



Legislative Report

2024 Violent Crime Appropriations Spending

February 1, 2025

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Introduction

Minnesota Statute 299A.642, subdivision 15(4), requires the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) 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 2024.

Background

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

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

2024 appropriation expenditures

Between Jan. 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 continued into 2024. Those activities included space renovations, equipment purchases 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 2025.

Enforcement

In 2023, 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, one gun-detecting K-9 and two criminal intelligence analyst positions. In 2024, the BCA hired 17 special agents for the VCRU. The BCA posted a second round of internal and external employment opportunities for special agents and crime victim/witness coordinator positions that will be filled in early 2025.

In June 2024, the BCA VCRU moved to its new office location. The location is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and software to augment the VCRU's ability to coordinate investigative efforts in real time. The location has three private offices and three collaboration spaces of varying sizes. The collaboration spaces are interactive and interconnected via a command and control module operated by the criminal intelligence analysts.

During the reporting period, the VCRU was instrumental in the seizure of 282 illegal firearms and made over 500 arrests. The VCRU initiated 292 investigations in 2024. Of the 292 cases,

- 30 were related to first- or second-degree assault cases.
- 42 were related to drug investigations tied to gangs and/or cartels and possession and/or trafficking firearms.
- 82 were related to fugitives wanted for violent assaults or illegal possession of firearms.

- 85 were related to firearms trafficking and/or illegal possession or transportation of firearms.

Partnerships

To bolster the effectiveness and exchange of real-time data, the VCRU partnered with 12 local police agencies to fill VCRU partnership officer positions. The BCA has processed 12 joint powers agreements and has filled 11 partner officer positions thus far. The BCA anticipates that the 12th partner officer position will be filled in February 2025.

