEN: Yes, I remember when was at the
21 committee they approved up to -- forgive me -- I think it
22 was \$900, or whatever it is, per vehicle. We just got
23 granted two vehicles this year based off that GBR
24 recommendation.

25 What we're trying to do is cut back on that but

1 keep one, so this upcoming budget cycle we want to
2 purchase two vehicles, one of those to replace an older
3 vehicle that we have and just be able to let the other
4 vehicle go back.

5 MR. CANADY: So you're anticipating not leasing
6 any vehicles this year for FY24?

7 MR. RODEN: No. I still have one on my budget.

8 MS. JONES: How much are the leases?

9 MR. RODEN: We struck a deal. The lowest I
10 could get was about \$1,000 for a truck, so a little bit
11 over what was granted to us on the GBR Committee, but the
12 City of Dallas has taken over that extra cost.

13 MS. JONES: Why change from lease to purchase?
14 Because when you came before, you needed to lease.

15 MR. RODEN: I hear what a lot of people are
16 saying about how hard it is to find the vehicles. I think
17 I was in that same problem last round. We did order a
18 vehicle the last budget cycle, and it took a while for us
19 to get it.

20 Now I'm able to purchase vehicles kind of more
21 quickly, and so you can go back and forth, which one is
22 better, leasing or owning a vehicle. I do think there's
23 benefits in both.

24 I do like the idea of one leased vehicle if you
25 need to take trips and things like that, there's coverage.

1 If we have to go to Kerrville for a meeting, I can have
2 somebody come pick me up if there's a problem, roadside
3 assistance, there's benefits there.

4 But I think it's more cost-effective to own the
5 vehicle, so if I want to do something with it later down
6 the road, turn it in, something like that, there's equity,
7 you know.

8 MS. JONES: So do you recommend not leasing, or
9 it just depends?

10 MR. RODEN: Oh, I think it just depends on the
11 need. I like to have at least one leased vehicle in case
12 we do have to make trips, but I do recommend purchasing a
13 vehicle, because that's the grant task force, and we could
14 trade that vehicle in and there's monetary value there to
15 be able to get something else so we're not spending a lot
16 of money on vehicles. I think that's probably a need for
17 a different time. The best practice is trade vehicles in,
18 but I do think there's value in leasing, for us at least.

19 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. JONES: Thank you.

21 MR. CANADY: Travis County.

22 MR. TARRANT: Good morning.

23 MS. JONES: Good morning.

24 MR. TARRANT: Neil Tarrant, sergeant with the
25 Travis County Sheriff's Office, task force commander of

1 Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force.

2 MR. CANADY: Neil, it looks like you're asking
3 for three new investigators. Is that correct?

4 MR. TARRANT: That is correct.

5 MR. CANADY: Can you talk about that a little
6 bit?

7 MR. TARRANT: Yes. One is in Bell County.
8 Bell County Sheriff's Office has contributed an agent to
9 the task force for many years but has never asked for any
10 funding for that particular agent, and so the sheriff
11 there has asked for funding beginning next year.

12 Travis County is asking for an agent mainly due
13 to the increase in cases, the inability to work things
14 proactively. The Hays County Sheriff's Office, they're
15 requesting another agent. Their current agent does not
16 work any cases in their county, and he is mainly our
17 coverage agent for our coverage county, and so they
18 requested an agent to have someone to cover Hays County.

19 MR. SMITH: Member Smith, for the record.

20 The results from last year's operations seem
21 like it had a low rate of arrests and filed criminal
22 cases, and I know that you have some challenges there in
23 Travis County getting stuff filed.

24 I get it, I understand that, and sometimes you
25 have two work with what you've got. Do you guys have a

1 different plan or a different operational idea about how
2 to bring those numbers up, given you're asking for three
3 additional investigators?

4 MR. TARRANT: Yes. I believe what you're
5 referring to is during our bait operations we've had a lot
6 of mechanical issues with our bait vehicles, and so our
7 main vehicle used for bait operations has been down for a
8 substantial amount of time.

9 We think we have figured out what is hopefully
10 our last hurdle to get that vehicle up and running again,
11 and so we've had to rely on other vehicles to use as bait
12 besides that, and so it's been a lower rate of return.

13 MR. SMITH: What do you have out there -- never
14 mind; don't answer that question.

15 How many bait vehicles do you think would work
16 out best for your operation, how many do you think?

17 MR. TARRANT: A minimum of three, and at least
18 one of them be a Kia or a Hyundai.

19 MR. SMITH: Sure, I get that. And has there
20 been any conversation with Sam or anybody at NICB about
21 maybe trying to put the feelers out to see if anybody
22 would be able to donate some of those?

