



Arizona Automobile Theft Authority **5-Year Agency Strategic Plan**

Agency Overview:

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) was established by the Arizona Legislature in 1992 to create a statewide effort to reduce auto theft crimes. The AATA's annual budget is approximately \$5.3 million and is funded through a \$1 per vehicle/per year assessment of more than 400 insurance companies doing business in Arizona. The Authority uses NO General Fund monies. Agency appropriation increase requests for the last four fiscal years have not been approved. The AATA has requested a \$6.5 million annual appropriation for the next five years to increase statewide programs.

AATA Appropriated Funds provide support for annual Law Enforcement, Vertical Prosecution, and Public Awareness/Outreach Grants to statewide law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Approximately 75% of AATA's budget funds the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, also known as RATTLER (Regional Auto Theft Team Law Enforcement Response). The AZ. Auto Theft Task Force is a multi-agency partnership made up of state, county, city and federal law enforcement working together to combat auto theft crimes across Arizona.

Agency Vision:

The long term vision for the AATA is to deploy the latest technology in auto theft enforcement and prevention strategies to statewide grantees. Agency priorities will focus on disrupting Transnational Criminal Organizations involved in auto theft, increasing the Vertical (Auto Theft) Prosecution model to Cochise, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai and Yuma counties. The AATA also plans to increase public awareness & prevention programs in rural Arizona communities.

CURRENT TRENDS

Arizona, once the #1 state for auto thefts per capita, now ranks 15th in the nation. Last year, the Phoenix MSA (Metro Statistical Area), once known nationwide as the "Car Theft Capitol" of the U.S., plunged down the list to 80th place; Tucson, previously #2, fell to #99; Yuma #103.

In 2015, there were 16,785 total stolen vehicles in Arizona, a slight 1% decrease from the previous year.

A continuing trend plaguing our state is the Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO's) utilizing vehicles stolen in Arizona to conduct illicit activities on both sides of the border, making auto theft enforcement, prosecution and prevention crucial to ensure border security.

The AATA will continue to increase its footprint to the rural areas of the state where vehicle theft is an ongoing problem, with limited local resources.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS:

Historically, the majority of AATA funding was for jurisdictions with the highest auto theft rates. This year, a shift in strategy includes expanding outreach and support to all Arizona counties and law enforcement agencies continuing to express high auto theft rates. This will essentially increase AATA’s footprint in rural areas of the state where vehicle theft continues to be an issue. We plan continue to reduce auto theft related crimes, concentrating on border issues and other areas experiencing an increase in criminal activity. Develop and maintain communications with law enforcement and the insurance industry to track trends in auto theft and related crimes such as fraud, illegal exportation and repatriation of vehicles.

Goal: Support Law Enforcement grant projects in smaller counties.

Agency	Estimated Grant Request
Nogales PD (FY2018)	\$16,000
Quartzsite PD (FY2018)	\$25,000
Kingman PD (FY2018)	\$35,000
Peoria PD (FY2018)	\$43,000
Apache Junction (FY2018)	\$6,500
Avondale PD (FY2018)	\$19,000

The AATA coordinates and provides assistance and training to law enforcement agencies on a statewide basis and partners with the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force and Insurance SIU (Special Investigation Unit) groups. Many smaller Arizona law enforcement agencies do not have full time Detectives dedicated to auto theft investigations; the AATA is committed to providing assistance to all agencies by developing agency contacts in need of AATA resources and support.

VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAMS:

The AATA’s Vertical (Auto Theft) Prosecution Grant program began in FY’01. As the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force experienced increasing success in thwarting organized auto theft rings, it became apparent to the Task Force command staff and the AATA that prosecutors were needed with specialized training, solely dedicated for the purpose of prosecuting and combating auto theft on at statewide basis.

Vertical Prosecution of auto theft cases in Arizona does NOT exist absent funding by the AATA. The complex nature of auto theft and associated organized crime requires the funding of a sufficient number of well-trained, dedicated prosecutors to work with the Task Force and statewide law enforcement to continue the successes achieved.

Goal: To increase the Vertical Prosecution model to any county in Arizona where auto theft crimes are occurring.

Agency	Estimated Grant Request
Cochise County (new position FY2018)	\$100,000
Coconino County (new position FY2018)	\$100,000
Navajo County (new position FY2018)	\$75,000
Santa Cruz County (Increase funding from 75% to 100% - FY2018)	\$25,000
Yuma County (new position FY2018)	\$100,000
Yavapai County (new position FY2018)	\$75,000

Currently, limited funding and resources available for statewide Vertical Prosecution program impact the recruitment and retention of more partners. The AATA plans to expand the AATA's Vertical Prosecution Program across Arizona, focusing on smaller counties impacted by vehicle theft. Plans include determining counties (large and small) to be funded, provide training and instruction on the Vertical Prosecution Program model and ensure grant agencies are following guidelines set forth by the AATA.

