

MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT

WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

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2025 MAR 31 PM 4:07

MUNICIPAL COURT
MARIETTA, OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT

-2024-



For the Period:
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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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

I am pleased to present to you the 2024 Marietta Municipal Court Annual Report. It contains information on the Court's cases, services, and programs provided to the citizens of Washington County. The Marietta Municipal Court works closely with numerous other county and city agencies, departments, and service providers to follow through with its mission of serving the residents and visitors of Washington County.

The year 2024 ushered in a number of changes for the Court. For the first time in 18 years, the Court had a new Judge, Randall Jedlink, took over for Judge Welch who faithfully served the people of Washington County since 2006. When Judge Jedlink took the bench, he appointed local attorney, Laura Silwani, to serve as fulltime Magistrate to help handle the large caseload of the Court.

Several improvements were made to the Court, both with regards to the physical structure, as well as its inner workings. After an excellent review by the Supreme Court, the Mental Health Court received recertification for the next three years, allowing the Court to continue its good work with some of the most vulnerable citizens in desperate need in Washington County.

During Judge Jedlink's first year in office, the Court finished fiscal year 2024 \$189,732 *under* budget. Judge Jedlink addressed the court costs, which have been largely stagnant over the years. Increasing court costs, to better align with other courts across the State of Ohio, allows the Court to partially defray costs that otherwise would be borne by the taxpayer. Further, the implementation of special project funds for training fees, bailiff fees, magistrate fees, and security fees, also helps to cover costs typically paid out of the city's general fund.

In 2024, the Court operated on a total budget of \$2,247,894. After reducing that amount by the total number of grants received, and the county paid portion of \$186,300, what remains is

an initial expense to the General Fund of 947,693. Fees collected and paid back directly to the general fund throughout the year were \$592,039, leaving only \$355,654, or less than 16% of the Court's total budget, being funded by the general fund and its taxpayers for fiscal year 2024.

The Court made several physical enhancements to its building as well. Driving around the building, you can see a new solid-steel security fence that was installed, *at no cost to taxpayers*, paid for by the Court's security fund. Also, the main courtroom was physically enhanced to provide better security and accessibility, by relocating the witness stand to a location further removed from the Judge and jury and installing larger screens and monitors for those that have vision impairments. In addition, the probation department, which had not had any renovations since the Court moved to its current location, received new paint, floors, and baseboards, funded out of the Court Capital Improvement Fund.

The Court also engaged with the community in many ways in 2024. Municipal Court hosted the High School District and Regional Mock Trials, allowed its property to be used for the River City Farmers Market, as well as a fundraiser for Boy Scouts of America during Sternwheel Weekend. The Court also hosted the Community Corrections Luncheon, Crisis Intervention Training Committee, and the Southeast Ohio Legal Services Expungement Clinic.

The day-to-day operations of the Court, including supervision of all employees, are managed by the Court Administrator, Jason Hamilton. If you have any concerns about the Court, or questions about the Court or this report, please contact him at (740) 373-4474.



CIVIL DIVISION

A. New Filings – Comparative Table

Type	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Civil	1495	1302	1176	1011	998
Small Claims	42	41	41	93	100

B. Hearings – Comparative Table

Held By:	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Magistrate	45	48	27	32	32
Magistrate Small Claims	18	24	27	68	53

C. Receipts and Expenditures

Payee	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
City – General	216,491.84	172,797.40	133,808.14	97,718.87	94,981.33
Court – Computer	18,277	10,632	9,712	8,776	8,736
Court – Capital Imp.	22,897	19,607	17,890	15,727	15,596
Ohio – Legal Aid	38,696.13	33,599.61	30,654.36	26,885.43	26,652.78
Total Disbursements:	296,361.97	236,636.01	192,064.50	149,107.30	145,966.11

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

A. New Filings – Five Year Comparative Table

Type Offense	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Felonies	397	404	347	430	470
Misdemeanors	913	966	1,168	1,553	1,430
OVI	151	190	204	250	235
Other Traffic	4,668	4,740	4,992	6,703	4,736
Total:	6,129	6,300	6,711	8,936	6,871

B. Trials

The Court held 4 Jury Trials. The Court held 21 bench trials on contested traffic and criminal cases. In addition, the Court held 30 preliminary hearings. These totals do not include motion hearings, probation violations, contempt, or restitution hearings.

