

WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES REPORT

FISCAL YEARS 2023 - 2025



OCTOBER 2025

WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

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LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

Senate Bill 5167 Section 217 (16) – Within existing resources, the commission must produce a report detailing the expenditures of each agency that receives allocations from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority account for fiscal year 2023, 2024, and 2025. The report must include documentation of how expenditures were used in accordance with RCW 46.66.080 and recommendations based on outcomes from prior years' expenditures for how funds from the account can be used to most effectively prevent auto theft. The report must be submitted to the Office of Financial Management, the Governor, and the legislature by October 1, 2025.



INTRODUCTION

Three agencies have been granted funding from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA) account over the last three fiscal years. These agencies are the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC), Department of Corrections (DOC), and Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

Funding is provided as a pass-through grant to the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to direct the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority, per RCW 36.28A.130.

Expenditure data from all three agencies for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is included in this report.

WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY / WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

Funds used by the WATPA support activities related to education, prevention, law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution per RCW 46.66.080.

The WATPA received 8.85 million dollars in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2025, and 9.05 million dollars in FY 2021-2023, to fund auto theft prevention efforts. Those monies were primarily used to fund regional task force operation grants, as well as smaller grants for agencies to focus on technology and education solutions aimed at curbing auto crimes.

Public outreach is believed to have contributed to the auto theft decline. This was done through social media, radio ads, Washington State Fair outreach, and steering wheel lock distribution that targets owners of vehicles that are frequently stolen. While this is a significant accomplishment, Washington remains in the top ten in the United States in auto theft by volume and per capita.

After reviewing the last several years' expenditures and impact on auto crime, WATPA would recommend the following priorities for funding to effectively combat auto crime:

- Fund multi-agency task forces by staffing task forces around the state with detectives from multiple agencies, training those detectives on the latest investigative techniques, providing crime analysis to support the detectives, providing necessary investigative tools, and embedding prosecution within the task forces.
- The money that was awarded for technology in 2024 has had a positive impact in decreasing auto theft. Flock camera systems have provided an effective tool to quickly identify and notify officers of stolen vehicles as well as assist with auto theft and other investigations. Drone technology and pursuit intervention systems have also positively impacted auto theft. These intervention systems include the Grappler, Starchase, and drone technology.

Fiscal Years 23-25

\$8.85M



Fiscal Years 21-23

\$9.05M

- WATPA has partnered with law enforcement agencies across the state to educate our communities on how they can protect themselves from auto theft. WATPA successfully utilized social media and radio advertising to reach out to our citizens.
- WATPA provided funding for a Vehicle Crimes Conference in 2024 that was attended by 200 law enforcement professionals from around the state, where they provided 24 hours of instruction. Nationally renowned instructors were brought in to share their knowledge with attendees in the areas of basic auto theft investigation, vehicle associated fraud investigations, infotainment system extraction, classic vehicle theft investigations, basic vehicle Identification numbers identification/cloning, physical surveillance using cell phone data for auto theft investigations, heavy equipment theft investigations, fraud/synthetic ID investigations, covert tracking, submitting successful search warrant applications, using technology for vehicle crime investigations and a prosecutor's roundtable discussing successful vehicle crime investigations. Further, the conference provided an opportunity for law enforcement practitioners to discuss effective strategies with each other and establish effective collaborations to combat auto theft.
- Auto thieves often use stolen vehicles in other, more serious crimes. Prosecutors recognize this and have made auto theft a priority.



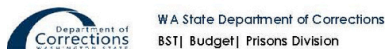
WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY GRANTS

	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	Total
WATPA Grants	3,002,241	2,100,889	4,876,612	9,979,742
Task Force Grants				-
Clark County Prosecutor	291,442	299,904	304,626	895,972
Puget Sound Auto Theft Task Force	1,186,930	1,053,737	1,223,956	3,464,623
Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force	871,630	495,871	525,037	1,892,538
Spokane Task Force	153,304	162,522	173,421	489,246
Stevens County Sheriff's Office	127,474	60,615	64,070	252,159
Add'l Grant Funding (Equipment)				
Airway Heights Police		-	40,950	40,950
Arlington Police	4,900		66,071	70,971
Bonney Lake Police			174,105	174,105
Chelan County	26,197		85,000	111,197
Cle Elum Police			35,937	35,937
College Place Police			53,200	53,200
Cowlitz County	49,133			49,133
Des Moines Police			28,963	28,963
Douglas County			49,810	49,810
Edmonds Police			131,880	131,880
Enumclaw Police			40,034	40,034
Everett Police			247,275	247,275
Gig Harbor Police				-
Grandview Police			97,200	97,200
Granite Falls Police			1,091	1,091
Grant County			55,000	55,000
Hoquiam Police			24,998	24,998
Kennewick Police	130,176	-	31,000	161,176
Kent Police	32,000		529	32,529
King County			21,018	21,018
La Center Police	3,115			3,115
Lakewood Police			130,358	130,358
Lynnwood Police			132,720	132,720
Marysville Police			52,250	52,250
Montesano Police			19,450	19,450
Moses Lake Police	48,238			48,238
Mukilteo Police			55,000	55,000
Newcastle Police			3,505	3,505
Pasco Police		-	130,353	130,353
PSATT		2,429	154,268	156,697
Redmond Police	49,702		44,100	93,802
Richland Police			17,678	17,678
Ridgefield Police			11,188	11,188
Ruston Police	28,000			28,000
Selah Police			50,000	50,000
Shelton Police			20,400	20,400
Skamania County			21,320	21,320
SNOCAT		4,358	12,967	17,325

