

# Witness protection fund sees increase in use

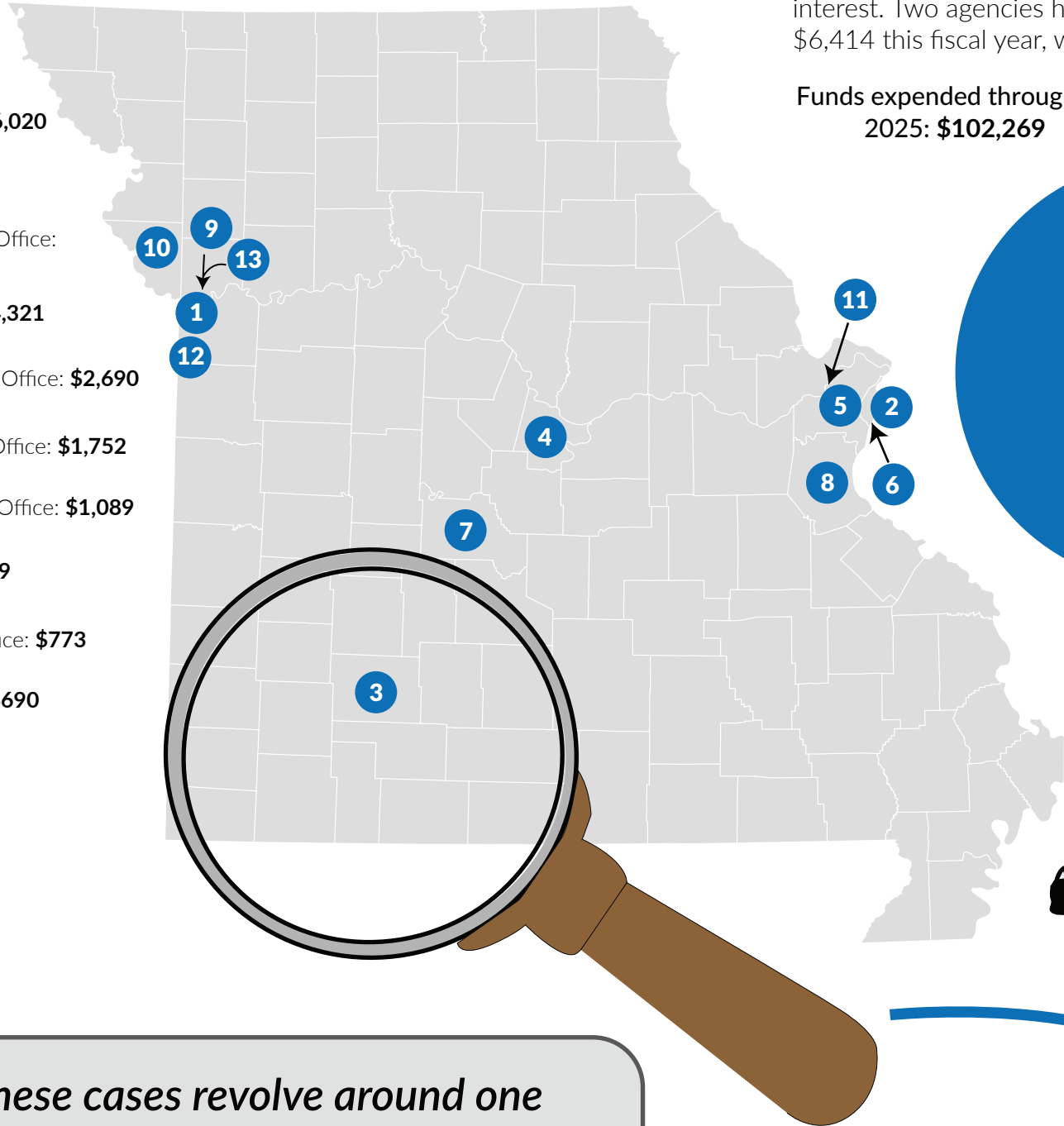
By Natanya Friedham

Through the Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund, created by state lawmakers in 2020, local law enforcement agencies can seek reimbursement for money spent on witness protection. In its first year, one agency, the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, spent just \$117. But use of the funds has since grown, with eight agencies spending \$39,303 in the 2025 fiscal year, which ended on June 30.

