

WADSWORTH MUNICIPAL COURT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024



SUSANA B. LEWIS

Judge

CASSANDRA M. FRYE

Clerk of Court

120 Maple Street
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
www.wadsworthmunicipalcourt.com

March 31 , 2025

Table of Contents

Table of Context	2
Court Overview	3
Court Personnel	5
Presiding Judge	5
Clerk of Court	6
Administration	7
Court Reports	8
New Cases Filed - Traffic and Criminal	8
New Cases Filed - Civil	10
Court Information	11
State Imposed Court Costs	13
Receipts and Disbursements	14
Special Projects Funds	15
Probation Reports	16
Probation: Year End Report	16
Community Service Report	18

Court Overview

Foreword

Enclosed is the 2024 Annual Report of the Wadsworth Municipal Court containing the court's finances, civil and criminal cases, programs and services. The jurisdiction and power of municipal courts in Ohio are established by statute. ORC §1901.14, provides that on or before the last day of March of each year, the court shall render a complete report of its operation during the preceding calendar year to the legislative authority and to the board of county commissioners of each county within its territory.

In 2024, we assessed court processes for efficiency, timeliness, victim's rights, and access to justice, independence and accountability. We set a goal of implementing a central security checkpoint at the entrance to the court. We collaborated with the Supreme Court of Ohio's Office of Court Security as well as the Wadsworth Municipal Court's Security Advisory Committee to further our goal. The court worked diligently to implement security measures, including ordering a walk-through metal detector, recruiting qualified personnel, and implementing the Supreme Court of Ohio Security Standards.

In terms of caseloads, in 2024, we had an increase in traffic offenses, including cases of operating a vehicle under the influence. We have also seen an increase in the number of civil cases filed in court. Criminal cases have remained steady with a slight decline in charges in 2024.

Early in 2024, I met with members of the Medina County Bar Association to review court rules and practices and to share some insight and my vision for the court. I spent valuable time meeting with community members such as Leadership Medina's 2024 Signature Class, as well as students from Wadsworth City Schools, and had the opportunity to teach them about the court and criminal justice. We put the storybook, Goldilocks and the Three Bears on trial and the kids got to learn about the court process firsthand. I was a guest on Wadsworth Community Radio, 97.1, where I shared information about my first hundred days in office. I am looking forward to doing more programming to connect the community to the court in the years to come.

Regarding the jurisdiction of the court, municipal courts are vested with territorial jurisdiction to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and have jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors as well as limited jurisdiction for civil cases in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000 and small claims cases up to \$6,000.

Judges of municipal courts have statewide authority to solemnize marriage ceremonies. The Wadsworth Municipal Court has jurisdiction over several areas in Ohio, including the City of Wadsworth and neighboring regions.

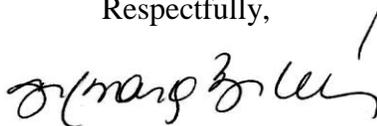
The following are the specific areas of Medina County covered by the court: City: Wadsworth, Villages: Lodi, Seville, Westfield Center, and Gloria Glens Park, Townships: Wadsworth, Guilford, Harrisville, Westfield, Homer, Sharon.

JURISDICTION (*)	POPULATION SIZE (*)
City of Wadsworth	24,986
Village of Lodi	2,746
Village of Seville	2,335
Village of Westfield Center	1,184
Village of Gloria Glens Park	369
Township of Wadsworth	4,384
Township of Guilford	3,076
Township of Harrisville	1,717
Township of Westfield	2,632
Township of Homer	1,606
Township of Sharon	5,966
Total Population:	51,001

* Information obtained through the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov) and the Wadsworth City website

This annual report represents the work of the Wadsworth Municipal Court in 2024, and acknowledges the service of our community partners including agencies like police agencies, fire & rescue agencies, and dispatch centers. We also acknowledge all city and local government, mental health, addiction service providers, and so many more that make our communities among the very best in Ohio.

