



HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

2808 SOUTH BUSINESS HIGHWAY 281
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-6243

PHONE: (956) 318-2511 FAX: (956) 318-2577
www.hidalgocounty.us/294/Auditors-Office

July 21, 2026

The Honorable Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
The Honorable David L. Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
The Honorable Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
The Honorable Everardo "Ever" Villarreal, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
The Honorable Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

RE: Certification of Revenue

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

Pursuant to Local Government Code § 111.0706 SPECIAL BUDGET FOR GRANT OR AID MONEY:

The county auditor shall certify to the commissioners court the receipt of all public or private grant or aid money that is available for disbursement in a fiscal year but not included in the budget for that fiscal year. On certification, the court shall adopt a special budget for the limited purpose of spending the grant or aid money for its intended purpose.

I, Letty Chavez, County Auditor of Hidalgo County, certify to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court the receipt of an award from the State of Texas – Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA). These funds may now be made available by creating a new special budget or amending a current budget for its intended purpose.

AMOUNT
\$192,625.00

PURPOSE
Grant Number: 608-27-1080000C
Application Number: S-SB224-27
FY2027 Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Grant

CERTIFIED BY:



LETTY CHAVEZ
COUNTY AUDITOR

9/1/2026

DATE

HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES

LUIS M. SINGLETERRY JUDGE, 92ND D.C. FERNANDO MANCIAS JUDGE, 93RD D.C. J. R. "BOBBY" FLORES JUDGE, 139TH D.C. ROSE GUERRA REYNA JUDGE, 206TH D.C. MARLA CUELLAR JUDGE, 275TH D.C. JUAN R. ALVAREZ JUDGE, 332ND D.C. NOE GONZALEZ JUDGE, 370TH D.C. LETICIA LOPEZ JUDGE, 389TH D.C. L. KENO VASQUEZ JUDGE, 398TH D.C. ORLANDO ESQUIVEL JUDGE, 430TH D.C. RENEE R. BETANCOURT JUDGE, 449TH D.C. JOSE "JOE" RAMIREZ JUDGE, 464TH D.C. NEREIDA LOPEZ-SINGLETERRY JUDGE, 476TH D.C.

AI-104495

Sheriff's Office 18. C.

CC REGULAR AGENDA SPECIAL MTG

Meeting Date: 09/01/2026

Submitted For: Enrique Longoria, SHERIFF
DEPT.

Submitted By: Jose Rodriguez

Department: SHERIFF DEPT.

CAPTION

Sheriff's Office - SB224 Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Grant FY27 Acceptance

1. Authorization and approval to accept the FY 2027 SB224 Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Grants from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, in the amount \$192,625.00 (09/01/2026 - 08/31/2027)
2. Approval of Certification of Revenues, as certified by the Co. Auditor, for the FY27 Catalytic Converter Grant in the amount of ~~\$231,150.00~~ and appropriation of the same, ~~231,150.00~~
3. Approval of inter-fund transfer to fund cash match in the amount of \$38,525.00

BACKGROUND

AI-102870 Permission to Apply 03/31/2026

Fiscal Impact

CALENDAR YEAR: 2026

ACCT. #:

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?:

MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$231,150 for the SB224 Catalytic Grant (09/01/2026-08/31/2027)

Cash Match Required in the amount of \$38,5825

Attachments

COR Request

Grant Award

Appropriation

Cash Match Interfund

Form Review

Inbox

Budget and Management

Final Approval

Form Started By: Jose Rodriguez

Reviewed By

Veronica Ortiz

Date

08/24/2026 08:41 AM

Started On: 08/21/2026 03:42 PM



**FY27 Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Grant
Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
Statement of Grant Award and Grantee Acceptance Notice**

Grant Number: **608-27-1080000C**
Grantee: **Hidalgo County**
Program Title: **HCSO Catalytic Converter Grant**
Grant Award Amount: **\$192,625**
Total Cash Match Amount: **\$38,525**
In-Kind Match Amount: **\$0**
Reimbursement Percent*: **83.33%**
Grant Term: **September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027**

Grant Budget Summary: Hidalgo County (App ID: 2894)

Budget Category	MVCPA Expenditures	Cash Match Expenditures	Total Expenditures	In-Kind Match
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Overtime	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional and Contract Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)	\$192,625	\$38,525	\$231,150	\$0
Total	\$192,625	\$38,525	\$231,150	\$0

*Reimbursement Percent: 83.33%: \$192,625 MVCPA amount / (\$192,625 MVCPA amount + \$38,525 Cash Match)

That whereas, **Hidalgo County** (hereinafter referred to as Grantee), has heretofore submitted a grant application in response to the Request for Application issued on March 16, 2026 to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, State of Texas, entitled **HCSO Catalytic Converter Grant** and further identified by grant number **608-27-1080000C** and

Whereas, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority has approved the grant application as evidenced by this FY27 Statement of Grant Award and certain special requirements from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority dated **8/24/2026** and

