

MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

FILED

2024 MAR 28 PM 3:40

MUNICIPAL COURT  
MARIETTA, OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT

-2023-



For the Period:  
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Judge's Comments	2-3
III.	Civil Division	4
IV.	Criminal/Traffic Division	5
V.	Criminal/Traffic Receipts/Disbursements	6
VI.	Unpaid Fines and Costs and Special Projects Funds	7
VII.	Cost of Operation	8
VIII.	Probation Report	9-10

## 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**

The year 2023 will largely be remembered as the final year of three-term incumbent Judge Janet Welch. Judge Welch began her judicial career at Marietta Municipal Court in 2006 where she served until her retirement.

Judge Welch addressed the well-documented space, security, and accessibility deficiencies of the Court facility, through the purchase and renovation of the current Court building located at 259 Butler Street. The space that previously housed the Court in City Hall was then repurposed for the Police Department and other City offices.

Judge Welch revamped an already successful probation office in response to the massive increase in property crimes, drug abuse, and crimes related to substance abuse. Probation supervision services are now provided based on the risk of future criminal conduct using evidence-based practices. Probationers with severe substance abuse disorders are placed in quality, long-term rehabilitation programs with follow-up services to help sustain sobriety.

In her last term, Judge Welch successfully established a certified specialized docket for offenders with severe and persistent mental illness who are at a moderate to high risk of recidivism.

## Court Building

After 11 years of use, the courthouse was in need of several repairs and upgrades.

The following projects were completed in 2023:

- Area of Refuge signage replacement and repair.
- Fire Panel memory board replaced and battery backup was upgraded.
- Electronic module replaced on boiler.
- New benches were installed in Courtroom B.
- Old benches from Courtroom B were installed in public waiting area.
- The lighting in Courtroom B was upgraded with LED lighting and new switches were added.
- The court phone system was converted from copper to fiber wire.
- The courthouse exterior soffit and window wells were painted.
- The courthouse parking lot was patched and repainted.
- The courthouse public areas, as well as both courtrooms, were painted.

All repairs listed were funded and paid by Court Capital Improvement Funds.

Respectfully submitted,



Randall E. Jedlink, Judge

## CIVIL DIVISION

### A. New Filings – Comparative Table

Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Civil	1302	1176	1011	998	1,317
Small Claims	41	41	93	100	107

### B. Hearings – Comparative Table

Held By:	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Judge	48	27	32	32	40
Magistrate Small Claims	24	27	68	53	78

### C. Receipts and Expenditures

Payee	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
City – General	172,797.40	133,808.14	97,718.87	94,981.33	129,589.77
Court – Computer	10,632	9,712	8,776	8,736	11,344
Court – Capital Imp.	19,607	17,890	15,727	15,596	20,430
Ohio – Legal Aid	33,599.61	30,654.36	26,885.43	26,652.78	34,940.07
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b>236,636.01</b>	<b>192,064.50</b>	<b>149,107.30</b>	<b>145,966.11</b>	<b>196,303.84</b>

## CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

### A. New Filings – Five Year Comparative Table

Type Offense	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Felonies	404	347	430	470	472
Misdemeanors	966	1,168	1,553	1,430	1,763
OVI	190	204	250	235	359
Other Traffic	4,740	4,992	6,703	4,736	7,106
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>8,936</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>9,700</b>

### B. Trials

The Court held 24 bench trials on contested traffic and criminal cases. In addition, the Court held 20 preliminary hearings. These totals do not include motion hearings, probation violations, contempts, or restitution hearings.

C. Criminal/Traffic Receipts and Disbursements – Comparative Table

<b>Payee</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
City of Marietta General Fund	306,213.22	321,636.91	392,179.18	291,406.80	445,317.39
Capital Improvement Fund	126,651.14	132,404.11	172,129.39	126,122.48	181,324.43
Court Computer/ Convenience Fee	70,111.90	72,325.83	91,308.67	67,040.94	94,167.41
Indigent Alcohol Fund	10,076.00	10,212.00	11,171.00	10,482.50	14,305.10
County General Fund	168,710.09	180,030.66	192,471.94	178,203.06	207,753.89
House Arrest	44,064	42,590	73,656.45	46,300	58,732
Probation/ Security Fees	135,100.20	130,940.38	113,736.91	122,611.58	155,868.30
Law Library	5,500	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Sheriff	7,788.59	7,773.29	8,946.15	10,001.90	9,708.12
State of Ohio*	375,963.74	396,297.89	503,480.01	380,323.27	532,478.01
Beverly	254.00	101.00	373.00	434.00	114.00
New Matamoras	198.00	690.00	498.00	-0-	326.00
Lowell	130.00	150.00	65.00	-0-	-0-
Macksburg	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Capital Recovery	25,791.62	20,549.17	24,964.16	25,078.47	31,352.48
Belpre	1,813.00	1,788.00	2,342.00	702.00	1,181.00
College Law Enf.	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Common Pleas Court	9,353.10	5,997.37	13,958.83	9,536.21	13,854.67
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>1,287,718.60</b>	<b>1,328,986.61</b>	<b>1,606,780.69</b>	<b>1,273,743.21</b>	<b>1,751,982.80</b>