Respectfully,



Judge Susana B. Lewis



Presiding Judge Susana B. Lewis Biography

Judge Susana B. Lewis was elected to serve as Judge of the Wadsworth Municipal Court in 2024. She is the Administrative and Presiding Judge of the Court, where she oversees the administration of all criminals, civil, traffic and small claims cases. She is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference and serves on the Public Confidence and Community Outreach Committee. She is a member of the Association of Municipal Court Judges where she was selected by her peers to co-chair the Chronicle Committee. She is a member of the Medina County Bar Association and serves on the Medina County Corrections Board. She has taught continuing legal education courses to lawyers and judges throughout the state through the Supreme Court of Ohio's Judicial College. She is an active volunteer with the Ohio High School Mock Trial Program. She serves on the Government Committee of Leadership Medina. Prior to being elected judge, Judge Lewis was trial Magistrate and Chief Magistrate of the Medina County Probate & Juvenile Court presiding over cases for 18 years. She also served as an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor and Staff Counsel for the Stark County Job & Family Services. She is a former board member of the Medina County Mental Health and Recovery Board (ADAMH). Judge Lewis earned her B.A. in Political Science from Kean College of New Jersey and her Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law. She is fluent in Spanish, and is married and has two adult children.

**The Wadsworth Municipal Court gratefully
acknowledges the service of its former Judges.**

Honorable Stephen McIlvaine - Serving from 1997-2023

Honorable James Kimbler - Serving from 1986-1996

Honorable David Hensal - Serving from 1977-1986

Clerk of Court Cassandra Frye

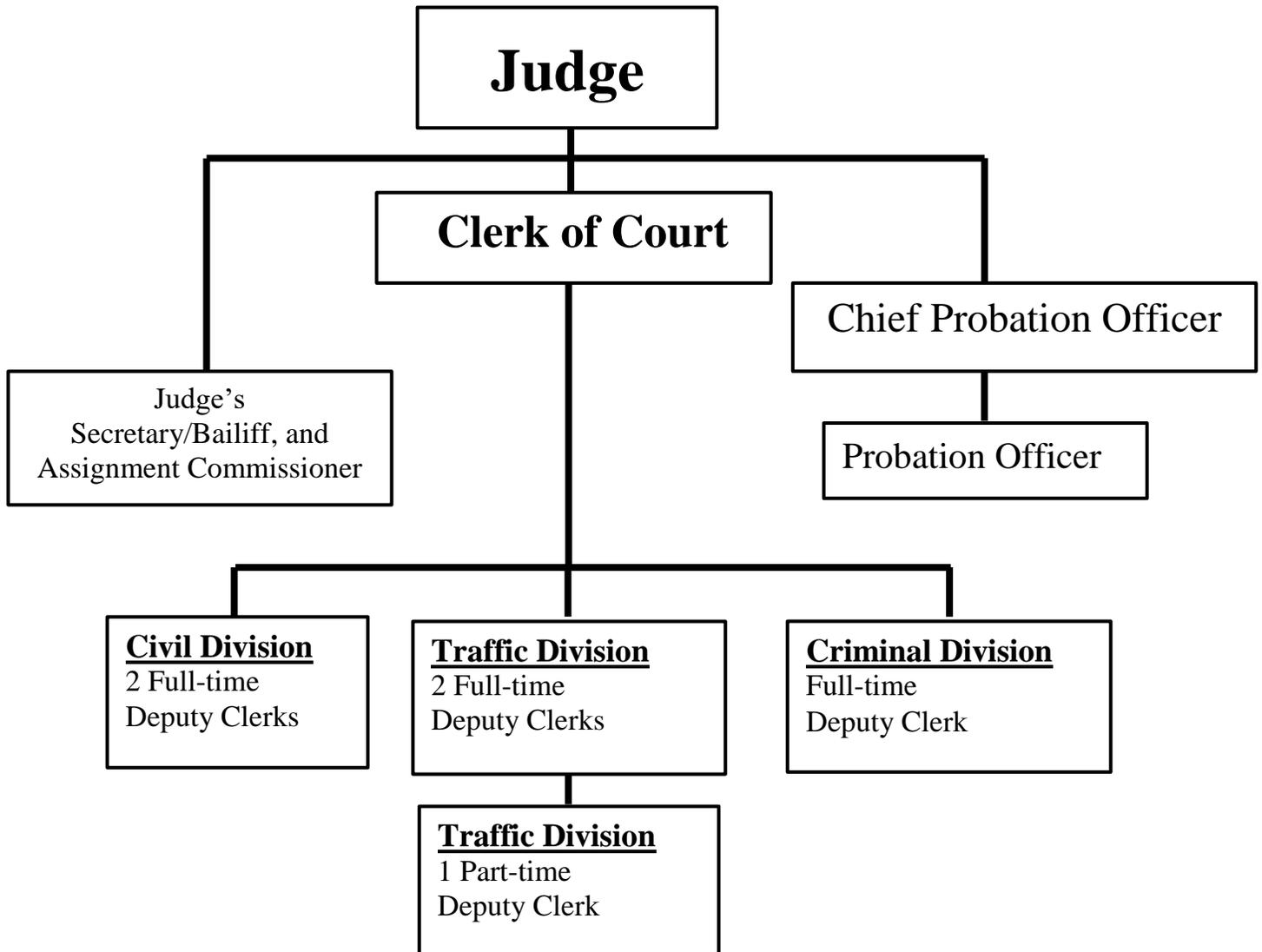
Cassandra Frye began her 27 year career with the Wadsworth Municipal Court in 1998, initially serving as a deputy clerk in the criminal division of the court. After serving in that role for two (2) years, she was given the title of Chief Deputy Clerk while serving in the criminal division until 2013. Cassie was appointed Clerk of Court by the Honorable Stephen B. McIlvaine in 2013 and subsequently re-appointed in 2024 by the Honorable Susana B. Lewis, Judge of the Wadsworth Municipal Court. Cassie is a member of the Ohio Association of Municipal/County Court Clerks Association, and in 2024 she was elected by her peers to serve as Sergeant at Arms, the organization's leadership team of professionals.



