

AGENDA PLACEMENT FORM

(Submission Deadline – Monday, 5:00 PM before Regular Court Meetings)

Date: 04/03/2024

Meeting Date: 04/09/2024

Submitted By: Curran Massey

Department: STOP

Signature of Elected Official/Department Head:

Court Decision: <small>This section to be completed by County Judge's Office</small>
 April 9, 2024

Description:

Consideration of SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grants, including possible action to authorize application for the grant.

(May attach additional sheets if necessary)

Person to Present: Curran Massey

(Presenter must be present for the item unless the item is on the Consent Agenda)

Supporting Documentation: (check one) PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL
(PUBLIC documentation may be made available to the public prior to the Meeting)

Estimated Length of Presentation: _____ minutes

Session Requested: (check one)
 Action Item Consent Workshop Executive Other _____

Check All Departments That Have Been Notified:
 County Attorney IT Purchasing Auditor
 Personnel Public Works Facilities Management

Other Department/Official (list) Sheriff's Office & STOP Commander

**Please List All External Persons Who Need a Copy of Signed Documents
In Your Submission Email**

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION AUTHORITY
Fiscal Year 2024 Request for Applications – SB 224 Catalytic
Converter Grants
February 14, 2024

Notice of Request for Applications

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) has authorized the issuance of the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Request for Applications (RFA). Senate Bill 224 (SB) 224 provides that “The money deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund for coordinated regulatory and law enforcement activities intended to detect and prevent catalytic converter theft in this state... may be appropriated to the Authority for the activities required by this section.” To implement SB 224, the MVCPA is providing grants to local law enforcement taskforces and agencies to combat Catalytic Converter Theft. Eligible applicants may request funds for program operation by submission of an application consistent with the information, including the requirements and conditions stated in this RFA. This RFA is posted in the Texas Register for at least thirty (30) days prior to the due date for Applications.

All applications submitted will be for FY 2024. If awarded an FY 2024 SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grant, the MVCPA may provide a FY 2025 grant subject to availability of funding and grantees’ positive program performance. The MVCPA will use the same FY 2024 application and prorated budget values as originally submitted for the additional period. Any ongoing program (scope) changes or budget changes will be submitted by grantees through the grant adjustment process after the creation of the second-year grants.

Due Date

Grant Applications from eligible applicants must be completely submitted on-line at <https://MVCPA.tamu.edu> on or before **5:00 PM, March 15, 2024**. **First time applicants must establish an account and perform account setup steps prior to an application being able to be submitted.**

The required Resolution and any optional supporting documents must be scanned and submitted as attachments to the application at <https://MVCPA.tamu.edu> on or before **5:00 PM, March 15, 2024**.

Applicable Authority and Rules

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority grant programs are governed by the following statutes, rules, standards and guidelines:

- [Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\): Title 43; Part 3; Chapter 57](#)
- [Texas Grant Management Standards \(TxGMS\) as promulgated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)
- [The current Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Grant Administrative Manual](#)

[and any subsequent adopted grantee instruction manuals](#)

- This Request for Applications issued on **February 14, 2024**.

Eligible Applicants.

Only Texas law enforcement agencies through their city or county are eligible to apply for the FY 2024 SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grant funding.

Application Category

New Grant – These are potentially annual grants subject to available legislative funding. ***The 20 % Cash Match will be waived for this grant application only (FY 2024).*** Applicants meeting the eligibility requirements may submit a new grant subject to the priority established by the MVCPA in the FY 2024 RFA. New applicants shall email MVCPA at GrantsMVCPA@txdmv.gov from an official governmental agency email account to request an account and that access be established.

Grant Type

Reimbursement – This is a total program budget reimbursement grant. Applicants that are awarded grants will expend local (agency) funds and then will be reimbursed quarterly, subject to compliance with standard and special conditions as contained in the Statement of Grant Award (SGA), at the agreed rate for all allowable, reasonable, and necessary program costs incurred.