Whereas, the Grantee desires to accept the FY27 grant award and use all funds for purposes and in compliance with the following requirements that are adopted in their entirety by reference:

- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 1006;
- Texas Administrative Code: Title 43; Part 3; Chapter 57;
- Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) as promulgated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts including TxGMS Standard Assurances by Local Governments and Standards for Financial and Program Management;
- The Request for Applications issued on March 16, 2026;
- The current Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority Grant Administrative Manual and forms and subsequently adopted grantee instruction manuals and forms;

- The Final Adopted Application attached to this Statement of Grant Award; and
- The Approved Grant Budget Summary

Now, therefore, the Grantee accepts the FY27 Statement of Grant Award under the conditions above including the special requirements in the grant application and the Statement of Grant Award as evidenced by this agreement, executed by the official authorized to sign the original grant application, or the official's designated successor, as presiding officer of and on behalf of the governing body of this grantee; and

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority has awarded the above-referenced grant subject to the availability of state funds. The approved budget is reflected in the above Approved Grant Budget Summary. This grant is subject to and conditioned upon the acceptance of the MVCPA Grant Administrative Guide promulgated for this specific program fund (referenced above) by the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority. Applicable special conditions are listed below.

Special Conditions and Requirements (MVCPA will only apply special conditions to applicable jurisdictions):

 X **Non-Supplanting** - The grantee agrees that funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, funds that would otherwise be available for the activities under this grant. This includes demonstrating that new funded positions will be added to the department and not replacing local funds with state funds.

 X **Intelligence Sharing** - The grantee is required to ensure that Law Enforcement personnel funded in whole or in part by this grant actively participate in Law Enforcement intelligence sharing webinars and Motor Vehicle Crime Investigator Virtual Command Centers organized and promoted on behalf of the MVCPA program operation and statewide collaboration.

 X **Border Security Report Requirement** - This Grantee is designated as a MVCPA Border Security Grant which is located along the United States of America border with the United States of Mexico and those that are adjacent to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. This designation requires grantee to provide additional report information required by the General Appropriations Act of the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. The Governor or Legislative Budget Board may request additional information regarding the report data during the term of the grant.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY:

Authorized Official

Printed Name and Title

Date Signed

**Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority
FY2027 Grant Award Notification
Application Review and Request to Negotiate
August 3, 2026**

Greetings:

The Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) met on July 24th, 2026, and issued an **FY2027 Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Grant Award** to **Hidalgo County** in response to the application that was submitted by **Richard F Cortez** at 5/8/2026 4:26:02 PM.

FY27 Grant Award Amount	\$192,625
Grant Amount Requested	\$192,625
Difference between request and award amount is	\$0
Proposed FY2027 Cash Match in Application	\$38,525
Minimum Amount of Cash Match Required to receive this Award	\$38,525

Hidalgo County submitted the original grant applications in the on-line system at <https://mvcpa.tamu.edu/>. There may be some errors, omissions, corrections or other information that must be edited prior to the Statement of Grant Award being issued.

A grantee representative must log back into the on-line system at <https://mvcpa.tamu.edu/>, select the **CC Negotiation** link and make edits. In addition, there are issues identified by MVCPA Board members and staff during the review that the Applicant must address:

Required Corrections or Deletions

- **None**

Overall Total Score of Application: 15.5

You may schedule a teleconference appointment with MVCPA staff by sending an e-mail to grantsMVCPA@txdmv.gov to discuss any issues or request assistance with the grant application, required changes, or the negotiation process.

Senate Bill 224 Grant Application for 2027

The Application was submitted by Richard F Cortez at 5/8/2026 4:26:02 PM and is now locked.
The confirmation Number is 2026050802894.

Primary Agency / Grantee Legal Name: *Hidalgo County*
 Organization Type: *Law Enforcement*
 Organization ORI (if applicable): *TX1080000: HIDALGO CO SO (MIP)*

Program Title Please enter a short description of the proposed program that can be used as the title.
 HCSO Catalytic Converter Grant

Application Category (See **Request for Applications [RFA]** for category details and descriptions RFA Priority Funding Section):

- ☐ **Continued Grant** - Only available to agencies that have a 2026 grant. These are annual competitive grants for the program described in the application. The program must be submitted for substantially the same program as the previous year. The requested funds, match funds, and in-kind match must be within 5% of the previous year but in any event may not go below the 20% minimum cash match requirement. The number of staff positions must be within 5% of the total positions. Awarded activities are funded on a reimbursement basis.
- ☐ **Modified Grant** - Only available to agencies that have a 2026 grant. The grantee will only enter the portion with a difference more or less than 5% of their current grant. These are annual competitive grants that require a minimum cash match of 20% for the program described in the application. Awarded activities are funded on a reimbursement basis

MVCPA Program Category (see **RFA** and TAC 43, 3 §57.14). Check all that apply.