The Clerk of Court is responsible for overseeing the administrative and operational functions of the court system including the application of laws as contained in the Ohio Revised Code. This position involves managing case files, maintaining court records, ensuring compliance with court rules, and providing support to judges, attorneys, and the public. The Clerk of Court ensures that all legal documents are processed accurately, cases are tracked, and the courtroom functions smoothly and professionally for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassie Frye".

ADMINISTRATION



COURT REPORTS

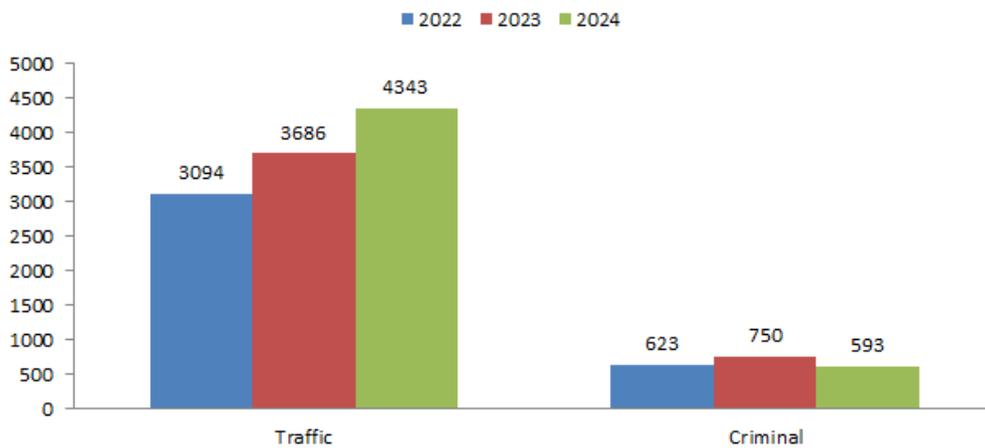
NEW CASES FILED CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC & CIVIL

The next several pages detail cases filed in the Wadsworth Municipal Court and the number of criminal and traffic cases filed per agency. The information provided is taken from the court's management software system, Henschen & Associates, Inc, analytics.