Grant Term

The FY 2024 grant cycle is a one (1) year funding cycle to begin on September 1, 2023 and end August 31, 2024. Subject to availability of funding and grantees' positive program performance the MVCPA may provide a FY 2025 grant using the same on-line application systems and prorated budget values as originally submitted. No obligations or expenses may be incurred or made outside of the grant period(s).

Method of Application

Grant Applications from eligible applicants shall be completely submitted on-line at <https://MVCPA.tamu.edu> on or before 5:00 PM, March 15, 2024. All forms will be completed on-line. The Resolution and all supporting documents must be submitted as attachments.

Resolution Required

A Resolution (Order or Ordinance) by the applicant governing body is required to make application for these funds. The resolution shall provide that the governing body applies for the funds for the purpose provided in statute (SB 224 and this RFA) and agrees to return the grant funds in the event of loss or misuse and designate the officials that the governing body chooses as its agents to make uniform assurances and administer the grant if awarded.

Only the governing body that submits an application needs to adopt and submit a Resolution. Participating jurisdictions in multi-agency taskforces shall agree and commit to the grant through Interlocal Cooperation Contract or agreements as provided under Texas Local

Government Code Chapter 362, Texas Government Code Chapter 791, and TxGMS.

In the event a governing body has delegated the application authority to a city manager, chief of police, sheriff or other official, then applicants must submit on-line a copy of the delegation order (documentation) along with the Resolution signed by the official. A sample Resolution is attached as Appendix A.

Program Category

To be eligible for consideration for funding, a law enforcement taskforce grant application must be designed to support one or more of the following MVCPA program categories (43 TAC §57.14):

Law Enforcement, Detection, and Apprehension - provide financial support to law enforcement agencies for catalytic converter theft and crime enforcement teams (referred to as taskforces). Taskforces will develop organized methods to combat catalytic converter theft through the enforcement of law. This may include recovery of vehicles, clearance of cases, arrest of law violators, and disruption of organized motor vehicle crime. This category includes development of uniform programs to prevent stolen catalytic converters from entering Mexico or being removed from Texas through outbound seaports.

Prosecution/Adjudication/Conviction - provide financial support for taskforces to work with prosecutors and the judiciary to implement programs designed to reduce the incidence of catalytic converter theft.

Prevention, Anti-Theft Devices and Automobile Registration - provide financial support for taskforces to work with organizations and communities to reduce the incidence of catalytic converter theft. The application shall demonstrate how the financial support will assist motor vehicle owners to reduce catalytic converter theft.

Reduction of the Sale of Stolen Vehicles or Parts - provide financial support for taskforces to work with businesses, organizations, and communities to reduce the sale of catalytic converters. Applicants will develop organized methods to combat the sale of stolen catalytic converters using any of the following: vehicle identification number (VIN) inspections; inspections of motor vehicle part and component distribution enterprises; parts labeling and etching methods; and means to detect the fraudulent sale of stolen catalytic converters.

Educational Programs and Marketing – provide financial support for taskforces to work with individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to assist motor vehicle owners in detecting and preventing catalytic converter theft. Develop and provide specialized training or education program(s) to the public on detecting and preventing catalytic converter theft, law enforcement on interdiction and prosecution, and government officials on detecting and preventing catalytic converter theft in this state.

Priority Funding

The MVCPA enabling statute provides that “the authority shall allocate grant funds primarily based on the number of catalytic converters stolen in, or the catalytic converter theft rate across the state, and the number of catalytic converter crimes committed in the state rather than based on geographic distribution” (TTC Section 1006.151(c); SB 224). In addition, the following grant features will be given priority consideration in evaluating **new** grant applications:

Continuing Funded Programs in Compliance with MVCPA Grant Conditions –

Applications that provide for the continuation of existing programs that currently meet the program and fiscal reporting conditions of the MVCPA grant program. Applicants must provide the ongoing need and their progress and impactful performance toward detecting and preventing catalytic converter theft.