C. Criminal/Traffic Receipts and Disbursements – Comparative Table

Payee	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
City of Marietta General Fund	592,038.96	306,213.22	321,636.91	392,179.18	291,406.80
Capital Improvement Fund	181,734.20	126,651.14	132,404.11	172,129.39	126,122.48
Court Computer/ Convenience Fee	55,480.77	70,111.90	72,325.83	91,308.67	67,040.94
Indigent Alcohol Fund	7,191.65	10,076.00	10,212.00	11,171.00	10,482.50
County General Fund	164,508.42	168,710.09	180,030.66	192,471.94	178,203.06
Security Fee	52,853.80	11,309.20	10,421	13,846.44	10,465.08
Probation/ House Arrest	192,598.34	167,767.37	159,493.38	182,936.56	153,156.67
Law Library	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Sheriff	8,223.65	7,788.59	7,773.29	8,946.15	10,001.90
State of Ohio*	334,067.35	375,963.74	396,297.89	503,480.01	380,323.27
Beverly	25.00	254.00	101.00	373.00	434.00
New Matamoras	94.00	198.00	690.00	498.00	-0-
Lowell	-0-	130.00	150.00	65.00	-0-
Macksburg	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Capital Recovery	21,192.39	25,791.62	20,549.17	24,964.16	25,078.47
Belpre	1,459.20	1,813.00	1,788.00	2,342.00	702.00
College Law Enforcement	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Common Pleas Court	9,427.61	9,353.10	5,997.37	13,958.83	9,536.21
Total Disbursements	1,626,395.34	1,287,630.97	1,325,370.61	1,616,170.33	1,268,453.38

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

D. Other Special Project Funds

	Civil & Small Claims	Traffic & Criminal	Total
Bailiff Fee	1,179	2,595	3,774
Magistrate Fee	1,965	4,336	6,301
Staff Training Fee	606	1,730	2,336
Legal Research Fee	1,179	2,297	3,476

UNPAID FINES AND COSTS

The Court is owed \$399,349.30 for unpaid fines and costs imposed in calendar year 2024. 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 continued for prior years on accumulated fines and costs. Uncollected fines imposed prior to January 1, 2020, are deemed uncollectible but are subject to being reopened if the offender appears in court for another reason.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

In 2024 the Court collected \$55,480 in its Computer Fund. The Court collected \$181,735 in Court Capital Improvement funding. 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.

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 18,355 people in 2024, an average of 353 people a week.

Offenders worked 1,714 hours of community service in lieu of jail for numerous departments. The Washington County Jail inmates worked 2,274 hours of supervised community service totaling \$22,733 which was credited for court fines. The probation department collected restitution from 49 offenders in 2024. The total amount collected and distributed to the victims was \$28,669.12.

Case Management Services:

Case Managers Leah Gregory and Angela Grasley received 100 new referrals to case management services who were classified moderate to very high risk of future criminal conduct. This was a 20 percent increase from 2023. 39 individuals were referred to and placed in long-term residential treatment, 89 were referred to a Certified Driver Intervention Program, 170 Alcohol/Drug assessment referrals, 101 Mental Health Assessment referrals, 57 were referred to Thinking for a Change group.

Moderate - Very High-Risk Offenders:

Probation Officers Chandler Brockmeier, and Derek Johnson provided supervision to moderate risk, high risk, and very high-risk offenders. They worked with Case Management and targeted 39 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 170 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:

Pretrial supervision continued to prove beneficial to the Court as well as those who are facing trial. 61 individuals were monitored. 96 percent of individuals who were placed in pretrial services appeared for their court hearing. 73 percent of these individuals were referred and actively participated in treatment services for either mental health or substance abuse issues.

Accomplishments:

Probation Officer Chandler Brockmeier successfully completed his Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. Amanda Townsend, who has served as Deputy Bailiff for the past two years, completed the Probation Officer Training provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio. She began the transition from Deputy Bailiff to Electronic Monitoring Officer, supervising individuals who are under pretrial supervision or who are currently on probation with the court.