## Amount spent by each law enforcement agency

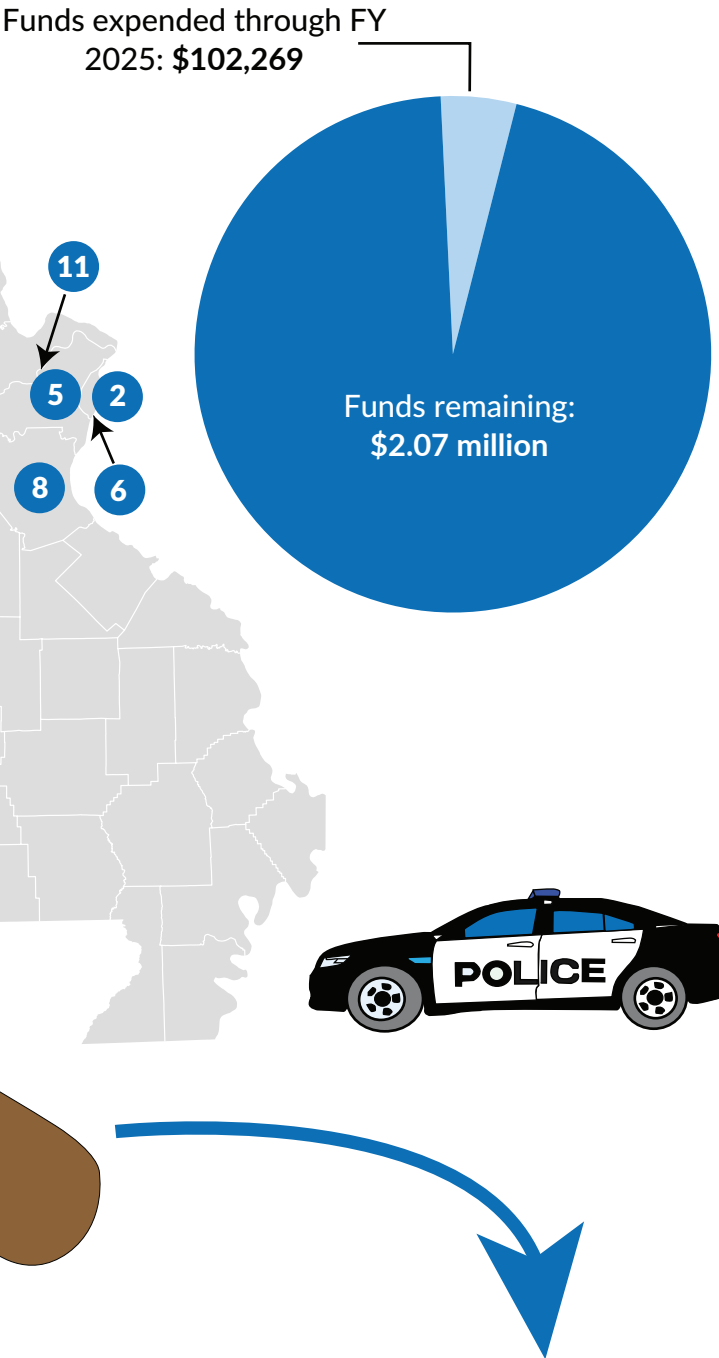
Police departments in Missouri’s two largest cities, Kansas City and St. Louis, have used 76% of all expended funds.

- 1 Kansas City Missouri Police: **\$57,093**
- 2 St. Louis Metro Police: **\$26,020**
- 3 Springfield Police: **\$7,101**
- 4 Cole County Prosecutor's Office: **\$5,753**
- 5 St. Louis County Police: **\$4,321**
- 6 St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office: **\$2,690**
- 7 Camden County Sheriff's Office: **\$1,752**
- 8 Jefferson County Sheriff's Office: **\$1,089**
- 9 Pleasant Valley Police: **\$879**
- 10 Platte County Sheriff's Office: **\$773**
- 11 Maryland Heights Police: **\$690**
- 12 Grandview Police: **\$447**
- 13 Gladstone Police: **\$76**



