

TEXAS BORDER SECURITY FUNDING OVERVIEW



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

Beginning in fiscal year 2005, the State of Texas enhanced border security by supplementing federal border security efforts with state funding and resources.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ Texas shares a 1,254 mile international border with Mexico (64 percent of the entire United States–Mexico frontier). Texas also manages a 367 mile coastline along the Gulf of Mexico.
- ◆ About 73 percent of the land on the Texas side of the border is privately owned.
- ◆ From July 2009 through October 2012, Ranger reconnaissance teams operating in border areas seized 67,456 pounds of marijuana and 9.1 pounds of methamphetamine. The contraband had an estimated street value of \$40.0 million.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

Appropriations for enhanced border security in the 2012–13 biennium total \$253.0 million in All Funds. Of this amount, \$31.4 million is Federal Funds, and \$221.6 million is General Revenue Fund-related and State Highway Funds.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Government Code, Chapter 421
Homeland Security

Beginning in fiscal year 2005, public concerns about increasing border-related crime prompted the State of Texas to supplement federal border security efforts. Criminal activity included home and ranch burglaries, human and drug smuggling, and cross border violence from gangs and drug cartels. The first state border security efforts were named Operation Linebacker, Operation Rio Grande, and Operation Wrangler. These operations were funded by federal grants awarded to the Governor's Criminal Justice Division from the fall of 2005 through 2007. In 2005, Operation Linebacker awarded federal grants to border sheriff's departments to expand local patrol capacity along the border. In 2006, Operation Rio Grande coordinated state and local law enforcement agencies to detect and deter criminal activity. Operation Rio Grande used federal funds to temporarily concentrate existing state and local law enforcement officers and equipment along strategic sections of the border. In 2007, Operation Wrangler placed 6,800 law enforcement personnel into known drug and crime corridors along the border for a twelve-day period. The initiative employed state, local, and private agency personnel including 604 Texas National Guard members.

Section 421(a) of the Government Code requires the Governor to develop specific plans for "protecting the state's international border, ports, and airports." The Governor's Office of Homeland Security, located within the Department of Public Safety (DPS), coordinates border operations for the state. The Governor's 2010–2015 Homeland Security Strategic Plan prioritizes increasing "local and state patrols of the border region to increase security, particularly between ports-of-entry." DPS border enforcement activities are planned and executed in partnership with local and federal border law enforcement entities.

FEDERAL BORDER INITIATIVES

From July 2006 through July 2008, the federal government carried out Operation Jump Start. The operation deployed 6,000 National Guardsmen to assist with law enforcement efforts in border states. However, the first federal funding for Texas specifically dedicated to enhancing border security was appropriated in fiscal year 2007 through Operation Stonegarden.

Operation Stonegarden

Operation Stonegarden is the nation's largest federal border security grant program for states. Operation Stonegarden is part of a cluster of federal grants known as the Homeland Security Grant Program. Operation Stonegarden provides federal funding to improve law enforcement preparedness along the land borders of the United States. Funds may be used for training, equipment, and personnel costs of state and local law enforcement. From fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012 Texas has received \$80.7 million in federal funds from Operation Stonegarden. An estimated \$15.7 million is anticipated in fiscal year 2013. Fig. 1 shows biennial federal funding for border security for the nation and Texas.

The federal government also has awarded grants to DPS to assist with specific border law enforcement initiatives. For example, federal Border Enforcement Grants assist DPS to enforce laws on commercial vehicles entering the United States into Texas at all ports of entry. These grants are not included in the funding amounts listed above.

STATE BORDER INITIATIVE

Operation Border Star

The current state border initiative, Operation Border Star, was first funded with \$110.3 million in General Revenue Fund-related and State Highway Funds by the Eightieth

Legislature, Regular Session, 2007. Operation Border Star centers on the use of intelligence to increase the effectiveness of federal, state, local, and private law enforcement assets. Regional intelligence is collected by six Joint Operations Intelligence Centers (JOICs) in the border area. These JOICs send intelligence data to the Border Security Operations Center (BSOC) in Austin. Administered by Texas Rangers, the BSOC integrates regional intelligence to help determine a more efficient use of law enforcement assets in the larger border area. A major tool used by the BSOC is TxMAP. TxMAP merges intelligence from JOICs and other sources to provide a real-time display of criminal activity layered on a Texas map.

Since the 2008–09 biennium, the State of Texas has appropriated \$452.0 million in All Funds to secure the border area. Fig. 2 shows biennial state funding for border security by Method of Finance. These appropriations funded the six JOICs and the BSOC in Austin, as well as the TxMAP software used by the BSOC. State funds were used to construct a new crime laboratory in Laredo and establish additional JOICs. State funds were also used to purchase five helicopters, one surveillance aircraft, six armed patrol boats, and 326 patrol vehicles. State funds provided overtime pay to law enforcement personnel who participated in border security operations.

FIG. 1
OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANTS, FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2013
IN MILLIONS

DISTRIBUTION CATEGORY	2008–09 BIENNIUM	2010–11 BIENNIUM	2012–13 BIENNIUM	TOTAL FISCAL YEARS 2008–13
National	\$120.0	\$114.9	\$93.2	\$328.1
Texas	\$29.7	\$35.3	\$31.4	\$96.4
Share Percentage	24.8%	30.7%	33.7%	29.4%

NOTE: Fiscal year 2013 amounts are estimated.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

FIG. 2
STATE FUNDING FOR BORDER SECURITY, FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2013
IN MILLIONS

METHOD OF FINANCE	2008–09 BIENNIUM	2010–11 BIENNIUM	2012–13 BIENNIUM	TOTAL FISCAL YEARS 2008–2013
General Revenue Fund	\$65.8	\$2.1	\$56.4	\$124.3
State Highway Fund	44.4	24.2	119.5	188.1
Operators Chauffeurs	0.0	58.2	45.7	103.9
Federal Funds (ARRA)	0.0	29.6	0.0	29.6
Bond Proceeds	0.0	6.1	0.0	6.1
Total	\$110.3	\$120.1	\$221.6	\$452.0
Full-time Equivalents	135.0	232.0	676.0	

NOTE: Funds expended in the Department of Public Safety, Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Governor's Trusteed Programs. Funds expended include American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Amounts may not add due to rounding.
SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Texas Homeland Security Funding Primer, 2008: <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/FederalFunds.aspx?Team=FedFunds>

Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan, 2010–15: http://governor.state.tx.us/files/homeland/HmLndSecurity_StratPlan2015.pdf

Border Security, Office of the Governor: <http://governor.state.tx.us/initiatives/border/>

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