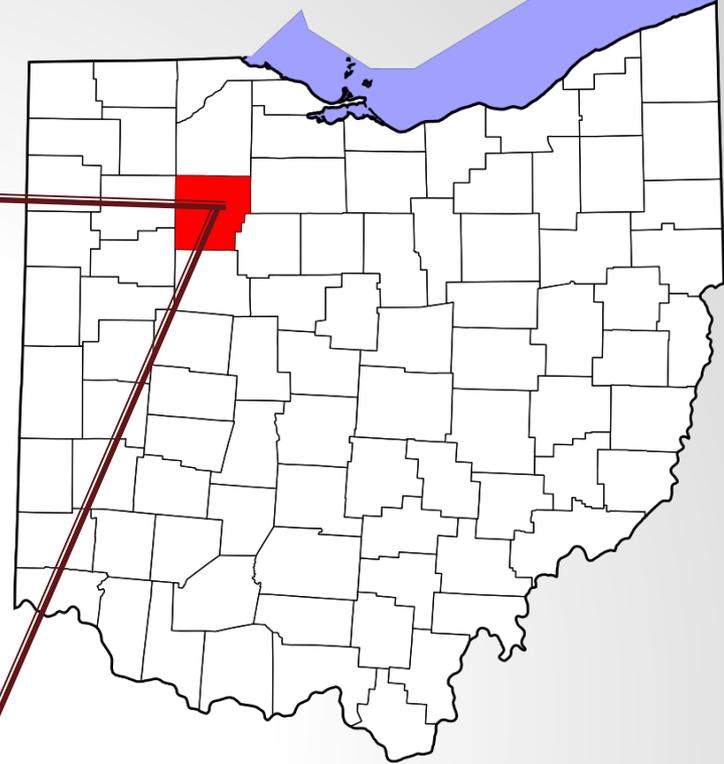
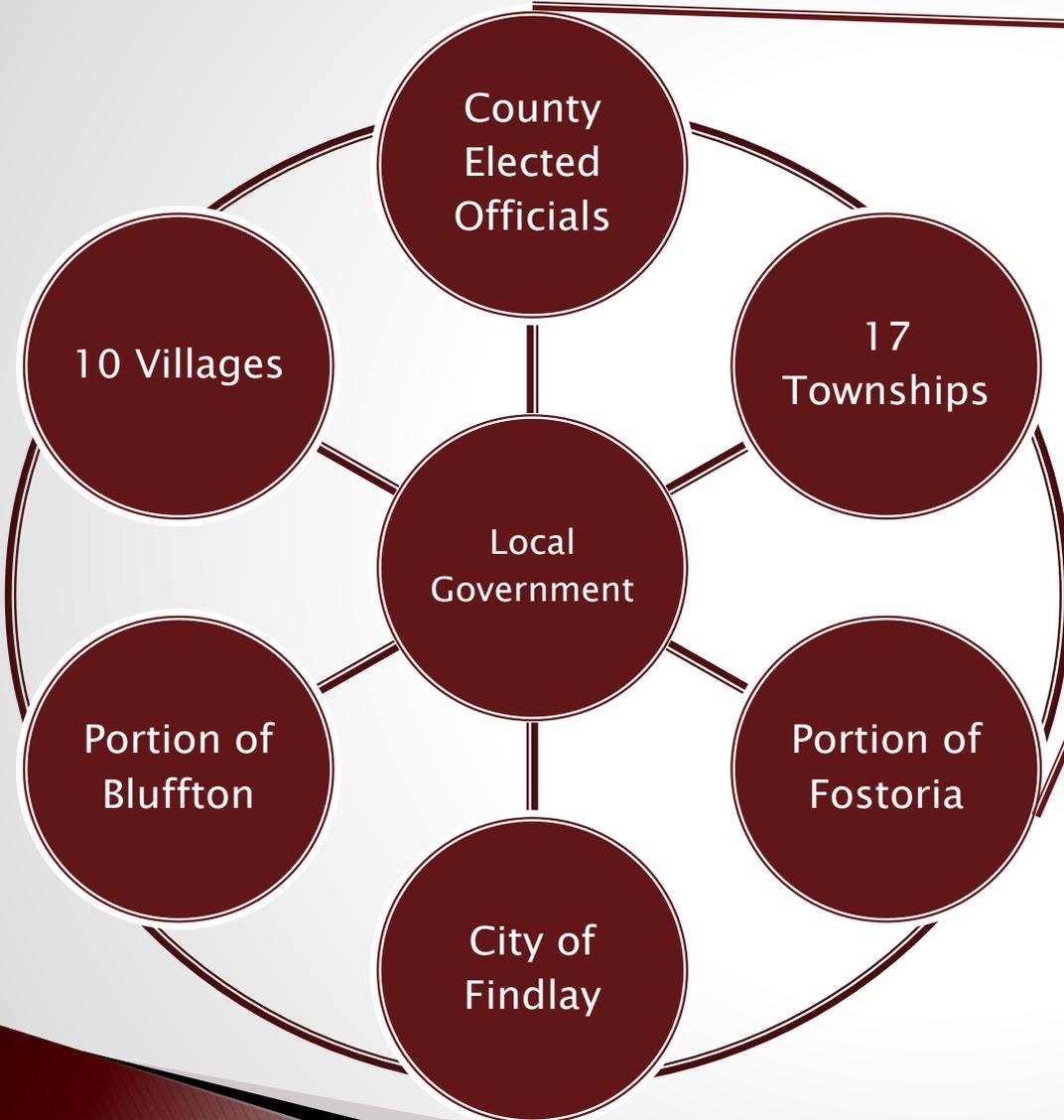


# 2024 STATE OF THE COUNTY

## Hancock County Board of Commissioners

Timothy K. Bechtol, President  
Michael W. Pepple, Vice President  
William L. Bateson





# Hancock County Elected Officials



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINDLAY COMMUNITY

THE  
FINDLAY  
DECADE

Marks  
YOUR Spot.





# AUDITOR

## Renew Dog License

### Renew License

2024 1 Yr Dog License, Late  
- Base Fee: \$20.00  
- Late Penalty: \$20.00  
- Online Fee: \$3.40  
- Total: \$43.40



## Late Registration (After January 31st)

2024 1 Yr Dog License, Late  
- Base Fee: \$20.00  
- Late Penalty: \$20.00  
- Online Fee: \$3.40  
- Total: \$43.40



## New Dog Registration (within 30 days of ownership)

**New Dog Registrations after January 31st  
are subject to review.**

2024 1 Yr Dog License  
- Base Fee: \$20.00  
- Online Fee: \$2.50  
- Total: \$22.50



- ❖ Dog Tags Sold
  - 1-year tag – 10,902
  - 3-year tag – 184
  - Permanent tag – 32
- ❖ Most Common Dog Names
  - Female Dog: Bella
  - Male Dog: Charlie
- ❖ Top Breeds in Hancock County
  1. Labrador Retriever – 7.2%
  2. German Shepherd – 5.6%
  3. Australian Shepherd – 4.4%
  4. Chihuahua – 3.8%
  5. Shih Tzu – 3.7%

# TREASURER

## ❖ Total real estate taxes settled

- 2023 - \$104,427,556.79
- 2022 - \$ 96,608,008.16
- 2021 - \$ 95,432,029.45
- 2020 - \$ 93,065,154.63

## ❖ Total manufactured homes taxes settled

- 2023 - \$202,277.87
- 2022 - \$280,066.00
- 2021 - \$293,699.92
- 2020 - \$267,894.12

## ❖ Bills processed

- 2023 - 72,394
- 2022 - 72,576
- 2021 - 72,848
- 2020 - 73,218

## ❖ Miscellaneous Funds Collected

- \$1,658,757.86 interest earned on investments
- \$1,340.00 NSF fees
- \$343.00 Duplicate Bill fees
- \$7,574.90 Cigarette License fees
- \$4,650.00 Vendor's License fees
- \$2.50 Copy fees



# RECORDER

## ❖ Recording fees collected

- 2023 – \$553,994.55
- 2022 – \$697,013.95
- 2021 – \$961,209.50
- 2020 – \$884,913.50

## ❖ Number of deed recorded

- 2023 – 2,445
- 2022 – 3,726
- 2021 – 3,968
- 2020 – 3,493

## ❖ Number of mortgages recorded

- 2023 – 2,279
- 2022 – 3,566
- 2021 – 4,622
- 2020 – 4,695

## ❖ Miscellaneous Information

- In 2023, the recorder's office digitized approximately 45,000 older documents which are now available on the website
- In 2023, CARES funding was used to have 56 deed, mortgage and lease indexes digitized and those should be available on the Website in the first half of 2024



