

GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT

518 Second Avenue
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-9400

Eric R. Mulford, Judge

Lou Ellen Werry, Clerk

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
R.C. § 1901.14(A)(4)

The Gallipolis Municipal Court expended from the General Fund of the City of Gallipolis \$329,452.52 for the year 2020. The Court paid to the General Fund of the City of Gallipolis through the collection of court costs and fines \$323,486.76. This is a deficit of \$5,965.76 to the City of Gallipolis.¹

The following is a comparison of the previous three years:

2019 Expenditure: \$313,249.21 Revenue: \$411,065.84
2018 Expenditure: \$325,102.77 Revenue: \$432,933.94
2017 Expenditure: \$331,448.90 Revenue: \$425,746.33

TRAFFIC/CRIMINAL DIVISION

COLLECTIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The Court began the year with \$152,372.00 bond on hand. The Court collected \$917,283.24 in the Traffic/Criminal Division bringing the **total ledger to \$1,069,655.24**. The Court disbursed unclaimed funds in 2020 of \$8,135.00 and also disbursed \$957,167.44 in fines/costs and bonds, leaving bond on hand for 2020 in the amount of \$104,352.80.

The following is a breakdown of previous years for comparison:

2019 - \$1,070,853.56
2018 - \$1,099,364.25
2017 - \$1,058,699.17

¹ The City of Gallipolis previously has always realized a carryover ranging from a low of \$94,297.43 to a high of \$107,831.17 from this Court. However, in 2020 the Court's revenues declined significantly in correlation to the COVID-19 pandemic and 1,856 aggregate fewer cases being filed than in the previous year.

The Court has its own funds, created by statute, available for a variety of purposes. These include, but are not limited to, the purchase of computers and technology, special projects of the Court, probation services, house arrest, and indigent alcohol treatment and/or monitoring. The amounts collected and disbursed to these accounts for the year 2020 total \$206,874.94 and are as follows:

IDATA/IWFC/IATC	\$6,192.50
Probation Fund	\$44,515.35
House Arrest	\$8,221.00
Special Projects	\$106,684.05
Computer Fund	\$16,196.34
Mediation Fund	\$22,292.70
IDIF	\$2,773.00

In 2020 the Court distributed **\$274,812.58** to the **City of Gallipolis**. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2019 -	\$347,419.14
2018 -	\$364,605.81
2017 -	\$354,750.88

The distribution of the 2020 funds are as follows:

40% of State Highway Patrol	\$65,344.88
Court Costs	\$175,800.82
City Ordinance Case fines	\$23,427.38
Housing fees (OVI)	\$690.50
Juror fees	\$79.00
OVI arrests costs	\$235.00
Service fees, Gallipolis PD	\$0.00
Drug fines	\$1,100.00
Expungements	\$0.00
Witness fees	\$0.00
Unclaimed funds	\$8,135.00

In 2020 the Court distributed **\$95,161.16** to **Gallia County**. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2019 - \$80,889.25
2018 - \$75,701.72
2017 - \$62,757.86

The distribution of the 2020 funds are as follows:

10% of State Highway Patrol	\$16,317.13
ORC fines	\$21,120.95
Uniform traffic	\$27,442.08
Liquor Control	\$660.55
Juror fees	\$100.00
Witness fees	\$6.00
Expungements	\$0.00
Public Defender	\$12,656.75
Law Library	\$4,000.00
Sheriff's Office (service fees)	\$8,675.20
Sheriff's Office (OVI arrest costs)	\$63.00
Sheriff's Office (housing fees)	\$3,870.50
Sheriff's Office (drug fines)	\$249.00

In 2020 the court distributed **\$219,934.91** to the **State of Ohio**. The following is the past three years' distributions:

2019 - \$279,764.93
2018 - \$267,362.99
2017 - \$273,053.72

The distribution of the 2020 funds are as follows:

50% of State Highway Patrol	\$81,509.31
Liquor Control	\$660.55
Victims of Crime	\$26,616.30
Highway Safety	\$565.00

Seatbelt fines	\$16,767.45
Expungements	\$850.00
IDFC/IDSF (ind. defense, former gen rev.)	\$79,545.90
JPSF (justice program fund)	\$253.00
DEFC (drug enforc. fund)	\$8,622.90
Bond Surcharge	\$4,544.50

The following is the remainder of fine distributions the Court made to **other agencies, other fees and various sundry payments** totaling **\$168,518.85**.

