

Service

Accountability

2024



ANNUAL REPORT

Integrity

Justice

Mission Statement

The Canton Municipal Court is an independent branch of government entrusted with the fair, timely, impartial and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio.



The Canton Municipal Court Annual Report for 2024 has been prepared for the Citizens of Central Stark County as provided by law, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Section 1901.14 (A)(4) and the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts.

The Canton Municipal Court

JUDGES

Honorable Mary A. Falvey
Honorable Richard J. Kubilus
Honorable Curt Werren
Honorable Kristen D. Guardado



CLERK OF COURT

Phil G. Giavasis

MAGISTRATES

Jeremy J. Foltz

Derek C. McClowry

Christy M. Pierson

COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Michael E. Kochera

March 31, 2025

CANTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CANTON, OHIO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
STARK COUNTY, OHIO

Dear Council President, Honorable Members, and Honorable Commissioners;

On behalf of 2024 Presiding & Administrative Judge Curt Werren, Honorable Mary A. Falvey, Honorable Richard J. Kubilus, Honorable Kristen D. Guardado and Clerk of Court Phil G. Giavasis, I take this opportunity to present our Annual Report for 2024. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Section 1901.14(A)(4), the Court shall compile year-end reports demonstrating the number of cases heard, decided and settled, as well as data deemed necessary by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Therefore, enclosed you will find the report of all criminal and civil cases assigned, reactivated and terminated, as well as all trial activity. In addition, enclosed is the Clerk of Court Financial Statement for the criminal, civil and traffic divisions for 2024.

In closing, on behalf of the Judges of the Canton Municipal Court, I would like to thank you for your continued consideration and support.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Kochera

Michael E. Kochera
Court Administrator


Jurisdiction & Organization

The Ohio Revised Code, Title 19, Chapter 1901 establishes and sets forth the authority and jurisdiction of the Canton Municipal Court.

The Canton Municipal Court is a limited jurisdiction court of record which has jurisdiction over any violation of city ordinances; any State of Ohio statutory misdemeanor or traffic offense; and jurisdiction to preside over felony preliminary hearings for offenses committed within the geographic boundaries of the Court. Jurisdiction also includes civil matters where the dispute is \$15,000 or less and for small claims when the claim is \$6,000 or less.

The four Judges of the Court are elected to staggered six year terms on a non-partisan ballot. A person seeking election or appointment to the Canton Municipal bench must be an attorney with at least six years experience in the practice of law and reside within the Court's jurisdiction. The Governor of the State of Ohio makes appointments to fill vacancies on the Municipal Court bench that occur between elections.

The Canton Municipal Court serves a district with the population of nearly 200,000 citizens of Central Stark County and hears more than 20,000 cases annually.

Uniontown Hartville LAKE Greentown	
North Canton PLAIN Middlebranch	NIMISHILLEN Louisville
Meyers Lake CANTON City of Canton	OSNABURG East Canton
North Industry PIKE East Sparta	Waynesburg SANDY Magnolia

Judge Mary A. Falvey



Judge Mary A. Falvey, has served as a Canton Municipal Court Judge since January 1991. Prior to that, she was a law partner with the firm Schulman, Mestel, Falvey and Burick Co. L.P.A. in Canton, Ohio, a firm whose primary focus was civil litigation.

Judge Falvey graduated from Fairmont West High School in Kettering, Ohio. She earned her B.S.S.W. *cum laude* from The Ohio State University in 1973. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron in 1979.

Judge Falvey has been active in many civic and charitable organizations. She has served as a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Board from 1988 through 2000, including serving as President of the Board in 1992. She has served as a member of the Junior League of Canton, Community Advisory Board. Judge Falvey has been the district coordinator for the Ohio Mock Trial program since 1994. Judge Falvey also presides over the Polaris Program, the Court's specialized Mental Health Court docket.

In 2017 Judge Falvey was presented the HOPE Award by the Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board in recognition of her on-going commitment presiding over the Polaris Mental Health Court Docket.

Judge Falvey has served as a member of the University of Akron Law Alumni Association. She has also served as a member of the Stark County Community Corrections Planning Board and the Canton Municipal Court Domestic Violence Council. She is also a member of The Ohio State Bar Association, the Stark County Bar Association and the Municipal Court Judges Association.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Judge Falvey worked as a social worker at Massillon State Hospital for six years. Judge Falvey resides in Stark County with her husband Frank Ifantiedes.

Judge Richard J. Kubilus

Judge Richard J. Kubilus has served as a Canton Municipal Court Judge since January 1993. Prior to that time, he served as a law partner with Lesh, Casner & Miller Co. in private practice. In his private practice, he had fifteen years of trial experience involving commercial and civil litigation, real estate, business organization and family planning matters. He also served as a Plain Township Trustee from September 1990 through December 1992.

After graduating from Walsh Jesuit High School in Stow, Ohio, Judge Kubilus earned his BA *cum laude* from the University of Akron in 1974. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1978. He is married to his wife Linda, with one son Eric.

Judge Kubilus is active in many community and charitable organizations. He has served as a Board Member of the Community Harvest, the North Canton Rotary Club and the Stark County Bar Association. He is a former group leader of the Boy Scouts Law Explorer Post, and has served as member of the Stark County Children Services Committee, the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Committee, the United Way Allocation Committee, St. Paul's Church and the Unique Club. Judge Kubilus is a graduate of Leadership Stark County and a member of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Municipal Court Judges Association.



Presiding & Administrative Judge Curt Werren

Judge Curt Werren grew up in Canton and graduated from McKinley High School. He came back to Canton after completing law school at The Ohio State University and practiced law for twenty years with Day Ketterer Ltd. Judge Werren was also Executive Director of the Stark County Regional Chapter of the American Red Cross. Prior to joining the Canton Municipal Court, Judge Werren served as Judge of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas. Judge Werren has been active in the community. He is on the Board of the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum and the SAM Center. Among notable prior activities, Judge Werren served with the Stark County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and has been President of the Rotary Club of Canton. He also co-chaired the campaign to develop the Community Campus at Goodwill. In addition to his regular docket, Judge Werren presides over the Recovery Court, a drug court certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Judge Werren was awarded the 2017 HOPE Award for his efforts with the Court's specialized dockets. Judge Werren is a life-long Stark County resident who is married to Stephanie, Director of Leadership Stark County. They raised triplet children who are now grown.



Integrity

Judge Kristen D. Guardado



Judge Kristen Donohue Guardado was born and raised in Stark County. A graduate of McKinley Senior High School, Judge Guardado earned her Bachelor Degree in Finance followed by her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron, School of Law.

Judge Guardado began her legal career as a Legal Intern at the City of Canton Law Department in 1994 and eventually served as Assistant Prosecutor; Domestic Violence Prosecutor and Senior Trial Counsel. Judge Guardado also had a private practice specializing in family law where she handled domestic relations cases, criminal juvenile matters, dependent/neglect/abuse cases and served as Guardian ad litem in numerous cases. Judge Guardado previously held elected office on the Plain Local Board of Education from 2001 through 2020 where she served as President, Vice President and Legislative Liaison.

In 1997 Judge Guardado was presented the Award for Special Achievement in Domestic Violence Advocacy by the Ohio Attorney General Office for her years of professional and volunteer efforts advocating for additional services and funding for victims and families of domestic violence. She was also recognized by the Stark Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2011 as a "Twenty under 40" recipient.

Judge Guardado has been a member of the Stark County Bar Association since 1996 and served on numerous Bar committees. She is also a member of the Ohio Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Judge Guardado resides in Canton with her husband Vince and they have two adult sons.

Phil G. Giavasis *Clerk of Court*



Phil G. Giavasis was appointed Clerk of the Canton Municipal Court in July of 2007, and was elected to the full term beginning in January 2008. He previously served 15 years as Clerk of the Stark County Common Pleas Court.

Phil is a 1980 graduate of McKinley Senior High School. He also graduated with a BA in Criminal Justice from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in 2004 from the Institute of Court Management as a Certified Court Manager.

Phil Giavasis led the initiative that resulted in the computer integration of the entire criminal justice system in Stark County. He organized and currently chairs the Stark County Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the Stark County Community Corrections Planning Board; the body that oversees the integrated system.

The *Stark County Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)* was the first county-wide integrated system in Ohio and was developed with a series of grant funds from the Office of Criminal Justice Services totaling over one million dollars. The CJIS system combines the criminal justice information of the Canton, Massillon, and Alliance Municipal Courts with the Sheriff and Stark County Court of Common Pleas. The countywide central database is currently web accessible at www.starkcjis.org

Court Administrator

The Judges of the Court appoint a Court Administrator to manage and oversee the operations of the Court. The Court Administrator serves as the chief non-judicial officer of the Court and is responsible for the development and implementation of all court policies, procedures and programs, as well as the general supervision of the Court Magistrates, Staff Attorney, Probation Department, Pretrial Services Office, Bailiff's Office, Community Service Department, Jury Coordinator, Assignment Coordinator and related clerical, support and contract staff.