23 MR. TARRANT: Not specifically with NICB but
24 any time we have a vehicle that has been seized and during
25 the property hearing it's awarded back to the insurance

1 company, we often petition that insurance company to then
2 donate that vehicle to the task force.

3 MR. SMITH: But you haven't had much luck?

4 MR. TARRANT: No, sir, haven't.

5 MR. SMITH: Okay. I appreciate it.

6 MR. TARRANT: Thank you, sir.

7 MS. JONES: The vehicle that's been down for a
8 while, what's wrong with it and why has it not been
9 repaired?

10 MR. TARRANT: Initially it was due to Verison
11 sunsetting the 3G, and it was 3G communication with that
12 vehicle. It took a while to have that replaced, and once
13 it was replaced, then there were mechanical issues with
14 the truck itself.

15 And so once that was repaired we had everything
16 going except for audio and video, and we have just learned
17 that one of those components is down, we just learned that
18 one last week. And so that one just needs to be ordered,
19 it's only \$1,000, which will be out of program income, but
20 hopefully that will get us completely up and going on that
21 particular vehicle.

22 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir. We appreciate it.

23 MR. CANADY: Smith County.

24 MR. RICHBOURG: Good morning. Kenneth
25 Richbourg, Smith County, East Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

1 MS. JONES: Good morning.

2 MR. CANADY: Kenneth, can you describe how the
3 task force works with all the agencies or works with the
4 different agencies in the counties or your jurisdiction?

5 MR. RICHBOURG: The four participating
6 agencies, we're all multi-jurisdictional and we operate
7 out of the same office in Smith County, in Tyler. Several
8 days a week they go back to their home counties, and
9 they're assigned different counties within the coverage
10 area to work themselves, if that makes sense.

11 MR. CANADY: It does. So they come together
12 certain days of the week and then go back. When you're
13 together are there any group operations that are
14 performed?

15 MR. RICHBOURG: Yes, sir. We schedule all our
16 68-As when we're all there at the same time on Monday
17 mornings. There's other days of the week where we do
18 joint operations together.

19 When we're not doing something jointly, they're
20 in their counties working their cases, or they're in
21 adjoining counties that each one of those investigators
22 are assigned out of our 14-county coverage area that they
23 cover.

24 MR. CANADY: And do your investigators receive
25 cases from any of the coverage agencies that are in those

1 counties?

2 MR. RICHBOURG: We get requests from them, and
3 sometimes they'll assist them; sometimes they'll take over
4 the cases. It just depends on what it is.

5 MR. SMITH: Member Smith, for the record.

6 Do y'all have any equipment challenges when
7 you're doing your 68-A work? Is there anything that would
8 help make that, well, just simply put, a quicker process
9 to get things done? Do you have everything that you need
10 for 68-A inspections?

11 MR. RICHBOURG: Probably some updated ECM
12 readers would help, but other than that, other than a
13 secure location where we could do them, that's the biggest
14 problem that we have, is we're out in the open doing them.

15 But equipment-wise, we handwrite ours still, maybe a
16 printer or something like that where we could do that, but
17 new up-to-date VIN readers would be awesome.

18 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you, sir.

19 MR. RICHBOURG: Thank you.

20 MR. CANADY: Tarrant County.

21 MR. PEDERSEN: Good morning. Matt Pedersen,
22 commander, Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force,
23 Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

24 MS. PENA: Ann Pena, administrative assistant,
25 Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

1 MR. CANADY: Matt, can you talk a little bit
2 about the increase in requests for funds for your program
3 and where the new positions would be and how they're going
4 to help your task force in total?

5 MR. PEDERSEN: Sure. So the majority of the
6 work that we do comes from the referrals from our coverage
7 agencies, but we're getting a lot more from non-coverage
8 agencies but within our seven-county program area.

9 What I've found out over the last year, year
10 and a half is we're having to say no a lot more than we
11 are yes to these agencies just because specifically of the
12 impact vehicle fraud has had on our investigators' time
13 and that sort of thing.

14 But what we're looking to do is specifically
15 expand to the western counties that we are looking to add
16 those positions.

17 We requested four additional positions being in
18 Wise County, which is one to the west; Weatherford PD,
19 which is an additional for Parker County. We've also
20 requested a position for Grapevine PD, which is just north
21 of the airport and in a quadrant that's not covered
22 necessarily by the task force.

