



Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

Grants Budget and Reporting (GBR) Committee Meeting

Houston, Texas

December 6, 2023

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AGENDA
GRANTS BUDGET AND REPORTING (GBR) COMMITTEE MEETING
Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
HILTON HOUSTON POST OAK BY THE GALLERIA
2001 POST OAK BOULEVARD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056
DECEMBER 6, 2023
1:00 PM

Link to December 6, 2023, MVCPA Grants Budget and Reporting Committee Documents (under Calendar tab): <https://www.txdmv.gov/about-us/MVCPA>

All agenda items are subject to possible discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Grants Budget and Reporting Committee of the Board of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Committee). Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to discuss any items in closed session where authorized by the Open Meetings Act. A quorum of the Board of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Board) may be present at this meeting for discussion and gathering information. However, Board members who are not Committee members will not vote on any Committee agenda items, nor will any Board action be taken.

- 1. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**
- 2. Pledges of Allegiance – U.S. and Texas**
- 3. Comments and Announcements from Committee Chair, Committee Members and MVCPA Director**
- 4. Grant Management Tracking System – Earl Pence (BRIEFING ITEM)**
- 5. Consideration and Possible Approval of FLOCK MAG Grant Payments to Grantees – Dan Price (BRIEFING ITEM)**
- 6. FY 2024 MVCPA Budget – Dan Price (BRIEFING ITEM)**
- 7. Senate Bill 224 Plan of Operation – Earl Pence & Dan Price (BRIEFING ITEM)**
 - A. Meeting Budget Allocation**
 - B. Software Development Budget Allocation**
 - C. Partner State Agency's Resource Needs**
 - D. Grantee Resource Needs**

- E. Funding Mechanism
- F. Meeting Frequency

CLOSED SESSION

8. 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 - Consultation with and advice from legal counsel regarding:

- pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer;
- a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the government body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Government Code Chapter 551; or
- any item on this agenda.

Section 551.074 - Personnel matters.

- Discussion relating to the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, and dismissal of personnel.

Section 551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting.

- the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or
- a security audit.

Section 551.089 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting.

- security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology;
- network security information as described by Section 2059.055(b); or
- the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.

9. Action Items from Closed Session

10. Public Comment

11. Adjournment

The Committee will allow an open comment period to receive public comment on any agenda item or other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken on matters that are not part of the agenda for the meeting. For subjects that are not otherwise part of the agenda for the meeting, Committee members may respond in accordance with Government Code, Section 551.042 and consider the feasibility of placing the matter on the agenda for a future meeting.

If you would like to comment on any agenda item (including an open comment under the agenda item for Public Comment), you must complete a speaker's form at the registration table prior to the agenda item being taken up by the Committee.

Public comment will only be accepted in person. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes, and time allotted to one speaker may not be reassigned to another speaker.

Any individual with a disability who plans to attend this meeting and requires auxiliary aids or services should notify the department as far in advance as possible, but no less than two days in advance, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Contact David Richards by telephone at (512) 465-1423.

I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable Texas Register filing requirements.

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: David Richards, General Counsel, (512) 465-1423.

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Agenda Item: 1

Subject: Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

	Present
Lieutenant Julio Gonzalez – Committee Chairman – Governor Appointed Board Member Law Enforcement Representative – Dallas, TX	
Major Sharon Jones – Ex Officio Member Designee for the Public Safety Director Texas Department of Public Safety	
Rebecca Cantu-Serrano – Governor Appointed Board Member Insurance Consumer Representative – Houston, TX	



Agenda Item: 2

Subject: Pledge of Allegiance (US and Texas Flags)



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board
From: Earl Pence, Interim Director
Agenda Item: 4
Subject: Grant Management Tracking System

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Update on Grant Management and Tracking System and future grant management information system needs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Initially developed in 2017, the Grant Management and Tracking System (GMTS) is supported and maintained by Texas A&M University. The online system provides end-to-end reporting for the Taskforce grants including the annual application process, financial and progress reporting, and year-end close-out reporting. The MAG Grant is also administered via GMTS.

The March 2023 State Auditor's Office (SAO) report rated MVCPA's IT system as high risk. SAO found that MVCPA did not have policies and procedures for administering the Grant Management and Tracking System (GMTS). The report outlined the following deficiencies related to GMTS:

- 19% of the user accounts sampled were for former employees or board members no longer associated with MVCPA.
- While Texas A&M University, which administers GMTS, was found to have a formal backup and recovery plan as required by state regulations, MVCPA lacked documented processes for reviewing the backup and recovery plan or the Progress Reports that are provided quarterly.
- Recommendation for an individual with expertise in information technology to review the aforementioned reports provided by Texas A&M.