# SANITARY LANDFILL

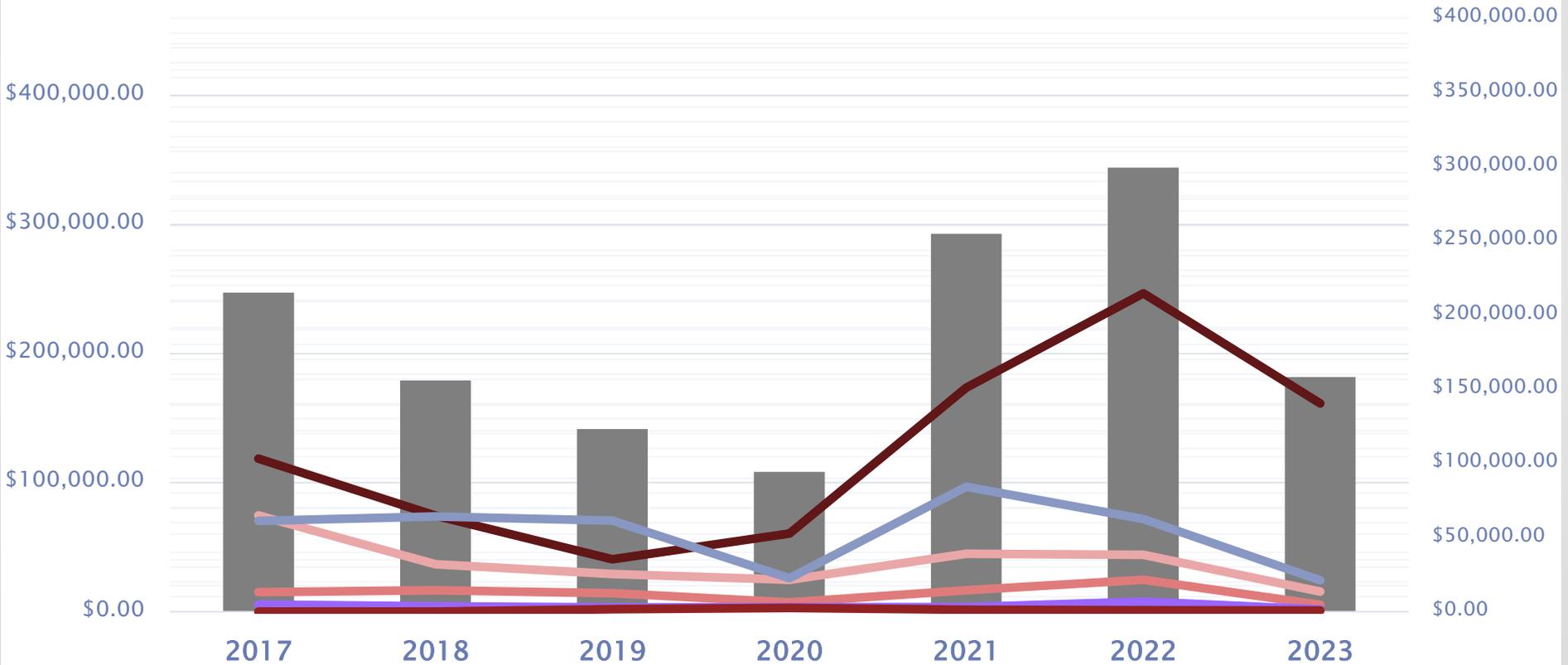


- ❖ Revenue – \$5,888,627.29
  - \$686,994.79 increase from 2022
- ❖ Operating Expenses – \$3,954,000.00
  - \$342,000.00 decrease from 2022
- ❖ Equipment Purchases– \$195,073.00
  - Still waiting for delivery of two additional pieces of equipment totaling \$371,284.00
- ❖ 160,910.86 tons of waste received
  - 10,103.62 ton increase from 2022
- ❖ Continued placing waste in Cell 2 of Landfill Expansion
- ❖ Application submitted for a permit to install for vertical expansion

# LITTER LANDING

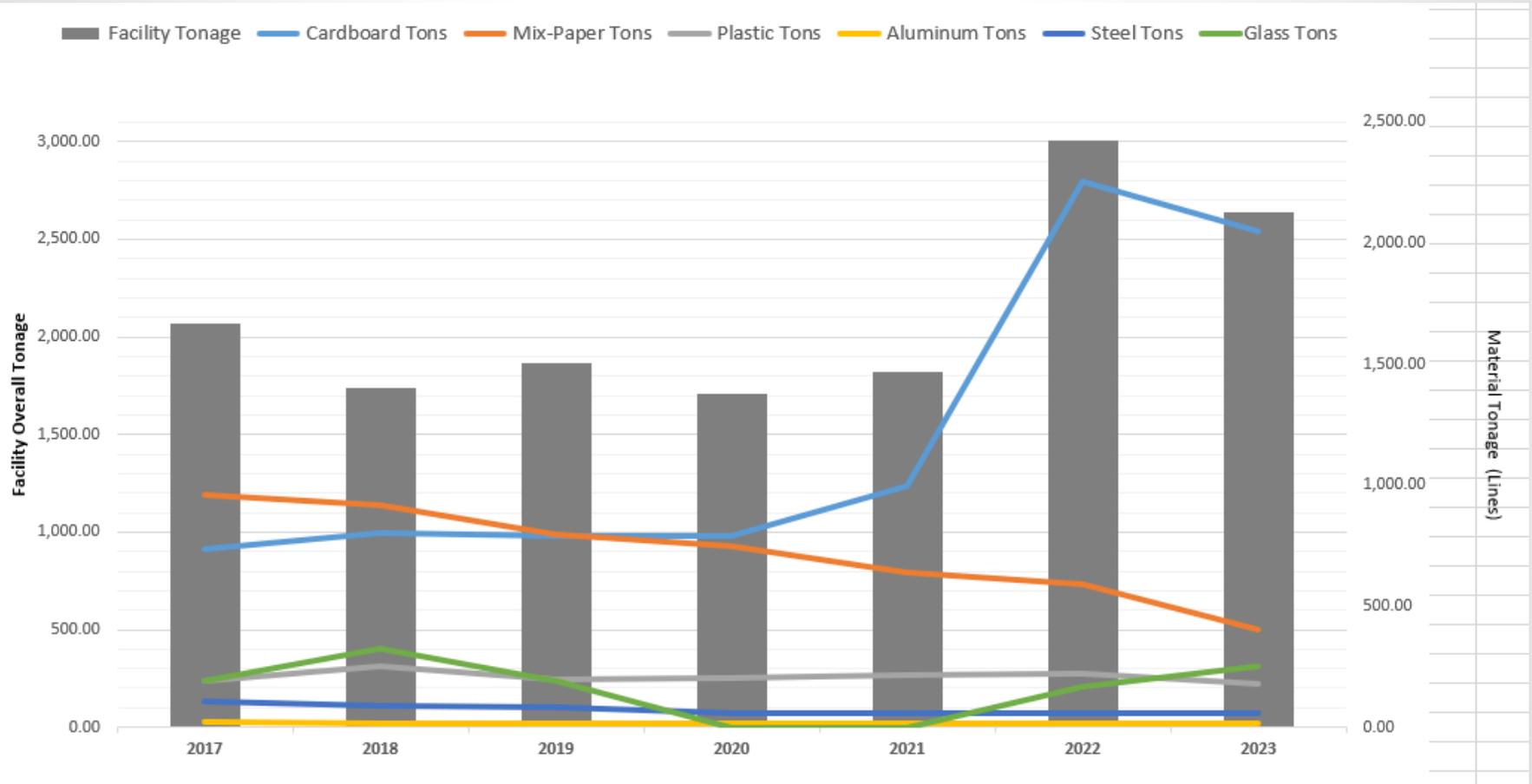
RECYCLING MARKET REVENUE HISTORY – Updated Feb. 2024

■ Facility Revenue      ■ Cardboard Revenue      ■ Mix-Paper Revenue      ■ Plastic Revenue  
■ Aluminum Revenue      ■ Steel Revenue      ■ Glass Revenue



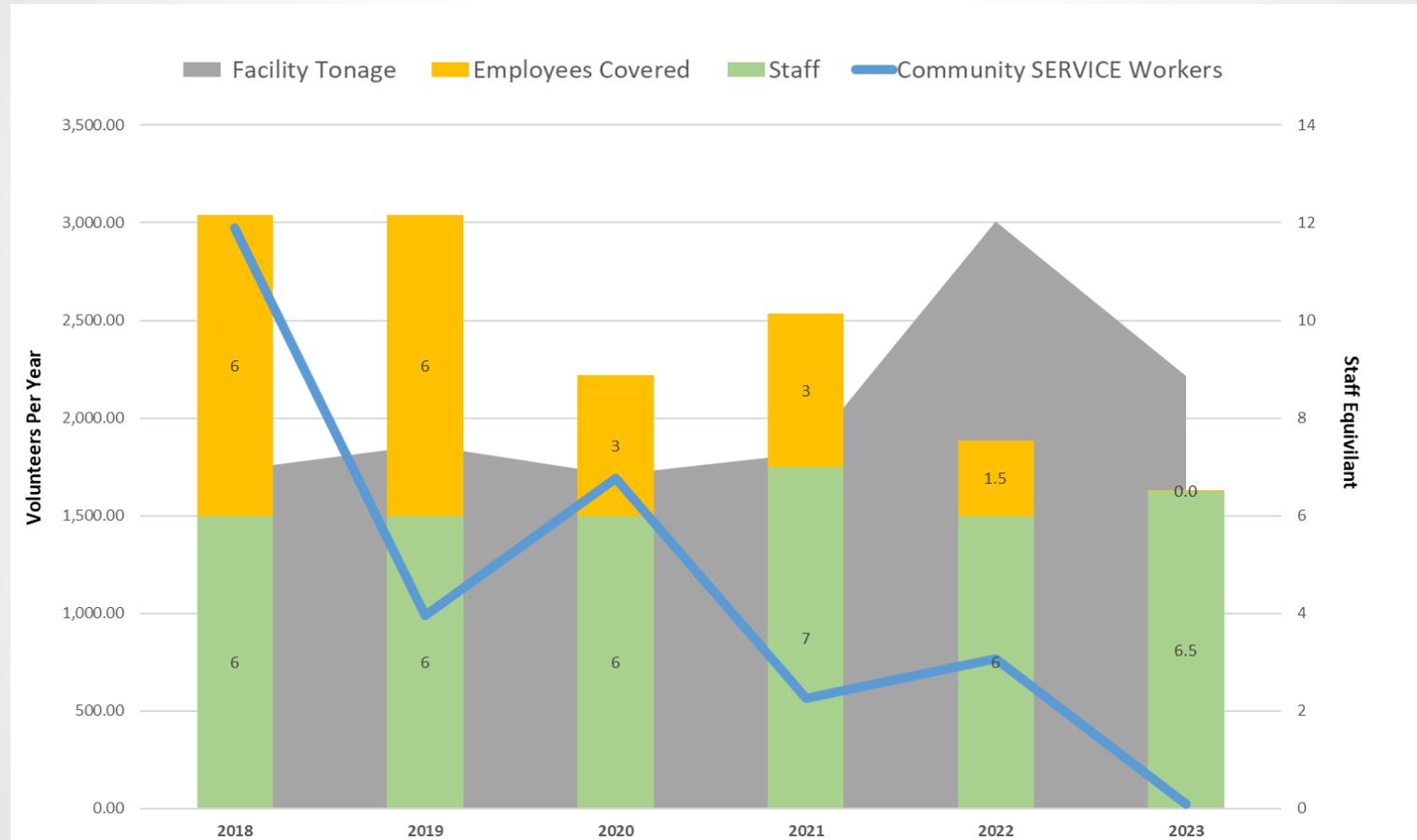
# LITTER LANDING

RECYCLING MATERIAL TONAGE REVIEW- updated Feb. 2024



# LITTER LANDING

## Staff Needs VS Community Service Help



# LITTER LANDING

Changes is Being Reviewed

- ❖ 24/7 access throughout the community
- ❖ Single-Stream units – No SORTING REQUIRED
- ❖ Easy to use containers maintained by service contractor
- ❖ No local processing
- ❖ Recycling changes expected to reduce program expenses by \$200,000 annually



