

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Annual Update
ATV Law Enforcement
Grant Program

**2023 Annual Report to the 132nd Joint Standing
Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

Provided by Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

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HISTORY

The ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program was developed when legislation was passed during the 121st Maine State Legislature and [Public Law Chapter 695](#) was enacted in 2003. This law was meant to address the increased popularity of ATVs in the state of Maine. The increased use of ATVs led to a higher number of conflicts and accidents, therefore the need for more ATV law enforcement was necessary.

Grants from the program are intended to provide, maintain, improve, and expand ATV enforcement as well as training for state, county, and municipal enforcement officers. Grants are available for three different project types: General ATV Enforcement, Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement, and Training / Equipment.

A grant review committee reviews, approves and administers grants to law enforcement agencies for projects that are consistent with the criteria set within law. The funding for this program is provided from a small portion of gas tax dollars.

SUMMARY

ATV Enforcement Grant and Aid Program – **April 1, 2023, through December 15, 2023**

Administrative costs have been reduced by digitizing all forms/applications, use of email and virtual meetings. The redundancy is eliminated, resulting in less time needed in labor hours, lowering the administrative cost of the program.

The program did see a considerable increase in the number of spring grant applications but there was a decline in applications this past fall. The amount of money in the requests was not reduced, however. The reduction in fall applications was due to low staffing amongst law enforcement agencies which resulted in a need to reallocate personnel to other priorities. A second reason some departments didn't apply in the fall was due to inadequate program funding for the spring application timeframe.

A total of **39** grant applications were received {25 in the spring / 14 in the fall}, requesting: **\$552,250.25** **NOTE:** This is on par with the average number of annual applications and amount requested.

The ATV Law Enforcement Grant Committee approved **\$152,528.50** for the year.

NOTE: This is approximately \$40,000.00 less than 2022 due to underfunding.

The various agencies used **\$129,496.38** resulting in an extra **1,624** patrol hours dedicated solely to ATV law enforcement for 2023.

From this effort:

- **6,226** ATVs were checked,
- **217** other contacts were made,

- **238** citations and
- **478** warnings were issued by participating law enforcement agencies.

Since the spring of 2006, this program has received monetary grant requests totaling: **\$ 8,478,173.52.**

The ATV Law Enforcement Grant Committee has only been able to approve: **\$3,666,822.99** in grants with **\$2,867,703.46** of these funds being used to reimburse participating law enforcement agencies.

These expenditures over the last 17 years; contributed to an ongoing total of **54,784.50** hours dedicated to ATV law enforcement. Resulting in **5,041** citations, **12,137** warnings, **217,269** ATVs checked and as of 2022 we began keeping records of other contacts made while patrolling and that total is: **1048.**

The funds from this program are dedicated strictly to enforcement, training, and equipment which is needed to conduct ATV law enforcement work. The ever-increasing popularity and sales of ATVs continue to grow exponentially. Hundreds of complaints are generated due to ATV users each year and this increases the requests for assistance by Maine's private landowners who support the 6,000+ miles of trails requiring response from Maine's law enforcement officers. The Legislative Committee may want to consider re-evaluating the program funding to continue to meet such demands.