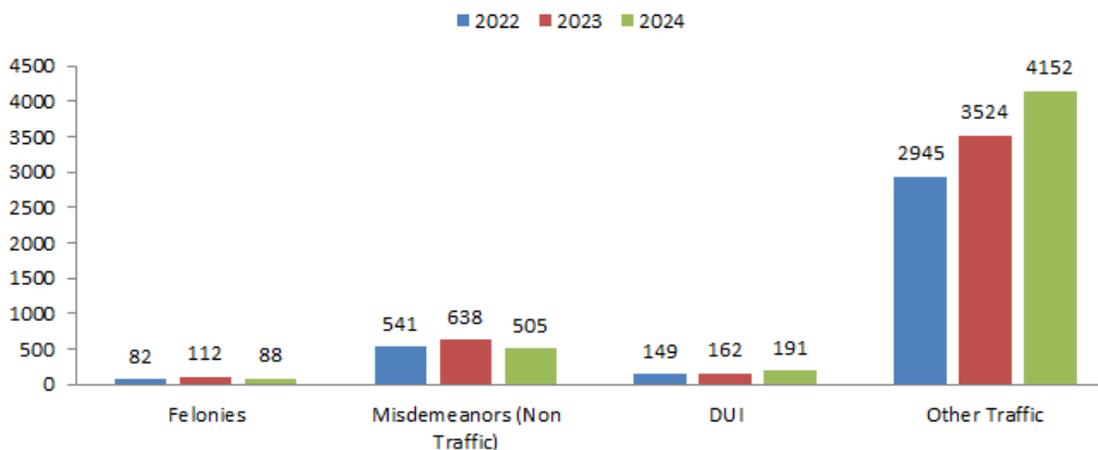
2024 New Cases Filed - Traffic and Criminal

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Felonies	82	112	88
Misdemeanors (Non-traffic)	541	638	505
OVI	149	162	191
Other Traffic	2,945	3,524	4,152

NEW CASES FILED



New Cases Breakdown - TR/CR



2024 New Cases filed by Agency - Traffic and Criminal

These lists do not include every agency that can file within our jurisdiction, only those who have filed charges with the court within the last 3 years.

Traffic Cases	2022	2023	2024
Lodi Police Department	95	68	83
Medina Co. Park District	0	2	0
Creston Police Department	1	0	0
Ohio State Highway Patrol	1,853	2,140	2,713
Medina County Sheriff	332	534	627
Medina County Park District	0	1	0
Montville Township Police Dept	0	1	0
Norton Police Department	1	0	0
Seville Police Department	41	43	35
Westfield Center Police Dept.	11	5	2
Wadsworth Police Department	756	892	885

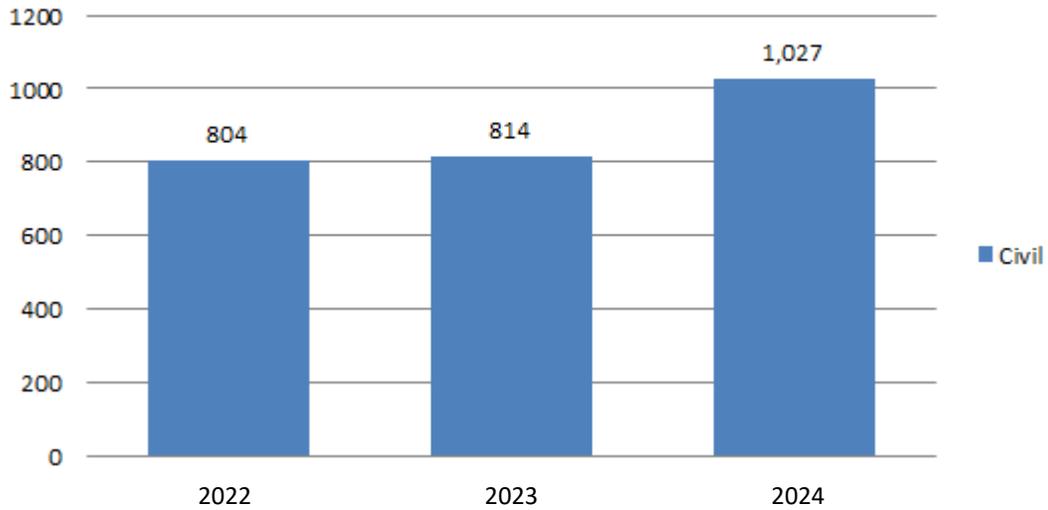
Criminal Cases	2022	2023	2024
Lodi Police Department	78	74	47
Medina Co Drug Taskforce	4	5	2
Medina County Park District	7	19	8
Division of Wildlife	1	9	0
Department of Public Safety	4	2	2
Ohio State Highway Patrol	21	27	13
Medina County Sheriff Office	153	237	161
Rittman Police Department	0	1	0
Seville Police Department	25	22	17
Summit County Metro Parks	0	0	4
Westfield Center Police Department	10	2	1
Wadsworth Police Department	313	354	339
Westfield Center Insurance	2	0	0
Department of Taxation	2	0	0



