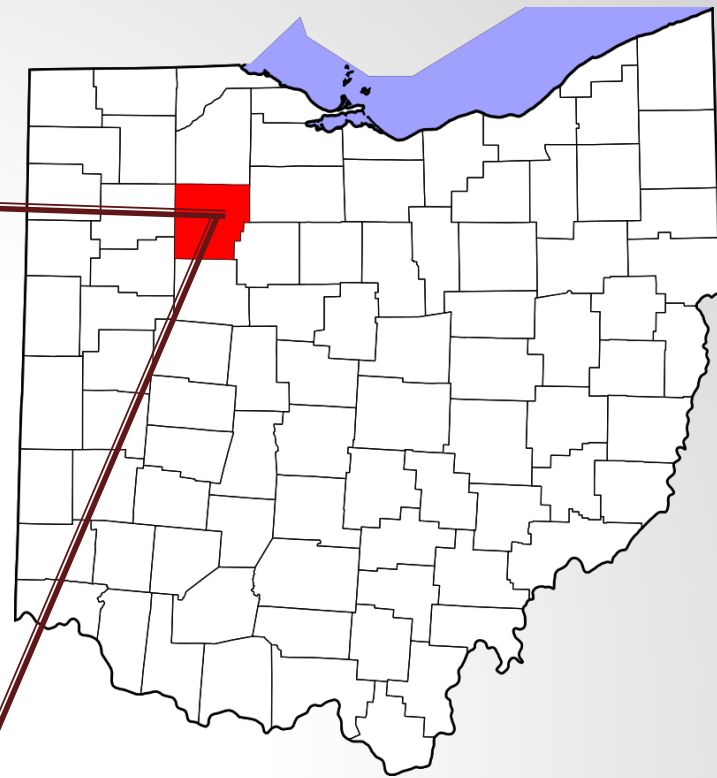
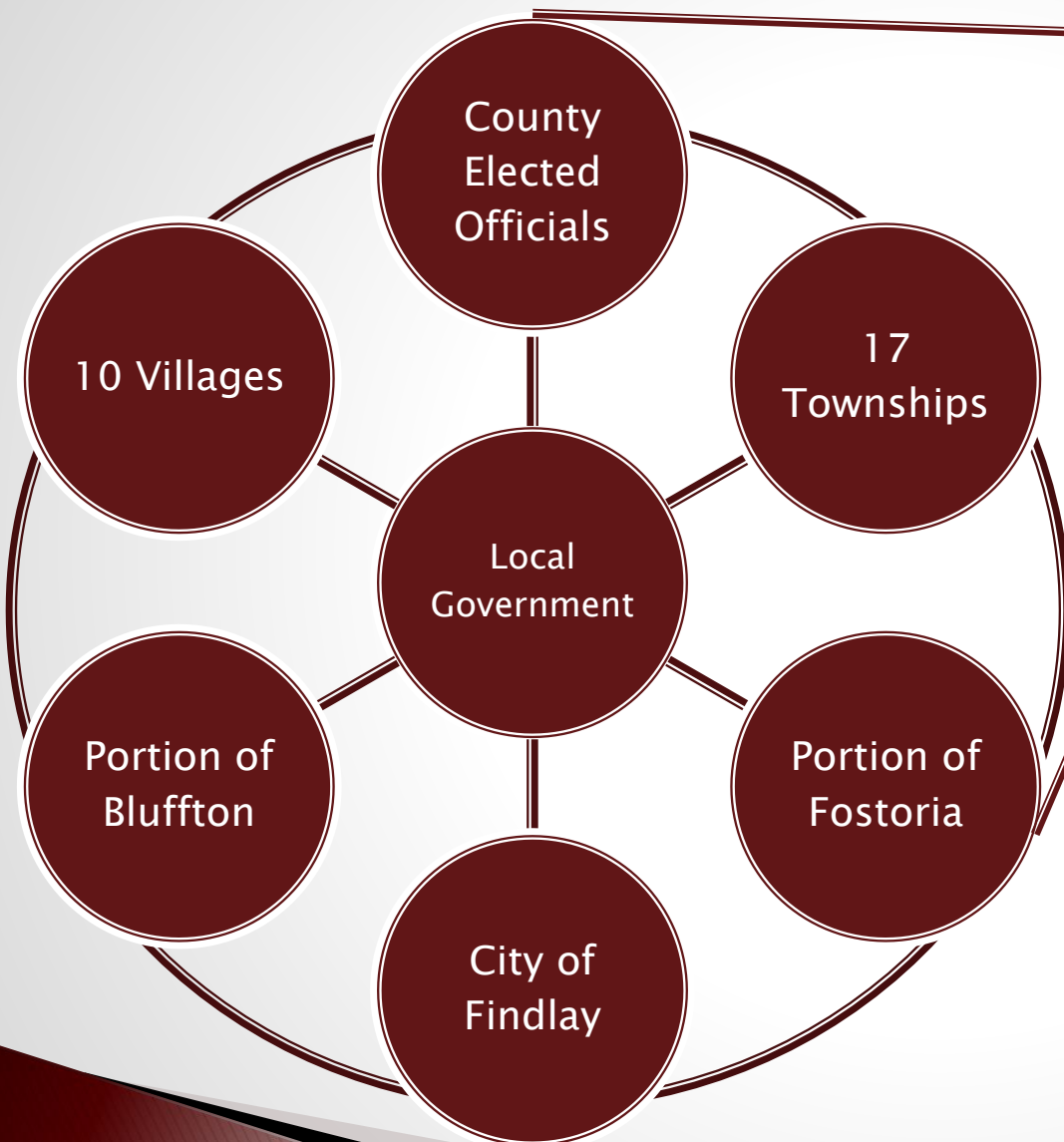