# PROSECUTOR

## ❖ Juvenile Case Trends

- CPS cases (Perm custody & Abuse/Neglect/Dependent)
  - 38% decrease from 2022
- Delinquency/Unruly (Juvenile) cases
  - 16% increase from 2022

## ❖ Adult Felony Trends

- Total indictments: 542
  - 558 in 2022
- Total Charges/Counts: 920
  - 851 in 2022

## ❖ Felony Assault Cases (Felonious Assault, Agg. Assault, Strangulation)

- 61% increase from 2022

## ❖ Sex Offense Cases (Rape, Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Battery)

- 47% increase from 2022

## ❖ Burglary/Robbery/Breaking & Entering

- 17% decrease from 2022

## ❖ Drug Charges (Possession, Trafficking & related offenses)

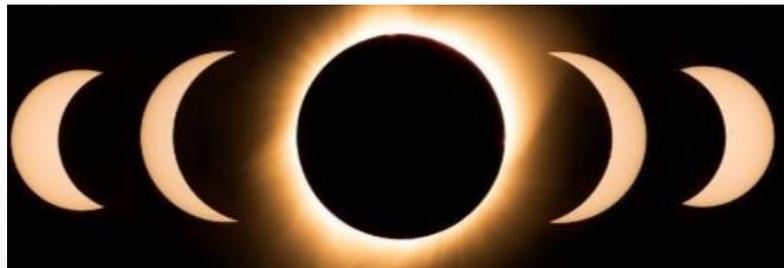
- 19% increase from 2022

# JUVENILE COURT

- ❖ Very small increase in Juvenile Felony Charges
- ❖ Reduction in total number of Juvenile Court cases
  - Likely due to referrals to diversion
- ❖ SAFETY Program
  - Program to intervene cases where the youth was likely to enter both the child welfare system and the Juvenile Justice System
  - Worked with 53 youth and their families to-date
  - 78% successful in keeping the children safely in their home with services
  - 75% of successful cases the children committed no further offenses
- ❖ Diversion Program
  - Offered for cases that do meet the requirements of the SAFETY Program
  - 59 juveniles offered Diversion in 2023
  - 73% completed the program successfully
  - Unsuccessful juveniles had charges formulized
  - 2 children who completed the program had further criminal charges filed
- ❖ Concerning Juvenile Trends
  - Increased number of vaping marijuana and bringing vapes to school
  - Sharp increased in alcohol possession and theft charges filed

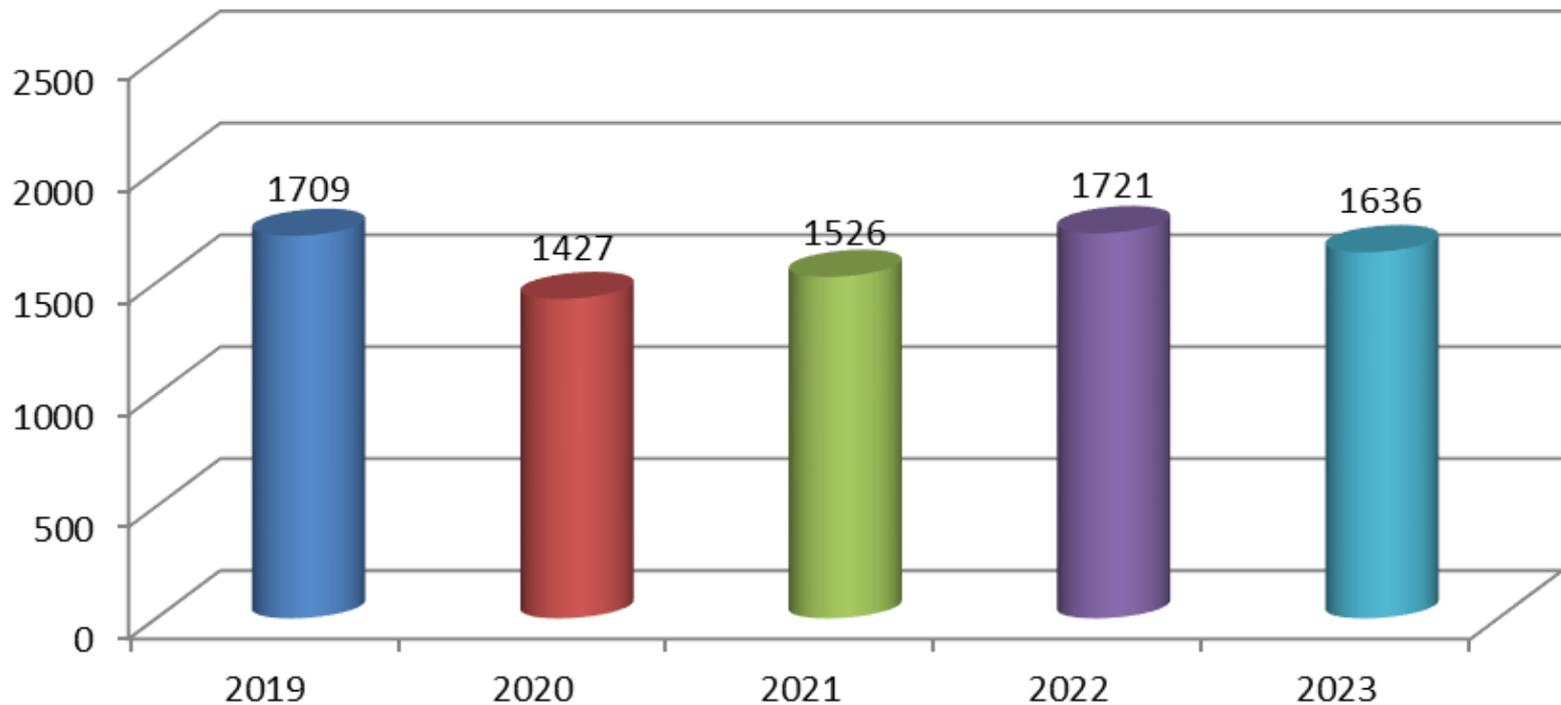
# PROBATE COURT

- ❖ Cases numbers declined in 2023
- ❖ Rise in filings for guardianship
  - Total number of ongoing guardianship cases remained consistently around 400
- ❖ Creation of a Great Lakes Service Board
  - Hancock County Probate Court along with many community agencies came together to create this board
  - This is to service the increasing number of individuals who require a non-family member guardian
  - Combined effort between Hancock, Ottawa and Wood counties
- ❖ Eclipse Marriage License
  - Available until April 5<sup>th</sup> for couples getting married on April 8<sup>th</sup>



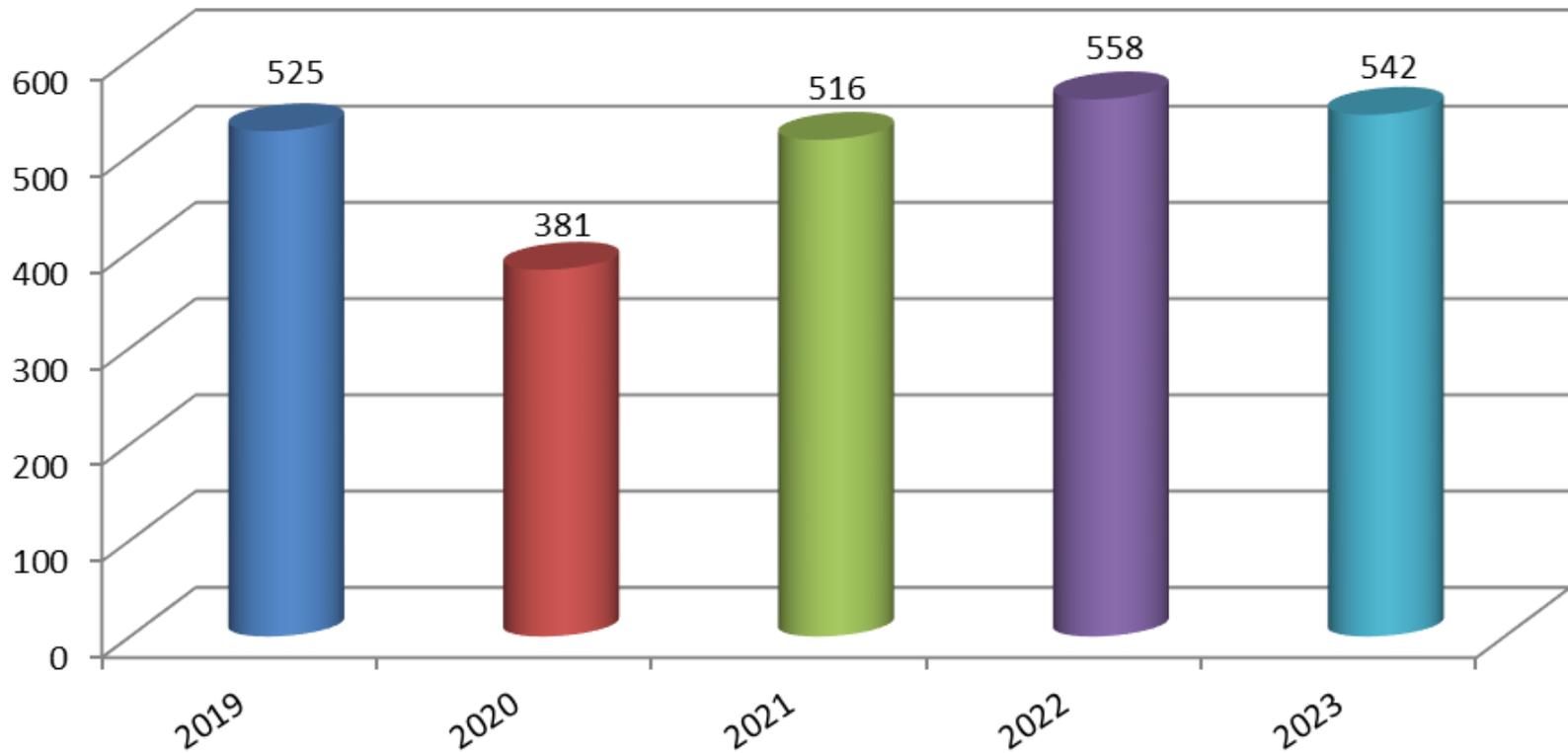
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Common Pleas Court Total Case Filings



