

**Bureau of
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
(ATF)**



**Fiscal Year 2024
Congressional Budget Submission
Salaries and Expenses**

March 2023

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I. Overview for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

A. Introduction

Established as an independent Bureau in 1972, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is dedicated to the reduction of violent crime, prevention of terrorism, and the protection of the Nation. The ATF enforces and administers Federal laws and regulations involving firearms and explosives and enforces Federal criminal statutes relating to arson. The ATF protects the public by vigorously investigating crimes in these areas; regulates lawful commerce in firearms and explosives; and provides global support to law enforcement, public safety, and industry partners. The ATF regulates the firearms and explosives industries from the point of manufacture or importation through retail sale.

The ATF carefully assesses and calibrates its exercise of enforcement and regulatory authorities to maximize public safety, particularly with respect to the reduction of violent firearm crime. With respect to firearms, the ATF enforces the Gun Control Act (GCA) and the National Firearms Act (NFA), the two primary laws enacted by Congress to address firearms violence. The ATF also enforces the import provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) applicable to arms, ammunition, and implements of war. With respect to explosives and arson, the ATF enforces the provisions of Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, including the Safe Explosives Act of 2002 (SEA), and certain provisions of the Anti-Arson Act of 1982. The SEA expanded the scope of explosives regulations administered by the ATF by establishing controls on the intrastate movement of explosives, and by mandating that all persons who receive explosives undergo a background check and obtain a Federal license or permit. The ATF is also responsible for implementing significant portions of the recently enacted Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), including provisions criminalizing straw purchasing and firearms trafficking, and provisions closing the so-called “boyfriend loophole” for relationship-based offenses constituting misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

The ATF’s regulatory and enforcement strategies are interwoven to provide a comprehensive approach to the Bureau’s mission. The ATF maintains partnerships with law enforcement at all levels (Federal, state, Tribal, territorial, local, and international), providing training and forensic expertise to maximize the prevention of violent crimes involving firearms, explosives, and arson. The ATF also works closely with its regulated industries to promote regulatory compliance and best practices that help prevent violence and safeguard the public. In administering Federal regulation of the firearms and explosives industries, the ATF strives to maximize public safety while minimizing any unnecessary regulatory burden on lawful commerce. The ATF’s public safety mission is broad, and its role in combatting firearm violence is critical to the national priority of reducing violent crime. With recent spikes in firearm-related violent crime, there has been a corresponding increase in demand for the ATF’s expertise and resources, including direct investigative response, enhanced regulatory oversight of firearm licensees, and support to law enforcement partners. This budget proposal is intended to provide the resources necessary for

the ATF to meet expanding mission requirements and the expectations of the Administration, the Department, and the American public.

Electronic copies of the Department of Justice's Congressional Budget Justifications and Capital Asset Plan and Business Case exhibits can be viewed or downloaded from the Internet using the Internet address: <https://www.justice.gov/doj/budget-and-performance>

Frontline Business Model

The ATF business model, Frontline, maximizes resources and provides optimal return on investment to the American taxpayers by applying risk analysis and intelligence assessment to allocate and prioritize resources, always with an emphasis on public safety. Frontline emphasizes a standardized way of doing business both internally and externally through strong leadership, transparency, accountability at all levels, and streamlined measurements of effectiveness and accomplishments.

Domain assessments conducted by each ATF field division are the foundation of Frontline. Domain assessments are comprehensive annual assessments that identify and analyze significant violent crime problems within each field division's area of responsibility and include evaluation of regulatory compliance among firearm and explosives licensees. Domain assessments are driven by actionable intelligence and crime information, identified by first-line supervisors through Special Agents in Charge (SACs). They propose a plan of action within the limits of available resources to mitigate or eliminate violent crime threats. This approach is flexible and allows for redeployment of investigative resources when and where it is needed.

This process often requires the ATF to balance immediate operational demands with longer-term investment in essential information technology, human capital development, and forensic science infrastructure. The flexibility of Frontline has been essential to the ATF fulfilling its crucial role in the Department of Justice's Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime (CSRVC). The CSRVC involves a multi-disciplinary approach to violence reduction, combining criminal enforcement, enhanced regulatory oversight, grant funding to local law enforcement, community intervention, and reentry programs. Recognizing that gun violence is often the core-driver of violence in our communities, the CSRVC integrates the full range of the ATF's firearms authorities and expertise –investigative, regulatory, technical, and forensic. Frontline has allowed the ATF to allocate existing resources to best support the CSRVC and will continue to guide resource allocation in the future.

Investigative and Regulatory Efforts

Law Enforcement Operations

The Law Enforcement Operations decision unit involves resources and activities that are directly related to criminal investigations and industry operations. Industry operations consist of the regulatory inspections that ATF Industry Operations Investigators (IOIs) conduct on Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL), Federal explosives licensees (FELs), and Federal explosives permittees (FEPs). Core criminal enforcement activities include investigations involving illegal firearms trafficking, firearms criminal use and possession, criminal organizations, arson and explosives crimes, and tobacco tax diversion. ATF criminal investigative efforts focus on reducing violent crime by targeting domestic and international firearms traffickers, violent criminal organizations, armed violent offenders, and career criminals.

ATF investigations focus on both individual violent offenders and the criminal organizations that pose the greatest threat to public safety. Criminal organizations, including gangs, use guns to terrorize communities, enforce territorial boundaries, retaliate against rivals and witnesses, and facilitate the growth of their criminal enterprises. The ATF has wide-ranging experience investigating, infiltrating, and dismantling criminal organizations, ranging from international gangs like MS-13, to national gangs like the Crips, Bloods, and Aryan Brotherhood, to smaller neighborhood “street crews.”

The ATF uses Crime Gun Intelligence (CGI) in virtually all firearms-related violent crime investigations. CGI combines all available information on crime guns, shooting incidents, human intelligence, social media, telephone analysis, and technology, to disrupt the cycle of firearm violence by providing otherwise unavailable information to investigators, who use the CGI data to identify offenders illegally purchasing or transferring firearms and the offenders who use firearms to commit violent crimes.

The ATF applies these CGI principles in executing the Department’s CSRVC and in supporting U.S. Attorney Offices in their District’s PSN initiatives. Current ATF initiatives, described in Section IV, include expansion of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN), expansion of the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC), enhancement of Crime Gun Intelligence Centers (CGICs), and establishment of Crime Gun Strike Forces (CGSFs) and Crime Gun Enforcement Teams (CGETs) in cities experiencing extreme spikes in firearm violence.

In FY 2022, despite continuing challenges resulting from the COVID pandemic, the ATF initiated over 34,000 criminal firearms investigations and referred more than 15,000 defendants for prosecution on firearm offenses. These investigations focused on armed violent offenders – the “trigger-pullers” who terrorize communities -- and the firearms traffickers who supply guns to criminals and criminal organizations. With ATF support, state and local law enforcement

agencies have also enhanced effectiveness in firearms investigations, as reflected by the substantial increase and record number of firearms trace requests submitted to the ATF National Tracing Center (NTC). The volume of tracing has continued to grow in the last 12 months. In FY 2021, the NTC received 548,186 trace requests followed by 623,654 trace requests in FY 2022, an increase of 13.8 percent. In FY 2022, the NTC received an average of 51,971 trace requests per month. (In the first five months of FY 2023, the incoming trace count has averaged 50,000 per month). The NTC is currently forecasting a 3.25 percent, single-year increase for FY 2023.

The ATF has sole Federal authority to regulate FFLs licensed to engage in the business of manufacturing, importing, or selling firearms in the United States. The ATF conducts licensing qualification investigations on those who seek to engage in the business of firearms importing, manufacturing, and dealing; issues FFLs; administers regulations applicable to FFLs (including recordkeeping requirements for the acquisition and disposition of each firearm); and conducts FFL inspections. ATF inspections of firearms licensees are focused not only on ensuring regulatory compliance, but also on integrating and analyzing risk factors to detect diversion from lawful commerce and identifying “straw purchasers” who illegally purchase firearms to supply guns to criminals. The ATF keeps the firearms industry updated on regulatory and statutory changes and on issues that affect the industry. In addition, the ATF conducts educational seminars for licensees and publishes a semi-annual newsletter with industry specific information.

FFL burglaries, thefts, and robberies are a significant source of illegally trafficked firearms, directly fueling violent crimes involving guns. After a peak in FFL burglaries and robberies between calendar years 2017 and 2020, the ATF implemented a policy of responding to all FFL burglaries and robberies with teams consisting of both Special Agents (SAs) and Industry Operations Investigators (IOIs) and expediting the processing of evidence from these incidents in its forensic laboratories. Additionally, the ATF developed an automated system that sends urgent alerts about FFL burglaries and robberies to other FFLs in the geographic area where the incident has occurred, allowing them to take additional precautionary measures. As a result, in CY 2021, burglary incidents decreased to 277, a 44 percent decrease from CY 2020. In CY 2021, robbery incidents decreased to 21, down five percent from CY 2020. In CY 2022, incidents rose slightly, but remained below peak levels with 311 burglaries (4,290 stolen firearms) and 22 robberies (110 stolen firearms). By strategically redirecting resources to confront crimes against FFLs, the ATF enhanced its ability to identify, arrest, and prosecute criminals and recover stolen firearms as soon as possible, thus mitigating the substantial threat they pose to public safety. In addition to proactive enforcement measures, the ATF has collaborated with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) to promote Operation Secure Store, a comprehensive joint initiative to promote FFL safety and security measures to deter robberies and burglaries.

While much of the public’s focus is on the unacceptable rate of firearm-related violent crime, arson is also a violent crime. The ATF has primary Federal jurisdiction over the investigation of

arsons and is uniquely equipped for this mission with specialized capabilities, expertise, and experience. The ATF's highly trained Certified Fire Investigators (CFI) investigate arson for profit schemes, respond to fires of Federal interest, and provide technical expertise to state and local counterparts. In many cases, the ATF's unique knowledge, technical resources, forensic capabilities, and jurisdictional authority are essential in solving arson related crimes. CFIs conduct fire scene examinations, render origin and cause determinations, provide expert testimony, and provide training to Federal, state, and local fire investigators. The ATF's CFIs are recognized as experts in the field of fire investigations and are often acclaimed for their contributions.

The Fire Research Laboratory (FRL) is a unique fire testing facility that can replicate many fire scenarios in laboratory testing conditions. The scientists, engineers, and CFIs at the FRL use advanced scientific and technical methods to make the ATF the definitive source of science based fire investigation and training.

As the primary Federal law enforcement agency that regulates the explosives industry, the ATF enforces the SEA and licenses businesses and individuals that engage in manufacturing, importing, or dealing in explosives, and those receiving or transporting explosives materials. The SEA expanded the scope of explosives regulations administered by the ATF by establishing controls on the intrastate movement of explosives, and by mandating that all persons who receive explosives undergo a background check and obtain a Federal permit.

The ATF is recognized for its expertise in investigations involving bombings, explosives, particularly the reconstruction of explosives incidents. ATF SA Certified Explosives Specialists (CES), SA Bomb Technicians, Explosives Enforcement Officers (EEO), and forensic personnel are highly trained and experienced in investigating post-blast scenes. As such, ATF explosives specialists provide training to Federal, state, local, Tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement agencies. Investigating criminal bombings and the illegal use of explosives is an integral part of the ATF's overall violent crime reduction strategy.

The ATF's National Response Team (NRT) consists of highly trained and experienced SAs, CFIs, CESs, EEOs, electrical engineers, and other experts to support major arson and explosives investigations in the United States and internationally. Recent activations include the Conception Diving Boat fire which claimed 34 lives; the Christmas Day 2020 bombing in Nashville, Tennessee; and the 2018 serial bombings in Austin, Texas. The NRT's experts work in conjunction with ATF partners to investigate large-scale explosion and fire incidents.

The ATF has primary jurisdiction for enforcing the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act (CCTA), which makes it unlawful for any person to ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase in excess of 10,000 cigarettes which bear no evidence of state tax payment in the state in which cigarettes are found, if such state requires a stamp to evidence payment of taxes. The CCTA also makes it illegal to possess more than 500 packages of smokeless tobacco

(i.e., snuff, chewing tobacco) without complying with state tax and recordkeeping laws. The ATF also administers the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act amendments to the Jenkins Act, which similarly bars the shipment of untaxed tobacco in violation of state law. The ATF did not conduct tobacco inspection training in FY 2022, although trainings in August 2021 demonstrated the proper way to conduct the prototype inspections process of tobacco wholesalers and distributors who are alleged to have been making unlawful sales of cigarettes in violation of the CCTA and the PACT Act. Since those trainings, ATF Field Divisions have been encouraged to initiate tobacco investigations and inspections, when appropriate.

Eight of the prototype inspections investigations have contributed to the recovery of \$3.0 million in forfeitures, which went to the Department's Asset Forfeiture Fund from 2000-present. The ATF collected \$50,000 in PACT civil fines. In 2020 and 2021, the ATF settled three cases which had originated as referrals to the PACT Act noncompliance list for \$3.2 million in PACT Act fines. In April 2022, the ATF supported a U.S. District Court case with one individual who pleaded guilty to one count of the PACT Act and agreed to a civil settlement of approximately \$1.0 million. The ATF is currently negotiating a multi-million-dollar settlement as a result of the new inspection program.

The ATF's criminal and regulatory programs are a key means by which the U.S. Government enforces Federal explosives laws and prevents criminals and terrorists from obtaining explosives for use in bombings. Federal law requires that any manufacturer, importer, or dealer of explosives must have a Federal explosives license. Individuals who acquire, possess or transport explosives must hold a Federal explosives permit. The ATF enforces the regulatory standards for the storage of explosives materials to which licensees and permittees must adhere. IOIs conduct compliance inspections to prevent diversion and ensure the safe and secure storage of explosives. IOIs also detect and assist in explosives diversion investigations. When a significant safety hazard or loss of explosives is discovered, IOIs directly address these incidents to ensure the threat is mitigated.