2024 STATE OF THE COUNTY

Hancock County Board of Commissioners

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





Hancock County Elected Officials

Clerk of
Courts

Common
Pleas Court
Judge

Common
Pleas Court
Judge

Prosecutor

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Engineer

Auditor

Treasurer

Recorder

Coroner

Probate/
Juvenile Court
Judge

Sheriff

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FINDLAY COMMUNITY

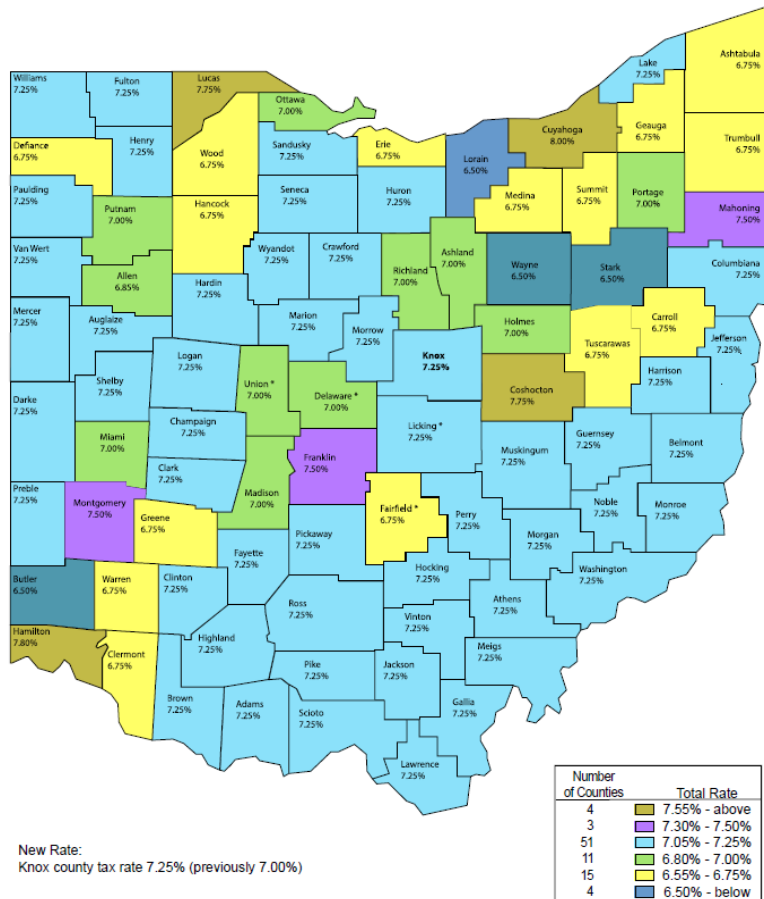
THE
FINDLAY
DECADE

Marks
YOUR **Spot.**



SALES TAX

Total State and Local Sales Tax Rates,
by County,
Effective October 2023



* Portions of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking & Union counties assess a transit authority sales tax levy of 0.50% (not reflected on this map.)