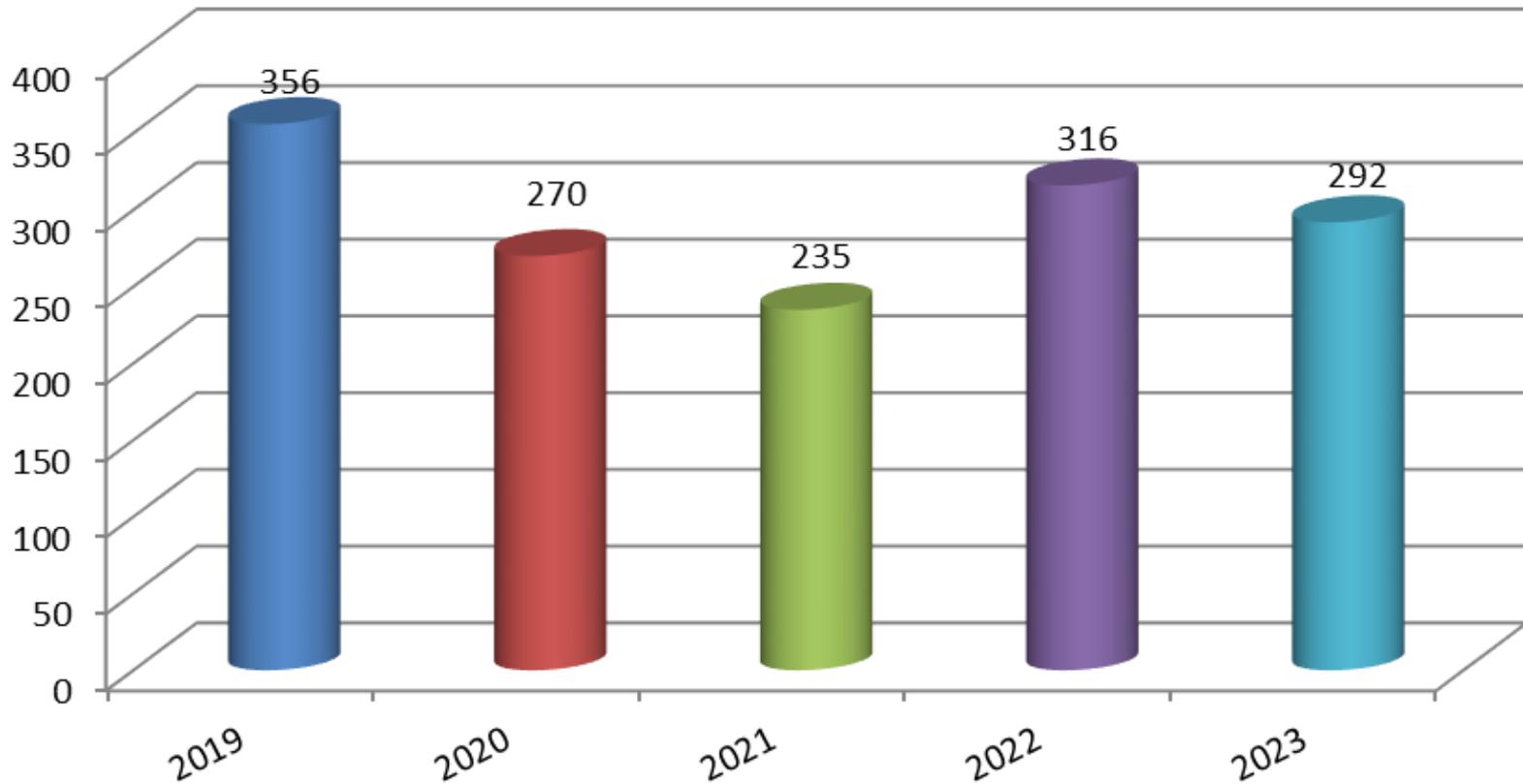
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Criminal Filings by Calendar Year



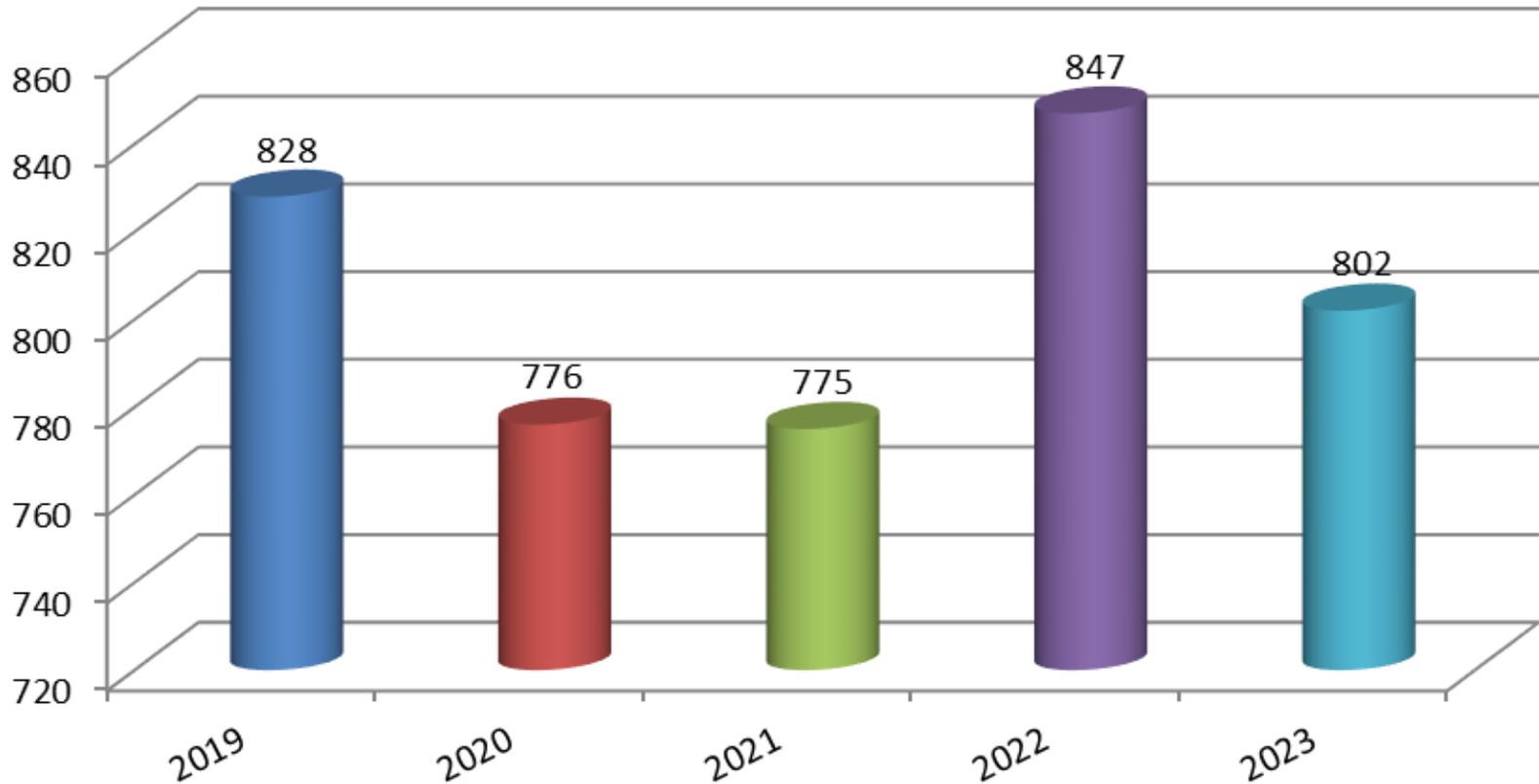
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Civil Filings