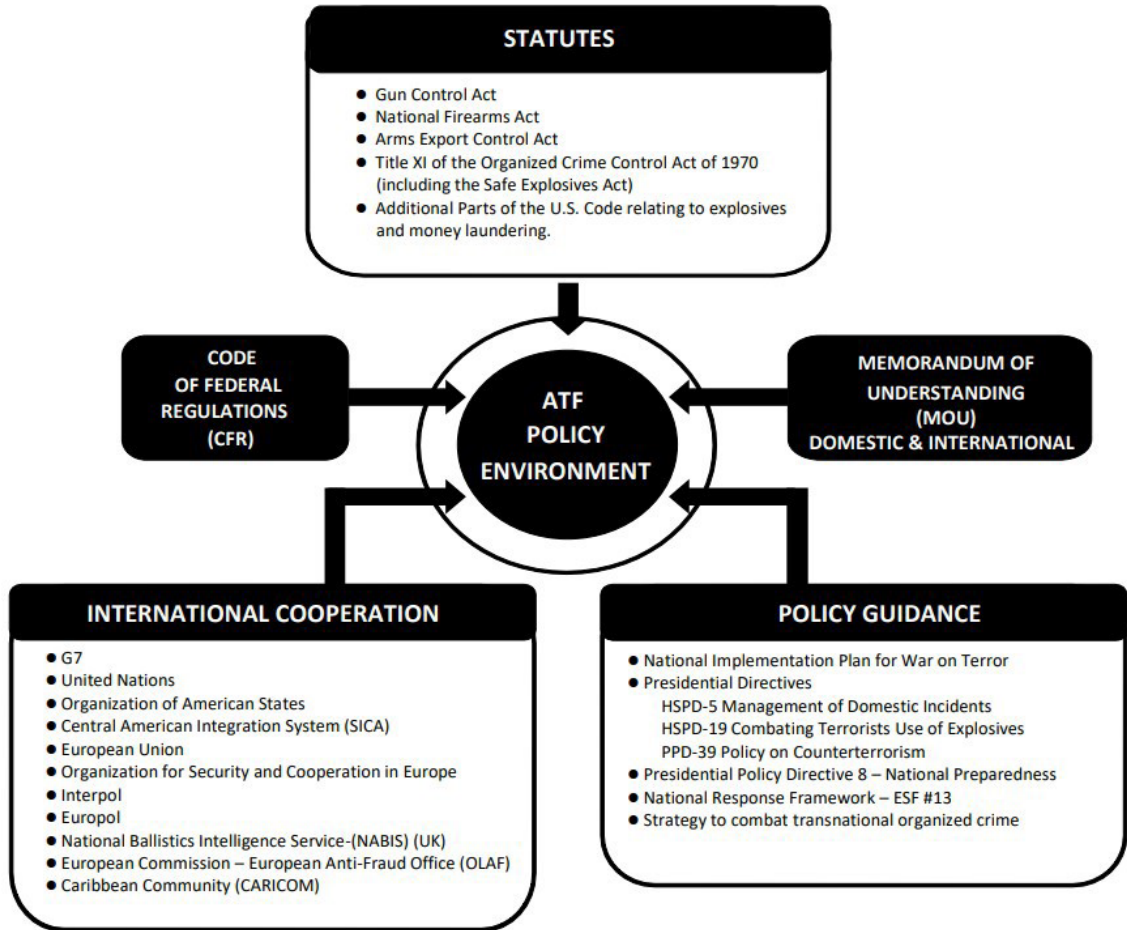
Investigative Support Services

Resources and activities that support ATF law enforcement operations comprise the Investigative Support Services decision unit. Core activities include but are not limited to firearms and explosives licensing and other firearms industry services; firearms tracing; National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR); United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC); Terrorist Explosives Device Analytical Center (TEDAC); Internet Investigation Center (IIC); the ATF laboratories; financial investigations; collaboration and partnerships; and Emergency Support Function-13 (ESF-13).

The ATF continues to build, leverage, and rely on a full spectrum of interagency partnerships to prevent terrorism and abate violent crime: Federal, state, local, Tribal, and international law enforcement agencies; other public safety agencies; local communities; and industry. The ATF

partners with these entities to safeguard the public through investigations, information and intelligence sharing, training, research, and the use of technology, and the ATF is the DOJ lead agency for coordination of ESF-13, Public Safety and Security, under the National Response Framework (NRF).

Chart 1. ATF Mission and Budget Strategy Policy and Legislative Environment



FY 2022–2026 Department of Justice Strategic Goals and Objectives

Mission Activities

Strategic Goal 1: Uphold the Rule of Law

Objective 1.1 Protect Our Democratic Institutions

Objective 1.2 Promote Good Government

Strategic Goal 2: Keep Our Country Safe

Objective 2.2 Counter Foreign and Domestic Terrorism

Objective 2.3 Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence

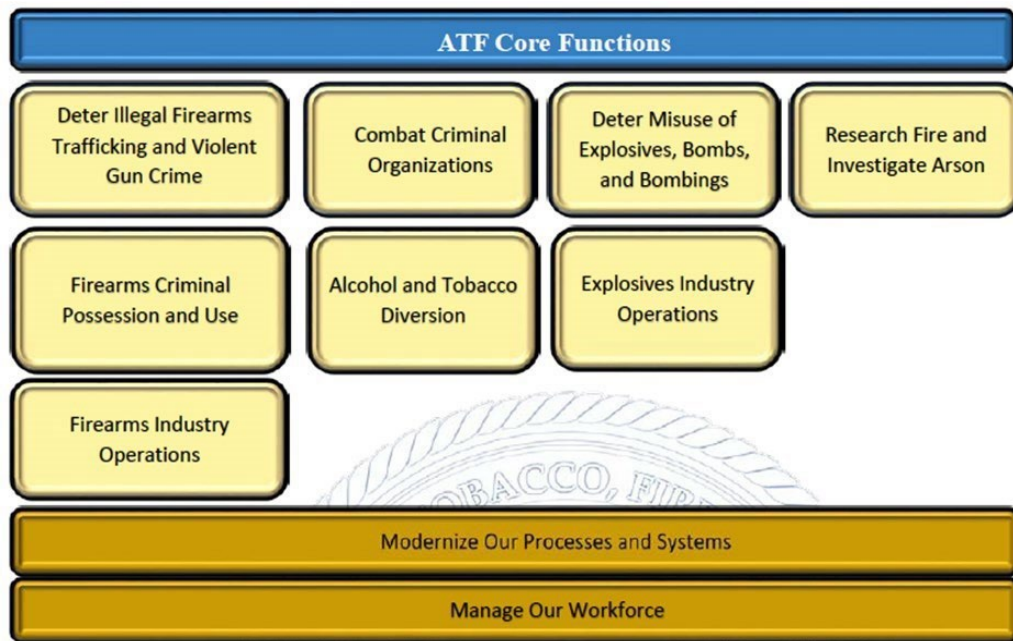
Strategic Goal 3: Protect Civil Rights

Objective 3.3 Reform and Strengthen the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System to Ensure Fair and Just Treatment

ATF Priorities

The ATF reduces violent crime by enforcing Federal laws and regulations applicable to firearms, explosives, and arson, and through the enforcement of Federal statutes focused on criminal organizations. The agency organizes its activities into core functions that reflect these activities. The ATF’s Executive Staff has prioritized organizational focus and resources on these core functions and their corresponding strategic goals.

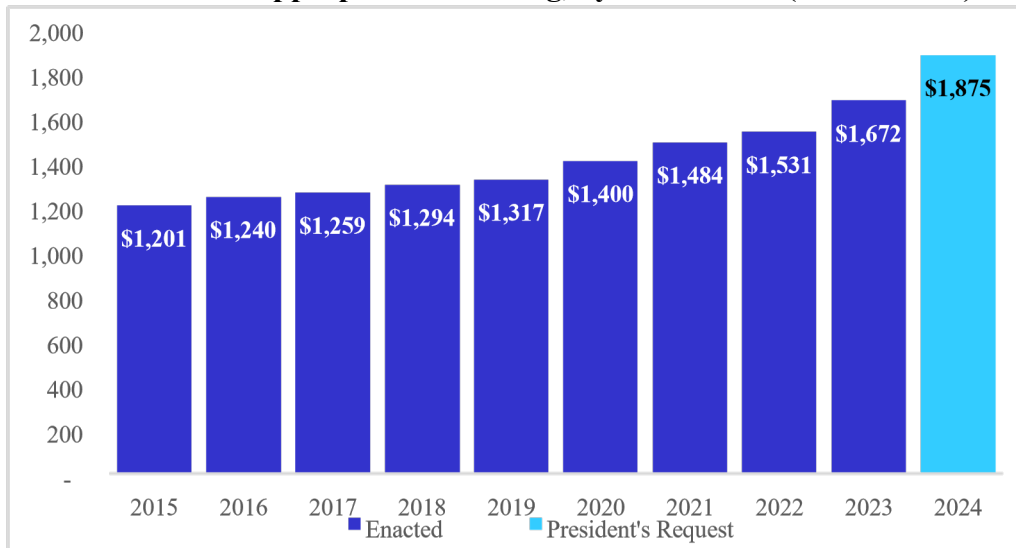
Chart 2. ATF Core Functions



B. FY 2024 Budget Request

The ATF's FY 2024 budget request totals \$1,875,466,000 for Salaries and Expenses (S&E), with 5,965 total positions and 5,430 full-time equivalents (FTE). Included within this amount is \$133,217,000 for technical and base adjustments that are essential to maintain core resources and the current services level of SAs, IOIs, and support professionals. This request also includes \$70,249,000 in program enhancements to support Bureau missions.

Chart 3. ATF Appropriated Funding, by Fiscal Year (\$ in millions)



Maintaining Current Services

The FY 2024 request includes \$53.2 million in base adjustments to maintain current services. Within this amount, a \$57.7 million funds pay and benefits to continue support of SAs, IOIs, and other personnel; a decrease of \$7.5 million will allow the ATF to maintain domestic rent, facilities, and relocation costs for ATF offices, laboratories, and training centers nationwide; and \$3.0 million supports other adjustments.

Technical Adjustments

The FY 2024 budget request contains two technical adjustments for S&E totaling \$79.9 million.

Implementing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), enacted on June 25, 2022, represents the most substantial change to the Federal firearm laws in a generation. The Act provides law

enforcement and prosecutors powerful new tools to prosecute gun traffickers and address gun violence, creating for the first-time provisions in the GCA that directly define and prohibit the straw purchasing of firearms (Title 18, U.S.C., Section 932) and firearm trafficking (Section 933). In plain language, the law establishes new criminal offenses that specifically address straw purchasing of firearms and firearms trafficking. The Act strengthens existing provisions of Federal law that prohibit the direct or indirect transfer of firearms and ammunition to prohibited persons and provides enhanced authority to forfeit proceeds of straw purchasing and firearm trafficking.

Importantly, the Act also amends current law to clarify who needs a Federal license to buy and sell firearms; imposes an enhanced background check review process, which includes reviewing juvenile mental health records for individuals 16 years or older seeking to purchase a firearm; and narrows the so-called “boyfriend loophole” by prohibiting someone convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as part of a dating relationship from purchasing or possessing a firearm for at least five years. In passing this landmark legislation with the support of the Administration, the Congress has broadened the range of statutory tools available to the ATF to combat firearms trafficking and prevent violent criminals, including those engaged in domestic violence, from obtaining firearms.

The BSCA includes multiple provisions that have considerable implications for the ATF's resources requirements in FY 2024. As the Act broadens the definition of an FFL, the ATF must bolster its workforce to continue inspection and regulation of a growing FFL population, as it is the sole Federal regulatory authority in firearms licensing. The ATF will add 232 IOIs to continue towards its goal of a five-year inspection cycle of FFLs, and the additional agents provided within this request will ensure the ATF is equipped for new investigative referrals for illegal activity and criminal caseloads generated by IOIs.

The ATF must also support implementation of the BSCA’s Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act, provisions of which amend the GCA, the principal statute regulating interstate firearms commerce in the United States. The ATF estimates these new provisions will increase costs associated with monitoring, translating, and transcribing evidence for cases involving new statutes preventing firearms trafficking and straw purchase.

The Act also includes incentives for States to implement crisis intervention programs or initiatives, including extreme risk protection order programs, also known as red flag laws. This will impact operations at the ATF’s National Tracing Center, which manages firearms trace requests from State and local partners, and this request will equip the ATF to accommodate increased trace requests. The Act authorizes to be appropriated to the ATF \$1.0 million for each FY 2023 through FY 2027 to continue and expand efforts with existing partners for the AntiStraw Purchasing Campaign, to educate persons licensed as an importer, manufacturer, or dealer of firearms under chapter 44 of title 18, U.S.C., and the public to combat illegal straw purchase of firearms. Accordingly, this request includes funds for these efforts in FY 2024.

Funds will also enable the ATF to respond to an increase of misdemeanor crime of domestic violence cases (MCDV), resulting from the Act's closure of the "boyfriend loophole." By extending Federal firearms-related restrictions to individuals who are convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence against an individual in a current or recent former dating relationship, the ATF estimates for caseload increases.

The ATF's ability to implement this new legislation in the fulsome way that the American people demand depends on the appropriate level of funding. Therefore, the ATF requests \$71.1 million and 332 positions (100 Special Agents) for the resources necessary to fulfill its responsibilities under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The technical adjustment expands the ATF's capacity to reduce gun violence, support implementation of the Act, and keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others. This technical adjustment also includes funding to allow the ATF to ensure that those "engaged in the business of selling firearms" are applying to become FFLs.

Critical Operations Support

The ATF also requests \$8.8 million for Critical Operations Support to ensure that the current cadre of ATF SAs are properly resourced to combat violent crime with contemporary equipment, technologies, training, and techniques.

Consistent with the Administration's gun violence reduction goals, the ATF is focused on hiring across all job series of operations to give a balanced workforce that includes professional support staff necessary to effectively support enforcement and regulatory operations. An essential aspect of this staffing and hiring structure is the continued hiring, training, and deployment of SAs to backfill existing SA positions opening as the result of an ongoing "retirement bubble" (which arose from an SA hiring surge in the late 1990s). Keeping pace with this SA attrition is critical to the goals of the Administration and Department to expand ATF's SA cadre to address increased firearm violence. The technical adjustment is necessary because all costs associated with the recruitment, hiring, training, and equipping SA have increased significantly.

Program Enhancements

The FY 2024 budget request contains three program enhancements for S&E, totaling \$70.2 million.

Combating Gun Violence

The ATF requests \$25.6 million and 100 positions (72 agents) to address the alarming surge in firearms violence in American communities. This enhancement is necessary for the ATF to meet the goals of the Administration and Department to enhance enforcement efforts focused on firearms trafficking, and to increase the support that the ATF provides to local, state, territorial,

and tribal law enforcement in the investigation of violent firearm offenses. These resources will support the Firearms Trafficking Strike Force initiative, which enables the ATF to surge resources to source areas of gun violence. Because firearm trafficking networks often involve transport of firearms across jurisdictional, state, and national boundaries, the ATF's Federal statutory authorities and expertise are essential to effective investigation, disruption, and prosecution. These investigations are also highly resource-intensive, so the ATF must expand its SA cadre and professional support personnel to increase the volume and quality of its trafficking investigations. Expanding support to law enforcement partners on the investigation and prevention of violent firearm offenses also requires expanding ATF resources.

The Department and the ATF have been deluged with requests from Members of Congress, Governors, Mayors, and police chiefs to increase ATF resources in communities across the nation that have experienced increases in firearm violence and associated firearms trafficking, including drug cartel-driven firearms trafficking. This program increase would enhance the ATF's capacity to investigate both the trafficking networks that fuel firearm violence in our communities and the criminal organizations and individuals using firearms to commit violent offenses and intimidate communities. This expanded capacity will allow the Department and ATF to partially address the broad range of requests for additional ATF resources. The Department and the ATF will prioritize allocation of the requested resources to those communities experiencing the highest rates of persistent firearm violence, and the regions in which firearms trafficking networks focus operations, including the drug cartel-linked networks that traffic firearms to Mexico.