The lead developer of GMTS retired from full-time employment with Texas A&M in June 2023. The developer is currently available through Texas A&M on a consultative basis and is providing system support. While continuing to utilize the current online system, staff requests feedback on exploring a different IT system to meet future grant management needs.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Dan Price, Auditor
Agenda Item: 5
Subject: Consideration and Possible Approval of FLOCK MAG Grant Payments to Grantees

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only. Staff recommends approval to treat hardware and software as a service be treated for purposes of MAG Grants as if they were Leases.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and seek approval to pay for LPR's provided as a service vs. the previous lease approvals.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

During the review of documentation of MAG Grantee Records and after conferring with Flock, MVCPA Staff determined that Flock did not sell nor offer for lease its equipment to anyone. Flocks' business model is for a "Hardware and Software as a Service" or "**Infrastructure-as-a-Service**" Agreement.

Per FASB 2023-01 Common Control Agreements :

The fundamental differences between the Lease and Infrastructure-as-a-Service:

Lease

A contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to control the use of identified property, plant, or equipment (an identified asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

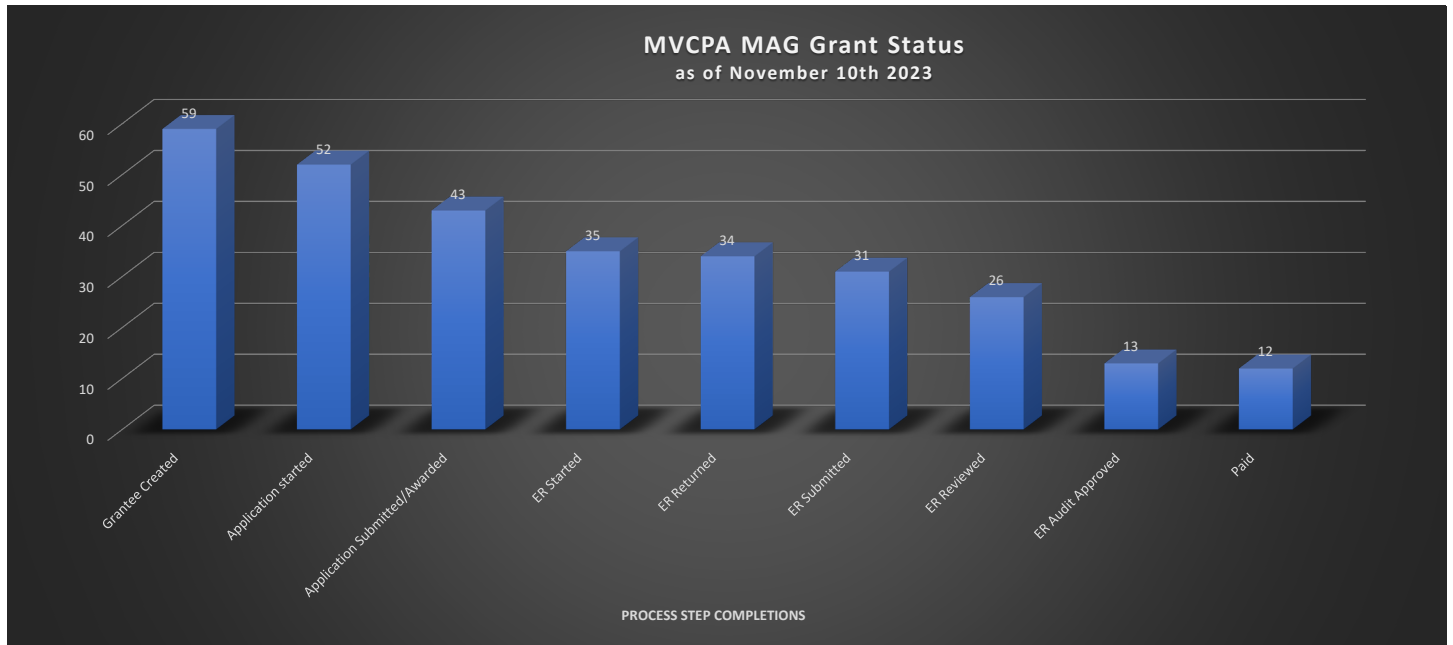
Infrastructure-as-a-Service – control over the use of the identified asset

The identified assets (i.e. the servers and the other equipment) are not being leased to Customer because Supplier, rather than Customer, controls their use. This conclusion is based on the following.