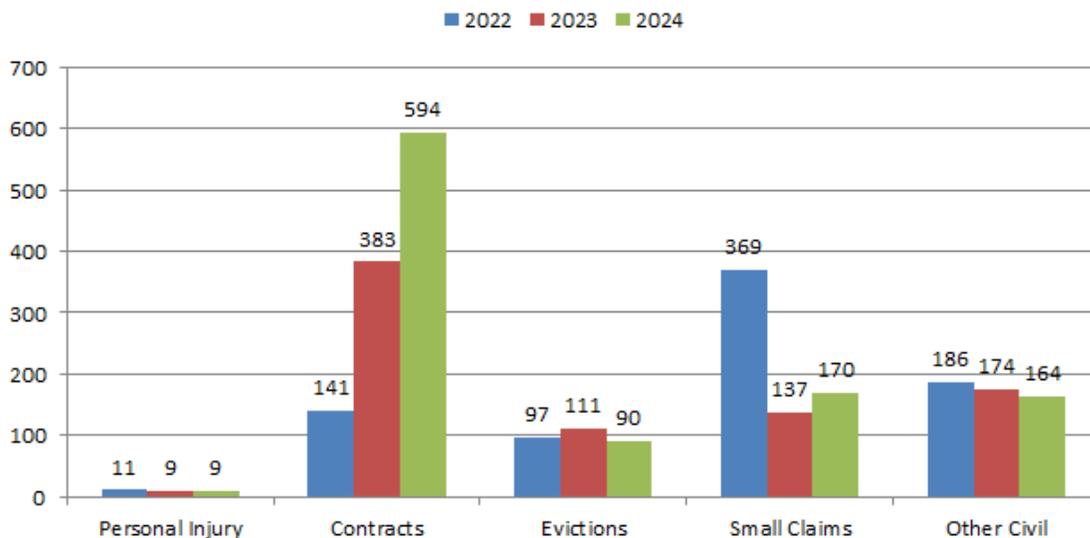
2024 New Cases Filed – Civil

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Personal Injury/Property Damage	11	9	9
Contracts	141	383	594
Eviction	97	111	90
Other Civil	369	137	170
Small Claims	186	174	164

New Cases Filed



New Cases Breakdown - Civil Dept.



COURT INFORMATION

The next few pages of information detail different aspects of Wadsworth Municipal Court including dispositioned cases, jury and bench trials, weddings, receipts, and more.

DISPOSITION OF CASES FOR 2024			
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Pending	450	496	841
New Cases Filed	4,521	5,250	5,963
Cases Reactivated	3	453	500
Disposed of Cases	4,478	5,358	6,655
Pending Cases	496	841	649

JURY TRIALS			
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Criminal	6	3	3
OVI	3	4	1
Traffic	0	0	0
Civil	0	0	0
Total	9	7	4

NON-JURY TRIALS
The Court conducted 99 non-jury trials in 2024

COLLECTION SERVICES
The Court uses Capital Recovery Systems, a Gahanna business, to recover fines and costs that are due and owing to the Court.

COURT APPOINTED COURT REFERRALS

Accepted With Fee	Accepted Fee Waived	Total Accepted	Amount Collected
497	0	497	\$7,130.00

RESTITUTION

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Restitution Paid	\$9,275.25	\$6,329.30	\$7,337.49

Restitution represents the amount of money paid to a victim through the court. In 2024, \$7,337.49 was paid to victims of crime from the restitution account of the Wadsworth Municipal Court. The payment of this amount was required as a condition of probation in cases in which victims suffered a monetary loss.

WEDDINGS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Wedding ceremonies preformed	72	66	88

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICES

The Court uses interpreting services for Defendant's who do not speak English and require assistance in understanding court proceedings. The Supreme Court of Ohio contracted through Language Line Services with mostly arraignments, zooms, and last minute hearings where an interpreter might be needed. Monarca Language Services, a Medina business, is used the Court as well primarily for trials, change of plea hearings, and motion hearings.