Body-Worn Cameras

The ATF requests \$37.8 million and 70 positions (11 agents) to continue implementation of the Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program. Funds will provide digital case management software and video cloud storage from the BWCs of both ATF SAs and Federally deputized Task Force Officers (TFOs). This funding will help the ATF implement the Administration's policy by allowing the ATF to support digital cloud storage of BWC video for both TFOs whose parent agency mandates the use of BWCs during enforcement operations while they serve on Federal task forces, as well as ATF SAs under the BWC requirements set forth in the recent DOJ BodyWorn Camera Policy. To ensure successful and efficient support of both the BWC policies, the requested funding will create a Digital Evidence Management (DEM) Branch that will manage all the digital inventory and ensure data integrity and security as well as promulgate policy and best practices for the program.

Zero Emission Vehicles

The ATF requests \$6.8 million for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV). In support of the President's goal of transitioning to a fully ZEV Federal fleet, the ATF's budget includes funding for zero emission vehicles (ZEV - battery electric, plug-in electric hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell

vehicles) acquisitions and deploying vehicle charging and refueling infrastructure, distributed across major user components. These acquisitions are a significant step towards eliminating tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from DOJ's fleet and aligning the Department's fleet operations with the goal of achieving a fully ZEV Federal fleet. This is part of the Department's comprehensive plan pursuant to Executive Order 14008. Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

The Department's ZEV acquisition strategies include vehicles for both its agency-owned and General Services Administration (GSA)-leased segments of its vehicle fleet, including incremental costs of leased vehicles and lease payments to GSA for conversion of agency-owned vehicles to GSA's leased fleet where appropriate. To ensure effective and efficient deployment of ZEVs, the Department will undertake preparation and planning for arriving ZEVs at its facilities, properly prioritizing transition to ZEVs where it is simplest, and allow time for additional planning where mission demands pose a challenge to transitioning based on current technologies. Integral to this preparation is growth in the number of agency-accessible vehicle charging stations. In installing this infrastructure on-site to support ZEVs, the Department will take the long-term view to ensure efficiencies and wise infrastructure decisions that limit total expenditures.

C. Challenges

The ATF faces substantial external and internal challenges affecting its ability to meet mission critical goals and objectives. These include, but are not limited to:

Increasing rates of violent gun crime in communities across the nation: Violent crime rates have outpaced ATF's staffing, thereby straining the ability to respond to critical incidents and increasing requests for assistance from local, state, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement partners.

Significant rise in the use and recoveries of weapons such as privately made firearms (PMFs) and machinegun conversion devices: Over the last several years, law enforcement agencies have encountered a significant increase in the recovery of non-serialized and counterfeit firearms in criminal investigations. Most often, private, non-licensed individuals have assembled these firearms using a variety of parts that are not in and of themselves subject to Federal or state regulation and are readily available in the marketplace. This trend initially emerged with rifles, such as the ArmaLite Rifle (AR) and Automatic Kalashnikov (AK) platforms, assembled from unfinished receivers that are sold without serial numbers, and later expanded to the handgun market through the sale of parts and kits, such as "by-build-shoot" kits that are readily assembled into functional handguns.

The availability, proliferation, and use of unserialized PMFs, commonly referred to as “Ghost Guns,” has swiftly become a serious issue for the public, police, and prosecutors. For example, from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2022, there were approximately 72,355 suspected PMFs reported to the ATF as having been recovered by law enforcement, including 1,211 in the connection with homicides and attempted homicides. During CY 2022, there were approximately 27,616 suspected PMFs reported to the ATF as having been recovered by law enforcement, a 24percent increase over CY 2021. Of the PMFs recovered and traced in 2022, 460 were connected with homicides and attempted homicides. During 2022, 3,710 machineguns were recovered and traced possessed PMF indicators, accounting for 72 percent of the machineguns recovered and traced in total that year and a 135-percent increase over CY 2021. Typically, the ATF cannot successfully trace the PMFs that were recovered and traced during this time frame due to them being unserialized. The threat that these items pose to public safety is a significant problem that cannot be overstated, and requires an increased commitment of resources by federal, state, and local law enforcement. On April 11, 2022, the Attorney General signed ATF final rule 2021R05F, “Definition of “Frame or Receiver” and Identification of Firearms,” that amended the ATF’s regulatory definition of “firearm frame or receiver” to require FFLs to appropriately mark PMFs that are transferred into their inventory. While the final rule addresses a part of the problem PMFs pose to public safety, the ATF needs additional resources to be able to effectively enforce those new regulations.

Devices that convert semiautomatic weapons, such as “switches” and “drop in auto sears,” are considered “machineguns” under the NFA and the GCA. Federal law prohibits the unregistered possession of machineguns, including the possession or transfer of machine gun conversion devices. Machineguns manufactured after 1986 can only be transferred to the military or to law enforcement agencies and cannot be registered by civilians. Accordingly, the ATF actively investigates and prosecutes those making, transferring, or otherwise trafficking in conversion devices. The ATF and its law enforcement partners have seen a dramatic increase in the use of machinegun conversion devices in violent crimes over the last five years. ATF investigations have identified several sources for machinegun conversion devices. These include foreign manufacturers, who illegally import them through e-commerce sites, as well as domestic sources. These devices are often marketed incorrectly as unregulated firearms accessories; however, they are illegal for civilians to possess.

An unprecedented increase in the volume of NFA weapon applications, trace requests, and out-of-business records (OBRs): The NTC received 623,654 trace requests in FY 2022, which represents a 13.8 percent increase over FY 2021, and an increase of 82.9 percent over ten years. The NTC is currently forecasting a single year 3-percent increase in trace requests for FY 2023. The NTC processed nearly 69 million out-of-business records in FY 2022. During FY 2022, the NTC entered 3,124,219 firearms as part of multiple sales.

The NTC uses the eTrace system to provide law enforcement with a means to send trace requests and receive trace results. The eTrace application is currently used by 8,917 law enforcement agencies with over 73,198 users throughout the United States and in 48 other countries. eTrace currently serves as the primary trace data collection and dissemination tool for the global law enforcement community. However, there have been no functional enhancements to the application since Spanish eTrace was deployed in March 2010.

Outdated Information and Forensics Technology: The ATF urgently needs to establish and fund a technology refresh strategy that would modernize and better integrate the Bureau's outdated information and forensic technology assets, infrastructure, and services that are essential to execute coordinated and comprehensive violent crime reduction strategies, such as case management, firearms tracing, NFA, and NIBIN. Further, to keep pace with everincreasing criminal use of technology, including 3-D additive manufacturing, the ATF must expand its capacity to use technology in criminal investigations, particularly to identify, recover, examine, and exploit evidence contained in electronic and digital devices.

Attrition: The ATF continues to be challenged by the on-going attrition of its SA and IOI workforce. As October 1, 2022, the ATF had approximately 2,609 SAs. The mandatory retirement age for Federal law enforcement agents is 57, per 5 U.S.C. §§ 8335 and 8425. In the next three years, 619 current ATF SAs will become eligible to retire and 129 will reach mandatory retirement age. Of the 2,609 agents, 479 (18.4 percent) are age 50 or above. Agents eligible to retire include SAs with highly specialized skill sets such as CFIs, CESSs, members of the Special Response Teams (highly experienced, specially trained agents who deploy to complex, high risk law enforcement operations), and members of the NRT who deploy to complex explosives and fire incidents. Most importantly, these SAs are the ATF's most experienced personnel, those who conduct criminal investigations nationally and train new SAs. Their experience and capabilities are invaluable to the development of the next generation of the ATF SAs, as it typically takes a minimum of three to five years of close mentoring and on-the-job training for a new SA to acquire the skills necessary to achieve full productivity levels. Lastly, many of the ATF's Senior Executive Service personnel are eligible for retirement.

Training: Over the last few years, the ATF has escalated agent hiring to offset increased attrition and address shortfalls stemming from the FY 2011-2013 hiring freeze. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted training of new SA hires when the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) temporarily shut down multiple times due to concerns about community spread of the virus. Additionally, while the Bureau remains innovative in assuring that its work continues in a predictable and competent manner, the COVID pandemic disrupted and cancelled the training of newly hired SAs and IOIs again in FY 2021 and FY 2022.

Addressing ATF Challenges

The FY 2024 request will provide the funding necessary for the ATF to focus efforts on the communities most affected by violent crime, continue addressing the external and internal challenges outlined above, and leverage and sustain gains from prior years. The ATF seeks to maintain the effective investments made in areas that remain critical to securing the safety and security of the country and to strengthen and build upon them incrementally.

The FY 2024 request will serve to enhance the Administration's efforts to reduce gun violence across the United States by sustaining the smart incremental investments the Department and the ATF have made in proven programs over the past several years. These investments will increase the ATF's capacity to collaborate with Federal, state, local, territorial, and Tribal partners, all of whom are critical to the abatement of violent crime in America's cities and neighborhoods.

The ATF will also continue its comprehensive risk-based approach towards mitigating critical infrastructure deficiencies in personnel, oversight, management, operational capacity, and fixed operational costs.

Customer Experience (CX) and Digital Service Delivery

Executive Order 14058 charges all entities of Government to continually improve their understanding of their customers, reduce administrative hurdles and paperwork burdens to minimize "time taxes," enhance transparency, create greater efficiencies across Government, and redesign compliance-oriented processes to improve customer experience and more directly meet the needs of the people of the United States. The 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336) requires agencies to identify websites, digital services, and forms that need to be prioritized for modernization and digitization. The ATF continues to prioritize and identify funding for website modernization and digitization of services and forms that are most viewed or utilized by the public or otherwise important for public engagement, especially those that have non-digital, paper-based, or in-person services without a digital option.

The ATF is working to fully meet these requirements through the following ongoing efforts:

- ATF eForms and eTrace modernization. Upgrades for eForms platforms will continue to enhance the processes for ATF customers in activities such as renewing an FFL license or applying to manufacture, import, transfer, make, or register NFA items. Additionally, the modernization and consolidation of eTrace processing, validation, workflow and reporting functions into one standard web-enabled firearms tracing application would significantly improve the productivity of the NTC Division, enhancing the ATF's support of State and local law enforcement partners.
- NTC Connect Automation. By upgrading the system that allows the NTC to query the transaction records of participating firearms manufacturers, importers, and wholesalers by a single serial number to obtain a disposition, the ATF will increase operational

efficiency and accuracy, reduce costs, improve timeliness, and provide value-added investigative capabilities for ATF partners.

Burden Reduction for Public Benefit Programs

The reduction of burden on the public is central to agencies' implementation of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, which asks agencies to reflect on, "potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in enrollment in and access to benefits and services in Federal programs."

Currently, the ATF's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) staff oversees program under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations. The ATF's EEO staff is comprised of seven FTE who administer the complaint EEO process by providing EEO counseling and investigative services to the workforce, applicants and former employees; by submitting mandated complaints data reports to include the No Fear Act report, EEOC 462 report, and the EEOC MD-715 report; by drafting compliance reports for EEO settlement agreements and EEO Administrative decisions; by ensuring that EEO policy statements are distributed and posted as mandated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and by providing EEO training to all new employees and supervisors, and refresher training as requested and/or mandated. The ATF performs these duties to help promote a discrimination-free work environment. The recent executive orders on diversity seek greater compliance with equal access programs. That is, ensuring that communities in under-served areas or persons with limited English proficiency as well as persons with disabilities have equal access to relevant mission programs.

Currently, the ATF's newly formed Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI), in accordance with statute, is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) by supporting initiatives that sought to remove barriers to equal opportunity and ensuring the ATF's workforce has meaningful opportunities to develop to their full potential.

The ATF will also allocate three additional FTEs towards these efforts to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts that impact policy, training, and outreach functions to eliminate discrimination in appropriate federally conducted programs or activities.

II. Summary of FY 2024 Program Changes

Item Name	Description	Page
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	Purpose	Pos.	FTE	Dollars (\$000)	
Combating Gun Violence	This initiative will address the alarming surge in firearms violence in American communities by adding ATF agents and support personnel.	100	50	25,578	45
Body-Worn Cameras	This initiative supports digital cloud storage of BWC video for both ATF SAs and TFOs whose parent agency mandates the use of BWCs during enforcement operations while serving on federal task forces.	70	35	37,847	50
Zero Emission Vehicles	This initiative is necessary for the ATF to meet the President's goal of transitioning to a fully Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Federal fleet.	0	0	6,824	56

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, [\$1,672,000,000,] \$1,875,466,000 of which not to exceed \$36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 942(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

Analysis of Appropriations Language

No substantive changes are proposed.

IV. Program Activity Justification

A. Law Enforcement Operations Decision Unit

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS	Permanent Positions	FTE	Amount (\$000)
2022 Enacted	4,091	3,809	\$1,161,146
2023 Enacted	4,179	3,865	1,263,121
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	332	232	118,034

2024 Current Services	4,511	4,097	1,381,155
2024 Program Increases	151	75	68,493
2024 Program Decreases	0	0	0
2024 Request	4,662	4,172	1,449,648
Total Change 2023-2024	483	307	\$186,527

Investigating and Preventing Violent Crime

Protecting Americans against violent crime is a top Administration and Justice Department priority. The ATF’s mission centers on this priority: the ATF enforces criminal laws involving firearms, explosives, arson, and the diversion of alcohol and tobacco products; regulates lawful commerce in firearms and explosives; and provides global support to law enforcement, public safety, and industry partners. In all these areas, the ATF focuses its resources on the effective investigation and prevention of violent crime.

Investigative and Inspection Accountability

The ATF establishes and reinforces accountability at all levels by giving Special Agents in Charge (SACs) at each of ATF’s 25 field divisions the necessary tools to prioritize and address the specific violent crime threats in his or her area. SAs, IOIs, and Supervisors conduct continuous reviews throughout the life of investigations and inspections to evaluate anticipated outcomes and impacts when weighed against risk and resource utilization.

Measurement

The ATF Performance Review process evaluates actual performance against the Bureau’s performance goals as outlined in the ATF’s Strategic Management Performance Index. Throughout the course of investigations and inspections, Supervisors monitor progress and performance to ensure effective and efficient resource allocation. Additionally, staff at all levels engage in periodic Performance Review sessions with their Supervisors, Assistant Special Agents in Charge (ASACs) and SACs, who then collaborate to evaluate field-wide performance and provide feedback to the field. At the end of the fiscal year, the SAC also meets with their respective Deputy Assistant Director and the Assistant Director of Field Operations to review

year-end performance. Through these meetings, all parties identify accomplishments, deficiencies, and resource needs for the next year.

Core Activities

The core activities in Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) decision unit that constitute the ATF mission include, but are not limited to:

1. Deter Illegal Firearms Trafficking and Violent Gun Crime
2. Firearms Criminal Possession and Use
3. NIBIN
4. Firearms Industry Operations
5. Combat Criminal Organizations
6. Deter Misuse of Explosives, Bombs and Bombings
7. Explosives Industry Operations
8. Research Fire and Investigative Arson

In FY 2022, these core law enforcement operations activities resulted in the following significant accomplishments:

- 10,570 cases and 15,583 defendants referred for prosecution
- 7,293 convictions
- 6,979 firearms compliance inspections
- 3,101 explosives compliance inspections

1. Deter Illegal Firearms Trafficking and Violent Gun Crime

The ATF's firearms trafficking enforcement efforts seek to reduce violent crime by stemming the illegal flow of firearms to violent criminals. Illegally trafficked firearms are considered "tools of the trade," which drug traffickers, gang members, and other violent criminals use to commit crimes. They also negatively affect interstate and international commerce. The ATF identifies, investigates, and arrests individuals and members of organizations who illegally supply firearms to violent or prohibited individuals. The ATF deters the diversion of firearms from lawful commerce into the illegal market through robust regulatory and criminal enforcement strategies.