Other executive functions of the Court Administrator include: preparation and management of the annual court budget, personnel and human resource administration, legislative research and analysis, grant management, contractual services, coordination of technology, procurement of equipment and supplies, facility management, review and analysis of statistical reports and departmental performance. The Court Administrator also serves as a liaison with local, county and state government, courts and the public.



*Court Administrator
Michael Kochera*

Michael Kochera has more than 35 years of experience in the criminal justice system and judiciary. Michael is a past-President of the Ohio Association for Court Administration; a former Executive Board Member of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections; a member of the National Association for Court Management, and an Executive Board Member of the Stark County Corrections Planning Board. Michael served as an Ad Hoc Committee member on the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission's Subcommittee on Bail Reform from 2016-2019. Michael has served as Adjunct Faculty for the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of Ohio and is a graduate of the Court Executive Program, Class of 2013 through the Supreme Court of Ohio and the National Center for State Courts. In 2010, Michael was awarded the inaugural *Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer Memorial Scholarship* presented by the Ohio Association for Court Administration and in 2008, Michael was awarded the *Quest Criminal Justice Services Award* for his outstanding contributions to the Stark County criminal justice system. Michael is married to Rachel Kochera with a daughter Mallory and son Leo.

Court Magistrates

The Canton Municipal Court Magistrates undertake specific judicial duties as prescribed by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Magistrates Jeremy J. Foltz, Derek C. McClowry, and Christy Pierson preside over minor misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases; Forcible Entry & Detainer (eviction) cases; Damage Hearings; Contract cases; Bank/Wage Attachment Hearings and Small Claims cases.

All of these proceedings are docketed by a written report of the Magistrate stating their findings of fact and conclusions of law. These reports are then reviewed by a Judge of the Court who finalizes a Judgment Entry with the Judge's approval and confirmation.

Magistrate Jeremy J. Foltz has served the Canton Municipal Court since 2006. Magistrate Foltz graduated from Canton GlenOak High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University in 1996. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron in 1999. Magistrate Foltz has been active in many civic and charitable organizations. He currently sits on the Board of *Wishes Can Happen* and is currently the Vice President of the Plain Local Schools Foundation. In 2016 Magistrate Foltz was presented with the Pro Bono Award presented by Community Legal Aid of Greater Stark County for his significant and generous pro bono work in the community. Magistrate Foltz is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Stark County Bar Association and the Ohio Magistrate Association. A lifelong member of Trinity United Christian Church, Magistrate Foltz resides in Plain Township with his wife and two children.



*Magistrate
Jeremy J. Foltz*



Court Magistrates

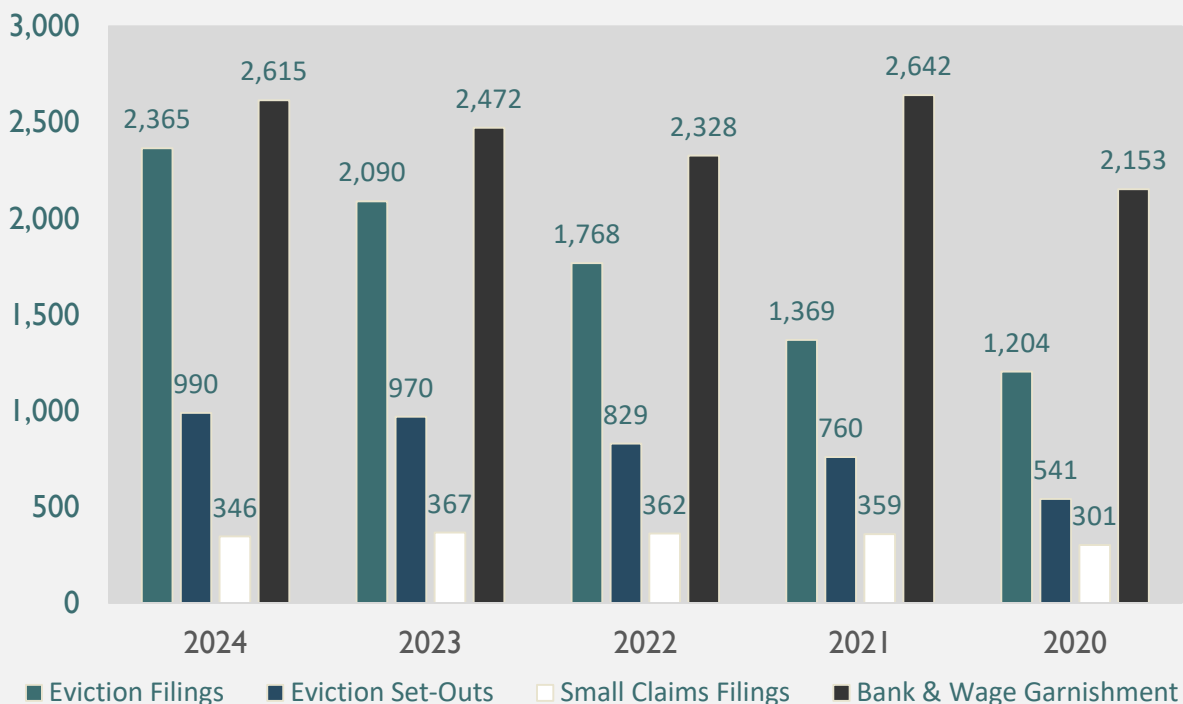
Magistrate Derek C. McClowry has served the Canton Municipal Court since 2008. Magistrate McClowry graduated from Alliance High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Walsh University in 1996. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron and was admitted to the practice of law in 2002.

Magistrate McClowry is a 2014 graduate of the Court Management Program through the Supreme Court of Ohio and National Center for State Courts. Magistrate McClowry is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Stark County Bar Association, the Ohio Magistrate Association and the Ohio Association for Court Administration. Magistrate McClowry also serves as Adjunct Faculty for the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Magistrate McClowry resides in Plain Township with his wife and two children.



*Magistrate/Deputy Court Administrator
Derek C. McClowry*

Magistrate Docket Activity



Staff Attorney/Magistrate



*Christy M. Pierson
Staff Attorney/Magistrate*

The Court's Staff Attorney not only serves as legal advisor to the Judges, Magistrates, and Court Administrator, but also serves as Magistrate for the Court. The Staff Attorney conducts legal research, prepares legal briefs and coordinates legislative research and analysis. The Staff Attorney also assists in policy development and review and serves as a liaison between the Court and Supreme Court of Ohio.

Magistrate Christy Pierson has served the Canton Municipal Court since March 2020. Prior to her appointment with the Court, Christy served as an Assistant County Prosecutor with the Stark County Prosecutors Office from 2017 to 2020 as well as an Assistant City Prosecutor with the Canton Law Department from 2015-2017.

Christy graduated from Hoover High School and went on to earn a Bachelor degree from The Ohio State University in 1995. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron in 2014. Magistrate Pierson is an alumna of the Canton Ballet and currently sits on the Board of Director's Past President. Magistrate Pierson is a member of the Ohio Bar Association, the Stark County Bar Association and the Ohio Magistrates Association. She resides in Plain Township with her husband and has two adult children.



Probation Department

Although the primary role of the Canton Municipal Court Probation Department continues to be the probation supervision of offenders and the enforcement of court orders, there are a myriad of other vital functions the Probation Department performs. Probation Officers conduct field contacts with offenders at their homes, places of employment and at counseling and other appointments, in addition to seeing offenders as frequently as weekly in the office. Probation Officers also perform random drug and alcohol testing on offenders, conduct pre-sentence and expungement investigations, supervise curfew compliance and oversee the collection and payment of restitution to crime victims.

However, the role of the Probation Department is not simply enforcement. Probation Officers also serve as advocates for offenders under supervision. Probation Officers assist offenders in accessing services in the community such as counseling services, employment and vocational services, educational services, adequate housing and medical treatment services.

Providing offenders the tools necessary to become productive members of the community is the cornerstone of successful probation supervision and intervention.

All defendants sentenced to Probation Supervision are assessed via the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) in order to determine the level and frequency of supervision and services they will receive. Based upon the result of the risk/needs assessment, defendants are classified as Low, Moderate, High or Intensive Supervision. The initial level of supervision determines how frequently a defendant is required to report to their Probation Officer, how frequently they will be drug tested and assists in determining other goals for the defendant. As a defendant demonstrates compliance with the conditions of probation and orders of the Court, their level of supervision is revised accordingly.

The Probation Department, Court and community as a whole have a vested interest in assisting offenders in the rehabilitation process in order to prevent them from continuing to be involved in the criminal justice system, and consequently a further expense to the tax-paying public.



