



Fairfield Municipal Court

JOYCE A. CAMPBELL
Judge

675 Nilles Road • Fairfield, Ohio 45014-2931 • 513-867-6002 • Fax 513-867-6001

March 31, 2021

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to R.C. §1901.14(A)(4) the Annual Report is submitted for the year 2020. The Court hears all traffic, misdemeanor criminal and civil disputes (wherein the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000) which are alleged to have occurred within the limits of the City of Fairfield. The Court also handles initial appearances and preliminary hearings for felony cases.

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly affected the Court but we remained open and operational during regular business hours. Criminal arraignments occurred daily as well as regularly scheduled dockets. Certain activities were suspended for several months such as in-person reporting for Probation, jury trials, and community service while other hearings were generously continued at the request of the Defendant or Plaintiff. We experienced a decrease in the collection of receipts as well as a decrease in the number of criminal, traffic and civil filings.

With the assistance of grant money from the Ohio Supreme Court we implemented video arraignments for jailed Defendants. This technology enabled hearings by video to avoid the transport of inmates from and to the jail. The new process is still in place and we will continue to utilize it post pandemic.

The Court continues to serve the community through two Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets. These dockets focus on specific types of offenders or offenses and use techniques designed to hold offenders accountable while also addressing underlying causes of their behavior. The Treatment Alternative Court ("TAC") program is our mental health docket which commenced on January 1, 2001, and the S.T.A.R. (Sobriety, Treatment, Accountability and Recovery) program is our misdemeanor repeat OVI offender docket which commenced on October 1, 2008. Both dockets have been continuously certified since April 11, 2014 (the first year certification became available). During 2020, the TAC program serviced 30 participants diagnosed with mental illness and 23 people participated in the S.T.A.R. programs.

I thank the staff, Clerks, Probation Officers and Deputy Bailiffs for their amazing dedication, patience and work during this time. Grateful appreciation is also extended to all City of Fairfield employees for their assistance and contributions to the successful operation of the Court. We strive to continually improve our justice system and welcome input from the community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce A. Campbell".

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Fairfield Municipal Court

Felony Charges

Felony charges are extremely serious offenses in which the Defendant can be sentenced to a state prison. Examples include: Murder, Kidnapping, Rape, Domestic Violence, Burglary, Robbery, Breaking and Entering, Trafficking, Fleeing and Eluding, certain Sex Offenses, certain Drug Possessions, Fraud, Theft, Receiving Stolen Property and Operating a Motor Vehicle under the Influence.

Felony cases arise by either direct indictment from the Grand Jury or the filing of a Complaint in Municipal Court. Judge Campbell presides over the felony Complaints only by setting bond and holding a Preliminary Hearing. The latter is an evidentiary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to require a trial. If the Judge makes this finding, or if the accused waives the Preliminary Hearing, the case is transferred to the Common Pleas Court for a hearing before the Grand Jury. If the Judge determines that the Prosecutor has not established enough facts to support the Complaint, then the felony Complaint is dismissed.

In 2020, Fairfield Municipal Court processed 166 complaints for felony offenses. This number is down 38% from 2019 wherein 260 complaints were processed.

Felony Charges:	2019	2020
Murder	0	2
Assault	4	5
Robbery	6	4
Burglary/Vandalism	11	6
Theft	60	44
Forgery/Fraud	25	7
Domestic Violence	16	13
Weapon Offenses	15	12
Drug Offenses	100	59
OVI	6	3
Other felony offenses	17	11
TOTAL	260	166

Misdemeanor Charges

Misdemeanor offenses are categorized into five classes: first degree, second degree, third degree, fourth degree, and minor misdemeanors. First-degree misdemeanors are considered the most serious class, while minor misdemeanors are the least serious. Each degree of misdemeanor offense has a maximum penalty associated with it that can range up to 180 days in the county jail and/or up to \$1,000 fine. A minor misdemeanor has a maximum penalty of \$150 plus Court Costs. Misdemeanor charges can be criminal or traffic offenses.

Examples of misdemeanor offenses include: Domestic Violence, Violation of Protective Order, Theft, Drug Possession, Resisting Arrest, Menacing, Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing, Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence (OVI), Operating a Motor Vehicle without a valid Driver's License and Traffic Control violations.

In 2020, Fairfield Municipal Court processed 5086 complaints for misdemeanor offenses. This number is down 31% from 2019 wherein 7422 complaints were processed.