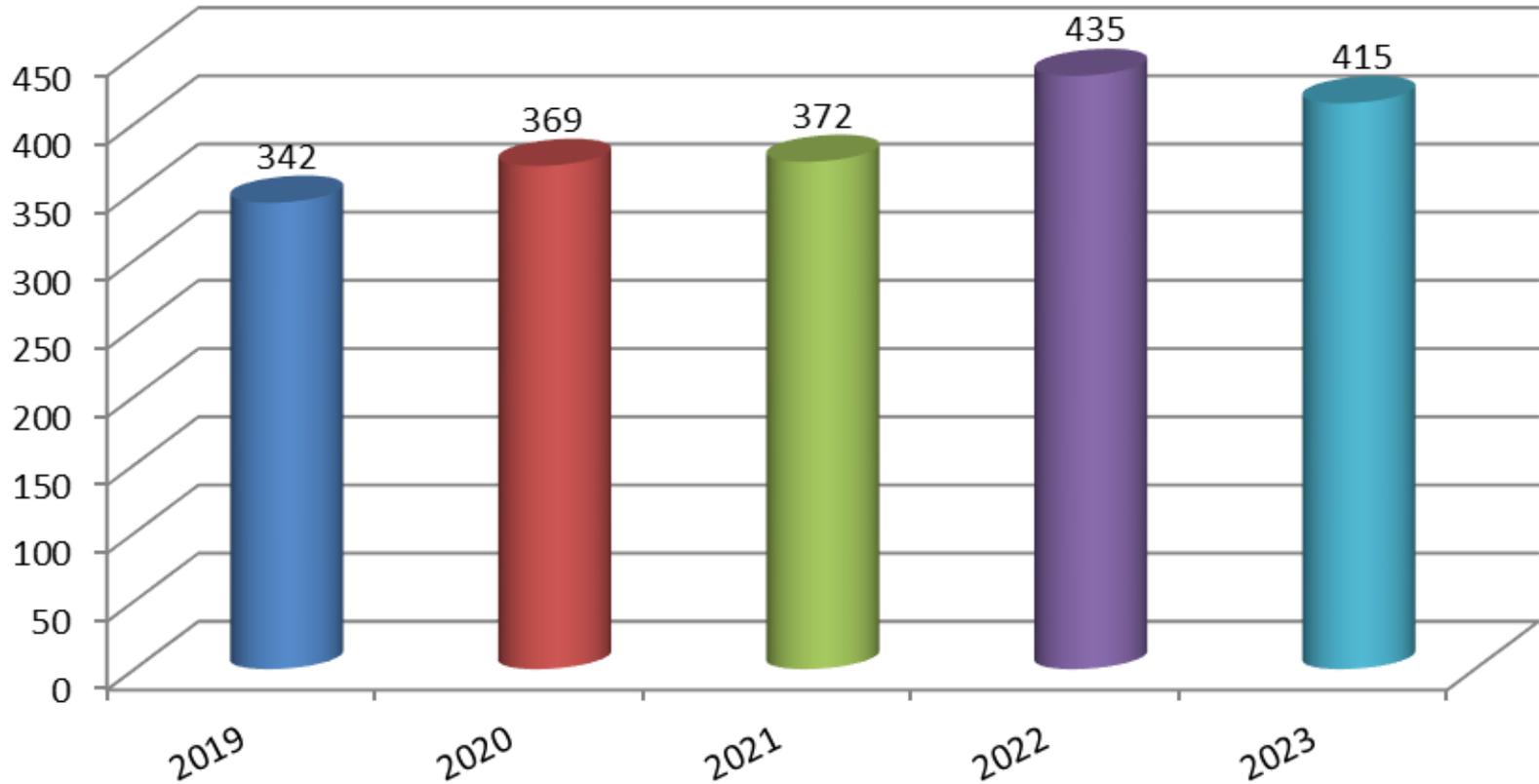
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Domestic Relations Filings



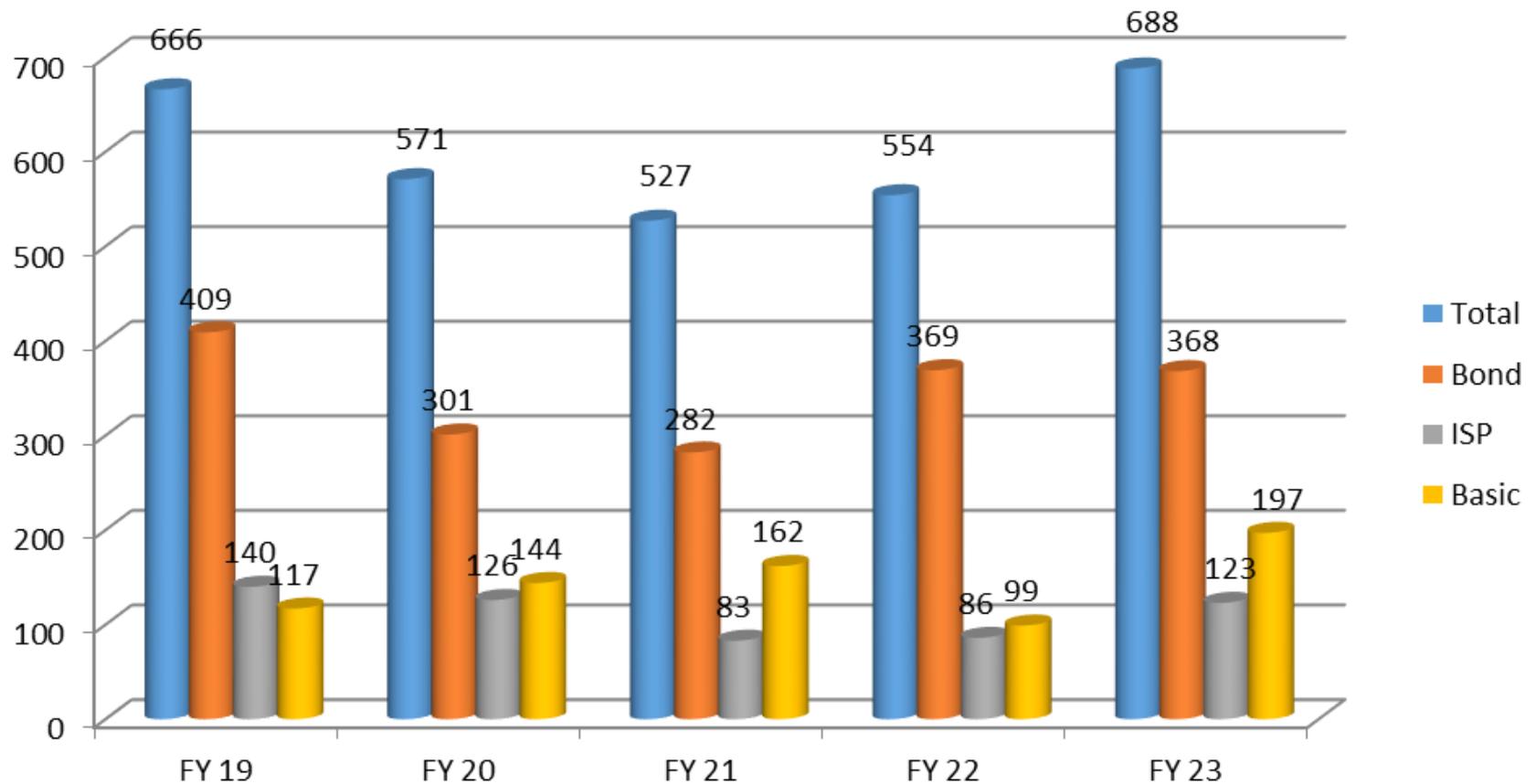
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Protection Order Filings



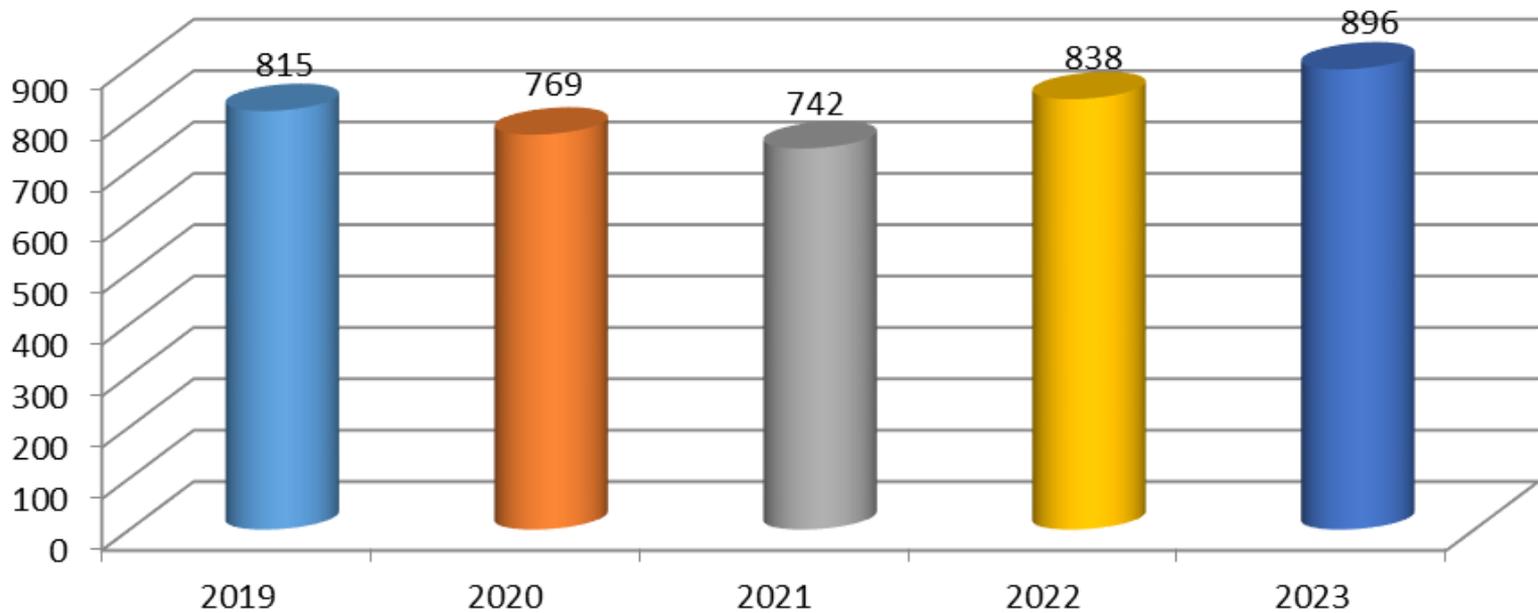
# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Probation Intakes