The Canton Municipal Probation Department has been awarded the prestigious Clifford Skeen Award presented by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections (ODR&C) an unprecedented three times.

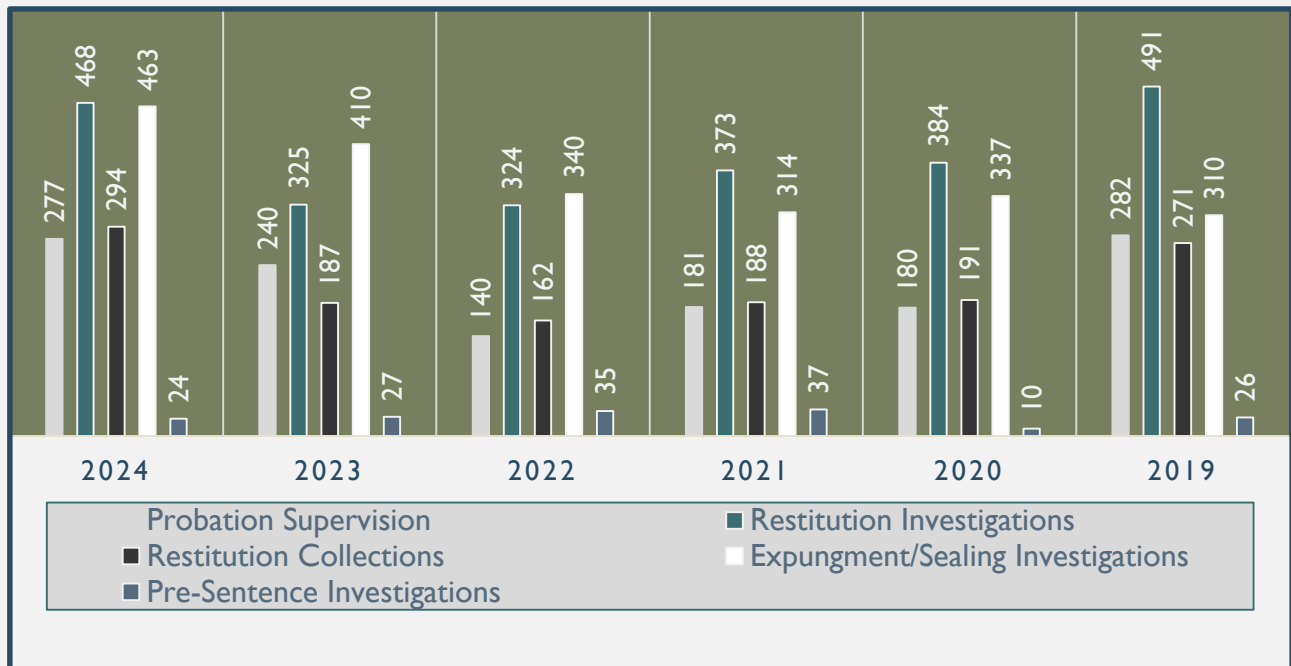
The Clifford Skeen Award is presented annually by ODR&C to recognize the most effective community corrections programs in the State of Ohio. The Canton Municipal Probation Department was awarded the Skeen Award in 2011, 2017 and 2019.

Probation Department



Front: Senior Probation Officer Michael Bajornas, Chief of Probation Lauren Kelly, Specialized Docket Coordinator Kristen Kaplanis
Back: Probation Officer Nicole Sok, Probation Officer Tyler Masters, Probation Officer Erin Garrett, Probation Officer Chris Lavy, Administrative Assistant Lyndsay D'Onofrio, Assessment Specialist Taylor Fraser

Probation Case Activity



During 2024 the Probation Department closed 244 cases with 56 revocations and 188 successful completions for an effective completion rate of 77%

The Probation Department collected \$41,774 in restitution during 2024 that was directly refunded to victims of crime.

Polaris Project



"A revolving door problem has developed in this country. Jails and prisons have become the de facto mental health system of our day. We must reverse this trend."

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Supreme Court of Ohio, Retired

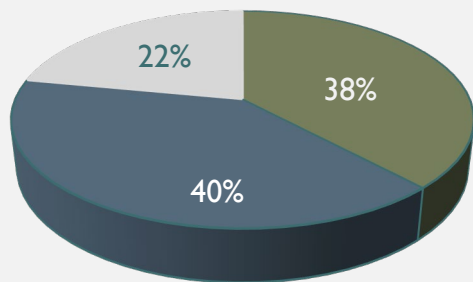
The Polaris Project is a certified Specialized Docket through the Supreme Court of Ohio that provides a comprehensive, coordinated approach to the misdemeanor cases of defendants with severe mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders in order to decrease criminal recidivism, improve public safety and improve the defendant's quality of life by stabilizing the defendant in the least restrictive environment. The Polaris Project is a voluntary program that emphasizes the early identification and intervention of a person whose symptoms of mental illness, history of treatment non-compliance, and/or refusal to accept treatment, results in a recurring pattern of misdemeanor offenses.

Judge Mary A. Falvey has presided over the Polaris Project docket since 2009. The Polaris Project is a coordinated treatment and supervision program intended to promote effective treatment as an alternative to incarceration. Through frequent judicial interaction and intervention, the Program assists defendants in recognizing, taking control, managing and being accountable for their mental illness.

The Polaris Project is a cooperative effort between the Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board, Stark County TASC and the Canton Municipal Court.

During 2024, thirty-one new participants entered the Polaris Project and 15 participants successfully completed the program.

Diagnosis



- Bipolar Spectrum Disorders
- Depression or Anxiety Spectrum Disorders
- Schizophrenia or Related Disorder

- 15 individuals successfully completed the Polaris Program in 2024. Had they not been admitted to the Program and served their jail sentence, they could have served in excess of 2,720 days in jail.
- 60% of those successfully completing the Program have maintained their recovery and not re-entered the criminal justice system one year post completion.
- Of those admitted to the Polaris Program, each averaged 3 prior arrests.
- 60% of participants had a history of substance abuse and/or dependency

Recovery Court

The Canton Municipal Court, Recovery Court is a voluntary program intended to promote appropriate and effective treatment of substance use disorder, including the use of medically assisted recovery (MAR) when clinically indicated, as an alternative to incarceration for a person whose history of treatment non-compliance, and/or refusal to accept treatment, results in a recurring pattern of criminal offenses. The Program requires court and treatment provider involvement in treatment planning and compliance, which should result in more effective utilization of other court and system resources.

The Program will provide a non-adversarial, comprehensive, coordinated approach to the criminal cases of selected defendants with a history of substance use disorder in order to decrease criminal recidivism, improve public safety and improve the defendant's quality of life by stabilizing the defendant in the least restrictive environment. The Recovery Court is a voluntary hybrid program whereas participants can enter as a condition of Intervention in lieu of Conviction, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Section 2951.041 or via referral post-conviction as a condition of probation. The duration of the Recovery Court program varies based upon a participant's program performance and compliance with the conditions of participation, but generally twelve months.

The Honorable Curt Werren presides over the Canton Municipal Recovery Court. The Recovery Court commenced operations in March of 2017 and achieved certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio in August 2017. In addition to a full continuum of treatment services, the Recovery Court provides case management and peer support to all those engaged in the Program.

During 2024, forty defendants were accepted into the Recovery Court Docket. Twenty-four defendants graduated from the program during 2024, twelve felony diversion cases and 12 misdemeanor cases. To date, 45% of the Recovery Court participants are/or have been engaged in Medically Assisted Recovery (MAT).

The Recovery Court is a collaborative initiative between the Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board, CommQuest and the Canton Municipal Court.



Veterans Treatment Court

In keeping with her campaign commitment to provide a Specialized Docket to serve those who served, in 2024 Judge Kristen D. Guardado implemented the Canton Municipal Court, Veterans Treatment Docket. This Specialized Docket was developed to address and provide assistance to the unique challenges of our military veterans that are involved in the local criminal justice system.

With the recognition that many of our veterans return to civilian life with serious trauma, both physical and mental, which may lead to their involvement with the criminal justice system, comes a responsibility to ensure that veterans receive the treatment they need. By providing a Veterans Treatment Specialized Docket in the Canton Municipal Court, the program promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the Stark County Veterans Service Commission, the Veterans Benefit Administration, Volunteer Veteran Mentors and Veterans family support organizations.

The Canton Municipal Court, Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a voluntary program to address the issues of veterans with specific needs or circumstances not adequately handled in the traditional court system. Justice-involved Veterans are able to go through the treatment court process with other veterans who are similarly situated and have common past experiences and needs. The VTC links participants with service providers who either share or understand the unique experience of military service, military life, and the distinctive needs that may arise from that experience.