Misdemeanor Criminal Charges:	2019	2020
Failure to Appear/Contempt	1,008	1,095
Domestic Violence	88	96
Assault	46	35
Child Endangering	8	8
Menacing/Harassment	18	26
Criminal Trespass/Damaging	88	86
Theft	277	184
Falsification	24	26
Weapon Offenses	13	14
Drug Offenses	385	146
Alcohol Offenses	65	61
Disorderly Conduct	177	139
Resisting Arrest/Obstruction	28	34
Animal Abuse / Neglect	7	8
Other misdemeanor criminal offenses	57	54
TOTAL	2,289	2,012

City Department Code Violations:	2019	2020
Zoning	18	18
Building	39	36
Fire Prevention	2	1
Tax	93	0
TOTAL	152	55

Misdemeanor Traffic Charges:	2019	2020
Operation under the influence (OVI)*	497	363
Suspended/Invalid Driver's License	877	605
Speed Limit	1,730	939
Seatbelt	104	33
License Plate Violations	411	151
Assured Cleared Distance	375	230
Failing to Stop After an Accident	54	48
Fleeing / Eluding police	9	9
Parking Violations	53	16
Other misdemeanor traffic violations	871	625
TOTAL	4,981	3,019

*Represents the number of individuals charged.

Probation

As an alternative to incarceration the Court can order a Defendant to a term of community control (probation). After the initial meeting with the Probation Officer, community control will be either reporting or non-reporting. The Probation Officers assist the Defendants with employment, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling and other needed services to aid the individual in becoming a law abiding, productive member of our community. If the Defendant is unable to pay his/her financial obligation, the Probation Officer will give the Defendant the opportunity to work off the fines and costs through Community Service. If the Defendant fails to report to probation and/or fails to comply with the terms of probation, a violation will be filed requiring the Defendant to appear in Court.

Probation:	2019	2020
Open Cases	1,422	976
Probation Violations	968	746

Community Service Program

Offenders who are unable to pay assessed fines and/or costs are able to perform community work on Saturdays and receive credit of \$10 per hour against their debt. The program alleviates the need for the City of Fairfield to incur additional expense in clearing litter on the side of the roadways and other community enhancement projects.

Community Service:	2019	2020
Days Completed	138	56
x 8 hours per day	8	8
TOTAL HOURS	1104	448

Civil Hearings

Fairfield Municipal Court hears many different types of civil actions with a monetary jurisdiction up to \$15,000. A case filed for the Small Claims docket can only be awarded up to \$6,000 in damages.

In 2020, the Court processed 1,157 civil complaints. This number is down 36% from 2019 wherein 1,818 complaints were processed.

Civil Complaints:	2019	2020
Personal Injury/Property Claim	12	3
Contracts/Notes/Credit Accounts	1,022	724
Forcible Entry and Detainer (Eviction)	678	353
Rent Escrow	5	7
Small Claim	76	64
Other civil actions	25	6
Trusteeship	0	0
TOTAL	1,818	1,157

Two-Year Comparison for Court Activity

Criminal/Traffic:	2019	2020
Cases Filed	7,682	5,252
Jury Trials held	2	1
Bench Trials*	546	510
Motion to Suppress*	121	89
Other Criminal/Traffic Motions*	20	10
Motion to Seal the Record	69	68
Motion for Driving Privileges	77	85
Competency to Stand Trial	9	7
Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity	1	0

Civil:	2019	2020
Cases Filed	1818	1157
Jury Trials held	0	0
Bench Trials*	119	95
Motions*	89	92
Garnishments	304	265
Bank Attachments	55	30
Certificate for Judgment Lien	85	80
Judgement Debtor Exam	1	1

*Represents the number of filings

2020 RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS:

Courtbook Balance, January 1, 2020		\$370,407.94
+ Fines, Costs & Fees	\$1,726,217.21	
+ Holding Accounts:		
• Jury Demand	\$ 0.00	
• Grand Jury – Btlr Cnty Clerk	\$ 0.00	
• Restitution	\$ 68,792.66	
• On Deposit/Overage	\$ 4,219.81	
• Appearance Bonds	\$ 99,464.80	
• Rent Escrow	\$ 12,978.90	
• Garnishments	\$ 406,549.38	
• Civil Witness Fees	\$ 0.00	
• BMV License Forfeiture	\$ 15.00	
		<u>\$2,318,237.76</u>
		TOTAL <u>\$2,688,645.70</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

