

MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

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MUNICIPAL COURT
MARIETTA, OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT

-2019-



For the Period:
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1901 of the Ohio Revised Code governs the conduct of Municipal Courts including the Marietta Municipal Court. Section 1901.14(A)(4) provides as follows:

“On or before the last day of March of each year, the Court shall render a complete report of its operation during the preceding year to the Legislative Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners of each county within its territory. The report shall show the work performed by the Court, a statement of receipts and expenditures of the civil and criminal branches, respectively, the number of cases heard, decided, settled and such other data as the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the Legislative Authority, and the Board of County Commissioners required.”

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Restitution

The Court collected \$47,816 in restitution through the Probation Department and the Clerk's Office. This sum was then paid over to victims of criminal offenses.

Court Building

The Court again made its payment of approximately \$175,000 on the capital improvement bond for building renovation. These funds are generated by special project fees imposed in court cases. A reserve fund equal to one annual payment is maintained in this fund to protect against unplanned contingences.

In terms of maintenance, and in cooperation with the Service Director's employees, the emergency systems are checked regularly, filters are replaced as recommended by the manufacturer, and the lot is kept clean of snow and ice. The Court contracts with Jani-Source to regularly clean carpets and to maintain the finish on the vinyl flooring. In addition, security staff is assigned responsibility for monthly checks of alarms and fire extinguishers.

When the court building was renovated, we established a secure IT room with a separate climate control system. The HVAC for the room failed in 2019 and the Court used special project funds to immediately replace the unit. The new system is an upgrade to the previous unit and will hopefully provide years of reliable service.

Crisis Intervention Training

The Judge hosted monthly planning meetings for the Crisis Intervention Training Team. Crisis Intervention is a nationally recognized program designed to provide important information to law enforcement officers on mental health disorders, appropriate methods to recognize and to de-escalate potentially dangerous contacts, to improve diversion to proper community resources and to protect safety of community members, their families and members of law enforcement.

Technology Grant

The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded a grant of \$106,914.30 to Municipal Court to fund various technology projects. This grant did not require matching funds from the City General Fund.

Weddings

The Court officiated twenty-nine weddings in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Dyar Welch, Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

A. New Filings – Comparative Table

Type	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Civil	1,317	1,186	1,093	854	764
Small Claims	107	103	93	94	93

B. Hearings – Comparative Table

Held By:	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Judge	40	52	47	37	38
Magistrate Small Claims	78	63	48	59	51

C. Receipts and Expenditures

Payee	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
City – General	129,589.77	109,848.33	103,237.91	84,887.72	75,960.86
Court – Computer	11,344	10,240	9,432.00	7,504.00	6,784.00
Court – Capital Imp.	20,430	18,392	16,973.00	13,326.00	12,000.00
Ohio – Legal Aid	34,940.07	31,447.35	29,025.81	22,854.29	20,491.02
Total Disbursements:	196,303.84	169,927.68	158,668.72	128,572.01	115,235.88

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

A. New Filings – Five Year Comparative Table

Type Offense	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Felonies	472	506	471	414	371
Misdemeanors	1,763	2,206	1,872	1,848	1,644
OVI	359	407	431	415	325
Other Traffic	7,106	8,292	7,881	6,917	8,182
Total:	9,700	11,411	10,655	9,594	10,522

B. Trials

The Court conducted 37 preliminary hearings on felony cases, 25 court trials on contested traffic and criminal cases and 6 jury trials. These totals do not include motion hearings, probation violations, contempts, or restitution hearings.

C. Criminal/Traffic Receipts and Disbursements – Comparative Table

Payee	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
City of Marietta General Fund	445,317.39	515,276.01	468,180.36	400,989.84	440,078.16
Capital Improvement Fund	181,324.43	211,886.58	202,675.33	185,453.51	208,039.26
Court Computer/ Convenience Fee	94,167.41	109,226.35	101,230.45	89,819.65	95,055.50
Indigent Alcohol Fund	14,305.10	17,166.00	16,537.00	14,780.00	15,843.50
County General Fund	207,753.89	222,366.48	217,876.23	197,924.43	191,954.72
House Arrest	58,732	49,960	45,864.00	50,780.50	36,599.00
Probation/ Security Fees	155,868.30	135,440.31	128,692.41	126,936.31	103,977.83
Law Library	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Sheriff	9,708.12	10,261.50	11,451.04	10,644.88	10,838.14
State of Ohio*	532,478.01	628,846.13	567,279.91	510,468.49	587,234.63
Beverly	114.00	392.00	248.00	398.00	289.00
New Matamoras	326.00	643.00	1,003.00	869.00	886.00
Lowell	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	50.00
Macksburg	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Capital Recovery	31,352.48	48,947.46	42,702.58	38,451.48	38,152.12
Belpre	1,181.00	3,352.60	4,454.40	3,452.00	1,354.00
College Law Enf.	-0-	700.00	450.00	350.00	450.00
Common Pleas Court	13,854.67	10,666.92	11,387.41	15,754.77	7,169.94
Total Disbursements	1,751,982.80	1,970,631.34	1,825,532.12	1,652,572.86	1,743,466.80

* State of Ohio includes Ohio State Highway Patrol, Criminal Reparations Account, Child Restraint, Pharmacy Board, Liquor Control, Division of Conservation, etc.

UNPAID FINES AND COSTS

The Court is owed \$618,901.72 for unpaid fines and costs imposed in calendar year 2019. Cases with delinquent fines and costs are assigned to the Court's collection agency, Capital Recovery, and the statutory thirty percent fee is added to the amount due. This collection fee is paid by the offender. The collection agency is not paid a portion of the fines and costs it collects. Collection efforts continue for prior years on accumulated fines and costs. Uncollected fines imposed prior to January 1, 2015 are deemed uncollectible but are subject to being reopened if the offender appears in court for another reason.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

In 2019 the Court expended \$62,400 from its Computer Fund primarily for conversion of paper files to electronic media. The Court paid the annual bond payment for its share of the renovation of the current court facility from its Court Capital Improvement Fund. The Computer Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund are separately generated by the Court through the assessment of fees on offenders and other users of court services. As noted earlier in this report, the Judge authorized use of Special Project Funds to replace the IT room HVAC.