23 And then White Settlement Police Department has
24 also agreed to be partners should we get funding, which
25 could help in kind of the little bit smaller cities that

1 are over in that area.

2 So we're looking to expand and provide our
3 current Parker County assigned deputy some assistance in
4 those western counties. Just within the past month we've
5 had two assist calls out there when many of the stolens
6 were from Fort Worth or Tarrant or Dallas County, so we're
7 seeing some of our problems moving to the west versus
8 historically to the east.

9 We still have our east problems for sure, but
10 we have other task forces that we work great with.
11 There's a total of four in North Texas. However, there
12 isn't as much there, so we're looking to expand to the
13 west to help.

14 MR. CANADY: Matt, do you have the information
15 on -- I guess from NIBRS on the individual agencies versus
16 countywide data?

17 MR. PEDERSEN: I do. We can pull it up if we
18 need to and access it here on the computer, but submitted
19 with our grant application was our NIBRS that not only
20 discussed the countywide numbers for each of the seven
21 counties but broke it down with the reporting agencies.

22 Of course, the information is only as good as
23 what was reported by those agencies, but those are
24 included in the Excel spreadsheet that we provided with
25 the grant application.

1 MS. JONES: The agencies that you're adding,
2 tell us the numbers that you have there.

3 MR. PEDERSEN: So Grapevine Police Department,
4 we're looking at a difference between reporting calendar
5 year '21 and '22, is what we're looking at. They had
6 approximately 32 percent increase in auto theft;
7 specifically 150 to 199, for BMV up 21 percent, and parts
8 32 percent.

9 Looking at White Settlement, they show a pretty
10 significant decrease in auto theft and BMV but a 12
11 percent increase in parts, which what we discussed is our
12 problem with auto parts, of course, is the effect of
13 catalytic converters that have happened over the last
14 years.

15 Weatherford PD shows a 36 percent increase in
16 auto theft, as well as 23 percent increase in BMVs, with
17 about a 3 percent decrease in parts.

18 And then Wise County Sheriff's Office, I'm
19 going to put this in perspective, but the increase in auto
20 thefts is 245 percent, BMVs 328, and parts 500, but totals
21 in the losses in Wise County aren't nearly as much as they
22 are in Tarrant and others. So for instance, for the auto
23 theft increase reporting eleven in one year versus 38 in
24 the next year.

25 But what we're intending to do with those

1 positions that we've asked for to help in the western
2 counties is kind of a collective effort between Wise
3 County, Parker County, and Weatherford, those three
4 working together to handle those other five or six
5 counties that are just to the west of us that are really
6 showing the increase in the auto thefts.

7 And from -- the boots-on-the-ground numbers
8 don't necessarily show that some of our problems are
9 moving west. You'll see that we actually in our program
10 area experienced about a 5 percent decrease in auto
11 thefts, so it's a little bit of a challenge as a
12 commander.

13 We're asking for more money and more people on
14 an overall number, but at the same time, because we feel
15 like we have something that's been working for years, and
16 so we're really trying to suppress and keep up the
17 different strategies that we've been using or that we've
18 used to implement and try to bring and keep those numbers
19 down. We just feel like the trend is increasing to our
20 west, so that's we're wanting to get ahead of the problem.

21 MR. SMITH: Dean Smith, for the record.

22 Weatherford, Parker County tends to become more
23 of an urban environment than it is what it used to be, a
24 bedroom community for folks that work in the Dallas-Fort
25 Worth area, and so I can completely understand how all

1 that tends to stretch out to the west due to the growth
2 that's going on out there.

3 I have a quick question, and it may not even be
4 able to be answered here, but I'll go ahead and ask. Do
5 you guys get extended out to the DFW Airport at all? I
6 mean, I know the airport has, last I remember, four
7 different jurisdictions within the property, but is there
8 anything going on out there with the airport?

9 MR. PEDERSEN: As far as actual operations,
10 it's kind of as an as-needed basis. We're on speed dial,
11 the two primary detectives that work auto crimes, and they
12 certainly reach out to us and ask us for assistance.

13 I have seven investigators under the same roof
14 in-house, and so there are some jurisdictions it's kind of
15 on an as-needed basis, including the airport. With the
16 Grapevine Police Department addition, what we do is we
17 tend to kind of assign a geographic area for an assigned
18 investigator, so the expectation should we bring Grapevine
19 on would be as a liaison for the DFW Airport for sure.