The ATF identifies, investigates, and arrests individuals and dismantles organizations that illegally supply firearms to prohibited individuals. To accomplish this goal, the ATF utilizes intelligence-based enforcement strategies, regulatory measures, and technology. These include, but are not limited to, the creation, analysis, and use of CGI through the NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS), crime gun trace data, multiple sales reports, FFL compliance inspections, exploitation of social media and other sources of information that all lead to the

dissemination of accurate, timely, relevant, and actionable leads to identify firearms trafficking. Internationally, the ATF works with other agencies to prevent firearms from reaching the hands of drug traffickers, organized crime, and terrorist organizations. The ATF enforces provisions of the AECA, including primary jurisdiction of firearms and ammunition imports, and shared jurisdiction of firearms exports with the DHS and the Department of State, Office of Munitions Control.

The ATF's strategy to combat firearms trafficking is comprehensive and intelligence-driven: Drawing on information that FFLs are required to maintain, ATF's National Tracing Center determines the original source market from which a recovered crime gun originated. ATF agents and analysts then use collective trace data and investigative evidence to identify trafficking corridors and trends. ATF SAs and IOIs work together with Federal prosecutors in source areas to reduce the flow of diverted firearms into trafficking channels, reducing the availability of crime guns for violent criminals and organizations in market areas – areas that can be thousands of miles away from the original source market. In market areas, ATF agents and law enforcement partners work closely to disrupt the transfer of trafficked firearms to criminal organizations and “trigger-pullers” identified through NIBIN analysis and other CGI.

As Internet commerce flourishes, firearms-related commerce grows with it. While many of these firearms-related transactions are lawful, the Internet also provides a forum for individuals intent on evading the law – as either a buyer or a seller – to conduct unlawful transfers with a degree of anonymity. To combat illegal firearms trafficking facilitated by the Internet, the ATF established an Internet Investigations Center (IIC), supported by legal counsel, and staffed with SAs, IOIs, and intelligence research specialists (IRSs). Using cutting-edge technology, this team identifies illegal firearms trafficking occurring online, and provides actionable intelligence to the relevant ATF field division for follow-up investigation. When an investigation is national in scope or affects multiple ATF field divisions, the IIC coordinates intelligence and operations to ensure any resulting criminal investigation and prosecution has the widest impact. As part of this coordination process, the ATF works closely with the Department's Criminal Division to determine the best venue for prosecution.

Using this same approach, ATF personnel are constantly scanning for internet-based threats of violence, particularly those involving “soft” targets like schools and houses of worship. With a great sense of urgency, IIC personnel use all available resources and tools to identify the person making the threat, locate the individual if possible, and immediately make a referral to law enforcement where the individual is located. The ATF typically has no Federal jurisdiction related to these threats, so the local ATF field office works jointly and closely with appropriate law enforcement agencies.

The IIC also provides comprehensive investigative and intelligence support to the ATF field divisions on matters relating to internet-based criminal activity within the ATF's jurisdiction. Support includes technical online investigative tasks and legal support for internet-related

warrants and subpoenas. The IIC also serves as the single de-confliction point for online investigations both within the ATF and between other agencies. The IIC subject matter experts also provide training on law enforcement methods and techniques for internet investigations, including social media tools.

The IIC has identified a number of significant firearms traffickers who used the internet to facilitate their crimes. On-going firearms trafficking investigations involve individuals and organizations using the surface web as well as the anonymous dark web. The ATF also investigated international firearms trafficking rings where U.S. sourced firearms were destined for delivery to criminal organizations or prohibited persons outside of the United States and vice versa. Other investigations involved prohibited persons soliciting innocent people selling their firearms on the Internet.

2. Firearms Criminal Possession and Use

The law enforcement community has long recognized the clear link between the availability of criminally possessed firearms and violent crime. Firearm violence, including that associated with drug trafficking, threatens citizens' safety and livelihoods while eroding the quality of life in American cities. The ATF employs a threat matrix to identify patterns of firearm violence and deploys its resources to maximize the effective disruption and prevention of gun violence.

In July 2021, the Department and ATF launched five cross-jurisdictional strike forces to help reduce gun violence by disrupting illegal firearms trafficking in key regions across the country. Leveraging existing resources, the regional strike forces are tasked with focusing coordination across multiple jurisdictions to help stem the supply of illegally trafficked firearms from source cities and into eight key market regions: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area/Sacramento Region, Washington, DC, Newark, Boston, and Baltimore. The ATF also informally added three additional Strike Forces in cities where collaborative efforts required a formal partnership with the original five cities identified by the Attorney General at the inception of this initiative. Each strike force is a collaboration between the ATF, the United States Attorney's Office, and state and local partners in both source and market areas. Through the strike forces, the ATF targets the firearms traffickers, "trigger pullers," and violent criminal offenders who use these weapons to terrorize their communities. The ATF is utilizing every available resource, including NIBIN and firearms tracing to identify, investigate and prosecute violent offenders.

3. NIBIN

The mission of the ATF's NIBIN Program is to reduce firearms violence through aggressive evidence-based targeting, investigation, and prosecution of shooters and their sources of crime guns. NIBIN continues to aid the ATF and its law enforcement partners in identifying "triggerpullers" and removing violent offenders from America's streets before they can re-offend. The ATF administers NIBIN for Federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to

solve crimes by establishing investigative leads linking crime guns and criminals in sometimes seemingly disparate criminal incidents. NIBIN is the only interstate automated ballistic imaging network in operation in the United States to support local violent crime reduction strategies.

The NIBIN system is a collection of digital ballistic images of ammunition components recovered from crime scenes and recovered crime gun test fires. As with fingerprints, every firearm has unique identifying characteristics. The barrel of a weapon leaves distinct markings on a bullet or projectile, and the breech and firing pin mechanisms leave distinct markings on the cartridge case. Using these markings, firearm technicians and examiners can examine bullets and cartridge casings to determine if they were expelled from the same firearm.

Through the NIBIN program, the ATF strategically deploys Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) equipment to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies for their use in imaging and comparing these unique markings on crime gun evidence. The ATF has worked to place the program in strategic locations across the country with the goal of giving investigators an edge in the fight against firearms-related violence. As of January 2023, 281 NIBIN sites operate nationwide, and the ATF will provide additional sites with this technology and ability to share ballistic information continuing into 2023.

The ATF's NIBIN Program uses an integrated investigative approach which works in concert with other Federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in combating firearms-related violence using technology to compare images of ballistic evidence obtained from crime scenes and recovered firearms. NIBIN is a proven investigative and intelligence tool that can identify leads that were not previously available; can link firearms evidence from multiple crime scenes that were committed with the same firearm; and can link firearms evidence from a crime scene to a recovered firearm.

The ATF's NIBIN network may be searched locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally in an automated environment to identify investigative leads. Law enforcement resources realize the true potential of NIBIN by following up on the investigative leads to solve crimes associated with these shooting incidents. In FY 2022, NIBIN partners confirmed more than 5,500 hits and issued 196,496 investigative leads using this technology.

NIBIN partner sites began issuing leads in FY 2014 as the program changed its paradigm from a forensic tool to an investigative tool. NIBIN "leads" are potential ballistic links that either have been made by a firearms examiner or trained technician upon comparison of the ballistic images. NIBIN "hits," on the other hand, are ballistic links that have been confirmed by a firearms examiner under a comparison microscope. NIBIN hits require additional time and the ability to compare two physical pieces of ballistic evidence. With the emphasis on NIBIN as an investigative tool, as a "leads generator," sites have shifted focus and efforts to providing timely NIBIN leads to investigators in lieu of the microscopic comparison. In FY 2014, NIBIN sites issued more than 800 leads, which have grown to more than 195,000 leads provided to

investigators in FY 2022. This has been impactful in the fight against gun violence because these leads represent new investigative avenues for law enforcement to focus their efforts to take active shooters off the streets before they re-offend. Leads are issued more quickly than a confirmed hit, which means the information is fresh for investigators to pursue these armed criminals.

The ATF has conducted an evaluation of this program and as a result, dedicated infrastructure resources to ensure effective program oversight. As part of this evaluation, the ATF has changed how this program is supported to increase the number of offenders recommended for prosecution. Past funding has supported the replacement of outdated equipment and software upgrades to imaging that enables firearms technicians and examiners to discern distinct markings more easily on the cartridge casings and link evidence for separate cases. Recent funding provided for software upgrades to the NIBIN network has increased the efficiency of reviews by NIBIN users.

As part of the NIBIN program, the ATF established the NNCTC, a centralized facility capable of performing correlation reviews of ballistic images submitted by NIBIN sites anywhere in the United States. Correlation reviews are a critical function of the NIBIN process and are how ballistic leads are determined for investigative use. The NNCTC accomplishes this on behalf of a NIBIN site to relieve that local facility of the labor and machinery costs associated with NIBIN.

The ATF NNCTC performs timely ballistics analysis and correlation services as well as expert level training in ballistic image acquisitions and correlations reviews to Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. By providing this invaluable service, the NNCTC frees up local sites to perform other critical aspects of the NIBIN process, thereby increasing their ability to provide critical violet gun crime leads to investigators in a timely fashion. As of February 2023, the NNCTC has conducted 1,110,166 correlation reviews resulting in 329,695 leads to over 1400 partner agencies while maintaining a 99.6 percent lead confirmation. Moreover, the expertise and capability of the NNCTC's Correlation Review Specialists (CRS) and Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners allows lead generation turnaround time to be decreased to 24-48 hours where it might otherwise be more than a month if left to the local site.

This consistent and timely turnaround of NIBIN leads provides investigators relevant and valuable information to identify and apprehend violent offenders more quickly. As of the February 2023, the NNCTC is reviewing correlations for over 169 NIBIN sites. Since the NNCTC opened in April 2016, it has provided over 329,695 investigative leads to law enforcement and has performed over 1,110,166 correlation reviews. In addition to providing correlation review services, the NNCTC provides NIBIN training to the ATF's law enforcement partners. As of February 2023, the Training Center has provided training in NIBIN acquisition, correlation review, cartridge case triage, and NIBIN Authorized Trainer to over 2,118 individuals.

As the continuing demand for NNCTC services expands throughout the United States, the ATF has dedicated a secondary location for the NNCTC-II that will add accessibility to NNCTC services in Wichita, Kansas, on the campus of Wichita State University. The creation of ATF's Crime Gun Intelligence Center of Excellence (CGICEX) and the co-located NNCTC-II will continue to expand the correlation capacity ensuring this essential function will be available to all NIBIN sites, nationwide, to include the sites currently on the NNCTC waitlist as well as all new NIBIN sites. By creating a secondary correlation review site for ATF's NIBIN program, the NNCTC – II will follow Continuity of Operations Protocols and alleviates a single point of failure, should one site experience a catastrophic event. It is also consistent with ATF's efforts to draw from the synergy and talent provided by our partnership with academia.

To enhance law enforcement use of NIBIN investigative leads, the ATF created a web-based application known as the NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS) to collect, analyze, refer, track, and support NIBIN and other crime gun data. NESS facilitates information sharing between the ATF and its state and local law enforcement partners by providing intelligence to agents, investigators, and intelligence specialists in the field. NESS can assist investigators in identifying the most active firearms being used in their areas. NIBIN leads target the most violent offenders regardless of gender, race, or geographical location.

Additionally, the ATF has established several CGSFs and CGETs dedicated to intelligence-driven targeting of violent offenders and the timely follow-up of crime gun intelligence leads through proven protocols on maximizing the full range of CGI. These protocols closely align with the emphasis to reduce violent firearm crime by ensuring violent offenders are promptly identified, investigated, and held accountable through prosecution. Several of the ATF CGETs have state and local homicide investigators embedded to enhance coordination and effectiveness in the investigation of homicides involving firearms and related violent crimes.

4. Firearms Industry Operations

The ATF regulates the firearms industry from the point of manufacture or importation through retail sale to ensure FFL compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, the ATF regularly conducts training for FFLs with the intent to educate and encourage voluntary controls and foster cooperation with law enforcement officials.

As part of its regulatory role, the ATF determines which FFL applicants are eligible to engage in a firearms business. Upon determination, the ATF educates licensees on their legal responsibilities. FFLs must maintain acquisition and disposition records of their inventory and sales of firearms. Additionally, FFLs are required to maintain detailed records of each disposition of firearms, positively identifying the purchaser and ensuring that they are not prohibited from possessing firearms. The ATF has the authority to request information from these records to assist with criminal investigations.

Proper and timely recordkeeping by FFLs is critical for successful crime gun tracing and is required for all firearms transactions by licensees. Failing to account for firearms in inventory is a serious public safety concern since unaccounted firearms cannot be fully traced to the retail purchaser. The ATF's FFL inspection program uses information related to recovered firearms to detect indicators of illegal firearms trafficking.

Through this regulatory framework, the ATF tracks each firearm recovered in a crime from its point of manufacture or importation through the chain of distribution to the point of first retail sale, a process known as "tracing." By tracing all crime gun recoveries submitted to the ATF, investigators can discern patterns of firearms purchases, locations of purchase, and weapon types. These patterns provide invaluable leads in identifying persons who divert firearms into illegal commerce. By targeting these persons, the ATF stems the flow of illegal guns for convicted felons, drug traffickers, or gang members who commit violent crimes. After connecting a firearm to an illegal gun trafficker, the ATF makes every effort to interdict and prosecute these individuals to prevent gun violence.

In FY 2022, the ATF completed 6,979 FFL compliance inspections. During FY 2022, there were 136,563 active FFLs in the United States. In FY 2022, ATF issued 43,494 new FFLs to qualified applicants (including renewals)..

Additionally, the ATF regulates the importation of firearms into the United States and registers importers of firearms, ammunition, firearms parts, and other defense articles pursuant to the import provisions of the AECA. The ATF also provides technical advice to the public regarding import requirements applicable to firearms or ammunition. The public and the firearms industry routinely submit products to the ATF for evaluation of whether an item is a firearm and how it is regulated.

5. Combat Criminal Organizations

To combat the criminal organizations that threaten communities across the United States, the ATF's strategy targets the most serious offenses, prosecuting the most dangerous criminals, directing assistance to crime 'hot spots,' and pursuing new ways to promote public safety, deterrence, efficiency, and fairness. The ATF has developed strategies to address violent crime spikes and to execute operations designed to weaken and dismantle armed violent criminal organizations.

Each of the ATF's 25 field divisions works collaboratively with their Federal, state, and local partners, as well as United States Attorney's Offices. Partnership plays a vital role in combating violent gun crime. It allows law enforcement agencies to operate together with unity of effort to stem the flow of crime guns, investigate, and prosecute the offenders affiliated with criminal organizations and gangs who use them to commit violent crimes. Through partnerships, law

enforcement leaders coordinate missions, strategies, tactics, and intelligence to effectively prioritize and maximize impact on violent crime.