State Imposed Court Costs

The Ohio Revised Code sets forth how a Court is to collect and distribute money derived from the fines and costs collected from virtually every case filed. The mandatory court costs are as follows

for Wadsworth Municipal Court:

Amount	Type of Case	State Program Funded
\$9.00	Traffic (except non-moving)	Victims of Crime
\$9.00	Misdemeanor Criminal	Victims of Crime
\$9.00	Felony Criminal	Victims of Crime
\$20.00	OVI & Traffic (except non-moving)	Indigent Driver's Support Fund
\$20.00	Misdemeanor Criminal	Indigent Driver's Support Fund
\$10.00	Traffic Non-Moving Violations	Indigent Driver's Support Fund
\$25.00	All Bond Postings	Indigent Driver's Support Fund
\$26.00	Civil Cases Filed	Ohio Legal Aid
\$11.00	Small Claims Filed	Ohio Legal Aid
\$3.39	OVI & Traffic (except non-moving)	Drug Law Enforcement Fund
\$0.11	OVI & Traffic (except non-moving)	Justice Program Services Fund
\$1.50	OVI & Traffic (except non-moving)	Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	Criminal/Traffic	Civil	Trustee	Total
Beginning Balance	80,024.61	16,260.13	0.00	96,284.74
Plus-Receipts	1,029,029.78	594,304.47	0.00	1,623,334.25
Total Subject To Disbursement	1,109,054.39	610,564.60	0.00	1,719,618.99
Less Disbursement	-997,647.65	-527,869.05	0.00	1,525,516.70
Ending Balances	\$111,406.74	\$82,695.55	\$0.00	194,102.29

The above disbursements were made according to the law in the following manner:

	Criminal/Traffic	Civil	Trustee	Total
City of Wadsworth	443,399.49	113,686.50	0.00	557,085.99
County of Medina	150,796.15	0.00	0.00	150,796.15
State of Ohio	229,553.12	21,640.00	0.00	251,193.12
Medina Sheriff	13,821.62	8,055.00	0.00	21,876.62
Judgements	152,972.62	384,487.55	0.00	537,460.17
Law Library	2,509.81	0.00	0.00	2,509.81
Seville Police	483.50	0.00	0.00	483.50
Lodi Police	1,605.50	0.00	0.00	1,605.50
Westfield Center	248.00	0.00	0.00	248.00
Foreign Sheriff Fees	2,257.84	0.00	0.00	2,257.84
Total	\$997, 647.65	\$527,869.05	\$0.00	\$1,525,516.70

*December monies for Restitution & Garnishments – Paid out in January 2025

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

The Court has a special project fund created by statute to allow the court to secure money to fund various projects at the court. The funds are collected solely from court costs and paid by litigants in court proceedings as follows:

- A) Special Projects (formerly known as Court Improvement)
- B) Court Computerization
- C) IDAT (Indigent Drivers' Alcohol Treatment Fund)
- D) IDIAMF (Indigent Drivers' Interlock & Alcohol Monitoring Fund)

In 2024, the following expenditures were made from these funds:

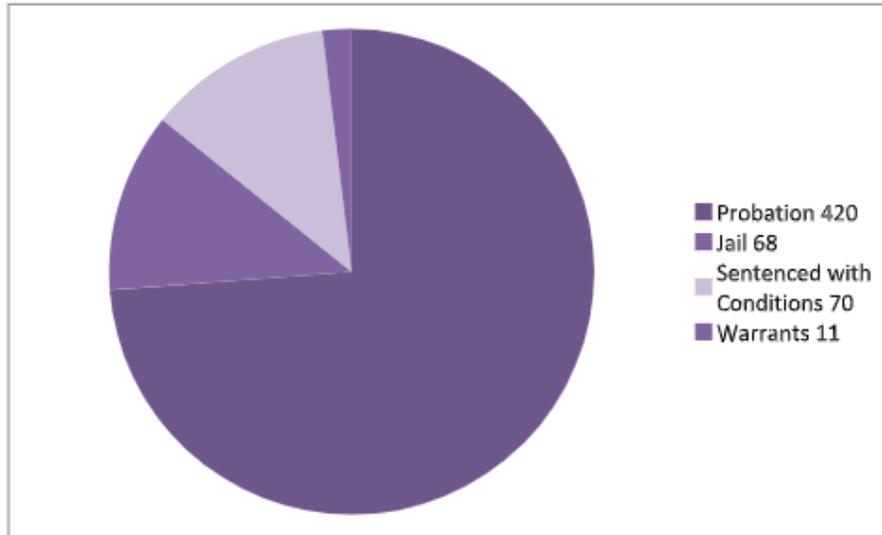
- A) Special Projects
 - a. \$149.00 Zoom fees
 - b. \$257.98 Television and mounting purchased for our jury room for jurors to view videos submitted into evidence when they deliberate.
 - c. \$4,364.20 walk-through metal detector unit and two metal detecting wands for use at the newly created security checkpoint.
- B) IDIAMF
 - a. No money spent. All of these funds get paid directly to City of Wadsworth
- C) IDAT
 - a. \$33,044.07 was expended to fund drug and alcohol treatment for eligible individuals on probation with the court. Treatment consists of outpatient treatment through Alternative Paths. Thirty (30) individuals were served in 2024 in the program.