Supplier controls how the identified assets are used. Even though the identified assets are fully dedicated to Customer's services, limiting their potential uses to Supplier, the servers each have multiple roles they can play within the network architecture; for example, Server X1 could host Software X or Software Y, be configured to perform Function A or Function B, or process or store data. Customer, in contrast, has no rights to decide (or change), or prevent Supplier from changing (as long as the network services are not interrupted), how the servers are used. That is, although Customer decides how and when it uses the *network*, Customer's decisions do not affect how each identified asset (i.e. each server or other piece of equipment) that comprises the network is used.

Supplier controls when, whether and how much the identified assets are used. Supplier, at its sole discretion, may decide that an identified asset is extraneous to the network and remove it from network service to reduce operating/maintenance costs, or decide that the identified asset be employed to its full capacity. Customer, in contrast, has no right to change whether or when an identified asset is producing output because each identified asset is constantly performing its function within the network unless Supplier decides otherwise. Further, Customer cannot decide to specifically use an identified asset. Customer's use of the network (e.g. accessing a particular hosted application or functionality or stored data) doesn't necessarily employ, for example, Server X1 or Server X2. The network services permit Customer to use the network (e.g. access Application A, perform function B and store/transmit data),

but Customer has no right to decide that, for example, Server X1 will host Application A or Server X2 will perform function B. By choosing to, for example, access Application A, Customer does not also choose to use Server X1 because it is Supplier that decides (and can change) which of the identified servers (X1–X10) hosts Application A. Put another way, Customer’s decisions are about when, whether and how much to use the network, not one (or some) of the identified assets used to create the network.





To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Dan Price, Auditor
Agenda Item: 6
Subject: FY 2024 MVCPA Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only. Review and approve adjustments to the FY 2024 budget for meetings and conferences.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide additional funds for board meetings and conferences.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If approved, this item would move funds between line items of the budget to reflect additional amounts needed for meetings and conferences. The total budget would not change.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The MVCPA Board has undertaken an initiative to hold meetings throughout the state. This initiative will require funds beyond the current budgeted amounts.

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority AY 2024 as of 11/30/2023						
MVCPA Budget Category	Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Available Budget	FY2024- SB224 Budget	% Available Budget
Grants	\$ 22,879,972	\$ (67,031)	\$ 22,766,820	\$ 180,183		1%
Grants (UB from FY2023)	\$ 1,017,592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,017,592		100%
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 152,642	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 152,642		100%
All Other Operating	\$ 148,838	\$ 4,538	\$ 22,523	\$ 121,776		82%
Consumable Supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500		100%
Professional Fees & Services	\$ 125,720	\$ -	\$ 26,845	\$ 98,875		79%
Salaries and Personnel Costs	\$ 870,549	\$ 121,810	\$ -	\$ 748,739		86%
Travel	\$ 35,000	\$ 3,908	\$ -	\$ 31,092		89%
Salaries and Personnel Costs- SB224	\$ 314,983				\$ 314,983	100%
Grants- SB224	\$ 24,352,279	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 24,352,279	100%
Grand Total	\$ 49,900,075	\$ 63,225	\$ 22,816,188	\$ 2,353,400	\$ 24,667,262	54%

FY24 Grants Budget was increased by \$1,017,592 from FY23 Unexpended Balances.

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority AY 2023 as of 11/30/2023					
MVCPA Budget Category	Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Available Budget	% Available Budget
Grants	\$ 14,832,938	\$ 8,752,318	\$ 5,062,994	\$ 1,017,625	7%
Grants (UB to FY24)	\$ (1,017,592)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,017,592)	100%
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843	\$ -	\$ -	0%
All Other Operating	\$ 20,790	\$ 20,790	\$ -	\$ (0)	0%
Consumable Supplies	\$ 943	\$ 894	\$ 49	\$ 0	0%
Professional Fees & Services	\$ 31,537	\$ 13,992	\$ 15,825	\$ 1,720	5%
Salaries and Personnel Costs	\$ 389,563	\$ 389,513	\$ -	\$ 50	0%
Travel	\$ 25,708	\$ 25,708	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Grand Total	\$ 14,285,730	\$ 9,205,059	\$ 5,078,868	\$ 1,803	0.01%

FY23 Grants Budget was decreased by \$1,017,592 to reflect FY23 Unexpended Balances carried forward to FY24.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Dan Price, Auditor
Agenda Item: 7. A
Subject: Meeting Budget Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only. Staff recommends approval of a \$100,000 budget allocation for SB224 Meetings.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and seek approval to provide funds for FY2024 SB224 Meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Meetings are needed to plan and execute SB224. No budget has been approved for SB224 expenses to date. To support the planning and execution of SB224 activities, a budget allocation of \$100,000 is being requested.