20 MR. SMITH: To bring in that corner of the
21 airport where Grapevine is.

22 MR. PEDERSEN: Sure. I'd be honest if I don't
23 say I'm a little nervous about how many resources we're
24 going to be extending east, because a lot of Grapevine's
25 issues come from the east, but honestly, some of those

1 problems are affecting our program area and the overall
2 region as a whole, so I think all it can do is be a
3 benefit to the region, not only our task force.

4 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir.

5 MS. JONES: Your question helped my question,
6 so I don't have anything.

7 MR. PEDERSEN: I'll let you know that I reached
8 out to several jurisdictions. I was a sergeant for 13
9 years, moved up as the commander for the last year, so
10 this was a huge learning curve. Thank you, support staff
11 at MVCPA for being patient.

12 But with this learning curve and that sort of
13 thing, what I do not want to do is ask for money and then
14 not be able to fill the positions and have to de-obligate
15 funds, so I reached out to at least six different
16 jurisdictions based on geographic area that we're going to
17 expand to, as well as the numbers, and then we wanted to
18 just provide them the opportunity to see if they could
19 commit should we get the funding.

20 Of those six, two denied because of staffing
21 issues, and four were onboard, which was actually a higher
22 number than I expected because so many agencies are
23 experiencing staffing issues.

24 So I already have commitments from these four
25 who are chomping at the bit, waiting to open a position

1 and to get an investigator to help the general cause.

2 MS. JONES: I think I'm good -- I'm not good.
3 I want to make sure, because for some cities where the
4 population is small like they can have five cars stolen,
5 and then you add on three more and then the percentage
6 like increases. Like that's a big deal if you got three
7 more.

8 MR. PEDERSEN: Sure.

9 MS. JONES: So I want to make sure that we're
10 not -- especially for the one that went from like 11 to
11 38, I want to make sure that we're not just getting a
12 person just to work 38.

13 MR. PEDERSEN: Oh, goodness, absolutely not.
14 I'm sorry.

15 MS. JONES: I think you said you're going to
16 tag team. Correct?

17 MR. PEDERSEN: That's correct. So the general
18 operation as a multi-jurisdiction task force is we go --
19 we give oil to where it's squeaky, I guess you can say.
20 And so the police chiefs and sheriffs understand that with
21 an 80-point grant but specifically with the way that our
22 numbers and our ask where they're coming from, they're not
23 going to be spending that one dedicated -- let's say Wise
24 County deputy is not going to be spending 100 percent of
25 their grant time in Wise County; it doesn't support it.

1 What it does support is the overall team effort
2 that's affecting our seven-county area, but also it
3 provides us the ability to give more resources to those in
4 the east as they come west and that sort of thing.

5 So you know, we're looking out for the
6 collective interests of the whole program area, the seven
7 counties. So adding additional people, I would say about
8 60 percent of our workload is in Fort Worth because -- or
9 in Tarrant County, and so a lot of these investigators are
10 adopting cases that meet our threshold of multiple
11 suspects, vehicles and jurisdictions.

12 So the Wise County deputy, let's say, may not
13 be working all Wise County, may adopt a large case out of
14 Fort Worth because it's hitting the entire region.

15 So they're coming from these different areas
16 that they're showing an increase, and I understand where
17 your concern is with the numbers, but they're adding
18 personnel and time and resources to the collective effort
19 in the broad scheme of things.

20 MS. JONES: So you're being more proactive.

21 MR. PEDERSEN: We would like to be more
22 proactive. Right now we're kind of a slave to the desk,
23 to the financial-related motor crimes.

24 MS. JONES: The plan is to be more proactive.

25 MR. PEDERSEN: Absolutely. We plan and we pray

1 that with the additional four -- it's just like a pantry
2 that has more room, you're going to fill it, right? So as
3 soon as we have four more people, we expect the continued
4 requests to come in even more, but we do our best to help
5 everybody no matter which program area they're in.

6 MS. JONES: Thank you.

7 MR. CANADY: San Antonio.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. Lt. Nick Johnson,
9 San Antonio Police Department.

10 MS. JONES: Good morning.

11 MR. CANADY: Nick, looking at the application,
12 I just want to make sure that we're on the same page on a
13 couple of things.

14 The main one is there are several references to
15 items funded with cash match, but there's a statement out
16 beside that says No cost to MVCPA. Specifically I believe
17 those are in some fringe items, and grant cash match funds
18 are considered grant funds.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. What specifically, I guess?