PROBATION REPORTS

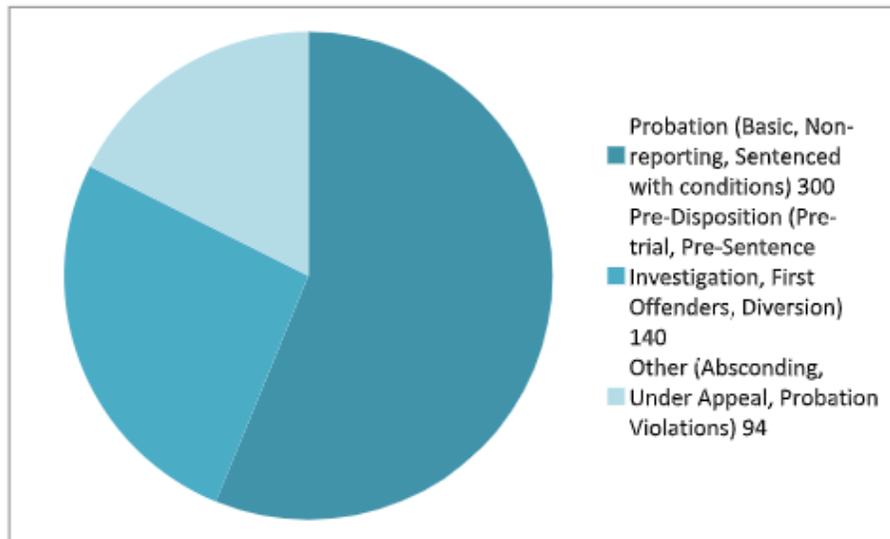
YEAR END REPORT FOR 2024

Active probation cases as of 12/31/23 (supervision/disposed only)	324
New files opened in 2024	551
Case referred to Pre-Trial Monitoring	13
Cases Sentenced to Probation	420
Cases terminated	435
Cases referred to the Violence Prevention Program	16
Cases that completed the Violence Prevention Program	11
Cases referred to the Underage Alcohol 1st Offender Program	1
Cases that completed the Underage Alcohol 1st Offender Program	4
Cases referred to the County 1st Offender Diversion Program	33
Cases that completed the County 1st Offender Diversion Program	31
Cases sentenced to Jail	68
Cases sentenced to other than Probation or Jail (home arrest, suspended sentence community service, etc.)	70
Cases closed with FTA warrant	11
All Open Probation/Pre-trial Cases as of 12/31/24:	534
Types of Probation	
Probation – Basic, Intensive, Non-reporting and Sentenced with Conditions	300
Pre-disposition – Pre-Trial, Pre-Sentence Investigation, First Offenders, Diversion	140
Other (Absconding, Probation Violation and Under Appeal)	94