ATF CGSFs partner with Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to collect crime gun intelligence in cities identified by their high rates of violent gun crime. Crime gun tracing, along with NIBIN results and local agency police reports, are funneled to ATF CGICs to analyze and produce actionable intelligence. Once received, agents and officers form enforcement strategies to target, arrest, and prosecute the “trigger-pullers” and the illegal firearms traffickers who provide them with firearms.

6. Deter Misuse of Explosives, Bombs, and Bombings

Criminal bombings and the illegal use of explosives are violent acts that threaten neighborhoods and communities, as well as national security at home and abroad. The ATF strives to reduce violent crime involving the misuse of explosives; to assist state or local officers; to advance public safety and security; to deny the acquisition of explosive materials by statutorily prohibited persons; to remove hazards to the public caused by improper storage or use of explosive materials; and, to assist agencies in combatting terrorism and violent crime.

The ATF aligned its mission, resources, and expertise with the National Strategy to Counter Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs). The ATF manages the USBDC, which in turn is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the outward facing Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), the statutorily mandated and Attorney General designated national arson and explosives incident repository and case management system. Currently, the USBDC has more than 2,500 interagency partners and 12,000 users of BATS who contribute arson and explosives intelligence and information for critical regional and national situational awareness.

The ATF has the responsibility and authority to inspect the storage of explosives by Federal explosives licensees and permittees to track thefts, losses, and recoveries of explosives. The ATF’s mission extends to ensuring only qualified and legitimate applicants enter the explosives industry and that licensees keep proper records of the acquisition of explosive materials and use sound business practices to help prevent theft, explosives incidents, or the diversion of explosives for criminal or terrorist purposes.

The ATF’s criminal enforcement mission, combined with the ATF’s regulatory responsibility, gives the ATF a comprehensive perspective on activity involving explosives in this country. This perspective allows the ATF to impact public safety through the accountability of explosive materials and the identification and correction of explosives storage violations that, unchecked, could pose significant risk to the public.

7. Explosives Industry Operations

Explosive materials diverted from legal commerce into the hands of criminal organizations and gangs or terrorist organizations constitute a tangible threat to public safety and legal commerce. The ATF's criminal and regulatory programs enforce Federal explosives law and prevent criminals and terrorists from obtaining explosives for use in bombings. On a three-year cycle, as required by the SEA, the ATF's IOIs conduct compliance inspections of approximately 9,400 explosives licensees and permittees nationwide to detect, investigate, and prevent diversion, and promote the safe and secure storage of explosives. The Federal Explosives Licensing Center screens license and permit applicants, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), to ensure applicant eligibility to lawfully receive and use explosives. It further screens employees of such licensees and permittees to ensure prohibited persons do not have access to explosives.

In FY 2022, ATF IOIs conducted 3,101 explosives compliance inspections. During FY 2022, there were 9,461 active FELs/FEPs in the United States. In FY 2022, the ATF assisted 737 new business entities obtain the license and permits necessary to operate in the regulated explosives industry.

8. Research Fire and Investigate Arson

Loss of lives and property due to arson remains a significant threat to communities, businesses, and the American people. Under Title 18 of the United States Code, the ATF is designated as the Federal agency primarily responsible for enforcing criminal provisions of the Federal laws related to fire investigations, conducting research to help investigators reconstruct fire and explosives incidents, and conducting financial investigations to identify illegal arson-for-profit schemes.

ATF SAs investigate potential acts of arson motivated by profit, ideology, or other criminal intent. Some of the more recent significant events the ATF has been called upon for its expertise include investigating fires that occurred during the civil unrest in the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, and Kenosha. The ATF was also instrumental in investigating the fire that occurred on the USS Bonhomme Richard and the Conception dive boat fire that killed over thirty people. The ATF also trains Federal, state, local, and international law enforcement agencies on how to investigate and solve such crimes.

The ATF has primary Federal jurisdiction over the investigation of arson crimes and is uniquely equipped for this mission with specialized capabilities, expertise, and experience. While the vast majority of fires are investigated at the local level, the ATF responds to fires of Federal interest to provide its specialized skills when needed by state and local authorities. In many cases, the unique knowledge, technical resources, forensic capabilities, and jurisdictional authority of the Federal government are essential in solving arson related crimes and removing arsonists from a

community. The ATF's combination of CFIs, accelerant detection canines, NRT, forensic laboratories, forensic auditors, fire prevention, electrical, and mechanical engineers, and the FRL provide comprehensive technical expertise for investigating arson crimes that is unmatched in the United States. Additionally, the USBDC and BATS provide critical intelligence and information to the ATF and the interagency community related to occurrence of arson incidents both regionally and nationally.

B. Investigative Support Services Decision Unit

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount (\$000)
2022 Enacted	1,194	1,177	369,925
2023 Enacted	1,284	1,223	408,879
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	22	15,183
2024 Current Services	1,284	1,245	424,062
2024 Program Increases	19	10	1,756
2024 Program Decreases	0	0	0
2024 Request	1,303	1,255	425,818
Total Change 2023-2024	19	32	16,939

Delivery of the ATF’s Forensic Expertise, Assets, and Intelligence Services to Improve Public Safety

The ATF continues to leverage, build, and rely on its partnerships with all law enforcement entities – Federal, state, local, territorial, Tribal, and international – and with public safety agencies, communities, and industries to prevent terrorism and abate violent crime. The ATF partners with these entities to safeguard the public through information and intelligence sharing,

training, research, and the use of technology. The ATF also protects the public during critical incidents such as natural disasters through its leadership of the Department's ESF-13 law enforcement response functions.

Core Activities

Resources and activities that support the ATF's law enforcement operations comprise the Investigative Support Services (ISS) decision unit. Core activities include:

1. Firearms and Explosives Licensing and Other Firearms Industry Services
2. Firearms Tracing
3. NCETR
4. USBDC
5. TEDAC
6. ATF Laboratories
7. Financial Investigations
8. Collaboration and Partnerships
9. ESF-13
10. IIC

1. Firearms and Explosives Licensing and Other Industry Services

The ATF issues licenses to qualified firearms and explosives manufacturers, importers, and dealers. Under current regulations, the ATF is required to act upon firearms license applications within 60 days and explosives license application within 90 days of receiving a perfected application. During FY 2022, the ATF conducted 11,156 firearms application inspections and 944 explosives application inspections.

In addition, the NFA mandates registration and tax payment for making or transferring machine guns, silencers, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, destructive devices, and certain concealable weapons classified as "any other weapons." The NFA requires that individuals, firearms manufacturers, and importers register the NFA firearms that they make, manufacture, or import, and that all NFA firearms transfers are approved by the ATF prior to being transferred.

Market demand for NFA services continues to set annual records, which has resulted in an increased workload over the past several years. In FY 2022, the ATF received 764,814 NFA registration applications and processed 709,508 NFA registration and transfer applications. Much of the increase from prior fiscal years can be attributed to changes in several state laws that allow for the use of gun silencers for hunting purposes. In FY 2022, the NFA received the highest volume of taxpaid applications surpassing the previous record high years of 2016 following the 41F regulation change and FY 2021. NFA total revenue collections for FY 2022 was over \$101.0 million. All tax revenue collected by the NFA as part of the Form 1 and Form 4

fees as well as that collected as part of the Special Occupational Tax (SOT), including penalties and interest, is deposited into the General Treasury Fund. The ATF receives no direct benefit from the tax revenue collected. The increase in overall firearms commerce continues to significantly increase the ATF's workload and impact the ATF's ability to meet internal and external performance targets.

The ATF regulates the importation of firearms, ammunition, and other defense articles by issuing import permits. The ATF also regulates the importation and possession of firearms and ammunition by non-immigrant aliens. The ATF maintains close liaison with the Department of State, Department of Defense, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that the permits issued do not conflict with the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States. During FY 2022, the ATF processed 11,442 permanent import permit applications. The Attorney General (AG) has delegated to the ATF the authority to administer the permanent importation provisions of the AECA. Under the AECA, the ATF regulates the permanent importation of firearms, ammunition, and other defense articles into the United States. The ATF processes applications to import items from domestic businesses, members of the U.S. military returning from abroad with personal firearms, non-immigrant aliens temporarily hunting or attending legal sporting activities in the United States, and U.S. citizens re-establishing residency after living abroad. Through industry outreach and regulation, the ATF provides technical advice to the public regarding import requirements applicable to firearms, ammunition, and implements of war.

2. Firearms Tracing

The ATF NTC traces firearms used or suspected to have been used in crimes for law enforcement to provide investigative leads. The NTC traces firearms annually for more than 7,000 Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Firearms tracing is an exclusive function of the ATF and is critical to law enforcement in their efforts to link suspects to firearms in criminal investigations and to detect illegal firearms traffickers. In FY 2022, the NTC processed 623,654 firearms trace requests. The demand for timely and accurate trace data will continue to grow at a significant pace, giving law enforcement agencies the ability to more quickly identify and apprehend the most violent firearms offenders. The NTC also operates a series of programs that relate to and support firearms tracing to include the eTrace Program, Stolen Firearms Program, Multiple Sales for Handguns Program, FFL Theft Program, Interstate Theft Program, Out-of-Business Records Program, and Demand Letter Program.

The trace information allows the ATF to accomplish many goals: provide the requesting Federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies lead designed to help link suspects to firearms in criminal investigations; identify illegal firearms traffickers through recurring patterns and trends indicative of illegal firearms trafficking; and analyze aggregate trace data, to help

communities develop focused strategies and programs that address specific factors that contribute to gun-related crime.

Trace information and analysis is vital to solving violent crime and identifying illegal firearms trafficking trends. The work performed at the NTC is a key element of CGI and is central to the Administration's priorities with regards to combatting gun violence. The tracing capabilities conducted at the NTC has resulted in valuable leads in such recent high-profile cases as the New York City Subway attack in April 2022 and the July 4, 2022, Highland Park, IL shooting. Equally important, the NTC provides intelligence service to ATF's law enforcement partners in countless less high-profile cases across the United States every day.

3. NCETR

Preventing the criminal use of explosives and investigating potential cases of arson are two of the core missions of the ATF. NCETR serves as the Bureau's primary source for research, training, and intelligence in these specialty areas. The ATF is the primary agency responsible for administering and enforcing the regulatory and criminal provisions of the Federal laws pertaining to destructive devices, explosives, and bombs; and it is the only Federal agency with the authority to investigate criminal arson cases. The ATF has extensive expertise in the investigation and forensic analysis of such incidents arising from criminal or terrorist acts. NCETR provides basic and advanced explosives training and research that leverages lessons learned and best practices to safeguard the public and reduce deaths and injuries from explosives crimes and accidents and aligns this support with the national counter-IED effort. At NCETR, the ATF provides specialized training, techniques, and uses advanced technology and procedures to support forensic investigations and explosives enforcement. Additionally, the ATF contributes greatly to the global Counter-IED (C-IED) efforts through a focus on the interoperability between public safety bomb technicians and explosives specialists with their military Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) colleagues. This is accomplished through a well-established training program focusing on the identification, processing, and disposal of Homemade Explosives (HME), in partnership with the Department of the Army. EOD personnel from all branches of the armed forces attend the NCETR HME course prior to mobilization.

Also located at NCETR is the ATF's Fire Investigation and Arson Enforcement Division (FIAED), which oversees the National Response Team Program, Certified Fire Investigator Program, Fire and Arson Investigation Training Programs, and the Arson and Explosives Criminal Investigative Analysis (Profiler) Program. These programs further support the ATF's efforts to identify, target, and dismantle criminal enterprises and other offenders that use fire or explosives in furtherance of violent criminal activity and investigate violators who use fire or explosives to damage or destroy property that affects interstate or foreign commerce.

NCETR also has oversight of the ATF's National Canine Division (NCD) located in Front Royal, Virginia. The ATF's canine program is the only canine program in the United States supported

by a laboratory and the first Federally accredited explosive detection canine program. The ATF National Forensic Science Laboratories support the ATF NCD in the research and development of explosive and accelerant compounds and compositions for canine training, third party testing, instruction into the properties and chemical breakdown of accelerant and explosives, and support in all forensic related issues. The ATF NCD conducts evaluation and analysis of new and emerging facets within the explosives and accelerant detection canine arena and shares this vital information with its partners in a concerted effort to provide the best tools possible for safety and security in the fight against violent crime and terrorism. The ATF remains at the forefront in combating violent crime through such innovative programs as training explosives detection canines in the recognition of peroxide explosives and the standardized National Odor Recognition Testing. In partnership with the Department of the Army, NCETR also leads and coordinates the annual “Raven’s Challenge,” an interoperability exercise for public safety bomb squads and military EOD personnel at four locations across the country that involves realistic IED incident scenarios and live fire training.

The Explosives Research and Development Division (ERDD) at NCETR is an investment in scientific knowledge generation and technology development that allows the ATF to adapt and respond to changes to the ongoing threat posed by the criminal misuse of explosives. Meeting the challenges and embracing the opportunities of a dynamic future are not only indicative of high-quality research and development but are responsive to the needs of the Nation’s C-IED efforts. Current research partners include the National Counterterrorism Center, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the University of Alabama-Huntsville. In short, NCETR ERDD provides value by improving the safe storage and disposal of explosives and enhancing the prosecution of explosives cases to serve the ATF and the larger law enforcement community.

The ATF’s National Response Team is the only group of crime scene investigators in the world accredited by ISO and ANSI Standard 17020, allowing the NRT to render an opinion as to the origin and cause of fire or explosion. NCETR is in the process of also accrediting both its CES and CFI programs to both ISO and ANSI standards.

4. USBDC

In 2004, the Attorney General, acting under the statutory authority of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 846 (b), designated the ATF’s BATS as the consolidated national repository for information related to arson and the suspected criminal misuse of explosives. The USBDC was then established and given the responsibility for management of BATS.

BATS is a web-based case management system that allows investigators across the country to capture details of bomb and arson cases, including the area of origin or device placement, casualties, financial loss, fire descriptors, collateral crimes, device components, and descriptions and photographs of how the device was constructed and delivered. BATS also allows investigators to build cases in the BATS application while maintaining critical operational

security of their information. Images of arson and explosive scenes can be shared through the BATS secure web connection. BATS currently has over 10,380 active users from 2,125 agencies.

The USBDC Arson & Explosive Intelligence Division collects, analyzes, and disseminates timely information and relevant tactical and strategic intelligence and training within the ATF, and to external Federal, state, local, Tribal, military, and international partners. The USBDC provides statistical analysis of current trends and patterns to aid in the detection, deterrence and prevention and prosecutorial support related to arson and the criminal misuse of explosives.

The USBDC also provides explosives tracing services to duly authorized law enforcement agencies across the United States and in many foreign countries. Tracing is the systematic tracking of explosives from manufacturer to purchaser (or possessor) for the purpose of aiding law enforcement officials in identifying suspects involved in criminal violations, establishing stolen status, and proving ownership. The creation of the National Repository has achieved for these industries, as well as law enforcement, the most proficient and productive method for researching the movement of an explosive. Explosives manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, and retail dealers in the United States and foreign countries cooperate in the tracing endeavor by providing, on request, specific information from their records of manufacture, importation, or sale. Because of its licensing authority, the ATF is the only Federal agency with authorized access to these records.