# COMMON PLEAS COURT

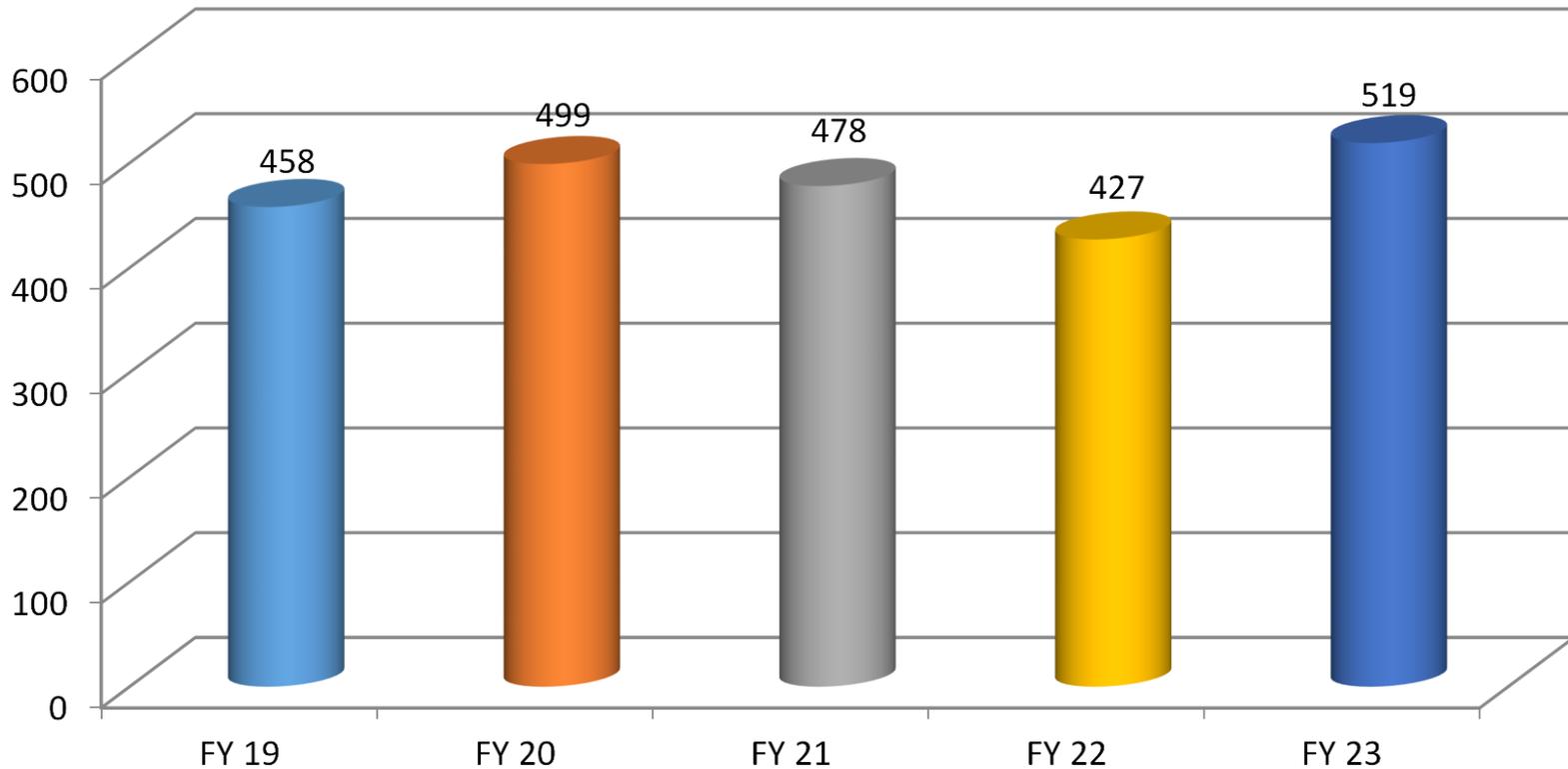
## APD Year-End Probation Cases



# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Total Investigations for the Court

(PSI, ILC, Sealing, JR, Relief from Disability, and Medical Marijuana)



# SHERIFF

## ❖ Technology

- Kiosk added to lobby to aid in checking in scheduled appointments
  - Reduce staff time and redundancy
- Online appointment scheduling for Concealed Carry Permit applications and for public fingerprinting appointments (background checks)
  - Eliminates wait times
- Added Credit Cards payment option for Background Checks and Conceal Carry Permits
- Implemented online records requests program
  - Allows public to request records online and staff to track progress

## ❖ Staffing

- Implemented a Cadet Program
  - Aids individuals in becoming qualified to become Peace Officer certified
  - Allows current employees to stay employed with office and non-employees an option of being able to be employed while obtaining certification
- Proactively pursuing applicants and filling vacant positions
  - Able to reopen the portion of the jail that was closed in 2022 due to staffing shortages
  - Filled nearly all vacant positions

# SHERIFF

## ❖ Grant

- Received \$246,000 grant from the State of Ohio
  - Upgraded door controls and inmate intercom system in the jail
  - Both systems were at the end of the useful life and no longer serviceable

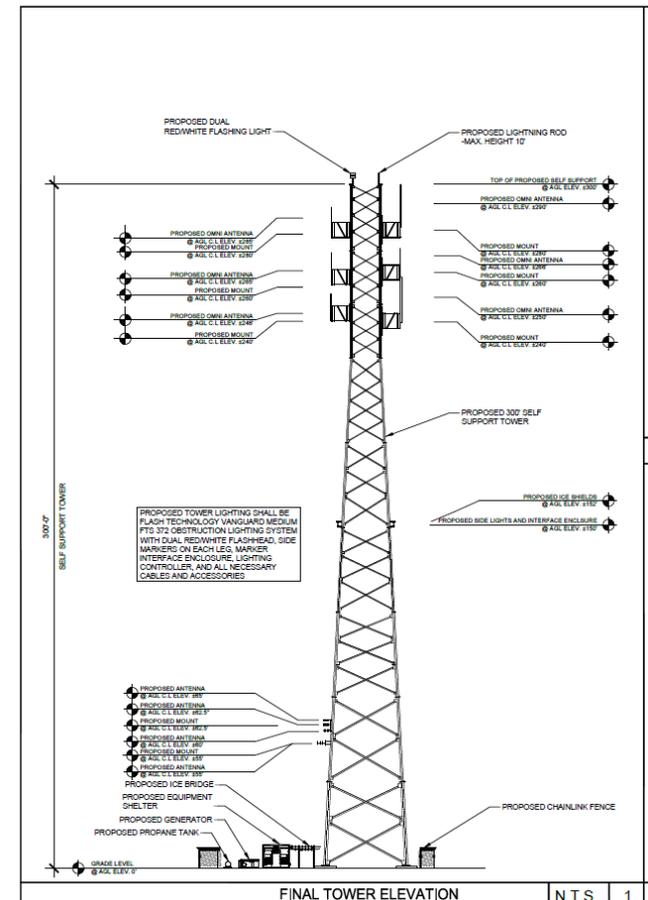
## ❖ ARPA Funded Projects

- Purchase of Lenco Bearcat Armored Vehicle
  - Purchased 2022 & delivered in 2023
- Upgrades in communications
  - Dark back-up location – remote joint communications center for emergency purposes
    - ❑ Ensures communications continue during emergency event that may incapacitate or displace the downtown communication systems
  - Communications tower was removed from the downtown location
    - ❑ Allows for construction of the Davis Judicial Center
    - ❑ New tower to be constructed on County Road 140
    - ❑ New tower will incorporate new technology and new location will allow for better reception throughout the county
  - Completion of \$1.5 million radio replacement project
    - ❑ Replaced 365 radios
    - ❑ Will include the Sheriff's Office, McComb Police Department, Hancock County Fire Departments and the EMS
    - ❑ Having all radios updated and able to communicate will provide a major improvement for the county
  - \$318,000 allotted for a new console to help centralize communications

# RADIO TOWER

❖ Bid opening for new tower held on 3/29/24

- 4 bids received
- Will enter into a contract for construction within the next two weeks



# ENGINEER

## ❖ Resurfacing done with Local & OPWC grant funds

➤ County Road 9	1.89 miles	\$187,541
➤ County Road 16	3.05 miles	\$211,796
➤ County Road 40	2.52 miles	\$196,300
➤ County Road 88	1.14 miles	\$126,197
➤ County Road 144	1.00 miles	\$83,056
➤ County Road 223	0.32 miles	\$34,250
➤ County Road 300	0.50 miles	\$50,650

## ❖ Resurfacing done with Local Gas Tax fund

➤ County Road 26	0.80 miles	\$111,342
------------------	------------	-----------



County Road 88 – During Resurfacing



County Road 88 –  
After Resurfacing

# ENGINEER

- ❖ 2023 Completed Bridges
  - Hancock County Road 216 – 2.88
- ❖ 2023 Bridge Waterproofing Program
  - Hancock County Road 8 – 3.80
  - Township Road 174 – 1.74



# ROAD ACCESS VARIANCE



Hancock County Commissioners  
514 S. Main St., 2nd Floor Findlay, OH 45840  
Phone: 419-424-7044 Fax: 419-424-7828  
Email: Commissioners@co.hancock.oh.us

HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO  
ACCESS MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS  
APPEAL OR VARIANCE REQUEST APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address or Parcel ID# of property: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Applications for variances and appeals will be reviewed per ARTICLE 9 of the County Access Management Regulations which, in part, state the Hancock County Commissioners shall serve as the Board of Appeals. Article 9 is on the next page for reference.