The applicant must describe the experience and qualifications of investigators used in the program and how utilization of grant inventory and resources for continued operation of these specialized investigative grant programs are useful for state and local governments.

Programs to Combat Organized Catalytic Converter Crime – Applications for detecting and preventing catalytic converter theft enforcement teams that introduce, increase, or expand efforts to detect and prevent theft of catalytic converters by organized crime.

Border and Port Security – Applications that provide specific initiatives to identify and prevent stolen catalytic converters from crossing the border with Mexico using automatic license plate readers, training of local state and federal personnel in the identification of stolen vehicles, and bridge and port inspections.

Use of Technology – Applications that incorporate automatic license plate reader programs, surveillance equipment, and other uses of technology to increase the number of stolen catalytic converters recovered and the number of persons arrested for catalytic converter crimes.

Theft of Parts from a Motor Vehicle – Applications that incorporate a reasonable, objective plan to combat and prevent the theft of catalytic converters.

Dedicated Prosecutors – Applications that incorporate a dedicated prosecutor to increase the priority of catalytic converter theft prosecutions and decrease the number of repeat offenders through successful and timely prosecution efforts.

Supporting Documents

Documents that provide evidence of local support or commitment from other officials or agencies for the application may be submitted following the same instructions as the Resolution. Interagency agreements shall be submitted prior to payments being authorized if

an award is made. MVCPA recommends that interagency agreements be completed after award determinations are made to ensure correct amounts are reflected in those agreements. All interagency agreements must meet the conditions and elements required in the TxGMS.

Supplanting Prohibited

Grant funds provided by the Authority under this RFA shall not be used to supplant federal, state or local funds that otherwise would be available for the same purposes (43 Texas Administrative Code §57.9). Supplanting means the replacement of other funds with MVCPA grant funds. This shall include using existing resources already available to a program activity as cash match.

NICB – Applicants may enter into formal agreements with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) to work on grant funded activities. The amount of salary and other direct costs related to the work on grant activity provided by the NICB may be reported. Time certifications are required to be made by the employee for these positions as required by TXGMS.

In-Kind Match

Only include in-kind if necessary for the local jurisdiction. In-kind match may be used to: 1) reflect the total level of jurisdictions' effort/costs to combat catalytic converter theft; 2) reflect how the grant program fits into jurisdictions' operation; 3) effectively operate a single program with multiple funding streams; and/or 4) contributions from the applicant or third parties that are for grant funded activity. Costs in detail line items shall not be split between in-kind match and grant funding. For example, the entire salary of an officer shall be placed in one expense type rather than split between grant and in-kind.

Reporting and Webinar Attendance Requirements

Applicants that are awarded grants will be required to provide:

Quarterly Progress Reports - The MVCPA requires the submission of quarterly progress reports to demonstrate progress toward meeting goals and activities provided in the grant application. These include: 1) Monthly progress toward meeting statutorily required performance measures; 2) Monthly progress recorded on the Goals, Strategies and Activities report; and 3) Quarterly Summary and Success section. Grantees designated as Border/Port Security grants are required to complete additional sections required by the Texas Legislature.

Quarterly Financial Reports – Reports of actual expenses incurred are required to request funds. All expenditures must be in accordance with local policies and procedures and grant requirements. Grantees shall review all expenditures, ensure all applicable regulations are followed, and maintain documentation that is accurate and complete. All expenses must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Webinar Attendance: One grant financial representative from the applicant agency is required to attend a monthly session via teleconference or webinar that includes information

on MVCPA grant administration.

One law enforcement officer is required to attend the information sharing and networking sessions on a monthly session via teleconference or webinar that includes law enforcement issues and other MVCPA issues critical to the successful operation of MVCPA taskforces.