5. TEDAC

Jointly, the ATF and the FBI coordinate and manage TEDAC. The mission of TEDAC is to contribute directly to the eradication of the IED threat, through a whole-of-government effort that includes international partners. TEDAC informs its partners who, in turn, attempt to disrupt those individuals and networks responsible for the design, development, purchase, assembly, and deployment of IEDs. This is accomplished through scientifically and forensically exploiting IEDs; developing actionable intelligence; forecasting IED threats; and maintaining a repository of IED material obtained from incidents around the world. The TEDAC combines law enforcement, military, and intelligence assets to classify the operation, bomb components, and deployment of IEDs. These efforts help prevent IED attacks, protect U.S. armed forces, and identify those who manufacture and deploy these devices.

TEDAC's forensic exploitation, at the intersection of law enforcement, science and technology, border forces, intelligence, and the military, provides a key perspective from which to research the science and technology of IEDs. The TEDAC research and testing program supports IED detection, countermeasures, and post-blast analysis. TEDAC continues to build depth and breadth within its device collection and develop technical, forensic, and intelligence methods to anticipate new devices and techniques envisioned by adversaries and to better collaborate with its partners.

6. ATF Laboratories

The ATF laboratory system comprises two traditional forensic science laboratories (FSLs) and a FRL that provide direct support to ATF SAs and other Federal and state law enforcement agencies in the investigation of violent crimes and other potential threats to public safety. ATF scientists and engineers play an integral role supporting violent crime investigations, often providing the critical links between the crimes and the suspects or providing a lead to a previously unknown suspect.

ATF laboratories are accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to the ISO 17025 (2017) standard. In addition, the Forensic Science Laboratory-Washington meets the requirements of the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories. The ATF laboratories support investigations through the scientific analysis of evidence; technical support at fire, explosion, and shooting scenes; training of ATF SAs, prosecutors, and state and local law enforcement and forensic scientists in these areas; provision of expert testimony to assist in the prosecution of violent criminals; and scientific research to enhance forensic capabilities. FSLs and FRL experts support the ATF's NRT and International Response Team and provide training and support to the ATF's explosives and accelerant detection canine programs, HME courses, the National Firearms Examiners Academy, fire debris analysis courses, as well as other specialized areas of instruction.

The FSLs maintain a unique expertise in areas supporting criminal investigations involving firearms, explosives, and suspected arson. The laboratories' Forensic Chemists provide chemical and physical analyses of bombs, improvised device components, fire debris, and trace evidence. The ATF laboratories have developed unsurpassed expertise in the specialized area of touch DNA analysis, in which low levels of DNA can be recovered from firearms, bombs, and other tools of violent criminals. The ATF's capabilities in latent print examination and tool mark analysis focus on providing links between the evidence recovered from violent crimes and the perpetrators of the acts. The ATF laboratories are world leaders in the applications of forensic science to the types of evidence encountered in violent crimes investigated by the ATF.

The FRL is staffed with fire protection engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, and technicians, and is the only laboratory of its kind in the world dedicated to the specific needs of the criminal fire investigation community. It provides the necessary facilities, equipment, and staff to support complex criminal fire investigation issues. Forensic examinations include fire scene reconstructions, flashover determination, validation of fire pattern indicators, impacts of accelerants on fire growth and spread, ignition studies, and electrical fire cause analysis.

In FY 2022, the ATF's laboratories accomplished the following:

- Received 1,437 requests for analysis and testing
- Completed analysis on 1,290 forensic cases (FSL)

- Performed 194 laboratory case testing experiments (FRL)
- Performed 230 laboratory research testing experiments (FRL)
- Provided 125 days of expert testimony in the courts
- Worked 280 days at crime scenes
- Provided 413 days of training for Federal, state, and local investigators and examiners

Some figures may be lower compared to prior fiscal years due to the COVID pandemic.

7. Financial Investigations

The Financial Investigative Services Division (FISD) supports approximately 450 criminal financial investigations annually. The ATF's Forensic Auditors are experts in the field of forensic accounting and financial investigations. They conduct comprehensive and complex financial investigations for SAs in support of criminal investigations and document appropriate financial criminal charges to further the prosecution in these cases.

In addition to identifying financial charges, ATF Forensic Auditors assist in developing additional investigative leads and co-conspirators through the financial records and they quantify purchases, sales, losses, and profits for criminal investigations. These cases include arson-for-profit, firearms and firearms associated narcotics trafficking cases, contraband cigarette trafficking, the use of explosives and bombings in the furtherance of financial frauds, counterterrorism, threats to public safety, investigations into gang and other organized criminal enterprises, and complex investigations involving both domestic and international money laundering.

These complex investigations often involve criminal organizations, multiple subjects and their businesses, varied and numerous money laundering schemes, asset identification, and forfeiture. The ATF's Forensic Auditors assist other directorates and offices within the Bureau on office reviews, special projects, PACT Act and regulatory inspections and other requests for assistance.

8. Collaboration and Partnerships

The ATF is engaged in many cooperative agreements, collaborations, and partnerships with other Federal agencies, private industry, and in the international arena. For example, the ATF is fully engaged with and provides support to government anti-terrorism efforts, especially the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs). The ATF participates in JTTFs and assigns one ATF SA to the National JTTF at the National Counter-Terrorism Center. In working with the JTTF, the ATF plays an important part in terrorism cases that involve firearms, bombs, and illegal explosive possession.

The ATF further fulfills its mission by participating in other multi-agency efforts such as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, High Intensity Financial Crime Areas, and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Through these partnerships, the ATF plays a major role in the prevention and investigation of violent firearms crimes involving criminal organizations and gangs, and provides direct investigative expertise to criminal explosives, arson incidents, and threats. These collaborative efforts also make the ATF a key component in combating organized crime that threatens U.S. national and economic security.

At the request of the Department of State, the ATF serves as an advocate for U.S. firearms policy in international fora such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS). The ATF ensures that international firearms agreements in which the United States participates are consistent with U.S. laws, regulations, policies, and practices. The UN Program of Action, the OAS Convention on Firearms, and the International Tracing Instrument are just a few of the agreements through which the ATF protects the policies of the United States in international settings.

The ATF's International Affairs Division's (IAD) primary mission is to protect the public against crimes of violence by conducting and coordinating investigations involving transnational criminal organizations. The IAD's international offices are strategically positioned to extend the ATF's reach beyond U.S. borders and enable the ATF to combat violent crime before it reaches the United States. The IAD serves to further the ATF's mission and protect U.S. policies and interests by focusing personnel and resources primarily in the Western Hemisphere. The ATF currently has offices in Mexico, El Salvador, Canada, Bahamas, and Jamaica. The Attaché in Trinidad reported on May 8, 2022. An office in Colombia has been approved, is planned to open, and the Country Attaché will report in June 2023 after the completion of the office build out in the U.S. Embassy located in Bogota, Columbia. The ATF has notified Congress for a planned opening of the Calgary office in Canada in FY 2024, date pending approval. Additionally, the ATF has representation at Europol in the Netherlands.

Through partnerships with such agencies as the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program, and the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development (OPDAT), the ATF's IAD is able to provide capacity building, specialized training, and facilitate information sharing with foreign partners. The ATF's IAD also partners with the DOJ International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to provide expert and specialized training to participating countries throughout the world. The IAD's participation in the ILEA program allows the ATF to train foreign law enforcement in many uniquely ATF areas such as post-blast investigations, arson investigations and fire science, firearms and explosives identification techniques, and international firearms trafficking investigation techniques. This specialized training helps better facilitate information sharing and assists foreign law enforcement in developing sound investigative skills and programs.

9. Emergency Support Function-13

Ensuring the safety and protection of the public is a critical service in the aftermath of any disaster. The ATF is the Department's lead agency for management of ESF-13, one of 15 emergency support functions established by the NRF. The close relationships the ATF has developed and maintains across the law enforcement and first responder communities are crucial to provide fast, effective, and appropriate resources when needed in an emergency or major disaster.

Through ESF-13, Federal law enforcement assets are directed to assist Federal, state, territorial, local, and Tribal authorities with public safety and security-related missions ranging from serious but purely local incidents to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic disasters. All ESF-13 responses are a collaborative effort among partner law enforcement agencies, but the ATF is ultimately responsible for maintaining a robust national capability to perform the functions outlined in the ESF-13 Annex to the NRF. The ATF is required to do the following:

- Conduct ESF-13 law enforcement planning for the 50 states, District of Columbia, five territories, and Federally recognized tribes
- Maintain liaison and build relationships with Federal, state, territorial, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, FEMA, emergency operations centers, and other first responders in all 10 FEMA regions
- Conduct national and regional interagency training
- Assess shortfalls in state and local capabilities
- Participate in annual national emergency exercises
- Participate in planning activities and other regional meetings
- Activate and respond, when necessary, to support the Federal government response to emergencies, major disasters, or acts of terrorism
- Provide personal protection equipment and officer safety equipment to all responding Federal law enforcement officers in support of ESF-13
- Maintain a robust logistical capability to move personnel and equipment in support of the Federal government response to emergencies, major disasters, or acts of terrorism
- Maintain robust situational awareness to ensure all personnel are properly informed of ESF-13 status and the condition of public safety and security in the disaster area

The ATF supports operational travel of ESF-13 headquarters and regional staff for mandated activities throughout the year. Since 2014, ESF-13 has participated in 44 national activations, deployed over 6,700 personnel, and provided over \$128 million in mission assignment funding. ESF-13 has participated in 689 Federal and State exercises and 1,303 Federal and State trainings. In the 10 FEMA regions, ESF-13 has participated in 212 Regional Interagency Steering Committee meetings. ESF-13 personnel have been involved in 4,074 Federal planning and liaison meetings and 2,321 State planning liaison meetings.

10. Internet Investigations Center

The IIC conducts and coordinates multi-jurisdictional operations and provides investigative direction to disrupt and dismantle online criminal activity within the ATF's enforcement and regulatory jurisdiction. The IIC uses investigative and analytic techniques to identify domestic and international offenders and the associations among them. The ATF established the IIC to track illegal online firearms trafficking and to provide actionable intelligence to agents in the field related to FFL burglaries, arson, firearms trafficking, and violent crime. The IIC has already identified several significant traffickers operating over the Internet. Its work has led to prosecutions against individuals and groups using the dark web to traffic guns to criminals or attempting to buy firearms illegally online. The IIC also investigates buyers and sellers who use the Internet to facilitate illegal firearms transactions, both on the surface web and the dark web.

Research on internet-facilitated firearm transactions indicate:

- The relative anonymity of the Internet makes it an ideal means for prohibited individuals to obtain illegal firearms.
- The more anonymity employed by a firearms purchaser, the greater the likelihood that the transaction violates Federal law.
- Firearm transactions that occur on the dark web are more likely to be completed in person, by mail, or by common carrier, rather than through an FFL.

The IIC also provides comprehensive investigative and intelligence support to ATF field divisions on matters relating to Internet-based criminal activity within ATF's jurisdiction. Support includes technical online investigative tasks and legal support for Internet-related warrants and subpoenas. The IIC also serves as the single deconfliction point for online investigations both internally and externally.

C. Performance Tables

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE													
Decision Unit: Law Enforcement Operations													
DOJ Strategic Goals & Objectives: Goal 2: Keep Our Country Safe Objective 2.2: Counter Foreign and Domestic Terrorism Objective 2.3: Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence Goal 3: Protect Civil Rights Objective 3.3: Reform and Strengthen the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems to Ensure Fair and Just Treatment													
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE													
Decision Unit: Law Enforcement Operations/Investigative Support Services													
WORKLOAD/RESOURCES		Target		Actual		Projected		Actual		Changes		Requested (Total)	
		FY 2022		FY 2022		FY 2023		FY 2023		Current Services Adjustments and FY 2024 Program Change		FY 2024 Request	
Total Costs and FTE		FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000
Law Enforcement Operations Strategic Objective 2.2		876	267,064	879	265,883	889	290,518	TBD	TBD	71	42,901	960	333,419
Law Enforcement Operations Strategic Objective 2.3		2,933	894,082	2,942	890,130	2,973	966,333	TBD	TBD	198	105,779	3,171	1,072,112
Law Enforcement Operations Strategic Objective 3.3		0	0	0	0	3	6,270	TBD	TBD	38	37,847	41	44,117
Total Costs		3,809	1,161,146	3,821	1,156,013	3,865	1,263,121	0	0	307	186,527	4,172	1,449,648
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by illegal firearms trafficking.	102		100.1		102		TBD		0		102	

OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal possession and use of firearms.	101	87.2	101	TBD	0	101
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal organizations.	98	91.7	98	TBD	0	98
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by bombs and explosives.	99	101.2	99	TBD	0	99
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by the criminal use of fire.	102	100.3	102	TBD	0	102

OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by firearms industry members.	91	84.9	91	TBD	0	91
OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by explosives industry members.	102	101.9	102	TBD	0	102

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE

Decision Unit: Investigative Support Services

DOJ Strategic Goals & Objectives:

Goal 2: Keep Our Country Safe

Objective 2.2: Counter Foreign and Domestic Terrorism

Objective 2.3: Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence

Goal 3: Protect Civil Rights

Objective 3.3: Reform and Strengthen the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems to Ensure Fair and Just Treatment

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE

Decision Unit: Investigative Support Services

WORKLOAD/RESOURCES		Target		Actual		Projected		Actual		Changes		Requested (Total)	
		FY 2022		FY 2022		FY 2023		FY 2023		Adjustments and FY 2024 Program Change		FY 2024 Request	
Total Costs and FTE		FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000	FTE	\$,000
Investigative Support Strategic Objective 2.2		270	85,083	271	84,701	281	94,042	TBD	TBD	7	3,896	288	97,938
Investigative Support Strategic Objective 2.3		902	284,842	906	283,565	942	314,837	TBD	TBD	25	13,043	967	327,880
Investigative Support Strategic Objective 3.3		0	0	0	0	0	0	TBD	TBD	0	0	0	0
Total Costs		1,172	369,925	1,177	368,266	1,223	408,879	0	0	32	16,939	1,255	425,818
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by illegal firearms trafficking.	102		100.1		102		BD		0		102	
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal possession and use of firearms.	101		7.2		101		BD		0		101	
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal organizations.	98		1.7		98		BD		0		98	
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by bombs and explosives.	99		101.2		99		BD		0		99	
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by the criminal use of fire.	102		100.3		102		BD		0		102	
OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by firearms industry members.	91		4.9		91		BD		0		91	

OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by explosives industry members.	102	101.9	102	BD	0	102
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PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES TABLE									
Decision Unit: Investigative Support Services									
		2019	2020	2021		2022		2023	2024
Performance Report and Performance Plan Targets		Actual	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Target
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by illegal firearms trafficking.	99.1	103.2	102	99.1	102	100.1	102	102
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal possession and use of firearms.	89.3	94.1	101	88.2	101	87.2	101	101
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal organizations.	98	99.8	98	96.9	98	91.7	98	98
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by bombs and explosives.	105.8	84.6	99	95.1	99	101.2	99	99
OUTCOME Measure	Impact the threat to public safety caused by the criminal use of fire.	102.6	89.7	102	104.4	102	100.3	102	102

OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by firearms industry members.	101.1	63.7	91	94.1	91	84.9	91	91
OUTCOME Measure	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with Federal laws and regulations by explosives industry members.	104.2	101.6	102	103.8	102	101.9	102	102

DOJ Key Performance Indicators and Agency Priorities Goals			FY 2021 Baseline	FY 2022 Target	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Target	FY 2023 Q1
Objective 2.3	Agency Priority Goal	Increasing the percentage of urgent firearm trace requests completed within 48 hours to 95% from a 2021 baseline of 83.4%	83.4%	95.0%	90.20%	95.0%	92.87%
Objective 2.3	Agency Priority Goal	Increasing the percentage of firearms cases that target traffickers or other large scale enterprises to 39% from a 2021 baseline of 29%	29.0%	34.2%	32.10%	39.0%	29.22%
Objective 2.3	Agency Priority Goal	Increasing the number of inspections of federal firearms licensees to 7,410 from a 2021 baseline of 6,721.	6,721	7,061	6,977	7,410	1,502

Objective 3.3	Key Performance Measure and Agency Priority Goal	Increasing the percentage of federal law enforcement officers who receive Use of Force Sustained Training within a 3-year period to 95%	N/A	85.0%	100%	95.0%	100.0%
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Objective 3.3	Key Performance Measure and Agency Priority Goal	Increasing the percentage of federal law enforcement officers, equipped with Body Worn Cameras (BWCs), and associated training to 38% from a 2021 baseline of 1%	5.5%	20.0%	6.2%	38.0%			0.0%
<p>Urgent Firearms Trace: Q4 is within 98% of the target. The National Tracing Center received 623,654 traces in FY2022, which is a 13.8% increase over FY2021. This significant number of incoming firearm trace requests has outpaced operational capacity and created a backlog of pending traces. ATF submitted a FY2023 Program Enhancement request to modernize the systems and applications utilized in support of the core firearms tracing mission and add personnel to offset increasing work volume. The goal is to incrementally incorporate technology enhancements while augmenting personnel until such time that the proposed IT solutions have been fully delivered. Collectively, these enhancements will provide a substantial return on investment by reducing out year operations and maintenance costs, increasing workflow efficiency, improving accuracy, and significantly reducing trace completion times.</p>									
<p>Firearms Trafficking: Q1 Denominator Firearms cases is 4,182 Q1 Numerator Trafficking/Criminal Organization Cases is 1,371 = 32.78% Q2 Firearms cases is 5,116 Q2 Numerator Trafficking/Criminal Organization Cases is 1,786 = 34.91% Q3 Denominator Firearms cases is 4,573 Q3 Numerator Trafficking/Criminal Organization Cases is 1,491 = 32.60% Q4 Denominator Firearms cases is 5,316 Q4 Numerator Trafficking/Criminal Organization Cases is 1,494 = 28.10% UOF: ATF's internal FY21 Baseline is 100%, however, based on the DOJ memo and calculating purposes the FY21 DOJ Baseline is N/A. 2,756 mandatory trained each quarter final is 100%.</p>									
<p>BWC: Denominator for BWC is 2,756 Q1 special agents trained is 166 = 6% and Q2 special agents trained is 172 = 6.2% as reflected. No data for FY22 Q3, Q4 and FY23 Q1 because no additional special agents were trained, received no additional funding for training.</p>									

D. Performance, Resources, and Strategies

1. Performance Plan and Report for Outcomes

The ATF Performance Index is a management tool that helps facilitate informed decisionmaking regarding the ATF’s priorities, activities, and resources. The Performance Index aligns the ATF’s budget decision units with the Bureau’s strategic goals, core functions, and performance goal measures to provide comprehensive tracking and measurement of performance across the Bureau by:

- Summarizing related facts (indicators) into a single outcome (performance goal measure) to show impact, effectiveness, and progress towards established goals (targets).
- Collecting trend analysis over time of the impact and effectiveness of performance goal measures (outcome) relative to the established base year.

The ATF’s Executive leadership has focused on the seven mission driven core functions (highlighted in blue below) to report the ATF’s outcome-based performance goal measures.

<i>Core Function</i>	<i>Performance Goal Measure</i>
Deter Illegal Firearms Trafficking and Violent Gun Crime	Impact the threat to public safety caused by illegal firearms trafficking.
Firearms Criminal Possession and Use	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal possession and use of firearms.
Combat Criminal Organizations	Impact the threat to public safety caused by criminal organizations.
Firearms Industry Operations	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with federal laws and regulations by firearms industry members.
Deter Misuse of Explosives, Bombs and Bombings	Impact the threat to public safety caused by bombs and explosives.

Research Fire and Investigate Arson	Impact the threat to public safety caused by the criminal use of fire.
Explosives Industry Operation	Improve public safety by increasing compliance with federal laws and regulations by explosives industry members.
Modernize Our Processes and Systems	Modernize business processes and systems for improved information sharing and knowledge management. Use innovative technologies to support the ATF mission.
Manage Our Workforce	Attract, develop, and retrain a diverse, expert, and high performing workforce to execute the ATF mission and administrative responsibilities in the current and emerging business environment.

Modernization and Workforce performance data is tracked at the bureau-wide level. Alcohol and Tobacco Diversion (not shown) performance data is tracked within the Combat Criminal Organizations core function.

The ATF’s performance measures support both the LEO and the ISS decision units working interdependently to demonstrate the ATF’s actual performance. The ATF’s performance data is compiled and calculated into actuals for each performance goal measure, which is measured against the established target in the budget to provide a statistical measure of achievements, assess how performance changes over time, and demonstrate how performance relates to resources. The Performance Index allows the ATF to collect and analyze data in ways that give the ATF’s leaders the ability to:

- Recognize performance trends
- Push for organizational efficiencies
- Have needed discussions and exchange ideas
- Implement corrective action plans, if needed

The performance indicators and assigned weights are based on Executive leadership decisions that define each indicator’s impact on its respective performance goal measure.

2. Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes

The ATF’s strategies to investigate and prevent violent crime are focused under Frontline. The ATF develops customized strategies within each of its 25 field divisions based on assessments of the most significant violent crime threats within their areas of responsibility. The assessments

factor in emerging crime trends, significant criminal activity, issues faced by local industry members, the proximity, and priorities of Federal, state, local and other external partners, available ATF resources, as well as, unique data and intelligence developed by the ATF, and other intelligence and crime-related data available through Federal, state, and local partners. This information is used to plan the best use of resources at the local and national level for the greatest impact to reduce violent crime and safeguard the public.

3. Agency Priority Goals

By September 30, 2023, the Department of Justice will:

Strategic Goal 2: Keep Our Country Safe

Objective 2.3: Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence

- 1) Increase the percentage of urgent firearm trace requests completed within 48 hours to 95 percent from a 2021 baseline of 83.4 percent.
- 2) Increase the percentage of firearms cases that target traffickers or other large-scale enterprises to 39 percent from a 2021 baseline of 29 percent
- 3) Increase the number of inspections of federal firearms licensees to 7,410 from a 2021 baseline of 6,721.

Strategic Goal 3: Protect Civil Rights

Objective 3.3: Reform and Strengthen the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems to Ensure Fair and Just Treatment

- 1) Increase the percentage of federal law enforcement officers who receive Use of Force Sustained Training within a three-year period to 95 percent.
- 2) Increase the percentage of federal law enforcement officers, equipped with Body Worn Cameras (BWCs), and associated training to 38 percent from a 2021 baseline of 1 percent.

V. Program Increases by Item

Item Name:	Combating Gun Violence
Strategic Goal 2:	Keep Our Country Safe
Strategic Objective 2.2:	Counter Foreign and Domestic Terrorism
Strategic Objective 2.3:	Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence
Budget Decision Unit(s):	Law Enforcement Operations Investigative Support Services
Organizational Program:	Firearms Criminal Possession and Use Illegal Firearms Trafficking
Program Increase:	Positions <u>100</u> Agt/Atty <u>74</u> FTE <u>50</u> Dollars <u>\$25,578,000</u>

Description of Item

The ATF is requesting \$25.6 million and 100 positions (72 agents) for regional violent crime and trafficking initiatives, specifically to address the surge in firearms violence by combatting firearms trafficking, including support for Violent Crime Enforcement:

- 72 SAs to follow-up on the increasing number of investigative leads and conduct criminal enforcement operations;
- 10 IOIs Intelligence Specialists to increase firearms industry intelligence and investigative capabilities;
- 16 IRSs to increase tactical intelligence and support capabilities; and
- Two attorneys to provide legal guidance and recommendations for ATF's Combating Gun Violence program.

Justification

These initiatives are necessary for the ATF to meet the goals of the Administration and Department to enhance enforcement efforts focused on firearms trafficking, and to increase the support the ATF provides to local, state, territorial, and tribal law enforcement in the investigation of violent firearm offenses. Because firearm trafficking networks often involve transport of firearms across jurisdictional, state, and national boundaries, the ATF's Federal statutory authorities and expertise are essential to effective investigation, disruption, and prosecution. These investigations are also highly resource-intensive; the ATF must expand its SA cadre and professional support personnel to increase the volume and quality of its trafficking investigations. Expanding support to law enforcement partners in the investigation and prevention of violent firearm offenses also requires expanding ATF resources. The Department and the ATF have been deluged with requests from Members of Congress, Governors, Mayors, and police chiefs to increase ATF resources in communities across the nation that have experienced increases in firearm violence and associated firearms trafficking, including drug cartel-driven firearms trafficking. This program increase would enhance the ATF's capacity to investigate both the trafficking networks that fuel firearm violence in American communities, and the criminal organizations and individuals using firearms to commit violent offenses and intimidate communities. This expanded capacity will allow the Department and the ATF to partially address the broad range of requests for additional ATF resources. The Department and the ATF will prioritize allocation of the requested resources to those communities experiencing the highest rates of persistent firearm violence, and the regions in which firearms trafficking networks focus operations, including the drug cartel-linked networks that traffic firearms to Mexico.

The positions and funding in this request will directly support ATF's national and regional violent crime and trafficking initiatives. These initiatives leverage ATF's Frontline Business Model, and Crime Gun Intelligence resources, which are designed to allocate ATF's investigative and regulatory resources to maximize support for the Administration's whole-of-government approach to firearms trafficking and violence.

To implement this initiative, it is necessary to provide the ATF with the additional resources necessary to further diminish Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and the violence they bring. Recent significant incidents and the increasing tactical proficiency demonstrated by Mexican cartel gunmen are so alarming, they have drawn the attention of both the Mexican and United States Governments.

Impact on Performance

The ATF makes communities safer by identifying, targeting, and dismantling those criminal organizations that utilize firearms, arson, explosives, and alcohol or tobacco diversion in furtherance of violent criminal activity. The funding requested for national and regional violent crime and trafficking initiatives will support the ATF's efforts to accomplish these goals, consistent with Department and Administration priorities.

Additional SAs, IOIs, IRSs, and other professional staff will enhance the ATF’s ability to better identify, disrupt, and dismantle firearms trafficking networks supplying firearms to TCOs. The ATF will have the ability to deliver on its a strategic objective to fully implement an intelligencedriven approach to illegal firearms trafficking and violent gun crime.

Funding

1. Base Funding

FY 2022 Enacted				FY 2023 Enacted				FY 2024 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)
2,238	1,647	2,238	505,899	2,272	1,681	2,255	515,735	2,272	1,681	2,255	515,735

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	Request	Positions Requested	Full Year	Annualizations (\$000)
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	(\$000)		Modular Cost per Position (\$000)	1st Year	2nd Year	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
Intelligence (0132)	1,299	16	150.4	81.2	78.3	1,253	1,194
General Investigative (1801)	1,188	10	185.7	118.8	65.1	651	1,428
Criminal Investigative (1811)	22,723	72	405.7	315.6	(11.8)	(850)	8,273
Attorneys (0905)	304	2	272.3	151.9	140.1	280	92
Total Personnel	25,514	100				1,334	10,987

3. Non-Personnel Increase/Reduction Cost Summary

Non-Personnel Item	FY 2024 Request (\$000)	Unit Cost (\$000)	Quantity	Annualizations (\$000)	
				FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
Operational Cost	64	64	0	0	0
Total Non-Personnel	64	64	0	0	0

4. Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations

5. Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions	Amount Requested (\$000)	Annualizations (\$000)
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	Count	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non- Personnel	Total	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
Current Services	2,272	1,681	2,255	335,228	180,507	515,735	541,313	542,747
Increases	100	72	50	25,514	64	25,578	1,334	10,987
Grand Total	2,372	1,753	2,305	350,742	180,571	541,313	542,647	553,734

6. Affected Crosscuts: National Security, Violent Crime, Gun Safety & Transnational Crime

Item Name:

Body Worn Cameras

Strategic Goal 2:

Keep Our Country Safe

Strategic Goal 3:

Protect Civil Rights

Strategic Objective 2.2:

Counter Foreign and Domestic Terrorism

Strategic Objective 2.3:

Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence

Strategic Objective 3.3:

Reform and Strengthen the Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Systems to Ensure Fair and Just Treatment

Budget Decision Unit(s):

Law Enforcement Operations

Organizational Program:

Special Operations

Program Increase: Positions 70 Agt/Atty 12 FTE 35 Dollars \$37,847,000

Description of Item

The ATF requests \$37.8 million and 70 positions for the Body Worn Cameras (BWC) program. This funding will help the ATF implement the Department's policies and adhere to Executive

Order 14074, Advance Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices To Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety, by allowing the ATF to support digital case management software and video cloud storage of BWC video for both TFOs whose parent agency mandates the use of BWCs during enforcement operations while they serve on Federal task forces, as well as ATF SAs under the BWC requirements set forth in the recent DOJ BodyWorn Camera Policy.

The funding will allow the ATF to build the Digital Evidence Management (DEM) Branch to support the BWC program through training, hardware management, data management (integrity and security), policy guidance, technical support, and numerous other support functions, as detailed below.

Justification

On June 7, 2021, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco issued a BWC policy directing all Department components to develop and implement a BWC program that requires SAs and TFOs to wear and activate BWC recording equipment for purposes of recording their actions during: (1) a pre-planned attempt to serve an arrest warrant or other pre-planned arrest, including the apprehension of fugitives sought on state and local warrants; or (2) the execution of a search or seizure warrant or order.

To ensure successful and efficient support of both the TFO and SA BWC policies, the requested funding will be utilized to create the DEM Branch that will manage all the digital inventory (including both TFO BWC and SA BWC data) and ensure data integrity and security as well as promulgate policy and best practices.

