



Legislative Report

2023 Violent Crime Appropriations Spending

Feb. 1, 2024

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Introduction

Minnesota Statute 299A.642, subdivision 15(4), requires the Department of Public Safety to submit a report to the legislature by Feb. 1 of each year that identifies how funds appropriated by the legislature for violent crime reduction strategies were used.

This report is intended to fulfill that requirement for 2023.

Background

Funds were appropriated starting July 1, 2023, for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Violent Crime Reduction Unit (VCRU). These funds were broken into several areas:

- Forensic laboratory.
- Criminal information/operation.
- Enforcement.
- Partnerships.

2023 Appropriation Expenditures

Between July 1 and Dec. 31 appropriated funds were used in the following areas:

Forensic laboratory

The BCA used funds for personnel expenses associated with three full-time employees. These employees were assigned to violent crime case triaging and DNA testing activities using what's known as high throughput – technologies that allow scientists to process more data in less time. Additional funded activities to support ongoing violent crime reduction strategies began in 2023 and continue into 2024 including space renovations, instrumentation procurements and hiring additional positions.

Criminal information/operation

Funds were used for personnel expenses associated with two assistant special agent in charge positions, two special agent positions and two criminal intelligence analyst positions. Several criminal intelligence analyst positions are currently in the process of being hired. The BCA anticipates that the remaining special agent and criminal intelligence analyst positions will be hired in 2024.

Enforcement

The BCA used funds for personnel expenses associated with one special agent in charge position, two assistant special agent in charge positions, four special agent positions and two criminal intelligence analyst positions. The BCA currently has five special agents positions posted for external applicants. A second round of internal and external postings for special agents and crime victim/witness coordinator positions is planned in 2024.

Partnerships

To bolster the effectiveness and exchange of real-time data, the VCRU is partnering with 12 local police agencies to fill VCRU partnership officer positions. The BCA has processed nine joint powers agreements and has onboarded two partner officer positions thus far. The BCA anticipates that the remaining three partnership agreements, along with onboarding 10 partner officer positions, will be completed in 2024.