



## 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,

# 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>166</b>

### 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.

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

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

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

\*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.

<b>Probation:</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Open Cases</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>976</b>
<b>Probation Violations</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>746</b>

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.

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

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.

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

## Two-Year Comparison for Court Activity

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

<b>Civil:</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Cases Filed</b>	1818	1157
<b>Jury Trials held</b>	0	0
<b>Bench Trials*</b>	119	95
<b>Motions*</b>	89	92
<b>Garnishments</b>	304	265
<b>Bank Attachments</b>	55	30
<b>Certificate for Judgment Lien</b>	85	80
<b>Judgement Debtor Exam</b>	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	<u>\$ 15.00</u>	
		<u>\$2,318,237.76</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$2,688,645.70</b></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	<u>\$ 444.00</u>	
		<u>\$2,384,875.83</u>
		<u>\$303,769.87</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$2,688,645.70</b></u>

- \* Breakdown on Page 6  
 \*\* Breakdown on Page 7  
 \*\*\* Breakdown on Page 7

**2020– CITY OF FAIRFIELD ACCOUNTS**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED</b>
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
	<b>TOTAL - CITY</b>	<b>\$1,511,231.85</b>

## 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
<b>TOTAL - COUNTY</b>		<b>\$41,254.11</b>

## 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
<b>TOTAL - STATE</b>		<b>\$204,003.08</b>



**BOOK TO CASH RECONCILIATION**

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