- ☒ Law Enforcement, Detection and Apprehension
- ☐ Prosecution, Adjudication and Conviction
- ☒ Reduction of the Theft of Catalytic Converters
- ☒ Education Programs and Marketing

Taskforce Grant Participation and Coverage Area

Provide a General Description of the Participating and Coverage Area of this Grant Application

Hidalgo County, the eighth largest county in Texas, covers 1,569 square miles and shares about 75 miles of international border with Mexico. As of the 2020 U.S. Census, Hidalgo County had a population of 870,781

Define in the tables below the grant relationships and geographic area of the Catalytic Converter program:

Applicant will add the participating and coverage agencies from the ORI list below. If an agency is not in the ORI list, please include the agency and role in the general description above. Make sure to follow the definitions below and select an agency in the dropdown. Use the *Add as Participating Agency* or *Add as Coverage Agency* button to populate the list.

Participating Agencies are agencies that materially participate in the grant application through the exchange of funds for reimbursement and cash match. Participating agencies are defined after the grant award by interlocal/interagency agreements. Each applicant must select their own agency first. Then select agencies that will receive or provide funding and/or resources. [Note: Interlocal/interagency agreements do not need to be submitted with the application. Interlocal agreements will need to be executed prior to the first payment being made if selected for a grant. Letters of support with the application from the participating agencies are strongly recommended.]

Coverage Agencies are agencies that provided some level of coverage, assistance or support by this grant application but will not materially exchange funds as cash match or reimbursement. The coverage is not supported by an after the award with interlocal/interagency agreements. Coverage agencies as law enforcement agencies may have jurisdictional coverage agreements unrelated to the grant (Ex. City Y is within County X or vice versa). Agencies selected in this list include agencies that will be covered or where the agency indicates that their agency will coordinate or call upon the program. Letters of support with the application from the participating agencies are strongly recommended.

Participating Agencies	Coverage Agencies
TX1080000 HIDALGO CO SO (MIP)	

☐ **Other Coverage** (Use if ORI not listed or explanation is necessary.):
No text provided.

- ☐ **National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)** Used as Match (Documentation and time certification required.)
- ☐ **Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)**
- ☐ **Other State or Federal Agency** (specify:)

Resolution: Complete a Resolution and submit to local governing body for approval. [Sample Resolution](#) is found in the Request for Application or send a request for an electronic copy to grantsMVCPA@txdmv.gov. The completed and executed Resolution must be attached to this on-line application.

Grant Budget Form

MVCPA recommends that the applicant complete the total costs (MVCPA and Cash Match combined) for this program. The applicant can then enter the desired amount of Cash Match (not less than 20% per TAC Title 43, Â§57.36). The system will then calculate the correct grant and match amounts.

Budget Entry Option:

- ☒ Enter Total and let system calculate MVCPA Funds and Cash Match, Match Percentage: 20 %
- ☐ Enter MVCPA and Cash Match Amounts

Click on category name to edit budget detail for that category.

Budget Category	MVCPA Expenditures	Cash Match Expenditures	Total Expenditures	In-Kind Match
Personnel				
Fringe				
Overtime				
Professional and Contract Services				
Travel				
Equipment				
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)	\$192,625	\$38,525	\$231,150	
Total	\$192,625	\$38,525	\$231,150	
Cash Match Percentage		20.00%		

Description	Subcategory	Pct Time	MVCPA Funds	Cash Match	Total	In-Kind Match
Personnel						
Total Personnel						
Fringe						
Total Fringe						
Overtime						
Total Overtime						
Professional and Contract Services						
Total Professional and Contract Services						
Travel						
Total Travel						
Equipment						
Total Equipment						
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)						
Promotional Item (1)			\$3,333	\$667	\$4,000	
FLOCK (33)			\$189,292	\$37,858	\$227,150	
Total Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)			\$192,625	\$38,525	\$231,150	

Budget Narrative

G. Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses (DOE)

- Promotional Items to include but not limited to flyers and brochures to be given at events hosted by HCSO Auto Task Force or HCSO \$4,000 - FLOCK LPR System Continuation for 3rd year of service with a 10% increase for inflation

Revenue

Indicate Source of Cash and In-Kind Matches for the proposed program. Click on links to go to match detail pages for entry of data.

Cash Match

Source of Cash Match

HCSO General Fund	Grantee	\$38,525
Total Cash Match		\$38,525

In-Kind Match

Statistics to Support Grant Problem Statement

Reported Cases	2025	2026
Jurisdiction	Catalytic Converter Theft	Catalytic Converter Theft
Hidalgo County	22	21

Add/Edit Statistics

Application Narrative

Grant Introduction (Executive Summary) and General Information

- 1.1 Briefly describe the organization and program operation. Provide a high level summary to the application and how it will affect the local community. (500 words or less)