This estimate is based on budgeting \$20,000 per meeting for 5 meetings this Fiscal Year.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Dan Price, Auditor
Agenda Item: 7. B
Subject: Software Development Budget Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only. Staff recommends approval of a budget of \$30,000 for SB 224 Software Development.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and seek approval to provide funds for FY2024 SB224 Software Development.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

A process is needed to collect and manage Financial and Operational information from other parties participating in SB224 activities. We anticipate that information will be needed to be processed in Q2 FY2024.

It is anticipated that to meet short term requirements the existing TAMU GMTS be modified to meet the current needs.

Staff is requesting the MVCPA Board to approve an initial budget of \$30,000 to begin development of an information system to support SB224 activities.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Earl Pence, Interim Director
Agenda Item: 7. C
Subject: Partner State Agency's Resource Needs

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and provide information on Partner State Agency's Resource Needs for SB224.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this briefing is to discuss the requested additional manpower, equipment, and funding for the partner agencies as statutorily required by SB 224.

Texas Department of Public Safety Requests:

Two (2) full-time employee (FTE) analysts who would be responsible for monitoring all the activity reported by the MREs across the State to look for irregular or suspicious activity as well as providing logistical information and statistical data to investigators across the State.

Four (4) FTE's consisting of Special Agents assigned to DPS RSD whose duties would include the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of those who are engaging in illegal activity relating to the mission of the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement Division Requests:

Five (5) FTE's and four (4) vehicles. Four of the FTE's would be Compliance Specialist I's and one FTE would be a Compliance Specialist III (Team Lead). The Compliance Specialists would be geographically distributed across the state with each specialist covering roughly a quarter of the state. These compliance specialists will be utilized to inspect the approximately 3,500 TxDMV licensees conducting salvage operations.

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulatory Services Requests:

No requests received as of 12/1/23.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Earl Pence, Interim Director
Agenda Item: 7. D
Subject: Grantee Resource Needs

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and provide information on Grantee Resource Needs for SB224.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

During the SB 224 workshop held in Dallas, Texas on 11/20/2023, presentations were made to the board and stakeholders by the following Grantees:

- City of Dallas
- El Paso
- County of Harris
- City of Houston
- City of Laredo
- City of San Antonio

During the presentation from each Grantee, the most common requests from the presenters were:

- License Plate Readers
- Prosecutors
- Additional Investigators/Analyst

A survey was sent on 11/29/23 to all MVCPA Taskforces. The survey requested the assistance of taskforces to identify the needs in their communities to combat catalytic converter crimes. Responses were received to help MVCPA identify the specific needs of their departments in order to prevent and successfully combat catalytic converter theft.

Responses were received from 21 of the 24 MVCPA taskforces.

Question: Please rank the following possible solutions, or provide your own suggestion, that would increase the successes of your Taskforce or LE Agency to combat catalytic converter crimes. Please score the possible solutions with the greatest need of your agency.

	1 - LESS IMPORTANT	2	3	4	N/A	5 - VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Additional Law Enforcement Investigators in existing taskforce programs to address catalytic converter theft	0.00% 0	4.55% 1	18.18% 4	9.09% 2	0.00% 0	68.18% 15	22	4.41
New Law Enforcement taskforces in areas not covered by MVCPA programs	27.27% 6	4.55% 1	18.18% 4	27.27% 6	4.55% 1	18.18% 4	22	3.05
Specialized Motor Vehicle Crime Prosecutors	0.00% 0	4.55% 1	13.64% 3	18.18% 4	4.55% 1	59.09% 13	22	4.38
Motor Vehicle Criminal intelligence analysts	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22.73% 5	0.00% 0	77.27% 17	22	4.77
Surveillance Equipment	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	13.64% 3	0.00% 0	77.27% 17	22	4.68
Motor Vehicle Crime Technology Equipment	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.55% 1	18.18% 4	0.00% 0	77.27% 17	22	4.73
Border and Port Security Equipment	9.09% 2	9.09% 2	22.73% 5	4.55% 1	27.27% 6	27.27% 6	22	3.44
Overtime for taskforce investigators	0.00% 0	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	76.19% 16	21	4.62
Overtime for officers not participating in a taskforce to temporarily join an existing program	4.55% 1	0.00% 0	4.55% 1	31.82% 7	0.00% 0	59.09% 13	22	4.41
Overtime for saturation patrols in areas with high crime incidences	4.55% 1	4.55% 1	4.55% 1	31.82% 7	0.00% 0	54.55% 12	22	4.27
Confidential informant funds	4.55% 1	9.09% 2	22.73% 5	18.18% 4	4.55% 1	40.91% 9	22	3.86
Training and conferences	13.64% 3	0.00% 0	22.73% 5	36.36% 8	0.00% 0	27.27% 6	22	3.64
Community education	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	9.09% 2	36.36% 8	0.00% 0	45.45% 10	22	4.18