Check the box below on if you are applying for an appeal or variance. When adding the justification, please refer to Article 9 of the Hancock County Access Management Regulations on the next page for the conditions on which a variance/appeal may be granted.

- VARIANCE
- APPEAL (*Appeals must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of denial*)  
Access Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Attach a detailed description of the specification or reason the applicant believes they should be granted a Variance / Appeal. Submit any maps, pictures, surveys or other documents that will help in locating proposed drive or that may be beneficial to the Board of Appeals.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit all completed applications to the Commissioner's Office by email or hand delivery.

- ❖ March 2023
  - Created Hancock County Access Management Advisory Committee to review proposed amendments to the Access Management Regulations
- ❖ August 2023
  - Held public hearings on proposed amendments including change of Commissioners holding all variance hearings/appeal and making final determination
  - Passed resolution approving proposed amendments
- ❖ November 2023
  - Held first variance hearing at Commissioners office using new regulations

# DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE



Construction of the new interchange is scheduled to start in spring 2024



# SOIL & WATER

- ❖ Drainage & Ditch Maintenance
  - Chopped close to 60,000 feet of brush
  - Sprayed around 40 miles of ditch banks
  - Log Jam removal on the Blanchard River commenced
  - Dipped out a little over 8 miles of ditches.
- ❖ Conservation Practices
  - 3 Grassed Waterway and 2 windbreaks designed
- ❖ Grant Programs
  - Distributed over \$600,000 in producer payments to producers enrolled in the H2Ohio program
  - H2Ohio payments were made on over 80,000 acres
- ❖ Public Outreach
  - Posted 25 education Turtle Talk Tuesday videos via Facebook
    - Received over 3,600 views on our Turtle Talk videos total
  - Annual Tree and Fish Sales
  - Photo Contest
    - Created a calendar available for the public using the submitted photos
  - OPHI Milkweed pod collection -75 gallons of pods collected
  - Informational booth was displayed at the Hancock County Fair
  - Celebrated our 77<sup>th</sup> year

# BRSEP

BLANCHARD LOG JAM REMOVAL 2023-2024						
Week	Log Jam Size Pulled					
	Leaner	A	B	C	D	Seeding
12/4/2023 - 12/6/2023	8	16	3	0	2	0
12/7/2023 - 12/8/2023	4	9	0	0	0	0
12/11/2023 - 12/15/2023	17	37	7	3	1	0
12/18/2023 - 12/22/2023	62	29	3	1	0	1/8 ac
12/25/2023 - 12/29/202	OFF					
1/1/2024 - 1/5/2024	38	42	6	2	0	0
1/8/2024 - 1/12/2024	OFF - WEATHER					
1/15/2024 - 1/20/2024	OFF - WEATHER					
1/22/2024 - 1/26/2024	OFF - WEATHER					
1/29/2024 - 2/2/2024	OFF - WEATHER					
2/5/2024 - 2/9/2024	11	58	7	1	2	5/8 ac
2/12/2024 - 2/16/2024	OFF					
2/19/2024 - 2/23/2024	7	22	5	3	0	0
2/26/2024 - 3/1/2024	OFF					
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3/4 AC</b>

JAM SIZE CLASSIFICATION		
Size	Description	Cost per Jam
Leaner	Leaning tree	\$133.00
Size A	1-3 logs	\$218.00
Size B	4-6 logs	\$475.00
Size C	7-9 logs	\$900.00
Size D	9+ logs	\$1,800.00

# OSU EXTENSION OFFICE

## ❖ 4-H

- Engaging Youth in Life Experiences
  - 735 Families enrolled in 4-H
  - 145 Volunteers/Advisors and 40 Clubs
- In-School Programming
  - 250 students completed financial literacy program
  - Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Programs
- Engaging Youth in Leadership Opportunities
  - Camp Counselors 40 participants
  - Developing Junior Leaders and Club Officers at the local level

## ❖ Agriculture

- Lead Source of County Agriculture Information
  - Daily radio programs and weekly newspaper articles
  - Presentations for 13 major programs - 2,123 participants
  - Answered 632 individual requests and consultations
- Protecting the Environment by Educating Farmers
  - Pesticide Licenses Recertification Training, 320 participants
  - Fertilizer Recertification Training, 423 participants
  - 10 local applied research studies in nutrient management
- Local Research Source for Fighting New Pests
  - Tar spot, mycotoxins, and waterhemp in crops
  - Boxwood blight, viburnum leaf beetle, and spotted lanternfly

# OSU EXTENSION OFFICE

## ❖ Family & Consumer Sciences

### ➤ Improving Health of Hancock County

- Conducting wellness challenges (>400 employees and residents)
- Improving chronic disease management through diabetes support group and Dining with Diabetes class (98 attended)
- Teaching food/nutrition skills to low-income individuals and families (>1200 contacts)

### ➤ Improving Finances of Hancock County

- Growing housing opportunities through Rent Smart classes (2x/year)
- Teaching adult and youth money management classes (2x/year)
- Improving student financial literacy through Real Money Real World curriculum (>300 students at 5 schools)
- Expanding payment options at H C Farmers Markey, resulting in increased vendors and customers, and community access to fresh/local foods

### ➤ Improving Relationships in Hancock County

- Conducting Mental Health First Aid training
- Supporting No Wrong Door and other social support initiatives
- Providing family friendly activities at community-wide events (spring, summer and fall)

# FLOOD MITIGATION – ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Purchase of properties using ¼% Sales Tax
  - Vacant lot on Jefferson Street
  - Vacant lot on Meeks Court
- ❖ Began remediation of chromium contamination at 119 Clinton Court
- ❖ Completed relocation of AEP & other overhead utilities in the additional benching area
- ❖ Purchased and demolished properties using a FEMA grant
  - 922 & 926 Fox Street

<b>County Flood Mitigation Fund</b>	
As of 12/31/2023	
Cash Balance	\$6,754,828.00
Encumbrances	\$ 310,514.00
Free Cash Balance	\$6,444,314.00

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Stantec agreements	\$ 774,679.00
MWCD Administration	\$ 57,358.00
NS review	\$ 41,393.00
Property acquisition, demolition & maintenance	\$ 190,836.00
Local Admin (Prosecutor, HRPC, Manager)	\$ 62,281.00
<b>Total 2023 Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,126,547.00</b>

# FLOOD MITIGATION 2024 PLAN

- ❖ Completed acquisition of properties to allow construction of the Additional Benching project
- ❖ Complete remediation of chromium contamination at 119 Clinton Court

# MAUMEE WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

## ❖ Hydraulic Improvements

- Phase 1 construction 98% complete
  - Waiting on eminent domain proceedings

## ❖ NS Bridge Replacement

- Continued working with FRA on \$7.1 million grant agreement
- 100% design plans submitted to NS for final review

## ❖ PROTECT grant

- Received by ODOT
- Grant will pay 80% of construction of TR 80 to US 68/SR 15 interchange
- Final design plans submitted to ODOT

## ❖ Phase 2 Benching

- 100% design plans completed

## ❖ Eagle Creek Flood Basin

- Acquired 101 acres of farmland
  - Received executed or verbal purchase agreements final properties
  - Final design completed
  - Submitted for ODNR Dam Safety permit and review
  - Corps of Engineers (404) and Ohio EPA (401) permits approved
- Executed tree clearing contract in Basin footprint with Fenson Construction
  - Contract price \$134,625

# MWCD – 2024 PLAN

- ❖ Complete Hydraulic Improvements Phase 1
- ❖ NS Bridge
  - Execute grant agreement with FRA
  - Execute construction agreement with NS
  - Bid and construct new NS railroad bridge
- ❖ Phase 2 benching
  - Complete property acquisition
  - Complete Brownfield remediation
  - Seek bids for benching
- ❖ Eagle Creek Flood Basin
  - Complete land acquisition
  - Prepare bidding documents and seek bids
  - Acquire flowage easements on properties upstream of the Basin
- ❖ Construction of connection of TR 80 to US 68/SR15 interchange

# JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

## ❖ SNAP Benefits

- 2023 – \$13,689,624.00
- 2022 – \$17,846,856.00
- 2021 – \$16,023,090.00
- 2020 – \$12,040,324.00
- 2019 – \$ 8,156,563.00

## ❖ TANF Assistance

- 2023 – \$915,017.00
- 2022 – \$854,090.00
- 2021 – \$811,879.00
- 2020 – \$843,837.00
- 2019 – \$810,587.00

## ❖ Medicaid Expenditures

- 2023 – \$ 84,481,571.20
- 2022 – \$120,776,872.00
- 2021 – \$119,822,393.00
- 2020 – \$112,503,628.38
- 2019 – \$ 89,775,063.39

## ❖ Public Health Emergency ended in 2023

- SNAP benefits – households began getting their normal allotment instead of the maximum amount available
- Medicaid – Counties were instructed to resume discontinuation of benefits when a household had changes that resulted ineligibility

## ❖ Non-Emergency Transportation Services

- Provides transportation assistance to access Medicaid coverable services to any individual with full Medicaid eligibility
- Provided 18,144 one-way trips in 2023
  - 12,000 trip increase from 2022