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is a frontline law enforcement agency protecting one of Texas's largest and most dynamic border counties, with more than 270 sworn officers and specialized units addressing a wide range of criminal activity. Among those units, the Auto Theft Task Force stands out as a critical resource - targeting motor vehicle crime, catalytic converter theft, and the criminal networks behind them. This program is about more than statistics. Every catalytic converter stolen means a working family waking up to find their car disabled, facing hundreds or thousands of dollars in repairs they didn't budget for. HCSO takes that seriously. During Fiscal Year 2025, the task force operated with nine investigators and a dedicated analyst working motor vehicle crime broadly. Within that structure, the investigator funded specifically through this grant carried a focused caseload aligned directly with SB224 objectives. That one investigator was assigned 105 cases in FY2025 - making 18 arrests, returning 22 vehicles to their owners, recovering \$500,500 in stolen property, and bringing 92 of those cases to closure through arrests, pending prosecutions, or exhaustion of all available investigative leads - ensuring no case was left unworked. Not every case ends in recovery. Stolen vehicles and catalytic converters don't always stay within reach - some are believed to have crossed into Mexico, entering markets where recovery becomes nearly impossible. The work is not finished. Those results didn't happen by chance. The analyst embedded within the task force is central to every investigator's success - not a support function, but a force multiplier. By linking cases, identifying theft clusters, and producing actionable intelligence, the analyst helped the SB224 investigator and the broader team work smarter rather than in isolation. The analytical infrastructure this position provides is inseparable from the outcomes this grant produces. The broader impact is equally clear. Catalytic converter theft cases dropped from 48 in calendar year 2024 to 22 in 2025 - a 54 percent reduction. The SB224-funded investigator contributed directly to this decline through focused enforcement, case follow-up, and intelligence development targeting converter theft specifically. That downward trend reflects what happens when the right people have the right tools and the right support. Hidalgo County's position along the Texas-Mexico border makes this work uniquely challenging. Offenders are mobile, stolen parts move fast, and the border creates opportunities for criminal networks to profit before investigators can respond. Sustaining this program means sustaining that momentum - and building on it. Looking ahead, HCSO is committed to the following targets for the upcoming grant period: 15 arrests, 100 cases worked, 20 vehicles recovered, and 6 outreach or prevention events conducted. These benchmarks will guide program evaluation and ensure accountability throughout the grant period. This program directly benefits residents, vehicle owners, and businesses across Hidalgo County by reducing victimization, improving investigative response, and keeping communities informed about how to protect themselves.

- 1.2 Describe the taskforce governing, organization and command structures. Include a description of the nature of support and agreements that will be in place if the grant is awarded. Provide any details unique to the taskforce organization or geographical target area. Describe whether any part of this grant will be directed to serve a specific target population (or subset of the community)?

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is a frontline law enforcement agency protecting one of Texas's largest and most dynamic border counties, with more than 270 sworn officers and specialized units addressing a wide range of criminal activity. Among those units, the Auto Theft Task Force stands out as a critical resource - targeting motor vehicle crime, catalytic converter theft, and the criminal networks behind them. This program is about more than statistics. Every catalytic converter stolen means a working family waking up to find their car disabled, facing hundreds or thousands of dollars in repairs they didn't budget for. HCSO takes that seriously. During Fiscal Year 2025, the task force operated with nine investigators and a dedicated analyst working motor vehicle crime broadly. Within that structure, the investigator funded specifically through this grant carried a focused caseload aligned directly with SB224 objectives. That one investigator was assigned 105 cases in FY2025 - making 18 arrests, returning 22 vehicles to their owners, recovering \$500,500 in stolen property, and bringing 92 of those cases to closure through arrests, pending prosecutions, or exhaustion of all available investigative leads - ensuring no case was left unworked. Not every case ends in recovery. Stolen vehicles and catalytic converters don't always stay within reach - some are believed to have crossed into Mexico, entering markets where recovery becomes nearly impossible. The work is not finished. Those results didn't happen by chance. The analyst embedded within the task force is central to every investigator's success - not a support function, but a force multiplier. By linking cases, identifying theft clusters, and producing actionable intelligence, the analyst helped the SB224 investigator and the broader team work smarter rather than in isolation. The analytical infrastructure this position provides is inseparable from the outcomes this grant produces. The broader impact is equally clear. Catalytic converter theft cases dropped from 48 in calendar year 2024 to 22 in 2025 - a 54 percent reduction. The SB224-funded investigator contributed directly to this decline through focused enforcement, case follow-up, and intelligence development targeting converter theft specifically. That downward trend reflects what happens when the right people have the right tools and the right support. Hidalgo County's position along the Texas-Mexico border makes this work uniquely challenging. Offenders are mobile, stolen parts move fast, and the border creates opportunities for criminal networks to profit before investigators can respond. Sustaining this program means sustaining that momentum - and building on it. Looking ahead, HCSO is committed to the following targets for the upcoming grant period: 15 arrests, 100 cases worked, 20 vehicles recovered, and 6 outreach or prevention events conducted.

events conducted. These benchmarks will guide program evaluation and ensure accountability throughout the grant period. This program directly benefits residents, vehicle owners, and businesses across Hidalgo County by reducing victimization, improving investigative response, and keeping communities informed about how to protect themselves.