ODNR	\$1,546.00
OSP (OVI arrest)	\$1,567.30
OSP (drug fines)	\$4,120.00
ODPS (drug fines)	\$0.00
Board of Pharmacy	\$2,425.00
Sundries	\$632.00
Out of County Sheriff fees	\$99.49
Centerville	\$0.00
Cheshire	\$0.00
Crown City	\$649.00
Rio Grande	\$250.00
Vinton	\$667.00
Capital Recovery	\$6,691.83
BMV	\$97.00
Bond refunds	\$149,417.90
Animal Welfare League	\$55.00
Dept. of Taxation	\$0.00
Restitution account	\$301.33

CIVIL/SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

The Court began the year with a carryover of \$1,599.15 and collected \$311,538.44. The Court issued \$313,116.35 including \$637.91 funds originally collected/issued in 2019 leaving a carryover of \$659.15.

The following is a comparison of the past three years' distributions:

2019 - \$402,594.70
2018 - \$437,337.33
2017 - \$397,327.04

The following is an account of funds collection/disbursement in 2020:

City of Gallipolis, court costs/unclaimed funds	\$62,451.96
Mediation fund	\$2,485.00
Computer fund	\$3,841.00
Special Projects (CAP)	\$13,398.00
Legal Aid	\$12,712.00
Sheriff/Police fees (including other county)	\$557.00
Sundries	\$2,912.00
Judgments	\$214,759.39
Carryover/Deposit	\$659.15

The following is a comparison of judgment disbursement figures:

2019 - \$267,981.89
 2018 - \$299,029.88
 2017 - \$265,446.47

The Municipal Court offers a free mediation program. This program allows individuals and small businesses the opportunity to try and resolve civil disputes through the use of a trained mediator rather than incur the expense of attorneys and court fees. There were 13 mediation cases filed in 2020.

MUNICIPAL COURT CASELOAD

	2017	2018	2019	2020
OVI	251	336	331	190
MISC. TRAFFIC	5642	5245	5140	3791
CRIMINAL	1484	1521	1229	1053
CIVIL/SMALL CLAIMS	795	696	693	503

The above figures represent the actual number of charges/complaints filed in each category.

Felony

The Court heard 10 preliminary hearings resulting in bind over to Common Pleas Court. Additionally, 38 defendants waived their preliminary hearing and agreed to be bound over, while 17 cases were dismissed, most of which were because the case was being taken directly to the Grand Jury of Gallia County. There are 7 outstanding felony warrants for the year.

Criminal Misdemeanor

The Court accepted 302 guilty pleas on one or more original charges in misdemeanor criminal cases. The Court also heard 61 guilty pleas to reduced or amended charges. The Court had 8 bench trials on criminal cases.

OVI

The Court had 68 defendants plead guilty to OVI. There were 65 pleas of guilty to reduced charges.