- City of Fairfield*	\$1,511,231.85
- County of Butler**	\$ 41,254.11
- State of Ohio***	\$ 204,003.08
- Holding Accounts:	
• Jury Demand	\$ 192.00
• Grand Jury – Btlr Cnty Clerk	\$ 1,245.80
• Restitution	\$ 79,963.75
• On Deposit/Overage	\$ 7,643.90
• Appearance Bonds	\$ 128,973.60
• Rent Escrow	\$ 18,046.35
• Garnishments	\$ 391,877.39
• Civil Witness Fees	\$ 0.00
• BMV License Forfeiture	\$ 444.00
	<u>\$2,384,875.83</u>
Courtbook balance, December 31, 2020	<u>\$303,769.87</u>
	TOTAL <u>\$2,688,645.70</u>

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2020– CITY OF FAIRFIELD ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DISBURSED
201	Patrol Fines	\$59,048.61
202	Traffic & Criminal Fines	\$600,141.84
203	Traffic & Criminal Court Costs	\$189,503.92
204	Civil & Small Claims Costs & Fees	\$139,817.84
205	Expungement Fees	\$4,470.00
206	Witness Fees – City Ordinance Violations	\$3,514.00
207	Juror Fees	\$0.00
208	Civil Legal Aid 1% Administration Fees	\$306.08
209	City DUI Arrest Agency Fees	\$4,955.00
210	City Indigent DUI Alcohol Treatment Fees	\$12,219.29
211	City DUI Jail Housing Fees	\$8,294.00
212	Special Projects Fund	\$47,054.32
213	Computer Equipment Fees	\$79,256.73
215	Wedding Ceremony Fees	\$25.00
216	Record Check/Copying Fees	\$631.75
217	Drug Fines – City Arrest	\$485.00
218	Probation Fees Fund	\$261,860.69
219	House Arrest Fees	\$5,760.74
220	Mediation Fees	\$40,320.00
221	IDIAMF	\$9,159.00
222	Scram Fee	\$18,892.00
223	Credit Card Processing Fee	\$9,828.82
224	Judgment Poundage Fee	\$8,081.63
225	Restitution Poundage Fee	\$7,213.29
225	10% Bond Fee	\$392.30
TOTAL - CITY		\$1,511,231.85

2020 – BUTLER COUNTY ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DISBURSED
301	Ohio State Patrol Fines (10%)	\$2,794.10
302	Traffic & Criminal Fines-ORC Viol.	\$15,068.90
304	Dog Warden Fines-ORC Violations	\$0.00
305	County DUI Jail Hsg.Fees-ORC Viol.	\$3,283.00
306	Expungement Fees – ORC Cases	\$80.00
307	Witness Fees – ORC Cases	\$179.00
308	County Indig.DUI Alco.Treatmt. Fees	\$800.00
309	County DUI Arrest Agency Fees	\$0.00
310	Liquor Violation Fees (50%)	\$0.00
312	Drug Fines – County Arrest	\$0.00
516	Indigent Application Fee	\$12,762.74
514	Law Library (OSP Fines)	\$6,286.37
TOTAL - COUNTY		\$41,254.11

2020 - STATE OF OHIO ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DISBURSED
101	Ohio State Patrol Fines (45%)	\$13,970.50
102	Victims of Crime Fund	\$36,877.00
103	Public Defenders Fund	\$1,165.00
104	Seat Belt Fines	\$2,437.00
105	Drug Violation Fines (Bd of Pharm.)	\$600.00
106	Liquor Violation Fines (50%)	\$0.00
107	Dept. Of Natural Resources Fines	\$0.00
108	Expungement Fees	\$1,950.00
109	Civil Legal Aid Fees	\$30,388.11
110	Ohio State Patrol DUI Arrest Agy.Fees	\$485.00
111	Child Safety Restraint	\$225.00
112	Drug Fines – ODPS Arrest	\$0.00
113	Drug Fines – OSP Arrest	\$0.00
517	Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$9,946.65
518	Indigent Drivers Alco. Treat. Fund	\$0.00
519	Indigent Defense Support Fund	\$105,636.19
520	Justice Program Services Fund	\$322.63
TOTAL - STATE		\$204,003.08

BOOK TO CASH RECONCILIATION

Courtbook Fund Balance, December 31, 2020		\$170,204.69
- Credit Card Convenience Fee (Aug.-Dec.)	\$ 1,544.17	
- Prior Years Adjusting Entries	<u>\$ 4,369.20</u>	
		(\$5,913.37)
		<u>\$164,291.32</u>
 Cash Account Balance, December 31, 2020		 \$342,126.92
+ Deposits in Transit	\$ 541.00	
- Outstanding Checks	<u>(\$178,376.60)</u>	
		(\$177,835.60)
		<u>\$164,291.32</u>