



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: May 21, 2024

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

FY 2025 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) Grant

SUMMARY:

The San Antonio Police Department will provide the Public Safety Committee with a briefing on a grant application for funds from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) for the grant year of September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. The grant award is for \$1,411,929 and requires a cash match of \$488,617 and an in-kind match of \$3,224,364 from the Police Department Budget.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Auto Theft Task Force

The San Antonio Regional Auto Crimes Taskforce (ReACT) is partially funded through the State of Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA). The mission of the MVCPA is to

lower the automobile burglary and theft rate by instituting innovative enforcement and theft prevention techniques. The funds from MVCPA are attained through a \$4.00 surcharge to insured motorists in the State of Texas. Local jurisdictions provide matching funds to operate the Taskforce.

The ReACT was established in 1993 and is a multi-jurisdictional task force. The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) works in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, and the National Insurance Crimes Bureau. As a task force partner, the DPS provides one position and an in-kind match amount of \$136,485.

Since 2011, the ReACT has helped recover 11,982 vehicles at a total value of \$150,733,251. In 2023 alone, the taskforce recovered 1,526 vehicles valued at \$28.53 million and arrested 539 individuals.

The task force is comprised of four participating agencies - the San Antonio Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, and the National Insurance Crimes Bureau.

The participating members by agency are as follows:

San Antonio Police:

- 15 positions funded by General Fund: 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 11 Detective Investigators, 1 Administrative Assistant I
 - 12 positions funded by Grant: 1 Sergeant, 9 Detective Investigators, 1 Administrative Assistant II, 1 Administrative Assistant I
- Department of Public Safety: 1 Investigator
Guadalupe Co.: 1 Investigator
National Insurance Crimes Bureau: 1 Investigator

Primary Goals of the Taskforce:

- Reduce auto burglary, auto theft, and related gateway crimes
- Investigate and solve active cases and prosecute offenders
- Educate the public and local businesses on crime prevention strategies

Proactive Measures:

- Conduct salvage yard inspections
- Perform interdiction activities
- Locate chop shops
- Identify automotive organized crime
- Perform surveillance to apprehend criminals committing vehicle theft and burglary of vehicles
- Conduct operations targeting offenders
- Schedule and perform state required 68-A Inspections
- Perform VIN etching services
- Attend community events to educate the public

Positions

The grant funds 12 positions for the project: 1 Police Sergeant, 9 Detective Investigators, and 2 Administrative Civilian Positions.

Prior year ReACT Grant awards include:

FY 2019 - \$792,617

FY 2020 - \$800,000

FY 2021 - \$800,000

FY 2022 - \$815,785

FY 2023 - \$815,785

FY 2024 - \$1,354,711

The total program related to this grant is \$5,413,267 as follows:

- Grant Award: \$1,411,929
- Cash Match from the SAPD Budget: \$488,617
- In-kind match from the SAPD Budget: \$3,224,364
- Funds from the National Insurance Crime Bureau: \$101,872
- In-kind contribution from the Texas Department of Public Safety: \$136,485
- Program Income: \$50,000

ISSUE:

Briefing and possible action on a San Antonio Police Department grant application for funds from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) for the Regional Auto Crimes Taskforce Project to fund innovative enforcement and theft prevention techniques in the amount of \$1,411,929.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total project budget is estimated at \$5,413,267 with grant funding of \$1,411,929, City cash match contribution of \$488,617 which includes employee benefits, office supplies and vehicle parts/equipment, and in-kind match of \$3,224,364 which includes salary, overtime and employee benefits, program income of \$50,000, an in-kind match of \$101,872 from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and an in-kind match of \$136,485 from the Texas Department of Public Safety. The grant period beginning September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, contingent upon budget approval.

Matching funds will be submitted as part of the FY 2025 Budget Process and acceptance of this grant will be contingent upon approval of the \$488,617 grant cash match.

ALTERNATIVES:

No other grants are available for this taskforce.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Public Safety Committee moves this grant application to the full city council for approval in the month of June.