## Total spent over five years

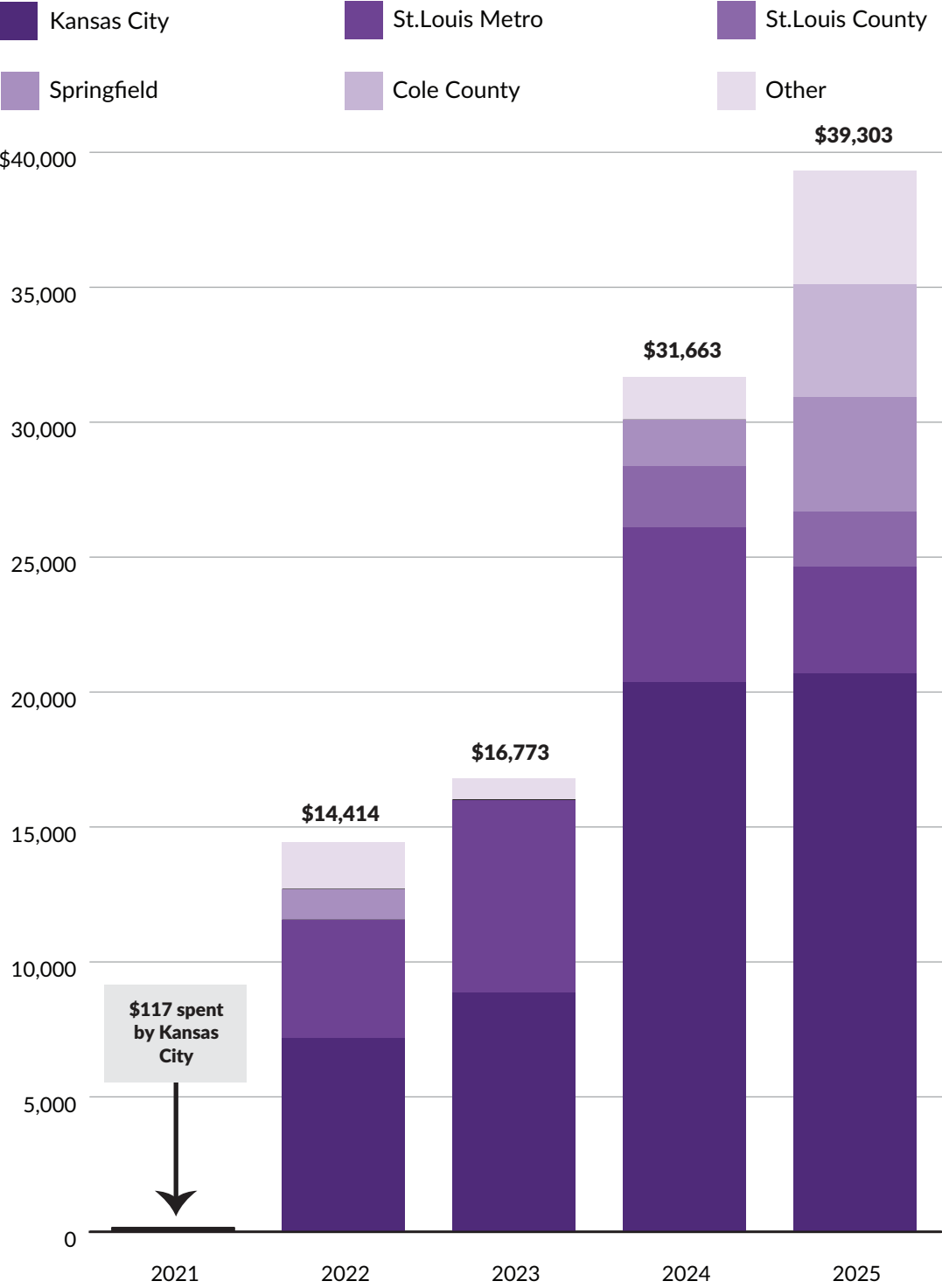
From fiscal years 2021 through 2025, agencies spent 5% of the fund, which grew to \$2.07 million due to interest. Two agencies have used an additional \$6,414 this fiscal year, which began July 1.



*“Some of these cases revolve around one particular witness or victim. We need to them to be able to testify.”* - Lt. John Loe, Springfield

## Total reimbursed, 2021-2025

Kansas City, Missouri’s most populous city, outspent other local local law enforcement agencies every year since lawmakers funded the program in 2021.



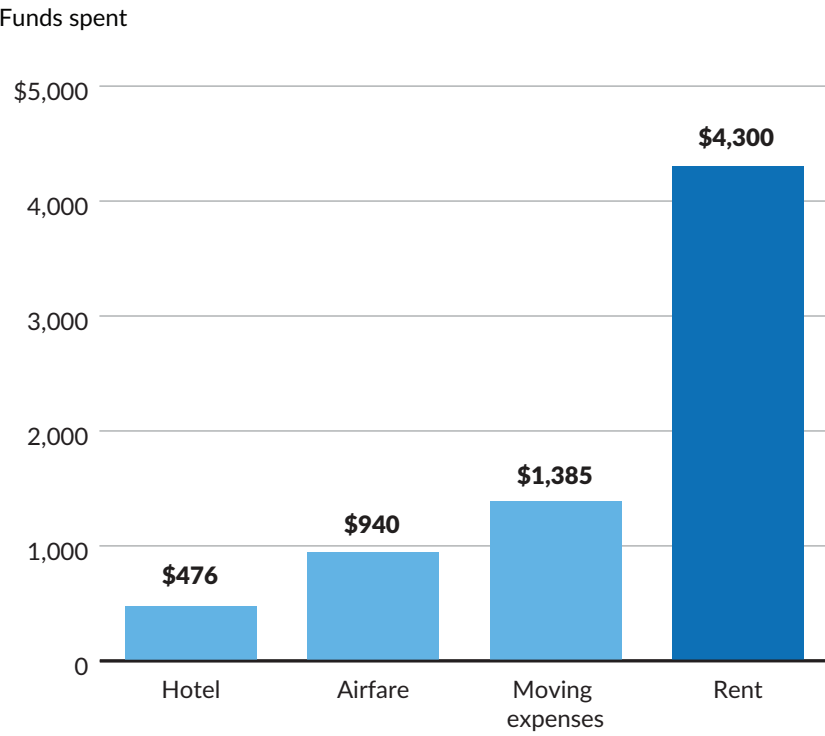
Note: The group “other” includes eight local law enforcement agencies.

Source: Missouri Treasurer’s Office, Missouri Department of Public Safety

## Case Study: Springfield

### Witness protection expenses in Springfield

The Springfield Police Department used the Pretrial Witness Protection Services Program for three years: 2022, 2024 and 2025. The department spent \$7,101 total, and most of the money went to rent.



*“They’re intimidated. They fear for their lives and the lives of their family members.”*

Kathleen Tofall, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

NATANYA FRIEDHEIM/ Columbia Missourian