20 MR. CANADY: Cash match such as Medicare, no
21 cost to MVCPA is listed, but it is a cash match item, not
22 in-kind but a grant cash match. Does that make sense?

23 MS. VALDEZ: Irene Valdez, San Antonio Police
24 Department.

25 Medicare is cash match, no cost to the MVCPA.

1 MR. CANADY: The cash match, those funds are
2 considered grant funds even though the city is providing
3 them, so it is overall in there in the bigger scheme of
4 things.

5 MS. VALDEZ: I apologize for that.

6 MR. CANADY: That's okay. Just another maybe
7 kind of small clarification: computer monitors, were
8 these supplies and DOE or were they equipment?

9 MS. VALDEZ: They're going to be under
10 equipment.

11 MR. CANADY: Because of the cost threshold?

12 MS. VALDEZ: Not because of the cost, because
13 it's something that is bought as equipment; and our fiscal
14 agent said for us to put it up there.

15 MR. CANADY: Okay. So based on your local
16 inventory policies and things like that, those need to be
17 in equipment?

18 MS. VALDEZ: Yes, even though the cost is less
19 than \$500.

20 MR. CANADY: Okay, very good. That answers my
21 question.

22 MS. JONES: Member Dean?

23 MR. SMITH: No, ma'am.

24 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 MR. CANADY: Tri-County, Mansfield.

2 MR. HARRELL: Good morning. Lt. Jim Harrell,
3 and this is Jessica Graves.

4 MS. JONES: Good morning.

5 MR. HARRELL: Good morning.

6 MR. CANADY: Just a couple of clarification
7 questions, and I think this has been in here before, but I
8 may be unclear. On the constables, the Precinct 7
9 constables from Tarrant County, there's no funds exchanged
10 between them. Is that correct?

11 MR. HARRELL: None at all. We have a reserve
12 constable that works with us part-time once a week, and
13 there's no funding there. They're part of it so that if
14 he has to use our equipment or any means like that, that
15 he is in the grant.

16 MR. CANADY: Okay. And you're looking to buy
17 two new trucks. Is that correct?

18 MR. HARRELL: If we get approved for the
19 additional investigator, we want to supply him a vehicle,
20 and we want to replace a vehicle.

21 Now, on the replacement vehicle, we want to
22 take the 2015 Chevy that we have, reposition that, wrap it
23 and make it a bait vehicle, so we don't want to lose that,
24 we want to turn it into a bait vehicle because it meets
25 the threshold of the years that are being stolen right

1 now, so we'd like to replace the investigator's vehicle
2 and use that one as a bait vehicle.

3 MR. CANADY: Can you tell us what the Motorola
4 radio cellular service is?

5 MR. HARRELL: Yes. We work in Johnson and
6 Ellis counties, and in the counties we lose radio service,
7 we lose cell service when we get too far out.

8 We purchased radios that allow us to get a
9 satellite and get service wherever we're at. So when
10 we're out in the county, if we needed assistance, we
11 couldn't get it. If we wanted to run something or ask
12 questions, we couldn't do it, not even by cell phone.

13 But with these radios we're able to do that no
14 matter where we're at. So that's a yearly we have to pay
15 to continue that service.

16 MR. CANADY: And does each officer have one of
17 those?

18 MR. HARRELL: Each one of the investigators has
19 one, yes.

20 MR. CANADY: As well as a regular cell phone?

21 MR. HARRELL: Well, it's like a standard police
22 radio and then a cell phone, yes.

23 MR. CANADY: In the application there's mention
24 that the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force is the only
25 specialized auto theft enforcement unit within the service

1 area, since the service area includes Tarrant, Johnson and
2 Ellis counties.

3 MR. HARRELL: Johnson and Ellis.

4 MR. CANADY: Tarrant, Johnson and Ellis
5 counties.

6 MR. HARRELL: Right. We work part of Tarrant
7 County, which means Mansfield and Burleson -- I'm sorry --
8 Mansfield and Kennedale, which are in Tarrant County, and
9 part of Mansfield is unincorporated, which falls in
10 Tarrant County, because Mansfield itself sits in three
11 counties.

12 MR. CANADY: But you do know there is a task
13 force in Tarrant County.

14 MR. HARRELL: Yes, Tarrant. Me and Matt work
15 together just for our part of Tarrant County. I'm sorry I
16 wasn't quite clear on that.