The Program provides a non-adversarial, comprehensive, coordinated approach to the criminal cases of selected defendants with a history of substance use disorder and/or mental health disorder in order to decrease criminal recidivism, improve public safety and improve the participant's quality of life by stabilizing the participant in the least restrictive environment. The VTC is a voluntary hybrid program whereas participants can enter via the Diversion Program track or via referral post-conviction as a condition of probation. The duration of the VTC program varies based upon a participant's program performance and compliance with the conditions of participation, but generally twelve months.

The Veterans Treatment Court commenced operation in Fall of 2024 and has since been granted full certification as a Certified Specialized Docket by the Supreme Court of Ohio.



Court Security

The Bailiff's Office is composed of three separate divisions; Judicial Bailiff division, Service Bailiff division and Court Security division.

The Judicial Bailiffs serve as personal Bailiff to each of the Court's four Judges. Responsibilities of the Judicial Bailiffs include maintaining security in the courtroom, the orderly flow of cases on the daily docket, completion of required case documentation, swearing in witnesses, handling and marking exhibits, and the operation of the court recording devices.

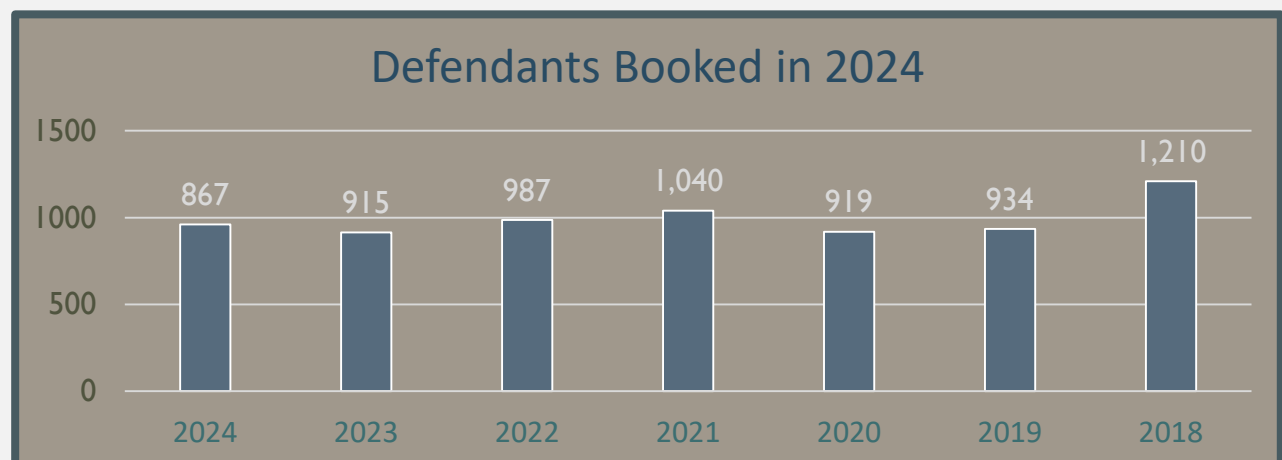


Court Security Bailiffs Brittany Newhouse, Scott Butterfield, Tony DiMauro and Dennis Evans

In addition to operating the X-ray screening device and magnetometer, the Court Security Bailiffs screen and search all visitors to the Court and City Hall, respond to security situations within the Court, assist in escorting prisoners, and taking offenders into custody. In 2024, the Court Security Bailiffs screened 76,092 visitors to the Court.

Each of the Court Security Bailiffs have completed the Bailiff Training Academy at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London, Ohio and have been trained and certified in unarmed-self defense tactics, firearms, first-aid, CPR, use and deployment of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, as well as emergency procedures and critical incident management.

Court Security Bailiffs are also responsible for conducting the booking process on defendants appearing in Court. This process entails the Security Bailiff fingerprinting defendants on an automated fingerprint identification system and transmitting the prints and other vital arrest information to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification at the Ohio Attorney General's Office. During 2024, the Court Security Bailiff's booked 867 defendants.



Bailiffs Office

Court Deputy Bailiffs also provide vital and statutory services for the Court and the local criminal justice system. The Court utilizes three Deputy Service Bailiffs for the service of summons, subpoenas and other court papers to the general public. These official notices are served not only on behalf of the Court, but also for the City of Canton Law Department and Prosecutor's Office. During 2024, the Deputy Bailiffs served 35,101 subpoenas, summons, and other related court notices.



Deputy Bailiffs Denise Squire, Gino Millin, Jamey Sanders, Doug Gauze, Walter Campbell, Chief Bailiff Lindsay Trent, Deputy Bailiff Jim Cole

The Deputy Service Bailiffs are also responsible for the oversight and supervision of all evictions within the Court jurisdiction. Upon the conclusion of the court hearings and legal procedures during the eviction process, the Deputy Bailiffs serve as legal stewards to gain entry and take possession of the property on behalf of the property owners. During 2024, the Court heard 1,740 eviction cases and the Deputy Bailiffs executed 990 Evictions set-outs.



The Court's other three Deputy Bailiffs serve in the Court and fulfill a number of essential functions. One Deputy Bailiff serves as the Bailiff for the Court's three Magistrates; one assists the Arraignment Judge; and the remaining Deputy Bailiff processes applications for limited driving privileges and ignition interlock devices for those with suspended operators license. The Deputy Bailiffs also provide back-up coverage for Court Security Bailiffs when necessary.

Applications for Driving Privileges	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Civil Applications Filed	175	91	103	126	154
Civil Applications Granted	154	82	95	124	132
Criminal Applications Granted	555	379	348	288	164
Total Applications Granted	884	461	443	412	296

Community Sanctions Department

The Canton Municipal Court Community Sanctions Department operates under the philosophy that offenders performing volunteer work service within their community not only serves to repay a wrong or debt to the community, but allows the offender to have a personal investment in the end product of a better community.

Community Service offers the Judges of the Court a community-based sanction alternative to a jail sentence for non-violent and first time offenders.



*Community Sanctions Officer Brad Ohman
Community Sanctions Coordinator Joel Simpson
and Community Sanctions Officer Susan Cabot*



*Community Service Supervisor
Patrick Allen*

The Community Sanctions Department has developed relationships and inter-agency agreements with several dozen charitable and non-profit organizations throughout Stark County, as well as working relationships with various City Departments. The role of the Community Service Department is to screen and place offenders sentenced to community service into these sites to perform volunteer community work service. Offenders are supervised by Court Community Sanctions Supervisors or individual agency personnel or a combination of both while performing community work service.

During 2024, 975 offenders were sentenced to 37,937 hours of supervised Community Work Service and completed 26,668 hours or 71% of the hours sentenced. If not for the Community Work Service Program and had those 975 offenders been sentenced to jail, they would have accounted for a total of 64,120 jail bed days. Based on the number of community service hours completed by offenders in 2024 when translated in terms of labor at minimum wage it represents a total of \$405,926 of labor services provided to these agencies.



Community Sanctions Department

The Community Service Department also operates its own Road Crew. Offenders sentenced to the Road Crew are directly supervised by the Community Sanctions Supervisors weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. While assigned to Road Crew, offenders perform litter control and other basic labor services, as well as lawn maintenance and snow removal at various City properties and for the elderly and disabled within the Court's jurisdiction.

Each of the Community Service Road Crew Supervisors operates a 10 passenger van and equipment trailer that serves as their own self-contained, clean-up and maintenance shop. The Road Crew Supervisors work off of a daily schedule of lawn mowing, snow removal and clean-ups for the City of Canton Code Enforcement and Health Department at locations in the community cited for Code Violations. The Road Crew Staff supervises up to 10 offenders each for two 4 hour shifts daily.

Activity	2024	2023	2022	2021
Litter/Trash Collected (55 Gallon Bags)	2,330	2,349	2,017	2,460
Abandoned Tires Collected & Recycled	203	1,160	1,218	1,438
Lawns Mowed (For Elderly & Disabled Residents)	175	263	198	270
Driveways (Snow) Shoveled (For Elderly & Disabled Residents)	29	40	47	89
Nuisance Clean-Ups (For Canton Health Dept. & Code Enforcement)	422	391	418	357
Total Debris Removed from Nuisance Clean-Ups	319,500 lbs. (159.75 tons)	353,000 lbs. (177 tons)	384,000 lbs. (192 tons)	396,000 lbs (198 tons)

The Community Sanctions Officers also serve as a liaison between the Court and community treatment agencies. The Community Sanctions Officers monitor defendants' compliance with court-ordered treatment obligations for mental health, drug/alcohol issues as a part of their sentence. The Community Sanctions Officers maintain contact with the defendant and the community treatment agencies through the completion of the treatment obligation. During 2024 the Community Sanctions Officers monitored 789 defendants involved in court-ordered counseling obligations.