\* 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 \$272,581.43 for unpaid fines and costs imposed in calendar year 2023. 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 from the fines and costs it collects. Collection efforts continue for prior years on accumulated fines and costs. Uncollected fines imposed prior to January 1, 2019 are deemed uncollectible but are subject to being reopened if the offender appears in court for another reason.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS**

In 2023 the Court expended \$41,413 from its Computer Fund. 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.

## COST OF OPERATION

### General Fund Budget

	2023	2022	2021	2020
General Fund Budget	\$1,090,626.00	\$1,055,940.00	\$936,706.00	\$881,543.00
General Fund Actually Spent	\$996,260.00	\$965,276.00	\$930,786.00	\$864,023.00
<b>Amount Under Budget:</b>	<b>\$94,366.00</b>	<b>\$90,644.00</b>	<b>\$5,920.00</b>	<b>\$17,520.00</b>

### Payments to the General Fund

Payment from Fines and Cost	\$526,136.00	\$475,353.00	\$519,923.00	\$437,860.00
Payment from Probation Funding	\$154,800.00	\$154,495.00	\$187,636.00	\$163,624.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$680,936.00</b>	<b>\$634,848.00</b>	<b>\$707,559.00</b>	<b>\$601,484.00</b>

## **PROBATION REPORT**

The Chief Probation Officer is responsible for security at the Court. One full-time Court Security Officer provided security in and around the court building. Security screened 19,029 people in 2023, an average of 366 people a week. The volume of foot traffic increased by 18 percent in 2023.

Offenders worked 2,474 hours of community service in lieu of jail for numerous departments. This was an increase of 42 percent from 2022. The Washington County Jail inmates worked 2,275 hours of supervised community service totaling \$22,742 which was credited for court fines. The probation department collected restitution from 73 offenders in 2023. The total amount collected and distributed to the victims was \$30,952.79.

### **Case Management Services:**

Case Managers Leah Gregory and Angela Grasley received 79 new referrals to case management services who were classified moderate to very high risk of future criminal conduct. 98 referrals to outpatient treatment were made. 77 individuals were referred and placed in long-term residential treatment, 59 were referred to a Certified Driver Intervention Program, 177 Alcohol/Drug assessment referrals, 85 Mental Health Assessment referrals, 38 were referred to Thinking for a Change group. 30 current and post-supervision clients were referred to SMART Recovery group.

### **Moderate - Very High-Risk Offenders:**

Probation Officers Melanie Ferrell, Chandler Brockmeier, and Derek Johnson provided supervision to moderate risk, high risk, and very high-risk offenders. They worked with Case Management and targeted 59 moderate-to very high-risk offenders for extended, inpatient rehabilitation. The inpatient treatment phase averaged ninety days.

Each probation officer carried an average caseload of 160 offenders. These offenders reported to their assigned officer based on their assessed risk level with targeted offenders reporting several times weekly. In accordance with established policies based on criminal risk factors these moderate to very high-risk offenders were

referred to local intensive outpatient treatment providers as appropriate. Probationers were subject to frequent drug testing together with follow up home visits. The probation department and case managers completed 24 hours in evidence-based practices.

### **Pretrial Supervision:**

Maggie Costaras was brought on as the Pretrial Services Officer in 2023. Pretrial supervision has proven to be beneficial to the Court as well as those who are facing trial. 119 individuals were monitored. 96 percent of individual who were placed in pretrial services appeared for their court hearing. 73 percent of these individual were referred and actively participated in treatment services for either mental health or substance abuse issues. 27 percent of individuals referred to pretrial services were electronically monitored either by GPS or Alcohol/Drug Monitoring.

### **Accomplishments:**

Probation Officer Derek Johnson successfully completed the Adult Probation and Parole Association Leadership Institute in 2023. He was admitted through a nationwide selective process that identifies the leaders of the future in community corrections. He was also selected and admitted to participate in the three-year Supreme Court of Ohio Certified Court Manager Program. He completed the first of three years of that program.

### **End of Service / Retirements:**

After 12 years of service, Probation Officer Patrick Brockmeier resigned his position to accept what he described as his “dream job”! Patrick now serves as the Chief of Police with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. We wish him the best in the future!

Probation Officer Melanie Ferrell retired after serving over 26 years at Marietta Municipal Court. She will always be remembered for going above and beyond for those she supervised. She served as a role model for both those she supervised as well as the officers with whom she worked.



**Jason Hamilton**

Chief Probation Officer