	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	Total
Spokane Police		6,900	25,000	31,900
Spokane Valley Police (Spokane Co)			168,149	168,149
Sumner Police			44,129	44,129
Tacoma Police		14,553	-	14,553
Union Gap Police			13,365	13,365
Wa State University			45,880	45,880
Wapato Police		-	26,600	26,600
West Richland Police			36,482	36,482
WSP			80,450	80,450
Yakima County			81,225	81,225
Yakima Police			24,607	24,607
WATPA Salary/Benefits	115,086	131,127	171,062	417,275
Promotional Materials/Public Outreach	145,028		37,902	182,930
Administrative Fee (WASPC)	165,840	141,854	155,121	462,816
Total WATPA	3,428,196	2,373,870	5,240,697	11,042,763
% Administrative Fee	5%	6%	3%	4%

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS EXPENDITURES FROM THE WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY ACCOUNT.

Expenditures from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority account are used to support confinement per RCW 46.66.080.



WA State Department of Corrections
BSTJ Budget | Prisons Division

Fund 11K Activity (3-year budget v. actuals)

Category	Fiscal Year 2023			%	Fiscal Year 2024			%	Fiscal Year 2025			%
	Budget	Expenditure	Variance		Budget	Expenditure	Variance		Budget	Expenditure	Variance	
[A] Salaries and Wages ⁽¹⁾	63,000	(14,126)	77,126		1,751,865	1,631,413	120,452		1,757,008	1,819,220	(62,212)	
[B] Employee Benefits ⁽¹⁾	-	5,471	(5,471)		582,275	502,711	79,564		583,344	563,984	19,360	
[E] Goods and Services ⁽²⁾	-	9,299	(9,299)		65,576	17,174	48,402		60,364	10,141	50,223	
[G] Travel ⁽³⁾	-	30,228	(30,228)		18,284	28,100	(9,816)		18,284	39,414	(21,130)	
[J] Capital Outlays ⁽⁴⁾	-	1,313	(1,313)		-	-	-		-	-	-	
[I] Intra-Agency Reimbursements ⁽⁵⁾	-	-	-		-	212,677	(212,677)		-	(13,759)	13,759	
Totals:	\$ 63,000	\$ 32,186	\$ 30,814	51%	\$ 2,418,000	\$ 2,392,075	\$ 25,925	99%	\$ 2,419,000	\$ 2,419,000	\$ (0)	100%

(1) Salaries/ Benefits include Correctional Security Specialists at various facilities whose duties are comprised of developing and maintaining security protocols, to include auto theft prevention.

(2) Goods and Services is comprised of various office, information technology, and training supplies along with telecommunication services (Verizon Wireless).

(3) Travel includes various trips for training, meetings, and support for other facilities regarding security issues, to include auto theft prevention.

(4) Capital outlays includes a small purchase for security restraints purchased in FY 2023.

(5) Reimbursements include distribution of Federal COVID Relief funding.

Grand Totals	
Budget	Expenditure
3,571,873	3,436,507
1,165,619	1,072,166
125,940	36,614
36,568	97,742
-	1,313
-	198,918
\$ 4,900,000	\$ 4,843,261

* Percentage (%) of spend (expenditures / budget).

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES EXPENDITURES FROM THE WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY ACCOUNT.

Expenditures from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority account are used to support confinement per RCW 46.66.080.

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority Account

Budget and expenditure

	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025
Budget Allotment	\$	98,000	\$	98,000	\$ 98,000
Expenses:					
Salaries and Benefits	\$	98,000	\$	98,000	\$ 98,000
Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -

Individuals in Juvenile Rehabilitation incarcerated for auto theft currently make up 2.8 percent of the population.

SUMMARY

This report includes expenditure data from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority Account for fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025 from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Washington State Department of Corrections, and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs provided additional information related to the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Additional information can be found in the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority 2024 Annual Report at the link provided below.

<https://waautotheftpreventionauthority.org/>