2024 Division of Services		
	Hours Worked	Percentage of Work
Road Crew Duties	748	23%
Sanitation Duties	2,468	77%
Total	3,216	

Pretrial Services Office

The mission of the Canton Municipal Pretrial Services Office is to provide the Judges of the Court with a risk-based recommendation for pretrial release or detention for defendants appearing for arraignment; provide risk-based supervision for those released from custody pending trial and implement strategies to maximize court appearance and maximize public safety.

The Municipal Pretrial Services Office partnered with the Laura & John Arnold Foundation for professional training and implementation of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA). The PSA is a nationally recognized, validated, race and gender neutral pretrial risk assessment that utilizes defendant risk factors to accurately predict a defendant's likeliness to appear for court; likeliness to commit a new offense while under pretrial supervision as well as the proclivity of committing a new violent offense while under supervision while awaiting trial. While the PSA is not a crystal ball that provides 100% certainty of these behaviors, it does provide the Judges of the Court another tool in making the decision to release or detain a defendant while awaiting trial.




Upon the determination that a defendant may be released from custody while awaiting trial, the Municipal Pretrial Services Office actively supervises defendants while in the community based upon the level of risk the defendant presents. The Municipal Pretrial Services Office utilizes an array of available technologies in supervising defendants, including automated text and email notifications, electronically-monitored house arrest; 24 hour subcutaneous alcohol monitoring; active global positioning satellite (GPS) monitoring with exclusion zones as well as requiring in person office visits and phone call ins.

*Senior Pretrial Officer Nathan Diekmann
Pretrial Services Coordinator Melissa Pittman
Pretrial Officer Sydney Slagle*

Pretrial Services Office

Court and jail data for the Municipal Pretrial Services Office operation demonstrates the Municipal Pretrial Office has effectively achieved all of the outcome measures prescribed by the grant-funding authority. The Pretrial Office has reduced the Failure to Appear rate by 57%; reduced the average number of defendants being held prior to trial by 40% and reduced the average number of days defendants were held by 36%.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Baseline Data (2014-2018)
Defendants Interviewed	3,424	3,579	3,533	3,698	3,048	3,420
Failed to Appear for Arraignment	375 (11%)	525 (14.6%)	470 (11.3%)	552 (14%)	363 (12%)	479 (14%)
Referred for Supervised Release	556	578	652	672	670	1,184
Failed to Appear While Under Supervision	36 (6%)	39 (7%)	47 (7%)	28 (4%)	51 (7%)	162 (14%)
Released from Supervision	582	610	623	702	681	1003
Successful Release	542 (93%)	570 (93.4%)	576 (92.4%)	672 (96%)	620 (91%)	852 (85%)
Unsuccessful Release	40 (7%)	40 (6.6%)	47 (7.6%)	30 (4%)	61 (9%)	151 (15%)
Daily Jail Bed Utilization	18.7	18.4	15.9	14.5	10.5	31.2
Average Days in Jail	6.7	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.2	8.4



Jury Service

A significant portion of the cases heard by the Court each year have the potential to be decided by a jury trial.

In preparation for that potential, the Jury Coordinator is charged with securing, scheduling, and coordinating an ample jury pool. The Jury Coordinator obtains a random sample of registered voters that reside within the Court's jurisdiction from the Stark County Board of Elections each quarter in order to adequately schedule for Jury Duty. The Jury Coordinator then prepares a Summons for the prospective juror to be "on-call" for one week

In order to further simplify the process of reporting for jury duty, the Court leveraged existing technology and offers email and text notifications for jury duty.

The Court sincerely appreciates the juror's appearance for this civic obligation and without their commitment and participation in the process, the justice system as we know could not exist.



Brittany Newhouse
Jury Coordinator

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Criminal Jury Trials	15	12	6	23	4
Civil Jury Trials	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Trial to Court	45	42	35	31	23
Civil Trial to Court	18	11	16	15	9



Julie A. Guth
Executive Assistant

Executive Assistant

The Court Administrative Assistant provides administrative and clerical support to the Court Administrator and works together in nearly all aspects of the Court's work. The Court Administrative Assistant is responsible for the County and City payroll systems, serves as purchasing agent for the Court, maintains all service agreements and contracts for the Court, coordinates the Court's foreign language interpreter providers, serves as liaison with the City and County Auditor's Offices and the Stark County Law Library. Ms. Guth is a 2012 graduate of the Court Management Program through the Supreme Court of Ohio and the National Center for State Courts.

The Supporting Cast



Judge Falvey's Staff

*Judicial Administrative Assistant Dori Christ &
Chief Deputy Bailiff Beulah Wesley*



Judge Kubilus' Staff

*Judicial Bailiff Jack Jones & Judicial Administrative
Assistant Victoria Hess*



Judge Guardado's Staff

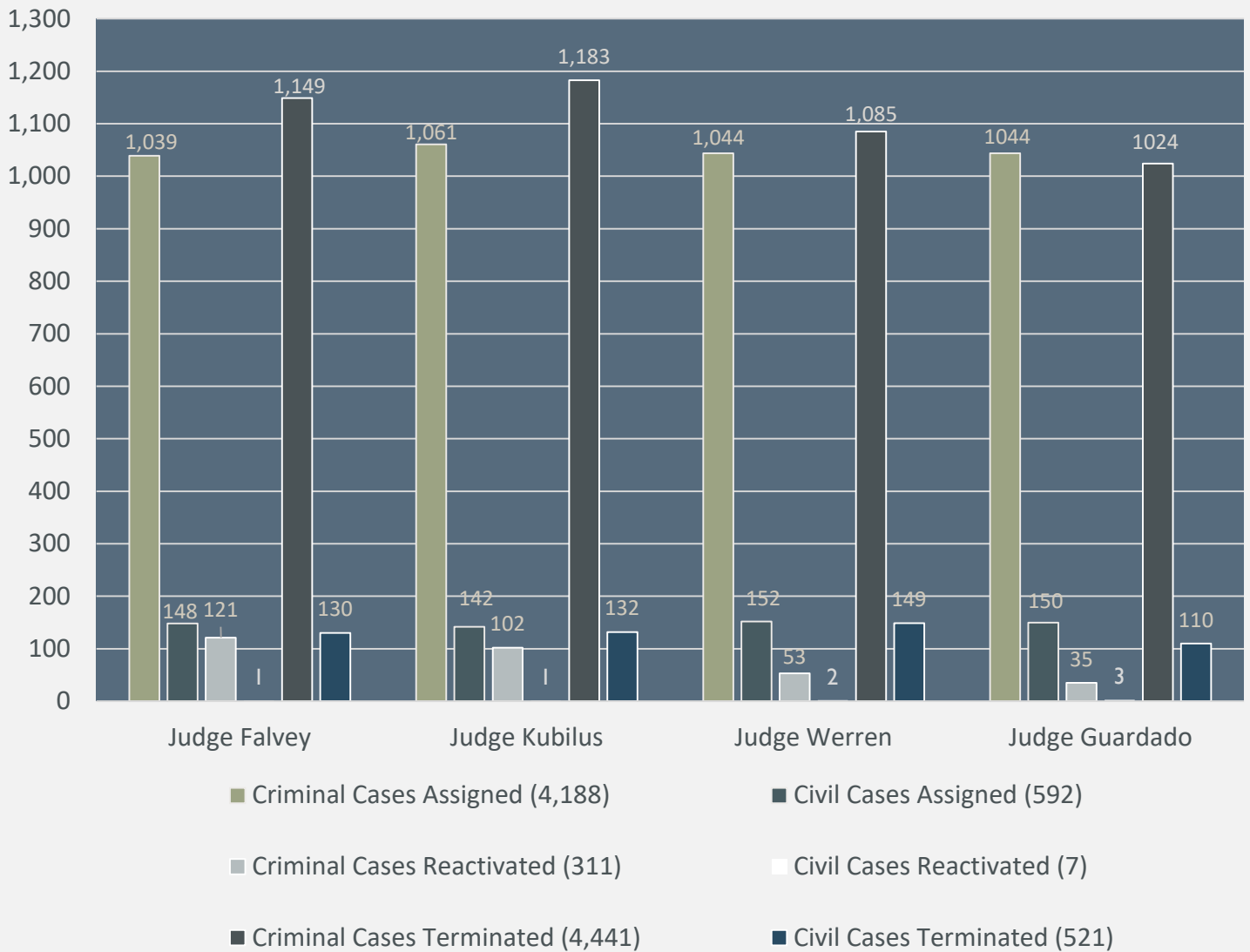
*Judicial Administrative Assistant Michelle Sales &
Judicial Bailiff Doug Gauze*



Judge Werren's Staff

*Judicial Administrative Assistant Rhonda Brady &
Judicial Bailiff Morgan McIntosh*

2024 Case Assignment & Clearance



Warrants on Criminal Cases for Unavailability of the Accused	395
Civil Cases Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	0
Civil (H) BMV Cases Assigned	97
Civil (H) BMV Cases Terminated	97

