



MUNICIPAL COURT

2023 Summary

- Significant increase in court activity over the past 4 year averages:
 - 533 Cases were filed. 62% increase
 - Several cases have 2 or more charges on a single ticket. 674 Charges were written - 75% increase in the total charges.
 - 100 tickets were paid outside of court – which is typical, but I anticipate an increase in 2024 with the option to pay online.
 - 48% increase in cases remaining open at the end of the year, total of 510.
 - Overall court activity increased 76%. Court activity includes First Appearances, (which is up 80%) – trials, and other matters, such as sentence reviews, case reviews, probation revocation hearings, advisements, arraignments, motions, show cause and bond hearings, totaling an increase of 73%.
 - 2023 was a record year for court revenue collected, just shy of \$109,000 – which is a significant increase of 120%.
 - I give credit to the Police Department who have increased the number of citations they issued, and for writing all applicable citations into the City rather than into the County, including Driving without a License & Registration.
 - I also give credit to City Attorney Heather Cannon for being pro-active with assessing fines to detour repeat offenders.
- I collected over \$5,000 in fines associated with abatements. That money is given back to PD to help offset abatement expenses they incur on some of the properties in town that are targeted for clean up.
- Anytime there is a traffic accident or theft, I send notice to the victim to advise them they have the opportunity to seek restitution. \$2782 was collected for victim restitution in 2023.
- The Municipal Court has had an increase in Spanish speaking defendants. I now coordinate with an interpreter to assist us with court hearings, once a month. Defendants in need of an interpreter are given the same court date to make it as beneficial to them and the interpreter, as well as giving the City the most bang for our buck. I have converted some of the forms and correspondence to Spanish to aid in communication.
- The state has made some changes with the Department of Motor Vehicles, which has tied the hands of Municipal Courts on issuing defaults on traffic cases. Defaults are sent to DMV when a Defendant fails to appear twice for their hearing. DMV used to put a hold on a Defendant's license and they could not renew their license until their outstanding fines & costs were paid to the courts. Now, DMV is not allowed to suspend or not renew a license because of outstanding court fines. I currently have 68 Default

cases and my goal is to turn all of them that I can, over to a collection agency, and try to get some revenue out of these cases and get them closed.

- A software upgrade was approved in the 2024 budget. I'm hoping to get it implemented and go live this spring. I believe that the software vendor has reached out to the PD's software representative, to get a start on the citation import module – when everything is complete, the citations inputted by the officers in the field, will send a work que to my system, that I will download into the Full Court Enterprise program. There are several other benefits to the upgraded software such as reminder texts to defendants, automatic reporting of convictions to DMV, and online payment portal.
- We will be posting a part time position to aid in probation and other duties. Currently I have 131 cases being tracked for compliance of payments, classes, community service, dog evaluations, and anything they were ordered to do. There are currently 168 cases involving probation and/or deferred sentences.

I invite you to come sit in during a court session sometime – Wednesday mornings at 8:30.

Gayle Zimmerman
Court Administrator

MUNICIPAL COURT
10 YEAR COMPARISONS

CASES FILED	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Increase
PARKING	6	11	60	15	13	11	50	51	16	0	
TRAFFIC	158	196	230	153	112	132	125	164	196	397	
ANIMAL	53	56	55	53	63	44	50	40	26	22	
GENERAL	56	33	90	96	114	148	102	52	109	112	
TOTAL CASES	273	296	435	316	294	335	327	307	347	533	64%
TOTAL CHARGES	375	370	513	383	401	395	393	354	397	674	69%
CASE ACTION											
PAID OUT OF COURT/VIOLATION BUREAU	83	92	140	78	58	70	99	100	99	100	
CASES OPEN END OF LAST YEAR	207	191	288	288	267	289	325	345	342	366	
CASES FILED THIS YEAR	273	296	435	316	294	335	327	307	347	533	64%
CASES CLOSED THIS YEAR	289	287	414	337	272	298	305	324	322	390	
CASES REMAINING OPEN	191	198	288	267	289	325	347	342	366	510	76%
COURT ACTIVITY/CASES IN COURT											
FIRST APPEARANCES	178	186	307	293	304	320	268	236	316	514	92%
TRIALS TO COURT	2	1	5	2	3	2	1	3	3	5	
TRIALS TO JURY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER MATTERS	317	246	386	463	423	511	339	461	576	814	97%
TOTAL	497	433	698	758	730	833	608	700	895	1333	95%
REVENUE COLLECTED	\$ 36,351.40	\$ 39,515.50	\$ 58,359.47	\$ 47,830.49	\$ 38,815.73	\$ 42,457.47	\$ 42,151.53	\$ 48,238.64	\$ 65,208.81	\$ 108,977.00	134%

2020 - In person 2 months, closed 5 months, zoom 5 months