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS:

AATA's Public Awareness & Outreach programs have been an effective tool for the agency and its law enforcement partners in the reduction of auto theft on a statewide basis; however, these programs have been minimized and less of a funding priority in recent years.

Goal: Increase Public Awareness programs & AATA exposure statewide.

Agency	Estimated Grant Request
Scottsdale PD (FY2018)	\$10,000
Marana PD (FY2018)	\$5,000
Glendale PD (FY2018)	\$10,000
Yavapai County (FY2018)	\$5,000
Coolidge PD (FY2018)	\$5,000
Flagstaff PD (FY2018)	\$5,000
Coconino County (FY2018)	\$10,000

Collaborate with statewide law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to identify current trends to develop innovative prevention and public awareness programs/services. Assist with the development of grant programs for these agencies to initiate prevention and public awareness programs in each Arizona county. Also identify new, innovative programs and strategies for statewide impact.

The AATA will continue to provide equipment, literature and promotional items, along with other AATA resource support, which provides agencies the ability to target specific needs of their community and empower vehicle owners to protect their property.

Tailgate Theft Prevention – Arizona currently ranks 3rd in the United States for tailgate thefts. AATA Staff are developing a tailgate theft prevention campaign to increase awareness, offer DIY tailgate lock kits, along with information on after-market tailgate locks and tracking devices.

Carjacking Awareness & Prevention Campaign - As technology improves, the anti-theft capabilities of vehicles, carjacking crimes have, and will continue to rise. Develop a public awareness program specific to carjacking crimes. Share with statewide law enforcement and developed partners along with community groups and public speaking engagements.

AATA AGENCY, ADMINISTRATIVE & LEGISLATIVE GOALS:

Goal: Work with Stakeholders, Insurance partners, Lobbyists and Board Legislative Subcommittee to advance AATA's Legislative strategies.

The AATA's appropriated budget needs to be increased to reflect the current financial situation regarding revenue collections. The Authority is not authorized to spend all the money it collects, causing a surplus. This surplus is increasing yearly and the agency is not able to provide needed grant money to where it is most needed.

The salary of the AATA Executive Director is capped by law at \$75,000.00 annually, from the original 1992 legislation and is not a competitive salary for 2017. The AATA Executive Director is the only agency head in Arizona to have a specific salary figure written into state statute. AATA Board of Directors will work with Insurance industry partners and lobbyists to obtain support to modify the statute to ensure the Executive Director's compensation is comparable to other Arizona agencies similar in size, budget and responsibility. The statute change will allow a 'range' of compensation options available to the AATA Board of Directors for the Executive Director's salary. This is necessary to recruit and retain qualified applicants and to be able to adjust the salary for cost of living increases. The appropriate proposed range is ADOA salary schedule E3 (Executive 3) - \$75,000.00 to \$130,000.00.

AATA FUND BALANCE (PROJECTED)

Projection 1: Revenue and Appropriations are held at current (FY17) levels

- Revenue is currently exceeding expenditures by approximately \$800,000 per year.
- Fund Balance at the end of FY17 (current year), approximately \$1,387,956
- Fund Balance at the end of FY21 (five years), approximately \$4,049,596
- Fund Balance at the end of FY26 (ten years), approximately \$7,376,646

Projection 2: Revenue Increases over 10 years, Appropriations are held at current levels

- Revenue growth is projected to be 1.5% in FY17, 2.00% in FY18-19, 2.25% in FY20-21, 2.50% in FY22-25, and 2.75% in FY26
- Revenue is projected to exceed expenditures from \$800,000 per year FY17, to approximately \$2,159,061 by FY26
- Fund Balance at the end of FY17 (current year), approximately \$1,476,499
- Fund Balance at the end of FY18, approximately \$2,355,281
- Fund Balance at the end of FY21 (five years), approximately \$5,782,219
- Fund Balance at the end of FY26 (ten years), approximately \$14,750,492

Projection 3: Revenue and Appropriations increase over 10 years

- Revenue growth is projected to be 1.5% in FY17, 2.00% in FY18-19, 2.25% in FY20-21, 2.50% in FY22-25, and 2.75% in FY26
- Appropriated budget increased to \$6.5 million beginning in FY18.
- Appropriations will exceed revenue in FY18 through FY20, reducing the carry forward fund balance.
- Fund Balance at the end of FY17 (current year), approximately \$1,478,499
- Fund Balance at the end of FY18, approximately \$1,159,281
- Fund Balance at the end of FY21 (five years), approximately \$992,219
- Fund Balance at the end of FY26 (ten years), approximately \$3,970,492