Grant Problem Statement

- 2.1 Provide an assessment of the Catalytic Converter Theft problem in the coverage area of this application. Include loss data consistent with the reported incident numbers above.

Catalytic converter theft in Hidalgo County isn't just a property crime - it's a financial crisis for working residents who depend on their vehicles every day. Replacement costs typically range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per vehicle, and frequently exceed that when exhaust system damage is factored in. At that rate, the 48 cases documented in calendar year 2024 represent an estimated \$48,000 to \$144,000 in direct victim losses - borne almost entirely by individuals and families without meaningful recourse. During the most recently completed fiscal year, FY2025, the investigator funded through this grant was assigned 105 cases - making 18 arrests, returning 22 vehicles to their owners, closing 92 cases, and recovering \$500,500 in stolen property. Not every stolen vehicle is recovered. The border creates a hard reality - once stolen property crosses into Mexico, the investigative window closes quickly and recovery becomes significantly more difficult. That reality alone justifies sustained, dedicated enforcement in this region. Catalytic converter theft cases specifically dropped from 48 in calendar year 2024 to 22 in 2025 - a 54 percent reduction directly tied to the focused enforcement and intelligence development the SB224-funded investigator brought to those cases. This is not a single-year anomaly. It reflects sustained, strategic enforcement applied consistently over time and concentrated on the specific offense this grant is designed to address. The problem persists for structural reasons. Catalytic converters contain platinum, palladium, and rhodium - precious metals that retain street value regardless of broader market conditions. They can be removed in under two minutes with basic tools, making them low-risk and high-reward for opportunistic and organized offenders alike. Hidalgo County's proximity to the Texas-Mexico border compounds the problem: stolen converters can move across jurisdictions or into cross-border markets before a report is even filed. The county's concentration of salvage yards, scrap dealers, and auto parts businesses creates additional risk - providing potential outlets for stolen components that sustain demand and reward continued criminal activity. Without consistent enforcement attention and business accountability, that secondary market continues operating unchecked. The 54 percent reduction and \$500,500 in recovered property demonstrate what this program delivers. The cases that remain unresolved - particularly those where stolen property is believed to have crossed into Mexico - demonstrate why the work isn't finished.

Grant Goals and Activities

There are two parts to this section: 1) Functions of Proposed Program and 2) Goals Strategies and Activities (GSA). In the following boxes, describe the functions of the proposed program and then complete a fillable form called GSA.

MVCPA programs must completely describe the actions, methods and tactics that law enforcement and civilian staff will perform for each of the categories below. Describe the reliance on technology or other program elements to solve the problem statement above and goals below. Functions must be detailed and consistent with the requested budget. If a grant is awarded, funds expended towards activities not described in this section will result in the reimbursement being denied.

Part 1

- 3.1 Functions of the proposed program related to Catalytic Converter Theft from a motor vehicle.

The proposed program will transition its investigative approach by assigning a dedicated investigator and crime analyst to the Task Force, with a focused strategy centered on the use of the Flock License Plate Reader (LPR) system to combat catalytic converter theft and related criminal activity. At its core, the program will leverage intelligence-driven policing. The assigned investigator and analyst will utilize the Flock LPR system to analyze vehicle movement, identify patterns associated with theft activity, develop suspect leads, and coordinate real-time information sharing with Task Force partners. This technology-driven approach will enhance the ability to identify vehicles linked to criminal activity, track movements across jurisdictions, and support timely enforcement actions. The program will prioritize investigative follow-up by integrating LPR data with reported incidents, ensuring that cases are supported by actionable intelligence. The analyst will continuously monitor alerts, identify trends, and provide strategic direction to the investigator and Task Force personnel, maximizing the effectiveness of enforcement efforts. Targeted operations, including surveillance and coordinated enforcement actions, will be informed by LPR data and crime analysis. The integration of technology with traditional investigative methods will strengthen the Task Force's ability to identify organized criminal activity and intervene proactively. Hidalgo County's border location presents ongoing challenges, as stolen vehicles and parts can quickly move out of jurisdiction. The use of the Flock LPR system, combined with Task Force coordination, will enhance real-time intelligence sharing and improve the ability to intercept vehicles before they leave the region. This strategy represents a shift toward intelligence-led enforcement - utilizing technology, data analysis, and regional collaboration to make catalytic converter theft in Hidalgo County increasingly difficult, high-risk, and ultimately unsustainable.