17 MR. CANADY: And services to Everman?

18 MR. HARRELL: Everman falls within Tarrant.

19 MR. CANADY: Has there ever been talk of --
20 maybe there was several years ago if I'm remembering
21 correctly -- Tri-County and Tarrant County task force
22 combining, joining forces?

23 MR. HARRELL: There was talk, but at the time
24 the Tri-County was formed -- I've only been with the task
25 force three years, but at the time that it was formed,

1 Johnson and Ellis was 400 square miles with 24 cities, and
2 the service being that far out, they weren't getting the
3 service as they wanted to be serviced, so the Tri-County
4 was formed so that that area could be serviced.

5 A lot of what we're seeing is being pushed from
6 Dallas out to the county because there are small shops out
7 there in the county.

8 Well, we do a lot of shop inspections, that's
9 where we're finding all these chop shops, because they
10 drive them out to the county and cut them up. They go two
11 miles down the road to the junkyard and salvage yards and
12 sell off all the parts they're not keeping.

13 We spend most of our time hitting those salvage
14 yards, hitting those shops. We do about 60-65 a year, and
15 that's why we're here to make sure they're in compliance,
16 making sure we're catching up on all of these chop shops
17 that are being pushed out, because in the city they're
18 being, of course, found easily.

19 In the county, if we ain't out there driving
20 those back roads and making contacts with sheriff's
21 departments and stuff like that, they don't get found.

22 MR. CANADY: Those are my questions.

23 MS. JONES: Thank you.

24 MR. HARRELL: Thank you.

25 MR. CANADY: Lubbock.

1 MR. CLEMENTS: Doug Clements with the South
2 Plains Auto Theft Task Force.

3 MR. GENTRY: Andy Gentry with the South Plains
4 Auto Theft Task Force.

5 MR. CANADY: Doug, can you tell us about the
6 new positions that you're looking at, and I believe they
7 are in-kind for Lubbock County SO. Is that correct?

8 MR. CLEMENTS: That's correct. What we're
9 looking to do is place three license plate readers on
10 three of the SO units. They're the canine units. They're
11 always in the high crime areas or out on the roads in
12 areas where we're recovering stuff.

13 And that would be the only cost MVCPA is
14 equipment cost for them plate readers. The sheriff's
15 office will be picking up all the other expenses. So
16 after the initial year, we would have about \$1,600 a year.

17 MR. CANADY: Now, would this be the same
18 officer that operate these three units or would it be
19 rotating out on a shift basis?

20 MR. CLEMENTS: No. They have their assigned
21 units, so there would be three officers. We'll bring them
22 in as in-kind match, and they'll be three units, and they
23 work various hours. They're not on a set schedule,
24 they're not answering calls, they're just out on the prowl
25 right where we need people to be.

1 MR. CANADY: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. CLEMENTS: Thank you.

3 MR. CANADY: Laredo.

4 MR. VALDEZ: Good morning. Lt. Jorge Valdez,
5 Laredo Auto Theft.

6 MR. CANTU: Investigator Greg Cantu, Laredo PD
7 Auto Theft.

8 MR. CANADY: Lt. Valdez, can you tell us what
9 you're seeing on the border and what the current needs are
10 on the border from MVCPA to address the motor vehicle
11 crimes problems?

12 MR. VALDEZ: As far as on our border, we're
13 seeing a lot of -- like any border, a lot of stolen
14 trailers, obviously used for smuggling of aliens, and
15 that's a big issue for us in Laredo.

16 Obviously it takes a lot of our time, because
17 we have to work with other agencies, especially at the
18 checkpoint. When they get them at the checkpoint we have
19 to send our resources out there.

20 That's one of the issues we have, the increase
21 of trailers. We thought it was going to slow down, but
22 now with Title 42 we thought it was going to go up, but
23 actually it went down, but we still have those issues on a
24 daily basis where they steal a lot of trailers in Laredo
25 for that purpose, only for alien smuggling. So that's one

1 of our big issues in Laredo.

2 We try to get as much intel as we can from the
3 Mexican side, but obviously they don't give us a lot of
4 information. I know Investigator Cantu. He was assigned
5 to the FBI task force several years before coming to auto
6 theft, so that helps a lot, because he has a lot of
7 contacts still with the FBI and the Mexican side, so we
8 get some intel from that, but it all has to do with the
9 connections that you have. So that's one of our issues
10 there.

11 MR. CANTU: Just to clarify, we've seen an
12 uptick on the tractors because they're using more
13 tractors; they're not using the trailers anymore because
14 of what happened in San Antonio with those 55 deaths.