# JOB & FAMILY SERVICES – CHILDREN’S PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- ❖ Alleged child abuse/neglect
  - 1,730 referrals in 2023
  - 184 referral increase from 2022
  - 447 reports were opened for assessment/investigation
  - Average of 92 children per month receiving ongoing services
- ❖ Alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation of older adults
  - 207 reports in 2023
  - 1 referral increase from 2022
  - 138 referrals required ongoing services
- ❖ Children in Foster Care
  - 86 children were in foster care at the end of 2023
  - 15 child decrease from the end of 2022
  - 7 licensed foster families in Hancock County
  - Unveiling new marketing plan for foster family recruitment in 2024
- ❖ Permanent Custody/Adoption
  - JFS held permanent custody of 12 children in 2023
  - At year-end 3 adoptions were finalized and 6 children had been matched with adoptive placements

# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



## ❖ Veteran Population

- 4,808
- 6.4% of the Hancock County Population

## ❖ Provides services to living veterans in the county and surviving family members

## ❖ Local Benefits/Services

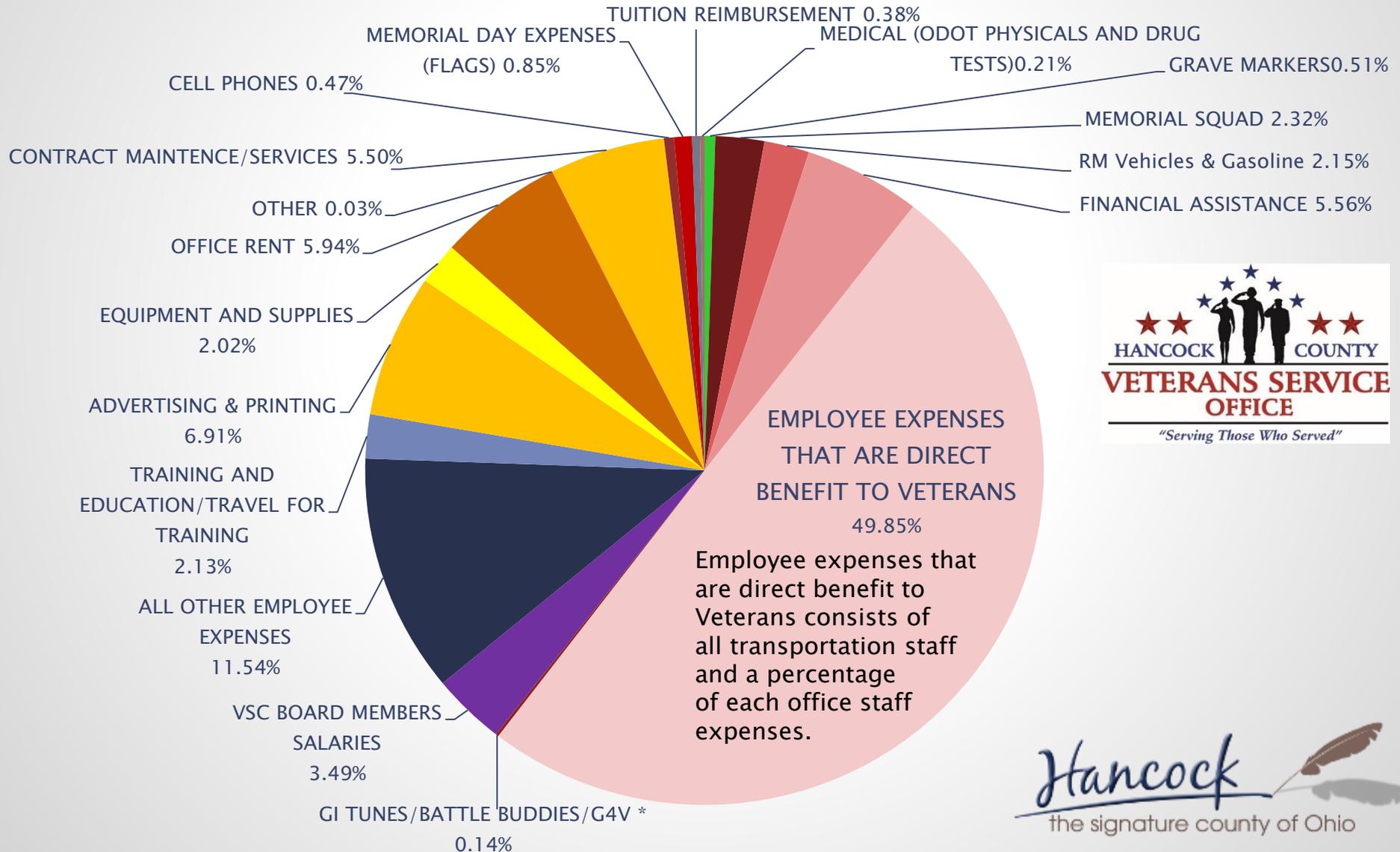
- Transported 803 veterans to VA medical appointments
- Provided 65 veterans with a total of \$44,749 in financial assistance to veterans for rent, food, utilities, fuel, school supplies and car repairs
- Provided 94 State Veterans ID cards

## ❖ Federal Benefits (2023 total federal \$31 million)

- Submitted VA healthcare applications for 109 local veterans
- Secured \$3.8 million in federal benefits
- Filed 362 disability claims
- 50 claims for pension & death benefits for family members
- 65% grant rates with the claims and appeals
- \$893,015 retroactive payments to veterans
- \$2.8 million in new monthly payments this year

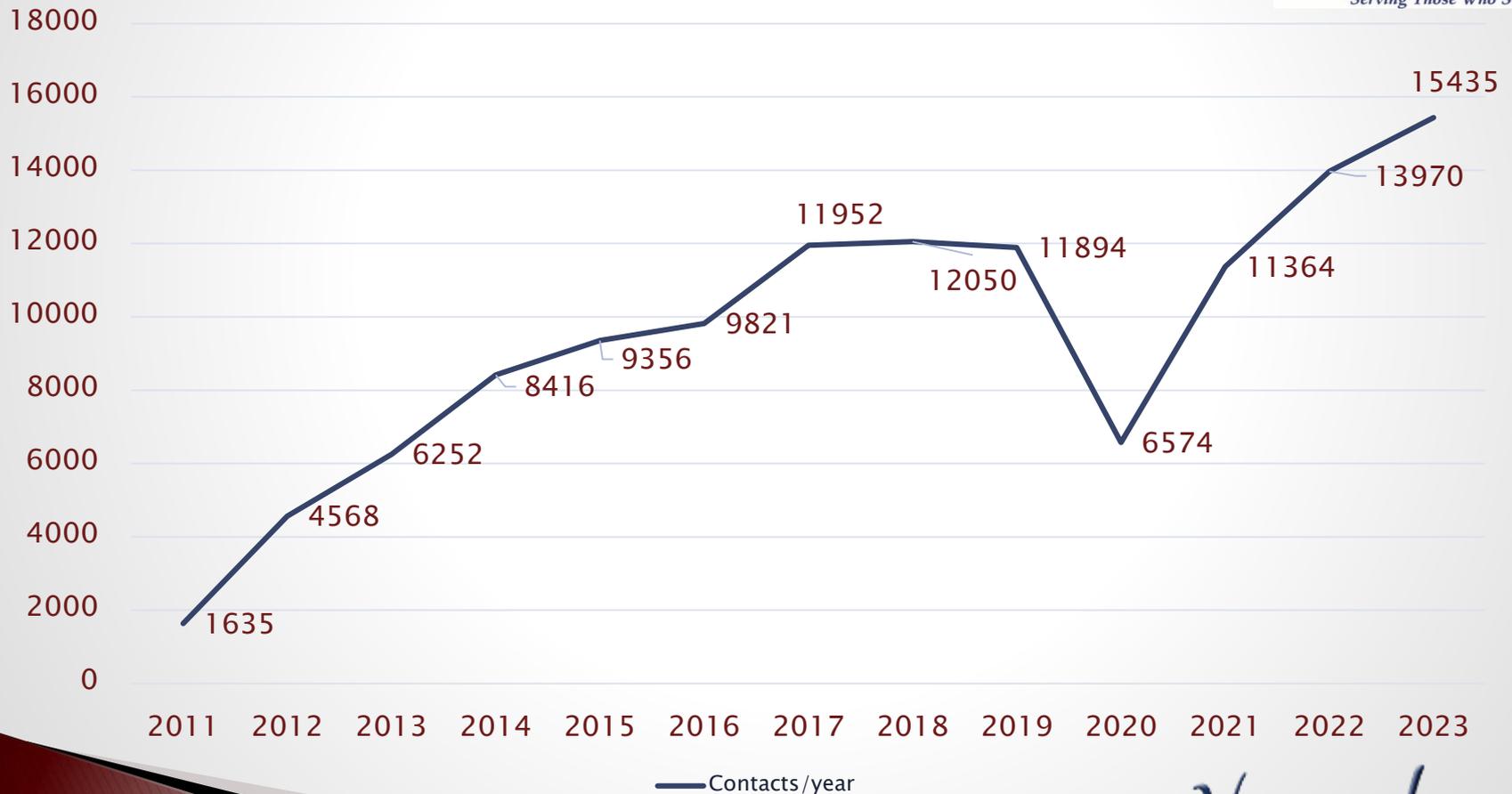
# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

## Finance Report – Direct Veteran Benefit Expenses



# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

## Veteran Contacts per Year



# CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

- ❖ 353,630 rooms sold
  - 1% increase from 2022
- ❖ Bed Tax Collected \$832,513
  - 11.5% increase from 2022
- ❖ Average daily rate has rebounded and exceeded pre-pandemic levels
- ❖ Good mix of leisure visits on weekends and business travel returning during the week
- ❖ Projects to note
  - Planning for 2024 Solar Eclipse
    - Engaging hotel partners, campsites and hospitality partners
    - Putting our best foot forward while welcoming visitors to the community
  - CVB Grant Program
    - Continues to provide local non-profits with financial assistance to market their events and activities around the county
    - Contributed nearly \$200,000