Funding Requirements and Conditions

- a) State Funds Availability – All awards by the MVCPA are subject to availability of state funds.
- b) Right of Refusal – The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all of the applications submitted.
- c) Awards – Publishing the RFA does not legally obligate the Authority to fund any programs.
- d) Partial Funding – The Authority may choose to offer funds for all or any portion of a program submitted in an application.
- e) Substitution – The Authority may offer alternative funding sources, special conditions, or alternative program elements in response to submitted Applications.
- f) Application Required – Registration for on-line access is required. The MVCPA is not responsible for applicants that cannot complete the registration and application process on time.
- g) No Alternative Application Submission – Paper applications and requests for funding are not accepted in lieu of the on-line grant application process.
- h) Review Criteria – Authority staff and any designated MVCPA Board member(s) will review each grant using subjective and objective tools and comparative analysis. The weight given to each section or combination of sections is at the sole discretion of the Authority.
- i) Questions and Clarification – During the review period, the applicant may be contacted by Authority staff to ask questions or to seek clarification regarding information provided in the application. Failure to promptly respond will not disqualify an applicant, but information that is submitted after the review period may not be considered.
- j) Final Selection – The Authority may select and award programs that best meet the statutory and legislative purposes of SB 224 and that reflect its current priorities. No appeal may be made from the Authority's decisions.
- k) Changes in Application – If an applicant proposes changes to be made in the program type or participation of jurisdictions after an award is determined, then the Authority will review the changes and may make modifications (including the amount) or cancel the award as deemed appropriate by the Authority.
- l) Delayed Start – An applicant that is awarded a grant and does not begin operations within 30 days of the issuance of the Statement of Grant Award is considered terminated.
- m) Application instructions – the MVCPA will provide additional details and instructions in the on-line application system that are incorporated by reference as part of this RFA and which must be followed during the application and award process.
- n) Program Income – is defined in the TxGMS. Current grantees carrying forward

program income to future years will follow the new rules established by the Texas Comptroller and MVCPA Grant Administrative Manual.

- o) TCOLE Certifications Required – All law enforcement agencies regulated by Chapter 1701, Occupations Code must certify that they are in compliance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement standards or provide a certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement that states that the requesting agency is in the process of achieving compliance with said rules.

Selection Process:

Eligible applications will be reviewed. Grant award decisions by MVCPA are final and not subject to judicial review.

Applications that do not meet the stated requirements of this RFA and that are not eligible for review will be notified within ten (10) working days after the due date.

Application Workshop

Potential applicants are requested to attend the on-line “Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant Application Workshop” which has been scheduled for: Monday, February 26, 2024 (2:00 PM to 4:00 PM). Join by using the following links:

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 276 681 916 419

Passcode: yEZLm6

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 737-787-8456,,870654560#](#) United States, Austin

Phone Conference ID: 870 654 560#

[Find a local number](#) |

[Learn More](#) |

MVCPA Application Checklist

Each Applicant must:

- 1) Complete the on-line Application on or before **5:00 PM, March 15, 2024;**
- 2) Complete the Resolution with the city or county and attach with other supporting documents on or before **5:00 PM, March 15, 2024.**

Appendix A
Updated Sample Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Resolution

Applicants must use the language below to meet the minimum legal elements to execute an agreement with the MVCPA through the grant application process. Cities and counties not wanting to use the sample below must address all the legal elements contained herein.

2024 **Blank City / County** Resolution or Order or Ordinance
Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

2024 Blank City / County Resolution

SB 224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006 and Texas Administrative Code Title 43; Part 3; Chapter 57, entities are eligible to receive grants from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to provide financial support to law enforcement taskforces and agencies for economic motor vehicle theft, including catalytic converter theft; and

WHEREAS, this grant program will assist this jurisdiction to combat catalytic converter theft; and

WHEREAS, [GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY] has agreed that in the event of loss or misuse of the grant funds, [GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY] agrees and assures that the grant funds will be returned in full to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and ordered that [TITLE], is designated as the Authorized Official to apply for, accept, decline, modify, or cancel the grant application for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Grant Program and all other necessary documents to accept said grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [Name] is designated as the Program Director and [Name] is designated as the Financial Officer for this grant.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2024.

NAME

TITLE: County Judge /Mayor/ City Manager