15 So they are changing their tactics and they're
16 only using the beds of the tractors, so we've seen an
17 uptick of tractor thefts there in the Laredo area.

18 MR. VALDEZ: That's been recently, yes, and
19 obviously because of what we had in San Antonio, but yes,
20 recently the intel we've got is now they're taking five or
21 ten in a tractor instead of using the trailer part.

22 It's a combination of both, but that's a recent
23 trend that we have, the tractors, and it's easier for them
24 sometimes to put them under the sleeper and they take five
25 or ten, depending.

1 MR. CANADY: Let's talk about your leased
2 vehicles. You're looking to lease how many vehicles?

3 MR. VALDEZ: We have a total of 11 vehicles
4 that we lease. I think we're staying with a lease. Our
5 financial lady is somewhere, but that was the plan. They
6 were looking into, I think, getting out of a lease, but I
7 think the grant specifically requires us to lease the
8 vehicles.

9 MR. CANADY: You can purchase or lease
10 vehicles.

11 MR. VALDEZ: I know we can purchase, but I
12 think she was looking more at -- she gave me a thing that
13 she had but I think she was the one that wrote it up. But
14 for now we're leasing the vehicles.

15 MS. JONES: Is she here?

16 MR. VALDEZ: She's here. She's going to the
17 other meeting, the financial officers meeting. But I can
18 get that information, but our plan was to continue to
19 lease vehicles, and then we have a total of 11 vehicles
20 that we're leasing.

21 MR. CANADY: And you're paying \$600 per month.
22 Is that correct?

23 MR. VALDEZ: 600, yes. I think it's a total of
24 \$1,000, \$600, and then the city pays \$400.

25 MS. JONES: Thank you.

1 MR. CANADY: Harris County.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: John Gonzalez with the Harris
3 County Sheriff's Office.

4 MR. CANADY: Talk about the number of your task
5 force arrests for this fiscal year. They seem a little
6 bit low based on the number of personnel that you have,
7 but could you expand on that information a little bit for
8 us.

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, sir. Without going too
10 much into it, the process in Harris County, I don't know
11 how most other counties work, but we actually have to call
12 our district attorney's office, give them a rundown of the
13 case, they choose whether or not to accept charges.

14 I thought it was a little ridiculous when I
15 started 20 years ago, but after I sat down at their intake
16 office and heard some of these calls come in, I can kind
17 of understand why.

18 There's a total of 39 law enforcement agencies
19 in Harris County, so a lot of that, what it is is
20 referrals. I won't say they refuse to take charges, but
21 they tell us, hey, we're not going to refer it for further
22 investigation, so that's where that number kind of
23 fluctuates.

24 There's definitely no shortage of crime in
25 Harris County, but that is a bottleneck kind of obstacle

1 that we're trying to overcome.

2 MR. CANADY: So even for you've got a suspect
3 or an actor in the vehicle, it's in progress, you still
4 can't arrest those without going to the DA?

5 MR. GONZALEZ: That is correct. The setup is
6 basically like a call center, and back in my patrol days
7 when we used to abide by it, we called it DA shopping. If
8 they refused or they didn't bill, we'd hang up and wait
9 ten minutes and we'd call back and get somebody else.

10 They kind of want us to get away from that.
11 We've built a pretty good relationship here lately with
12 some of the network. There's been a high turnover rate
13 there as well, and so we've built with some of the chiefs
14 in order to get direct contacts for the investigators to
15 reach straight to in order to get charges filed.

16 As ridiculous as it sounds, I make a traffic
17 stop, there's narcotics found in plain view and the
18 vehicle is stolen, we still have to call and run it down.

19 Yes, it's ridiculous.

20 MR. CANADY: So y'all utilize -- I believe it's
21 Houston PD that has a dedicated prosecutor at least part
22 of the time. Are y'all utilizing that same prosecutor or
23 someone different?

24 MR. GONZALEZ: We have in the past. Like I
25 mentioned, they've had a high turnover rate at the DA's

1 office, and I don't know how it is within the past couple
2 of months since I've taken over the task force, but their
3 intake is 24/7, and a lot of times these prosecutors they
4 work intake as a form of overtime, so one may work a week
5 or so and you may not get another one. So it's just kind
6 of drawing straws, essentially.

7 I have in the past just reached out via email,
8 hey, this is what I'm working on, to a certain contact,
9 but they become to be chiefs so you just have to start
10 over networking.

