

WATPA 2009 Annual Report

WATPA Background

Engrossed 3rd Substitute House Bill 1001 (the Elizabeth Nowak1-Washington Auto Theft Prevention Act) was enacted during the 2007 Regular Legislative Session. It was signed into law by Governor Gregoire and became effective July 1, 2007.

The Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority account was created in the Washington State Treasury and is subject to appropriation. The account is funded through a \$10 surcharge on traffic infractions. Expenditures from the account are to be used only for activities related to motor vehicle theft and other associated crimes. These include: Education, Prevention, Law Enforcement, Investigation, Prosecution and Confinement.

This document has been prepared in compliance with the Legislative reporting requirements. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, this will not be an exhaustive report.

For more detailed information on the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to include WATPA background, finances and board member bios, please view http://watpa.waspc.org/documents/publications/2008WATPA_AnnualReport.pdf.

Finances

During the 09-11 biennium, the Legislature has appropriated \$5.8 million in funds for WATPA. The Legislature appropriated \$2.92 million in the first fiscal year and \$2.924 million in the second fiscal year for WATPA activities.

The WATPA Account also provides funding to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). For the current biennium, DOC received an appropriation from the account of \$5.90 million. JRA was appropriated \$3.896 million for the current biennium.

How The Money Is Spent: Based on OFM projections through the end of the biennium, WATPA is able to fund eight Task Forces, community outreach programs and administration costs.

Task Forces: Since July 1, 2007 the WATPA has distributed \$6.942 million – funding 10 task forces and 33 agencies in an effort to reduce auto theft and other associated crimes. During its first award process, the Authority received in excess of \$14 million in grant requests and authorized grant awards in the amount of \$4.435 million. The Authority received in excess of \$5.5 million in requests and authorized grant awards in the amount of \$2.506 million for FY 09-10.

2009-10 Multi-Jurisdiction Awards

- South King County (PATROL Task Force) \$800,000
- Snohomish County (Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force) \$600,000
- Pierce County (Pierce County ATTACK Unit) \$500,000
- Spokane County (Auto Theft Prevention Task Force) \$160,000
- Clark County (Southwest Washington Auto Theft Taskforce) \$160,000
- East King County (East King County Cooperative Auto Theft Initiative) \$148,036

Other Awards

- Yakima County Sheriff - \$96,679
- Sunnyside Police Department - \$42,000



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If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this publication please contact Tom Corzine, WATPA Executive Director, at (360) 486-2394, tcorzine@waspc.org or Grant Clark, WATPA Public Awareness Coordinator, at (360) 292-7962, gclark@waspc.org

Community Outreach: In addition to working directly with WATPA task forces in a variety of public awareness programs, WATPA has also developed and distributed Public Service Announcements and educational materials, including bilingual posters and brochures which have been distributed throughout the state, and is working with media in communities to localize the information regarding motor vehicle theft.

Administration: In an effort to be proactive in regards to state-wide budget cuts WASPC administration has eliminated the WATPA executive director position with WASPC absorbing this position's responsibilities internally. This has resulted in the saving of \$70,000 in WATPA administrative costs over the biennium.

Status

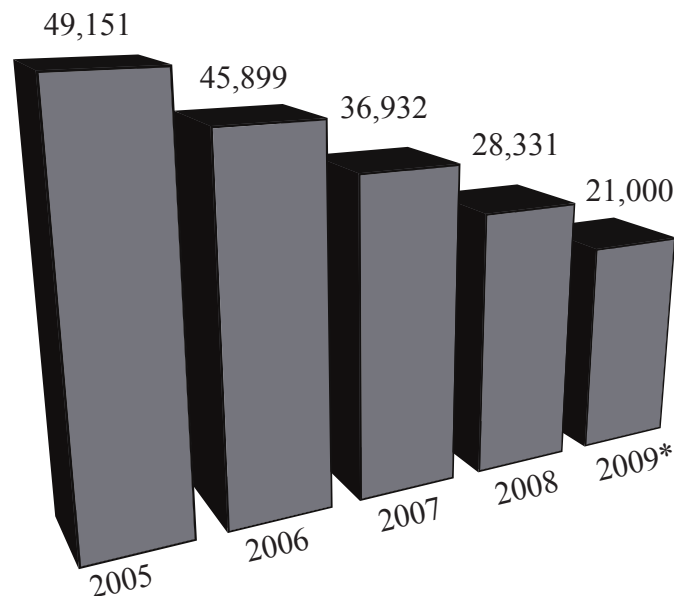
Since the formation of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority in July, 2007 Washington State ranks among the nation's leaders in overall decline in motor vehicle thefts. UCR statistics show a drop from 49,151 (fifth nationally) stolen motor vehicles thefts in 2005 to 36,932 in 2007. The total number of stolen vehicles in Washington State continued to drop in 2008 with 28,331 – marking the first time in more than a decade the total number of stolen vehicles in Washington State dropped below 30,000 for a year.

The total number of stolen vehicles in 2009 is projected to be approximately 21,000. This is approximately a 57.3-percent reduction over the past four years. This represents one of the highest reductions of any state with more than 10,000 auto thefts stolen.

Of the 39 counties in Washington State, a total of 30 counties have experienced a reduction of 15 or more percent in stolen motor vehicles since 2005, including Snohomish (5,709 stolen vehicles in 2005 to an estimated 1,850 in 2009 – 67.6 percent decline), Pierce (6,409 to 3,140 – 51 percent decline), Spokane (2,510 to 1,845 – 26.5 percent decline), Yakima (1,944 to 1,318 – 32.2 percent decline) and Thurston (827 to 577 – 30.2 percent decline).

In 2009, the Authority held its First Annual Auto Theft Conference, which was attended by 180 Washington State law enforcement officers. Also in 2009 the Authority conducted regional auto theft training seminars in Everett, Lakewood, Vancouver, Yakima, Kennewick and Spokane; and provided tuition scholarships for 33 law enforcement officers to attend the WSATI Auto Theft Investigation School in DuPont.

Washington State Auto Theft Trends - Total Vehicles 2005-09



Information obtained from the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation 2008 Uniform Crime Report
*Estimated 2009