Judicial Efficiency

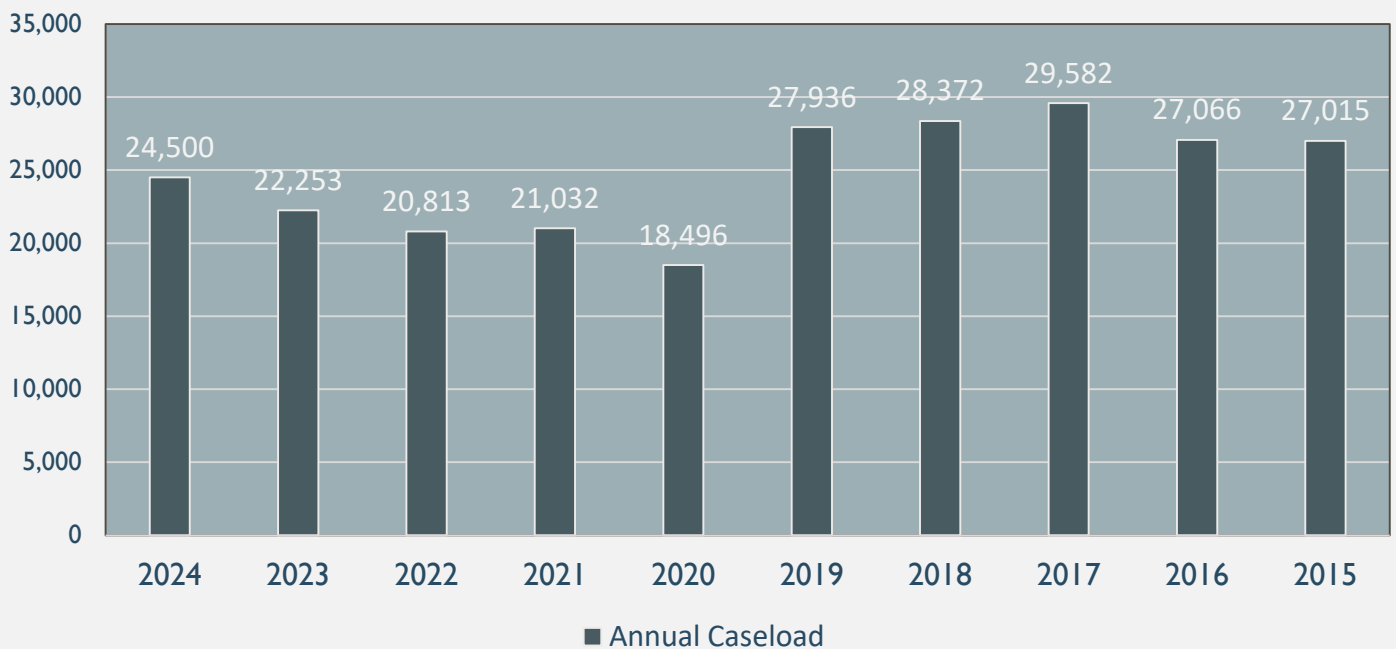
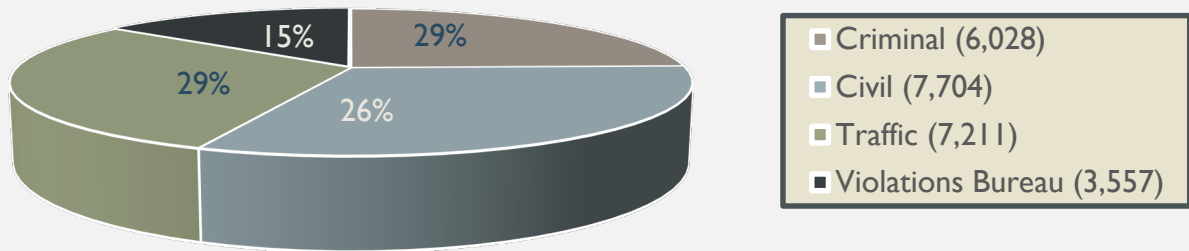
2024 Case Clearance Rate	104.9%
5,195 Opened/5,454 Closed	
2024 Cases Beyond Time Guidelines	0

2024 Caseload

The Canton Municipal Court serves nearly 200,000 residents of central Stark County. The following charts and graphs illustrate the types and numbers of cases filed in the Canton Municipal Court during 2024.

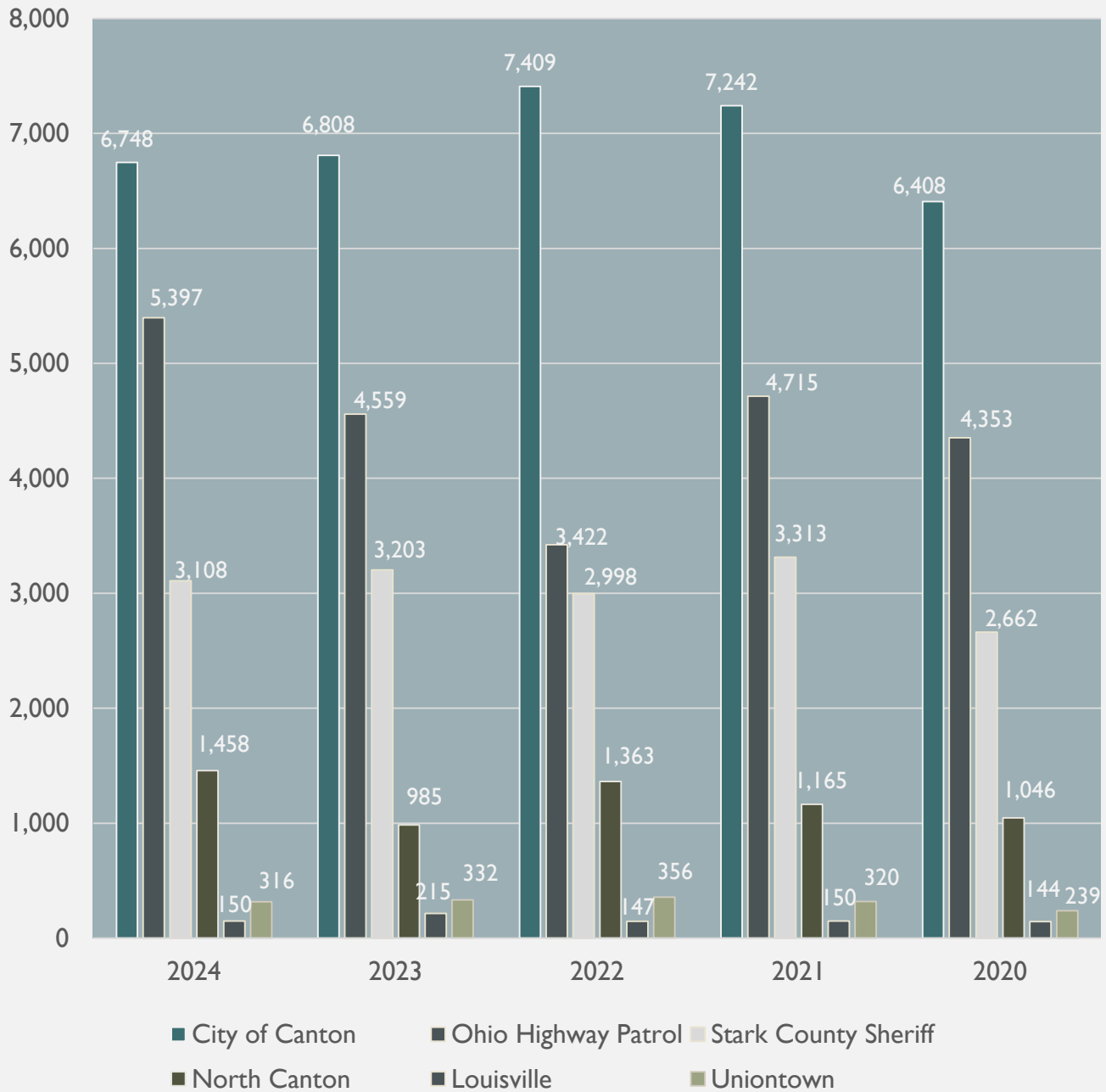
24,500 cases were filed during 2024.