11 MS. JONES: I started in Harris County; I get
12 it.

13 Do you still have JMS?

14 MR. GONZALEZ: They just recently went to a
15 web-based version of JMS. Again, when I went on patrol it
16 was all JMS; it looked like something out of the '70s. We
17 do like the software. I'm not trying to knock the DA's
18 office.

19 MS. JONES: Absolutely not.

20 MR. GONZALEZ: They've got a lot on their plate
21 and they've got a lot of backlog of cases ever since even
22 Harvey, and then obviously COVID did add to that.

23 MS. JONES: Member Smith?

24 MR. SMITH: No.

25 MS. JONES: Thank you.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

2 MR. CANADY: Beaumont.

3 Just can we ask, does anyone want to go twice?

4 MS. JONES: I think El Paso should go twice,
5 but Luis on his own.

6 (General laughter.)

7 MR. KARR: Good morning. I'm Sgt. Ken Karr
8 with Beaumont PD, Southeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force.

9 MS. JONES: Good morning.

10 MR. CANADY: KK, can you talk about your change
11 in participating agencies a little bit?

12 MR. KARR: Yes, sir. We have a Hardin County
13 deputy that resigned, went to work in a different field,
14 got out of law enforcement. The sheriff decided not to
15 replace him, put us on a hiatus for about 90 days, kind of
16 ran into the grant application process, then decided that
17 it was not going to probably happen, and he has not
18 contacted us again, so Hardin County is no longer a
19 participating agency.

20 MR. CANADY: Have y'all looked at adding --

21 MR. KARR: We asked one agency in Orange
22 County, talked to a couple other agencies in Hardin
23 County. Budgetary and manpower issues kept them from
24 committing. One was close in Orange County, but the
25 budgetary side, the city manager there decided that at

1 this time that was not the right thing to do.

2 MR. CANADY: Are y'all still going to have a
3 relationship or do any activities within Hardin County?

4 MR. KARR: Yes. They are still in our coverage
5 area, and we will continue to work with, assist, and as
6 far as I know, there has been no permanent parting of the
7 sheets there, so we should be fine there.

8 MR. SMITH: Member Smith, for the record.

9 The recoveries and arrests seem to be flat or
10 low, and I've asked this for a couple of other task
11 forces, and is there something that causes those numbers
12 to be rather flat or not improving operationally, or is
13 there something that can be managed a different way?

14 MR. KARR: The arrests have stayed pretty close
15 to the same. Part of that is because in the past we've
16 always counted everything as actual touch. I know that
17 recently we've had a change with that.

18 Recoveries, if you'll notice on our newest
19 progress report, have gone through the roof and the amount
20 in value as well. Arrests have stayed somewhat flat due
21 to the overwhelming caseload; we have not been able to get
22 out and put hands on anybody.

23 We do count them now, when we bring them in and
24 an arrest takes place, we do count them. So hopefully in
25 the future -- I don't think that there's anything we

1 can -- I mean, there's always probably something we can do
2 to make it better. I don't know what that might be to
3 make it better, because we're taxed out and working as
4 hard as we can.

5 Proactively is where we're lacking and that's
6 what we're trying to -- if we could get unburied from Kias
7 and Hyundais, we may be able to get out in the field and
8 make some proactive address as well. That's our hope.

9 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS. JONES: You addressed my concerns. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. KARR: Thank you.

13 MS. JONES: Have we missed anyone? This is
14 your last chance to go twice.

15 (General laughter.)

16 MS. JONES: Are there any questions for
17 Director Canady?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. JONES: Based on some of your answers, we
20 don't have motions today; we're not going to make a motion
21 today. We need to make some decisions, and remember, we
22 said earlier there's going to have to be some reductions,
23 so we want to make sure that we do it in a method that
24 makes sense; we don't just want to just do it.

25 That's why we asked all of you to make your

1 cases, so again, if we missed anyone, this is your
2 opportunity to speak up before we figure out where we're
3 going to make our cuts.

4 And does anyone else want to come back up
5 before we adjourn? Going once, twice.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. JONES: So again, no motion.

8 Public comment, are there any public comments?

9 MS. BENAVIDES: No, ma'am.

10 MS. JONES: No public comment. Motion to
11 adjourn, Member Smith.

12 MR. SMITH: Motion to adjourn.

13 MS. JONES: Second. Motion passes. We're
14 adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the meeting was
16 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: MVCPA Grants Budget & Reporting Committee

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: June 12, 2023

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 77, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

DATE: June 21, 2023

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting
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