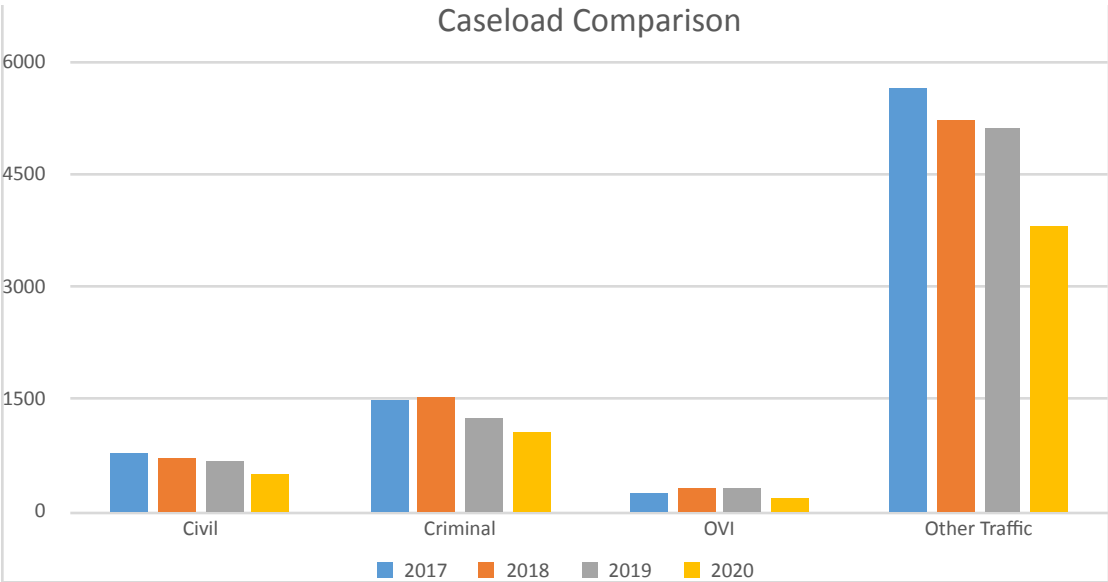
Traffic/Other Misdemeanor

The Court had 2,416 pleas of guilty to original charges, which includes waivers of appearance on minor misdemeanor traffic citations. There were 249 guilty pleas to reduced or amended charges.

Municipal Court Clearance Rate

The Court reports monthly to the Supreme Court of Ohio regarding the number and type of cases filed, how those cases are disposed, and the timeliness of disposition. There are two reports each month titled the Administrative Judge Report and the Individual Judge report. The reports document the Court's clearance rate, which is a statistical calculation comparing the number of cases filed during the year to the number of cases terminated during the same year. The Court typically maintains an average aggregate 100% case clearance rate. Detailed data measuring the Court's caseload and performance may be found at www.sc.ohio.gov/JCS/courtSvcs/dashboards.

Caseload Comparison



BAILIFF AND PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Gallipolis Municipal Court Probation Department is comprised of four full time probation officers, including the Bailiff/Chief of Probation and the Specialized Dockets Coordinator. In 2020, the bulk of the expenses for the probation department were paid through a Justice Reinvestment Incentive grant, a Community Corrections Act grant, and an Ohio Mental Health Addiction Services grant. For this reason, the expenditure in 2020 from the Court's probation fund totaled only \$9,564.42. The Court maintains a probation fund with an end of year balance of \$162,292.26.

As of December 31, 2020, 792 offenders were under probation supervision. The Court placed 128 offenders on probation in 2020. There were 51 offenders placed on electronic monitoring house arrest as an alternative to jail. The average length of days served in the house arrest program was 24 days with a success rate of 92%.

In 2020 the Gallipolis Municipal Court Recovery Court served 27 participants. Of those 27, 7 graduated the program successfully. There are 8 participants who have carried over from 2020 into 2021. There were 12 unsuccessful discharges and 1 neutral discharge (some of these include participants who carried over from 2019 into 2020). The recidivism rate (measured since January 2017) for graduates of the Recovery Court is currently 33%, compared to a national average of 46-60% recidivism rate for individuals sentenced to standard probation.

The probation department supervised several offenders completing community service. The total number of hours completed is 750.

In 2020, the probation department offered pre-trial services to 91 participants. Of those, 58 were compliant and 33 were non-compliant. Pre-trial services is designed to intervene with moderate to high risk offenders immediately upon their involvement with the court system and work to reduce the number of offenders who fail to appear and who violate bond conditions while providing referrals for substance use and mental health treatment. The compliance rate for pre-trial services is currently 64%.

The security screening device recorded approximately 32,000 visitors to the Municipal Court. In addition, the Court upgraded its information technology operations security to comply with updated recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court and enhanced its physical facility security and continuity of operations plans.