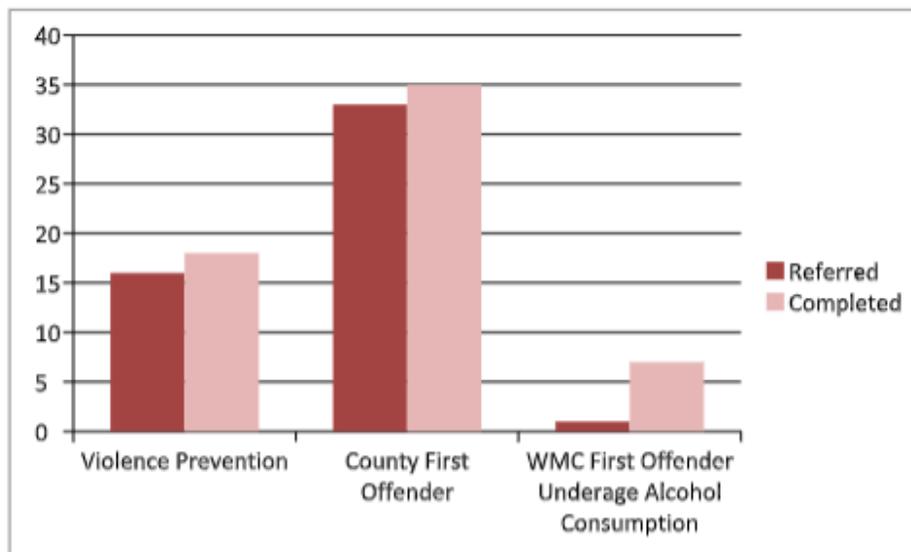
Sentencing Outcome:



Active Probation Cases:



First Offender and Violence Prevention Program:



2024 YEAR END COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

In 2024, the court sentenced 195 defendants to perform a total of 6918 hours of community service. As of December 31, 2024, these defendants were able to complete 4287.98 hours of community service at charitable, government, or 501(C)(3) certified non-profit organizations. Sixty-six different organizations received community service help from the Wadsworth Municipal Court. Those agencies are listed below:

AKRON CANTON FOODBANK	38.45
ALLEYCATS & ARISTOCATS CATS OFF THE SQ.	95.5
AMERICAN LEGION	165.5
ASHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING	24
BARBERTON AREA COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOOD BANK	15
BARBERTON COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST	24
BLUE TIP FESTIVAL	463
BRUNSWICK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	24
CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR - WOOSTER	12
CLEVELAWN	24
CLOVERLEAF REC CENTER	246
COACH SAM'S INNER CIRCLE FOUNDATIONS	48
COLUMBUS ICE YOUTH	62
COMMON THREAD	106.5
CUPS CAFE	8.5
ED KEATING CENTER	48
FOE EAGLES	24
FOREVER AMBER ACRES	14.33
FRIENDS IN TENTS	20
FOX TALE SANCTUARY	26.5
GIFTING AND SHARING FOUNDATION	24
GLORIA GLENS VILLAGE	48
GOODWILL	158.45
GRACE CHURCH	48
GREATER CLE FOOD BANK	24
GUYS AND GALS COMMUNITYI PARTNERSHIP INC	40.5
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	388.25
HAVEN OF REST	120.5
HEART (Helping Eastside and Reynoldsburg Survive	24
HISTORIC GRAFTON SCHOOL, INC	27.5
HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY	10
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE	14
JOY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER	16
KEEP AKRON BEAUTIFUL	40
LIVING HOPE FOOD PANTRY	32
LODI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	4
MARION'S CLOSET	123.5
MEDINA PERSONAL CARE PANTRY	27

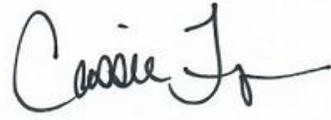
NEW BRIDGE PLACE	200
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ASSOCIATIO	3
OHIO VETERANS HOMES	24
OHIO WESTERN RESERVE NATIONAL CEMETERY	15.5
OLENTANGY	24
OUT OF DARKNESS	24
OTHER/OUT OF AREA	209
POLICE WIVES OF OHIO	2
REHOBETH RIVERS OF LIVINGING WATERS	24
RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	24
RITTMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	4
ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2	24.5
SALVATION ARMY	264
SERENITE	10
SPCA	68
SPANISH UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH	24
SPRINGTIME OF HOPE	48
STARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY	24.5
TASTE OF WADSWORTH	21
THE CAT HOUSE FELINE SANCTUARY (ASHLAND)	16
THE SERVER	58
VFW	16
VILLAGE OF GLORIA GLENS	158
VILLAGE OF SEVILLE	24
WAYNE COUNTY DOG SHELTER	17
WADSWORTH AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION	32
WOODLAWN CEMETARY	198.5
YMCA	72

The Wadsworth Municipal Court's 2024 Annual Report is submitted this 31ST day of March 2025.

Respectfully,



Susana B. Lewis, Judge



Cassandra Frye, Clerk of Courts