2024 Filings by Case Type



2024 Criminal Charges by Police Agency

Criminal/Traffic Charges Filed by Police Jurisdiction

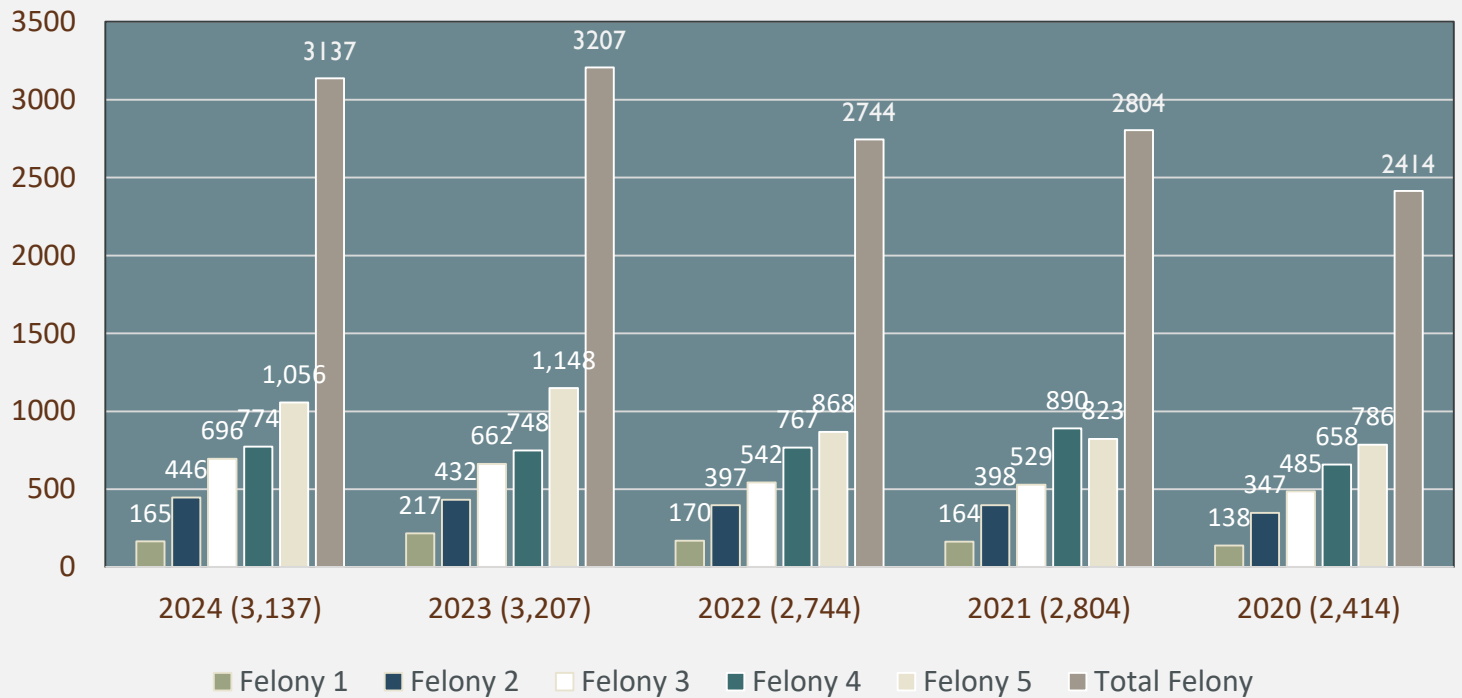


Other jurisdictions with less than 150 filings in 2024

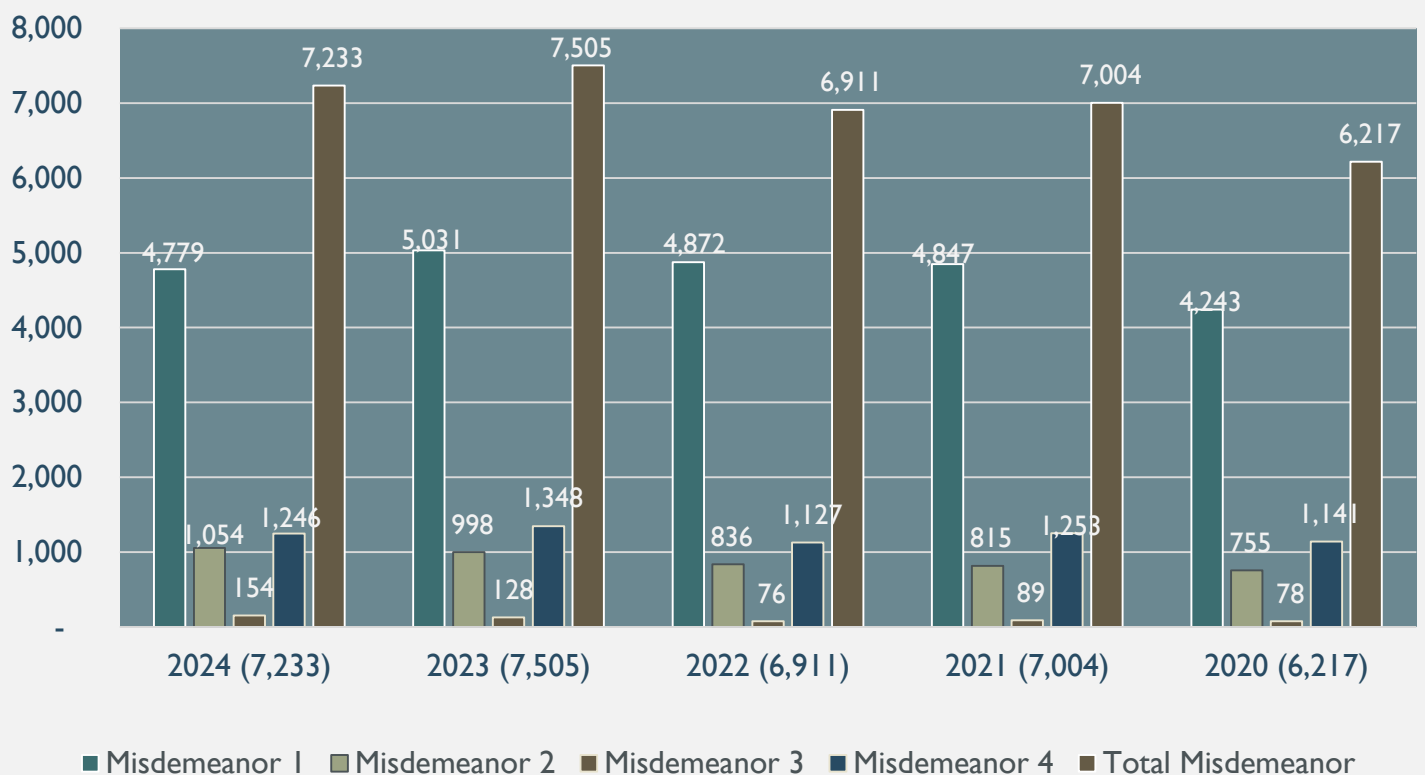
Hartville – 81, East Canton – 57, Cleveland Clinic-Mercy Hospital – 41, Waynesburg – 39, Stark Parks Ranger - 12, Ohio Department of Public Safety/Natural Resources – 11, Magnolia – 6, Walsh University Police – 5

2024 Charge Comparisons

Felony Charges



Misdemeanor Charges



2024 Criminal & Traffic Division Receipts

Ending Balance of 12/31/2023	3,692.60
State Expungement Cases	7,086.00
Natural Resources	230.00
Refunds	2,199.62
Mayor's Courts	5,549.00
State Highway Patrol - Forfeiture	20.00
State Cases - Forfeitures	-
City Cases - Forfeitures	-
County Expungement Cases	4,690.00
State Rep/Victims of Crime	90,534.87
DB of Pharmacy/Mandatory Drug Violations	3,034.20
Stark County Treasurer	-
Sheriff of Stark County - Sheriff Fees	10,834.90
Indigent Defense/Public Defenders Fund	206,998.31
Advanced Reparations & Defender Fund	-
Seatbelt Violations	28,433.15
Restitution/Probation	41,774.28
CP Costs - Stark County Clerk of Court	10,305.69
House Arrest and Detention	320.00
Board of Health	971.00
Municipal Probation Service	203,195.59
Child Restraint/Safety	640.00
Overages	139.38
Bonds	270,342.00
Bond Fee	17,121.37
City Fines	14,606.00
City Costs	1,370,262.76
Capital Improvement/Special Project Fee	344,185.54
Crime Lab Costs	103.00
Collections - Capital Recovery Systems/CBSC	153,179.29
Capital Recovery Systems NSF	-
Expedited Expungement Fee	-
Guardian Interlock	147.50
GPS Costs	-
State Highway Patrol - Fines	162,414.15
Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment	6,724.42
Indigent Fee	2,291.54
Indigent Interlock	-
BMV Fee	135.00
Legal Research	20,370.63
Moving Violations	86,813.67
Sheriff's Receiving/Discharge Fee	11,574.80
State Cases - Fines	157,724.31
State Costs	-
Telecomputer Business Service - Collections	1,055.00
Tech Fees	128,642.69
Cigarette Taxes/Fines	-
Liquor Law Violations	1,443.00
Witness Fees	182.76
NSF's Uncollectible (C2)	-
SUBTOTAL	3,366,275.42
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCE FORWARD	3,369,968.02