- 3.4 Functions of the proposed program related to preventing Catalytic Converter Theft

HCSO will conduct a minimum of 6 community outreach events during the grant period, focused on practical steps vehicle owners can take to reduce their risk. These are targeted conversations with residents, businesses, and community groups in areas most affected by theft - not generic presentations disconnected from local conditions. One of the standout prevention efforts in FY2025 was the VIN etching program, where HCSO conducted 63 VIN etching services at a local Edinburg Walmart. That initiative reached vehicle owners directly in their community, put real deterrence tools in residents' hands, and increased awareness of theft prevention measures throughout the area. Moving forward, HCSO will expand the VIN etching program to 4 events during the grant period, targeting high-theft areas identified through crime analysis to maximize impact. Social media and public information platforms will be used consistently throughout the grant period to reach vehicle owners across Hidalgo County with timely information about theft trends, offender methods, and available protections. Outdoor signage will be deployed in high-risk areas identified through crime analysis, adding a visible deterrent layer that reminds both would-be offenders and the public that enforcement is active and present. Increased law enforcement visibility in identified hot spots rounds out the prevention picture - not just to catch offenders, but to make those locations less attractive targets in the first place. Together, these efforts build a community that is informed, engaged, and harder to victimize. Prevention success will be measured through outreach event participation, VIN etching totals, public information reach, and continued monitoring of theft case volumes in targeted areas.

3.6 Collaboration Effort -- Describe the taskforce method to collaborate, and not duplicate existing activities. Describe the cross boundaries regional approach to grant activity implementation. Describe how the applicant staff and jurisdiction will coordinate with other taskforces and law enforcement agencies to implement this program.

HCSO built this program around a simple truth: catalytic converter theft doesn't respect jurisdictional boundaries, and neither should the response to it. As the lead agency, HCSO coordinates strategy, maintains accountability, and keeps all partners moving in the same direction. Formal MOUs executed upon grant award will define each participating agency's role, ensuring collaboration is structured and operationally meaningful. The Edinburg, Mercedes, Palmview, and Weslaco police departments bring local knowledge, additional resources, and jurisdictional reach that no single agency could replicate alone. Together, these partnerships create a regional enforcement network capable of responding when criminal activity extends toward the international border - where the movement of stolen vehicles and parts into Mexico represents a persistent and serious challenge that no single agency can address alone. Collaboration means more than shared case files. It means monthly briefings, hot sheet notifications, BOLO alerts, and coordinated operational planning that keeps every partner current and ready. When intelligence develops in one jurisdiction that connects to activity in another, communication happens quickly - not weeks later when the trail has gone cold. Direct action operations will target active offenders and theft locations on a coordinated basis throughout the grant period. Interdiction efforts will focus on stopping the movement and illegal transfer of stolen converters before they disappear into secondary markets. Both functions depend on real-time intelligence sharing and coordinated investigative follow-up across all participating agencies. HCSO is deliberate about avoiding duplication. Before any operation, staff coordinate with partner agencies to ensure efforts are additive - filling gaps, not repeating work. Available law enforcement technology will support surveillance, detection, and coordinated response when theft activity is identified. The outcomes speak for themselves. One SB224-funded investigator, working within this collaborative structure, was assigned 105 cases, made 18 arrests, returned 22 vehicles to their owners, recovered \$500,500 in stolen property, and brought 92 cases to closure through arrests, pending prosecutions, or exhaustion of all available investigative leads - ensuring no case was left unworked. That is what coordinated, regional enforcement delivers. The goal for the upcoming grant period is to build on that foundation - expanding reach, strengthening partnerships, and driving theft numbers further down across Hidalgo County.

3.7 If the proposed application requests any exceptions or deviation from any general grant rules, RFA conditions or grant administrative policy, please indicate in the section below. Indicate the section of the specific issue and citation that you are asking the MVCPA to consider and the rational for the request.

N/A

Part II

Goals, Strategies, and Activities

[Select Goals, Strategies, and Activity Targets](#) for the proposed program described in the application.

Click on the link above to open a new table called Goals, Strategies, and Activity. Applicants will review the statutory and optional activities. The first section is the statutory measures. Grantees may not provide targets for this section but need to review the descriptions to ensure that they understand the statutory minimum requirements associated with this grant. Applicants will then review the other items and estimate targets for only the activities that the applicant has described and plans to complete under this application.

ID	Activity	Measure	Target
Measures for Grantees. Add Target values for those that you will measure.			
1	Goal 1: Reduce the Incidence of Catalytic Converter Theft through Enforcement Strategies		
1.1	Strategy 1: Conduct Activities that Result in the Arrest, Clearance, and Recoveries of Catalytic Converter Theft		
1.1.1	Identify groups of catalytic converter theft offenders through intelligence gathering, crime analysis and the use of informants	Number of catalytic converter theft groups identified. Include gangs, cartels or other criminal enterprise with two or more members	5
1.1.2	Identify and document/record prolific Catalytic Converter Theft offenders [Prolific is defined as "linked to Catalytic Converter Theft offenses three or more times"]	Number identified/documented offenders	5
1.1.5	Conduct inspections of local businesses related to vehicle enterprise (transportation code or occupation code authorized companies such as salvage yard, repair shop, parts recycling center, used car dealership, salvage rebuilder, title service company, other).	Number of businesses inspected	12
1.1.6	Conduct bait vehicle operations that target Catalytic Converter Theft offenders	Number of bait vehicle deployments. Include Catalytic Converter Theft bait operations here.	3
1.1.8	Deploy license plate readers (LPR)	Number of times LPR deployed. Deploy: If stationary unit then total number of days or partial days unit was operable and on. Mobile unit number of days the unit was on and operable.	90
1.1.9	Respond to taskforce license plate reader (LPR) alert notifications	Number of times investigators responded to taskforce LPR alert notifications regardless of whether vehicle was located	13
1.1.12	Conduct covert operations targeting Catalytic Converter Theft offenders	Number of covert operations	6
1.1.13	Conduct warrant "round-up" operations targeting catalytic converter crime offenders, including	Number of warrant round-up operations performed Catalytic Converter Theft	1