The proposed DEM Branch model will require the purchase of hardware and accessories for ATF SAs,¹ travel for agency-wide and the ATF National Academy training, 70 positions for both

program support in the field, ATF headquarters, and the ATF National Academy. The field positions include the following:

- A BWC Branch Chief, who will oversee and identify all trends and recommend new methods if required. The Chief will design and oversee all policies and recommend appropriate actions for a studies and surveys, coordinate with various offices to ensure effective implementation of all program activities, oversee efficient working of all personnel within the BWC program.

¹ It is possible the ATF will be required to make additional hardware (BWC and accessories) purchases for Federally deputized task force officers and special deputies whose agencies do not require their officers to wear body-worn cameras in the future, however this request would only purchase hardware for ATF agents.

- Three Regional Project Officers, who will provide essential support in their assigned region while maintaining communication with other project officers and program manager for uniformity.
- One Project Officer responsible for ensuring DOJ's BWC Task Force Officer BWC requirement, this includes updating Task Force Officer BWC addendums as TFO's are onboarded and auditing field compliance that all TFO BWC recordings are maintained by ATF as Federal Records per DOJ mandates.
- Three Regional Management Analysts who will provide administrative support to the regional project officers which includes, providing essential support in their assigned region, maintaining communication with other project officers and branch chief for uniformity, manage and facilitate flow of information from the BWC program to the field, and facilitate in the logistics of guiding, training, and tutoring new users on the BWC digital evidence management software.
- Two Division Administrators per division (50) will be assigned to maintain the digital evidence, ensure records retention policies are met, and the integrity of the evidence is maintained.
- Each region will also have an assigned legal counsel (3), to assist in the guidance and dissemination of DOJ BWC policy and legislation as it pertains to government regulations of cloud storage and BWC-related DOJ expectations, i.e., strategic plan goals, Executive Orders etc.
- Each region will be assigned personnel (3) to assist in handling all disclosure related issues to include public disclosure of information subject to Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, to include redaction and dissemination of BWCs when required.

The headquarters support includes the following:

- A Contract Officer Representative to ensure the contractor(s) responsible for both the storage and digital evidence management system meets the commitment of the contract while also facilitating proper development of the requirements, to include timeliness and delivery of goods and services required by the contract.
-
- One headquarters position to research and disseminate all legal guidance to the regional legal counsel personnel to include pertinent case law and legal findings as it relates to BWC issues. In addition, this headquarters position will keep track of all FOIA and Privacy related to BWCs and ensure the timely release when required.
 - One Audit liaison to manage and coordinate all audits and reviews by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO).
 - One headquarters position to assist in the creation and implementation of a full BWC curriculum for the ATF National Academy for new agents and ensure compliance for all newly hired agents.
 - One Office of Science and Technology position to plan and carry out any security measures for the cloud-based storage, analyze the effectiveness of current network capabilities and

develop, and customize, if necessary, an infrastructure to support the current digital evidence management and storage. These individuals will also assist to support necessary bandwidth upgrades for approximately 300 ATF sites to support digital evidence migration and storage.

- One position to assist in focused intelligence through the collection and analysis of information obtained from data collected through the digital evidence collected.

In addition to personnel the DEMS Branch model will require a physical location for surplus hardware and accessories, IT upgrades for the successful upload or download of data in each office, and integration of the Taser data into the BWC cloud-based digital storage. Based on initial deployment, the ATF has realized the need for additional infrastructure to support the DEM Branch specifically for the redaction of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) when processing the BWC recordings for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests as well as discovery.

The introduction of BWCs has created an immense amount of audio and video footage, all of which is public record. As the ATF expands the BWC program, the amount of footage will grow exponentially. As with any public record, BWC footage must be reviewed and redacted prior to release. PII must be redacted from both audio and video footage to safeguard the public and prevent an invasion of privacy. Redacting BWC footage for compliance is a more laborious task than redacting paper documents and represents a challenge for the ATF. Ensuring access to BWC footage cannot be cost-prohibitive for requesters if transparency is the goal. Extensive footage redaction often requires many labor hours and represents a cost that the ATF cannot absorb. Additionally, critical incidents are more highly scrutinized and the need to share BWC recordings publicly becomes more urgent. Law enforcement agencies are often criticized when there is any delay in the release of recordings following a critical incident. By identifying footage deemed as a critical incident and expediting its release, the ATF is taking steps to strengthen public records request processes.

The additional DEM Branch positions requested will assist the ATF in managing the comprehensive redaction of BWC recordings in a timely manner and allocate appropriate resources to meet the increased demand for these public records. With the additional positions in place, the ATF can meet these challenges head-on and create a more transparent environment.

The proposed positions for the Digital Evidence Management Branch to support BWCs for the ATF SAs are a Branch Chief, Regional Project Managers, Regional Management Analysts, and a Contract Specialist. Additional personnel necessary to support the workload presented by the use of BWCs include an Attorney, Information Specialists to conduct FOIA and Privacy redactions, and an Information Systems Security Analyst.

The ATF DEM Branch proposes a new evidence management solution, centralizing evidence into one hub for easy file access and sharing between SAs, prosecutors, and courtroom personnel, without the need for internal infrastructure or hardware. This digital cloud storage will maintain a chain of custody and ensure that an accurate audit log is always available. The digital evidence cloud storage will allow the ATF task forces to successfully continue working with little to no

negative impact on performance. A digital evidence management cloud storage system will allow each agency to reduce the time spent on making copies to a portable storage format and allow each agency to share, when necessary, the data collected and maintained per the DOJ policy. A third-party digital storage solution is estimated to generate net savings of approximately \$5.5 million per year compared to onsite storage.

The DEM Branch will securely manage digital evidence, including BWC footage, overt BWC footage, covert cameras footage, unmanned aviation systems, and seized media from a variety of sources. In addition, the DEM Branch will allow for evidence files to be shared electronically between users and non-users and provide search functionality to segment evidence by criteria.

Moreover, the DEM Branch will provide program oversight and management to facilitate the actions of the Branch which will be held to court mandated evidentiary standards. Due to this requirement, trained personnel will be required to ensure the integrity of the ATF's digital evidence warehouse. A physical location will also be required to allow for the secured, controlled storage of equipment of all DEM related hardware.

Overall, services provided by DEM will include, file indexing, e-storage and recall, critical victim and witness redacting, GIS services, video integration and cross referencing. These tools will eventually need to be integrated with the ATF's case management system and managed as critical data infrastructure.

The current DEMS model will allow for enterprise pricing for both first- and third-party storage, meaning both BWCs and other digital evidence mediums can be ingested into one DEMS solution. This solution also allows for redaction, transcription, and cloud-based case/evidence sharing of all types of digital evidence. This evidence can then be shared to the United States Attorneys' (USAO), and state and local prosecutors. In addition, there are several approved mobile applications that allow agents in the field to document audio, video, photographs, etc., and ingest them into their case via same DEMS solution from the field. Finally, the DEM Branch will incorporate this cloud-based DEMS without the need for internal infrastructure or hardware. It will securely manage digital evidence, including body cam footage, overt bodyworn cameras, covert cameras, unmanned aviation systems, and seized media from a variety of sources.

Impact on Performance

In October 2020, the Department announced that it "will permit state, local, territorial, and Tribal task force officers to use body worn cameras on federal task forces around the nation. The Department's policy will permit federally deputized officers to activate a body worn camera while serving arrest warrants, or during other planned arrest operations, and during the execution of search warrants." The policy is the result of a pilot program launched by the Department in October 2019 and applies to the extent that a TFO's parent agency requires BWC use by its officers during Federal task force enforcement operations.

The requested funding will support the TFO and the TFO's parent agency by providing data and video storage software and capacity for some of the TFO's BWC video while the TFO is serving

on a Federal task force directed by the ATF. Since video storage is one of the costliest aspects of a BWC program, Federal support for these digital storage requirements will allow the ATF to maintain and increase partner agency participation in the Department’s task forces.

The use of BWCs by the ATF’s state and local partners will be a useful tool to improve community relations, lower the number of citizen complaints, defend officers against false accusations, increase accountability, and improve officer training and evaluation. As such, allowing partner agencies to act in accordance with their internal policy by BWCs pursuant to and with direction from the Department’s policy, will allow those partner agencies that were previously prohibited from participating on an ATF Federal task force to reconsider.

As stated in the DOJ’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, it is anticipated the use of BWCs by Federal agents will promote trust between communities and law enforcement by making communities and policing safer and will strengthen connections between law enforcement and the community. The BWCs will allow protection against false accusations against agents while protecting individuals’ civil rights.

Funding

1. Base Funding

FY 2022 Enacted				FY 2023 Enacted				FY 2024 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)
0	0	0	0	6	6	3	6,270	6	6	6	6,270

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	Request	Positions Requested	Full Year Modular	Annualizations (\$000)			
	(\$000)		Cost per Position (\$000)	1st Year	2nd Year	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)

Criminal Investigative (1811)	3,472	11	405.7	315.6	(11.8)	(130)	1,264
Management Analyst (343)	487	6	150.4	81.2	78.3	469	448
Cloud Engineer (2210)	81	1	150.4	81.2	78.3	78	75
FOIA Redaction/Auditors (1805)	4,061	50	150.4	81.2	78.3	3,914	3,731
Attorneys (0905)	152	1	272.3	151.9	140.1	140	46
Contract Specialist (1100-1199)	81	1	150.4	81.2	78.3	78	75
Total Personnel	8,334	70				4,549	5,639

3. Non-Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Non-Personnel Item	Request (\$000)	Unit Cost (\$000)	Quantity	Annualizations (\$000)	
				FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
BWCs for 3400 ATF Special Agents for Field AB3 BWC Hardware	10,200	3	3,400	0	0

500 BWCs for ATF Special Agents for Field Flex 3 BWC Hardware	1,450	2.9	500	0	0
Unlimited Software Storage Services	3,400	3,400	1	0	0
BWC Contract Support	5,935	5,935	1	0	0
GOV	320	320	1	0	0
Travel/Training	1,600	1,600	1	0	0
IT Infrastructure	4,500	4,500	1	0	0
TFO Hardware/Software/Accessories	2,095	2,095	1	0	0
Taser Integration	13	13	1	0	0
Total Non-Personnel	29,513	17,869	3,907	0	0

4. Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations

5. Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions			Amount Requested (\$000)			Annualizations (\$000)	
	Count	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total	FY 2024 (net change from 2023)	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)
Current Services	6	6	6	4,076	2,194	6,270	44,117	48,666
Increases	70	11	35	8,334	29,513	37,847	4,549	5,639

Grand Total	76	17	41	12,410	31,707	44,117	48,666	54,305
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6. Affected Crosscuts: National Security, Violent Crime, Restoring Police-Community Relations

Item Name: Zero Emission Vehicles

Strategic Goal 2: Keep Our Country Safe

Strategic Objective 2.3: Combat Violent Crime and Gun Violence

Budget Decision Unit(s): Law Enforcement Operations
Investigative Support Services

Organizational Program: Bureau-wide

Program Increase: Positions 0 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 0 Dollars \$6,824,000

Description of Item

The ATF requests \$6.8 million for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV). In support of the President’s goal of transitioning to a fully (ZEV) Federal fleet, the ATF’s budget includes funding for zero

emission vehicles [ZEV - battery electric (BEV), plug-in electric hybrid (PHEV), and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (FCEV)] acquisitions and deploying vehicle charging and refueling infrastructure, distributed across major user components. These acquisitions are a significant step towards eliminating tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from DOJ's fleet and aligning the Department's fleet operations with the goal of achieving a fully ZEV Federal fleet. This is part of the Department's comprehensive plan pursuant to Executive Order 14008.

The Department's ZEV acquisition strategies include vehicles for both its agency-owned and General Services Administration (GSA)-leased segments of its vehicle fleet, including incremental costs of leased vehicles and lease payments to GSA for conversion of agency-owned vehicles to GSA's leased fleet where appropriate. To ensure effective and efficient deployment of ZEVs, the Department will undertake preparation and planning for arriving ZEVs at its facilities, properly prioritizing transition to ZEVs where it is simplest, and allow time for additional planning where mission demands pose a challenge to transitioning based on current technologies. Integral to this preparation is growth in the number of agency-accessible vehicle charging stations. In installing this infrastructure on-site to support ZEVs, the Department will take the long-term view to ensure efficiencies and wise infrastructure decisions that limit total expenditures.

The ATF utilized a ZEV Planning and Charging (ZPAC) Tool developed by CEQ, the Department of Energy (DOE), the General Services Administration (GSA), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to prioritize charging station locations. This tool assists the ATF and other agencies in planning for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), also referred to as charging infrastructure, and ZEV acquisitions. The ZPAC Tool helped the agency identify sites where EVSE installation should be prioritized and vehicles where a ZEV – including fully battery electric vehicles (BEVs), hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs), and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) – could meet mission requirements.

Justification

The Department's ZEV acquisition strategies include vehicles for both its agency-owned and GSA-leased segments of its vehicle fleet, including incremental costs of leased vehicles and lease payments to GSA for conversion of agency-owned vehicles to GSA's leased fleet where appropriate. To ensure effective and efficient deployment of ZEVs, the Department will undertake preparation and planning for arriving ZEVs at its facilities, properly prioritizing transition to ZEVs where it is simplest, and allow time for additional planning where mission demands pose a challenge to transitioning based on current technologies. Integral to this preparation is growth in the number of agency-accessible vehicle charging stations. In installing this infrastructure on-site to support ZEVs, the Department will take the long-term view to ensure efficiencies and wise infrastructure decisions that limit total expenditures.

Impact on Performance

This initiative is necessary for the ATF to meet the President’s goal of transitioning to a fully Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Federal fleet. The ATF understands the long-term economic and sustainability benefits of ZEVs and is committed to incorporating ZEVs into our fleet, given the appropriate funding and timeline. With this information, the ATF is prioritizing the charging station to that the vehicles have a means to charge. In addition, the ATF is initially focusing on acquiring general use PHEVs as the EVSEs are installed. To optimize expected usage and efficiencies, the ATF is planning on installing EVSEs at the twelve locations throughout the ATF.

Due to the quickly rising prices of vehicles and especially EVs, the initial purchase of fourteen vehicles can be adjusted at purchase time to meet the \$6.8 million allocation for FY 2024.

Funding

1. Base Funding

FY 2022 Enacted				FY 2023 Enacted				FY 2024 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	FY 2024 Request (\$000)	Positions Requested	Full Year Modular Cost per Position (\$000)	Annualizations (\$000)			
				1st Year	2nd Year	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Personnel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. Non-Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Non-Personnel Item	FY 2024 Request (\$000)	Unit Cost (\$000)	Quantity	Annualizations (\$000)	
				FY 2025 (net change from 2024)	FY 2026 (net change from 2025)
Fleet	824	51.5	16	0	0
EV Station for charging	6,000	500	12	0	0
Total Non-Personnel	6,824	511.5		0	0

4. Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations

This initiative is necessary for the ATF’s strategy to tackle the global climate crisis and performance goals.

5. Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions			Amount Requested (\$000)			Annualizations (\$000)	
	Count	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total	FY 2024 (net change from 2023)	FY 2025 (net change from 2024)
Current Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,824	6,824
Increases	0	0	0	0	6,824	6,824	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0	0	6,824	6,824	6,824	6,824

6. Affected Crosscuts: National Security