2024 Criminal/Traffic Division Disbursements

TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO	
50% State Highway Patrol Fines	48688.86
50% Highway Forfeitures	10.00
Victims of Crime/State Reparations	90534.87
General Revenue	206998.31
1/2 Liquor Law Violations	721.50
Child Restraint/Safety	640.00
State Expungement Cases	7086.00
Indigent Defense	15599.80
Indigent Defense	21388.45
Indigent Defense Support Fund	73791.67
Seatbelt Violations	28433.15
Bond Fee	17121.37
Law Enforcement Education Fund	7187.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	0.00
Alcohol Monitoring	0.00
HP Forfeitures Law Enforc Educ Fund HP	0.00
Guardian Interlock	147.50
BMV Fee	135.00
SUB TOTAL	518,483.48

TREASURER, STARK COUNTY, OHIO	YTD
10% State Highway Patrol Fines	9743.47
10% Forfeitures (M07)	2.00
State Cases - Forfeitures	0.00
State Cases - Fines	97846.91
Indigent Fee	2291.54
Witness Fees	182.76
1/2 Liquor Law Violations	721.50
House Arrest and Detention	0.00
Expungement	4690.00
DUI Prisoner Housing S1	7069.95
DUI Prisoner Housing HP	7788.00
DUI Prisoner Housing C1	50.00
Commissioners Fund	0.00
SUB TOTAL	130,386.13

TOWNSHIP DISTRIBUTION (4511/4513)	YTD
Plain Township	3,807.40
Lake Township	1,418.00
Sandy Township	0.00
Pike Township	0.00
Stark County Law Library	5,225.40
SUB TOTAL	10,450.80

TREASURER, CITY OF CANTON, OHIO	YTD
40% State Highway Patrol Fines	39002.37
40% Highway Forfeitures (M07)	8.00
City Forfeitures	0.00
Cash Receipt Overage	139.38
City Cases - Costs	1370262.76
Less: Law Library	(8257.72)
City Cases - Fines	14506.00
Less: Law Library	0.00
Convenience Fee	0.00
GPS Costs	0.00
House Arrest and Detention	320.00
Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment S1	7248.35
Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment HP	8091.00
Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment C1	25.00
Indigent Drive Alcohol Treatment from Mayor's Courts	6724.42
Municipal Probation Service	203195.59
Computer Fees	128642.69
Legal Research	20370.63
Capital Improvement/Special Project Fee	344185.54
Crime Lab Costs	103.00
Ignition Interlock	12217.00
Ignition Interlock	8628.50
Alcohol Monitoring Fund	0.00
Local Interlock Monitor Fund	0.00
Indigent Drivers Treatment Fund	13022.00
Prisoner Treatment Fund S1	5400.00
Prisoner Treatment Fund HP	8308.00
Prisoner Treatment Fund C1	0.00
SUB TOTAL	2,182,142.51

MAYOR'S COURT DISTRIBUTION (M06)	YTD
Village of Waynesburg	50.00
Village of East Canton	0.00
City of North Canton	5,464.00
Village of Magnolia	5.00
Village of East Sparta	0.00
Village of Hartville	30.00
City of Louisville	0.00
Sandy Township	0.00
Canton Township	100.00
SUB TOTAL	5,549.00

2024 Criminal/Traffic Division Disbursements

BOARD OF PHARMACY MANDATORY DRUG VIOLATION DISTRIBUTION (M13)	YTD
Ohio Board of Pharmacy	334.00
City of Canton Police Department	1,539.20
Ohio State Highway Patrol	323.00
Stark County Sheriff	62.00
Township of Lake paid to Uniontown PD	0.00
City of North Canton	267.00
Village of East Canton	0.00
Township of Plain paid to Stark County Sheriff	200.00
City of Louisville	225.00
Liquor Board of Pharmacy	0.00
Village of Magnolia (Sandy) (East Sparta)	0.00
Village of Waynesburg	50.00
Village of Hartville Police Department	34.00
Walsh University Police Department	0.00
SUB TOTAL	3,034.20

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION FUND DISTRIBUTION (S1)	YTD
Canton Police Department (S1)	1,326.00
Canton Police Department (C1)	25.00
Village of East Sparta (S1) paid to Magnolia Police Department	0.00
East Canton Police Department (S1)	75.00
Waynesburg Police Department (S1)	85.00
Hartville Police Department	185.00
Louisville Police Department (S1)	205.00
North Canton Police Department (S1)	1,140.00
Stark County Sheriff (S1)	1,464.00
Plain Township (S1) paid to Stark County Sheriff	700.00
Lake Township (S1) paid to Uniontown Police Department	200.00
Sandy Township (S1) paid to Magnolia Police Department	0.00
Pike Township (S1) paid to Stark County Sheriff	0.00
SUB TOTAL	5,405.00

OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	YTD
Advanced Reparations & Public Defender Fund	0.00
Board of Health City of Canton (M31)	81.00
Board of Health Stark County (M31)	890.00
Capital Recovery Systems	77,582.85
Credit Bureau of Stark County Inc	75,596.44
Department of Natural Resources	230.00
Sheriff Fees	10,834.90
Sheriff's Receiving/Discharge Fee	11,574.80
Telecomputer Business Service	1,055.00
Stark County Law Library	0.00
Stark County Law Library	8,257.72
CP Costs - Stark County Clerk of Court	10,305.69
Cash Bonds	251,864.00
Advanced Deposits	0.00
Refunds	2,343.62
Restitution/Probation	40,697.28
AOD Reimbursement/Stark County Treasurer	0.00
Ohio Department of Taxation/ Cig Tax	0.00
Expedited Expungement Fee	0.00
SUB TOTAL OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	491,313.30

SUMMARY OF DISBURSEMENTS	YTD
Treasurer, State of Ohio	518,483.48
Treasurer, Stark County, Ohio	130,386.13
Treasurer, City of Canton, Ohio	2,182,142.51
Mayor's Court	5,549.00
Ohio Board of Pharmacy Distribution	3,034.20
Township Distribution	10,450.80
Law Enforcement Education Fund	5,405.00
Other Disbursements	491,313.30
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	3,346,764.42
Current Criminal Cash Balance on Hand	23,203.60

2024 Civil Division

Civil Receipts

Previous Balance on Hand 12/31/23	122,964.39
Garnishment Fee	347.00
Excess Costs	139,980.36
Advanced Court Costs	1,119.00
Jury Demand	3,000.00
Sheriff Fees	351.68
Eviction Deposit	0.00
Towing and Storage	0.00
Bonds	0.00
Motions	0.00
Money Released to Defendant	81,879.87
Legal Aid	183,197.29
Set Up Cash Drawer	0.00
Overage 24-N-0000	9.00
Advertising	758.62
Appraisers	0.00
Bankruptcy	18,260.62
City Fines Parking	54,874.61
City Costs - Parking	0.00
Parking Tech Fees	5,634.00
Parking Ticket Refunds	71.00
Court Fees	982,210.14
Capital Improvement	189,495.97
Full Claim	0.00
FedEx	119,511.13
Judgment Administrative Fee	31,490.52
Judgment	3,242,137.92
Marriage Fees	9,525.00
Rec/Dis Fees	0.00
Rent Escrow	37,022.50
Computer Fees	88,044.85
Unredeemed Checks	0.00
Witness Fees	0.00
Other	0.00
Unreconciled Amount	0.00
SUBTOTAL RECEIPTS	5,188,921.08
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCE FORWARD	5,311,885.47

Civil Disbursements

Garnishment Fees	353.00
Excess Costs	139,740.36
Advanced Court Costs	119.00
Jury Demand	600.00
Sheriff Fees	311.68
Eviction Deposit	0.00
Towing and Storage	0.00
Bonds	0.00
Motions	0.00
Money Released to Defendant	82,090.69
Legal Aid (99%)	181,365.32
Legal Aid (1%)	1,831.97
Set Up Cash Drawer	0.00
Overage	9.00
Advertising	308.62
Appraisers	0.00
Bankruptcy	21,068.60
Court Fees	982,210.14
Reimbursements From Court Fees	0.00
Capital Improvement	189,495.97
City Fines Parking	54,874.61
City Costs	0.00
Convenience Fees	0.00
Full Claims	0.00
FedEx	119,048.50
Judgment Administrative Fee	31,490.52
Judgment	3,244,364.91
Marriage Fees	9,525.00
Rec/Dis Fees	0.00
Rent Escrow	45,166.50
Computer Fees	88,044.85
Parking Tech Fees	5,634.00
Parking Ticket Refunds	83.00
Unredeemed checks	0.00
Witness Fees	0.00
Other/NSF Recovery	0.00
Unreconciled Amount	0.00
SUBTOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	5,197,736.24
CIVIL CURRENT BALANCE ON HAND	114,149.23

The Canton Municipal Court

2024 Judges Administration