ID	Activity	Measure	Target
	people wanted for Catalytic Converter Theft		
1.1.15	Increase the recovery rate of stolen motor vehicle Catalytic Converter Theft	Report the number of Catalytic Converters recovered by grantee	15
1.1.16	Increase the clearance rate of Catalytic Converter Theft	Report the number of Catalytic Converter Theft cases cleared	4
1.1.17	Increase the number of persons arrested for Catalytic Converter Theft	Report the number of persons arrested for Catalytic Converter Theft by taskforce	6
1.2	Strategy 2: Conduct Collaborative Efforts that Result In Reduction of Incidents of Catalytic Converter Theft		
1.2.1	Provide Agency Assists for Catalytic Converter Theft	Number of agency assists related to catalytic converter theft. Assist means responding or answering questions via phone, e-mail, or in person. Providing recommendation, guidance, strategy, support or information that other LEOs will use to resolve their cases. The assist generally does not have the direct responsibility for an investigation nor uses LEO authority. The assist helps another LEO or agency investigate cases. Analysts and civilian employees will record their assists to outside LEOs and agencies met here along with officers.	60
1.2.2	Collaborate with other units or divisions (i.e. homicide, vice, narcotics, etc.) within the taskforce department(s) where there were crimes involving catalytic converter theft. Include all participating jurisdiction departments here.	Number of times collaborated within departments or SOs participating in taskforce related to Catalytic Converter Theft. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of Catalytic Converter Theft investigations.	5
1.2.3	Collaborate with all other outside LE agencies and other organizations that assist in the reduction of Catalytic Converter Theft. Include all coverage jurisdictions here	Number of times collaborated with coverage area agencies or other law enforcement agencies and organizations that assist in the reduction of Catalytic Converter Theft. Collaboration means physically using law enforcement resources, tactics and authority to perform activity on cases that draw upon or aid in the investigation intended to further the resolution of any case, identify parties to crime, identify vehicles, interview witnesses/suspects and apprehend suspects. Collaboration will include any help, recommendation, contribution or support requested from or provided to another unit or offered by the taskforce that aids in the furtherance of Catalytic Converter Theft investigations	10
1.2.5	Conduct intelligence information-sharing (Personal attendance)	Number of intelligence meetings attended (include attending as presenter, participant or attendee)	1
1.2.6	Conduct intelligence information-sharing (Written information)	Crime analysis bulletins disseminated (include information distributed to law enforcement agencies via text, e-mail, or intra-net communications)	13
1.2.7	Collaborate with other MVCPA taskforces	Number of times collaborated with other MVCPA taskforces that assist in the reduction in Catalytic Converter Theft	10
3	Goal 3: Educate/Train Citizens and Qualified Personnel in Detection and Prevention of Catalytic Converter Theft		
3.1	Strategy 1: Conduct Public Awareness Related Activities Used to Educate Citizens		
3.1.1	Conduct educational outreach events (include trade show, exhibits, booths at community events, vehicle displays, brochures, etc.)	Number of outreaches	3
3.1.2	Conduct educational presentations to the public	Number of presentations. Presentation means in person, on-line, original written document, article, or webpage.	2
3.1.4	Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event	Number of etching events. Including catalytic converters.	2
3.1.4.1	Conduct vehicle identification initiative/event	Number of Participants/Attendees Catalytic Converters Marked)	25
3.1.5	Purchase advertisements in local outlets	Number of advertisements purchased or provided complimentary for taskforce. Include all types of media purchased or provided free (social, tv, utility inserts, billboards, transportation, etc.)	0
3.1.7	Utilize social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	Number of postings in social media outlets	10
3.1.8	Deploy outdoor public notification signage	Number of deployments per month (if sign remains several months, count as 1 deployment per month)	20
3.1.10	Conduct media outreach, including, public service announcements, press releases, and interviews	Number of outreaches	4
3.2	Strategy 2: Conduct Law Enforcement Training Activities to Educate Officers on Recognition and Apprehension of Stolen Vehicles and Property		
3.2.1	Conduct law enforcement training (TCOLE)	Number of classes provided for TCOLE credit	1
3.2.3	Conduct vehicle crimes presentations to law enforcement agencies (non TCOLE)	Number of classes or presentations. Presentations may include electronic roll call documents, shift BOLOs and other written or presented materials based on local practices.	7

Grant Evaluation

- 4.1 Describe the local method and/or practice used to collect the data for reporting Goals, Strategies, and Activities and to evaluate the grant program effectiveness. Describe management and staff participation. Include descriptions of systems (forms and software) that will be used to ensure reliable and accurate data is collected and reported. Describe any other evaluation methods used in the applicant agency to determine effectiveness or cost efficiency of the program.

he Officers assigned to the SB224 grant will utilize the current Records Management System (RMS), "New World," within the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. As the agency transited into the "New World" system, TFT will ensure all statistics are maintained in both systems. This dual approach enables the team to generate reports and easily convert them to Excel format for enhanced usability and analysis. Before inputting data into the RMS, supervisors will review collected data for accuracy. This meticulous review process ensures that the information entered into the system is reliable and can be effectively utilized for strategic decision-making and operational planning within the SB224 grant.