Question: Please rank the following equipment in order of most importance to your Taskforce or LE Agency. Please score the equipment with the greatest need of your agency.

	1 - LESS IMPORTANT	2	3	4	N/A	5 - VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Automatic License Plate Reader	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	85.71% 18	21	4.85
Tracking Device	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15.00% 3	20.00% 4	0.00% 0	65.00% 13	20	4.50
Bait Vehicle	9.09% 2	9.09% 2	18.18% 4	22.73% 5	0.00% 0	40.91% 9	22	3.77
Catalytic Converter and other parts marking	4.55% 1	9.09% 2	18.18% 4	27.27% 6	0.00% 0	40.91% 9	22	3.91
Surveillance	0.00% 0	4.76% 1	9.52% 2	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	71.43% 15	21	4.52
Night Vision	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	18.18% 4	22.73% 5	0.00% 0	50.00% 11	22	4.14
Thermal Camera	0.00% 0	13.64% 3	18.18% 4	22.73% 5	0.00% 0	45.45% 10	22	4.00
Digital Camera	14.29% 3	23.81% 5	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	14.29% 3	21	2.90
Game Camera	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	30.00% 6	20.00% 4	0.00% 0	30.00% 6	20	3.50
Sky Cam	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	38.10% 8	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	33.33% 7	21	3.70
Laptop Computer	4.76% 1	14.29% 3	19.05% 4	19.05% 4	0.00% 0	42.86% 9	21	3.81
Desktop Computer	20.00% 4	10.00% 2	30.00% 6	20.00% 4	0.00% 0	20.00% 4	20	3.10
Tablet Computer	15.00% 3	10.00% 2	25.00% 5	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	40.00% 8	20	3.50
Drone	13.64% 3	13.64% 3	13.64% 3	18.18% 4	0.00% 0	40.91% 9	22	3.59



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Earl Pence, Interim Director
Agenda Item: 7. E
Subject: Funding Mechanism

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and provide information on funding mechanisms for implementing SB224.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The following funding mechanisms are available to MVCPA in partnership with TxDMV:

- 1) Grants – MVCPA has express statutory authority to issue grants in its own name. MVCPA is authorized in statute to provide grants to local law enforcement to combat motor vehicle theft, burglary from a motor vehicle and/or fraud-related motor vehicle crime. SB 224 provides additional authority for MVCPA to provide funding to combat catalytic converter theft in Texas.
- 2) Inter-Agency Contracts (IACs) – Contractual agreements between State of Texas agencies. MVCPA may use IACs to formalize agreements to “coordinate efforts with the Department of Public Safety [and] the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.”
- 3) Direct expenditures – Because MVCPA is administratively attached to TxDMV, the department may allocate expenditures to MVCPA funding sources, as needed, to carry out the functions of the MVCPA. Examples include salaries and benefits, meeting and conference expenses, and other operating costs.

MVCPA Staff will consult with TxDMV’s finance and legal staff to determine what is the most appropriate funding mechanism for distributing funds and will bring these agreements to the MVCPA Board for approval, as required by statute or board policy.



To: Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Board of Directors
From: Earl Pence, Interim Director
Agenda Item: 7. F
Subject: Meeting Frequency

RECOMMENDATION

Briefing Only.

PURPOSE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To discuss and approve frequency of meetings with partner agencies for SB224.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

MVCPA and partner agencies (TxDMV, DPS, TDLR) met at an SB 224 Workshop in Dallas, Texas on November 20, 2023.

MVCPA proposed having frequent meetings with partner agencies to coordinate activities, sharing intelligence, compliance trends, investigative needs, and reporting related to the implementation of SB224.

The suggested frequency of the meetings are as follows:

- Meetings first 6 months (1-2 meetings per month)
- Meetings after 6 months (quarterly or as needed)