- 4.2 Provide any other suggested measures that would better reflect the law enforcement or prevention work that the proposed program will perform. If the suggested measure fits into one of the stated goals above please indicate.

None

TxGMS Standard Assurances by Local Governments

- ☒ We acknowledge reviewing the [TxGMS Standard Assurances by Local Governments](#) as promulgated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and agree to abide by the terms stated therein.

Current Documents in folder

[Resolution.pdf](#) (5/26/2026 9:51:44 AM)

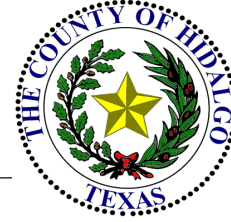
Print

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DATE: August 21, 2026

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Hidalgo County Sheriff J.E. Eddie Guerra

2026
Appropriation
AI-104495



DEPARTMENT NAME: Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1284-21-280-000-0000-XXXXXX

Contact Person: Jose Rodriguez Ph#: 956-393-6176

SUBJECT: Appropriations of Funds (increase (decrease)) in accordance with Local Government Code, Chapter 111, § 111.070, Item C (2).

Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County:

I would like to request the following Appropriations of Funds (increase (decrease)) in accordance with Local Government Code, Chapter 111, § 111.070, Item C (2).

INCREASE ACCOUNT NUMBER(S)	ACCOUNT (OBJECT) NAME	AMOUNT
1284-21-280-000-0000- 507510	2800010627-GRANT-EQUIPMENT-MACH&EQUIP	\$ 227,150.00
1284-21-280-000-0000- 506100	2800010627-GRANT-SUPPLIES-GEN SUPPL	\$ 4,000.00
1284-00-280-000-0000- 491100	2800010627-CASH MATCH-GEN FUND	\$ 38,525.00
1284-00-280-000-0000 4341000	2800010627-ST GRANT-MVCPA-FY2027	\$ 192,625.00
TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE (DECREASE)		\$ 231,150.00

REASON: To appropriate the budget for the FY2027 SB224 GRANT

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE

APPROVED COMMISSIONERS' COURT

DATE

ATTEST COUNTY CLERK

DATE: September 1, 2026

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dagoberto Soto Jr., Budget Officer

DEPARTMENT NAME: Department of Budget & Management for
Sherif's Office, Catalytic Converter grant

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1XXX-XX-XXX-X00-0000-XXXXX

CONTACT PERSON: Sandra Jara, Budget Analyst III PHONE: Ext. 5408

SUBJECT: Interfund & BA - Transfer/s (transfer in/out) (increase/decrease) in Accordance with Local Government Code Chapter 111,
Subchapter C.

Honorable Commissioner's Court of Hidalgo County:

I would like to request the following amendments (increases) to my departmental budget in accordance with Local Government Code, Chapter 111
Subchapter C.

INCREASE/DECREASE ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT (OBJECT) NAME	AMOUNT
FROM:		
1100-15-115-900-0000-508990-	CO WIDE ADM CONTINGENCY	(38,525.00)
TO:		
1100-91-280-000-0000-591284-	TRANSFER OUT- SHERIFF	38,525.00
1284-00-280-000-0000-491100-	TRANSFER IN- GENERAL FUND	38,525.00
TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE (DECREASE)		38,525.00

REASON: To fund county's cash match portion for the FY27 SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant. Refer to AI-104495, CC 09.01.26

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE

APPROVED COMMISSIONERS' COURT

/ /
DATE

ATTEST COUNTY CLERK





Jose Rodriguez <jose.rodriguez@hidalgo.org>

AI-4495 COR Request SB224 FY27

Jose Rodriguez <jose.rodriguez@hidalgo.org>

Fri, Aug 21, 2026 at 4:40 PM

Draft To: Tamara Flores <tamara.flores@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Cc: Myra Montoya <myra.montoya@hidalgo.org>, Isabel Rodriguez <isabel.rodriguez@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Rossana Schettino <rossana.schettino@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Bryan Garcia <bryan.sgarcia@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Good afternoon Tamara,

Can you please prepare a COR for AI-104495 for the FY27 SB224 grant in the amount of \$231,150.00?

Respectfully,
Jose L Rodriguez
Program Manager I
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
jose.rodriguez@hidalgo.org
956-393-6176

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