- ❖ 2023: \$19,000,000
- ❖ 2022: \$18,263,000
- ❖ 2021: \$17,863,000
- ❖ 2020: \$15,904,000
- ❖ 2019: \$15,914,000
- ❖ 2018: \$15,431,000
- ❖ 2017: \$14,928,000
- ❖ 2016: \$14,828,000

❖ Hancock County Sales Tax rate is 6.75%

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 recorders 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



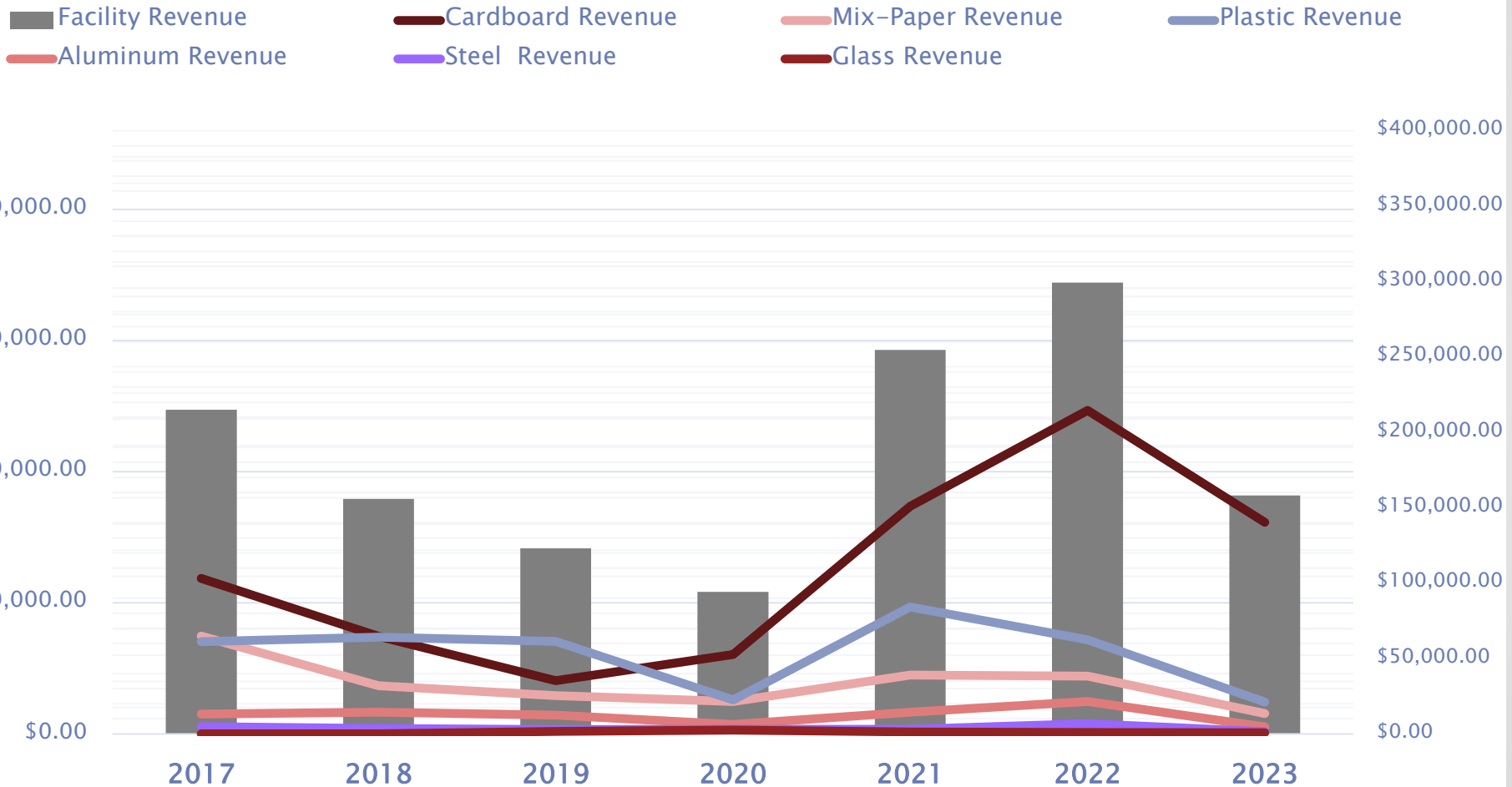
SANITARY LANDFILL



- ❖ 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

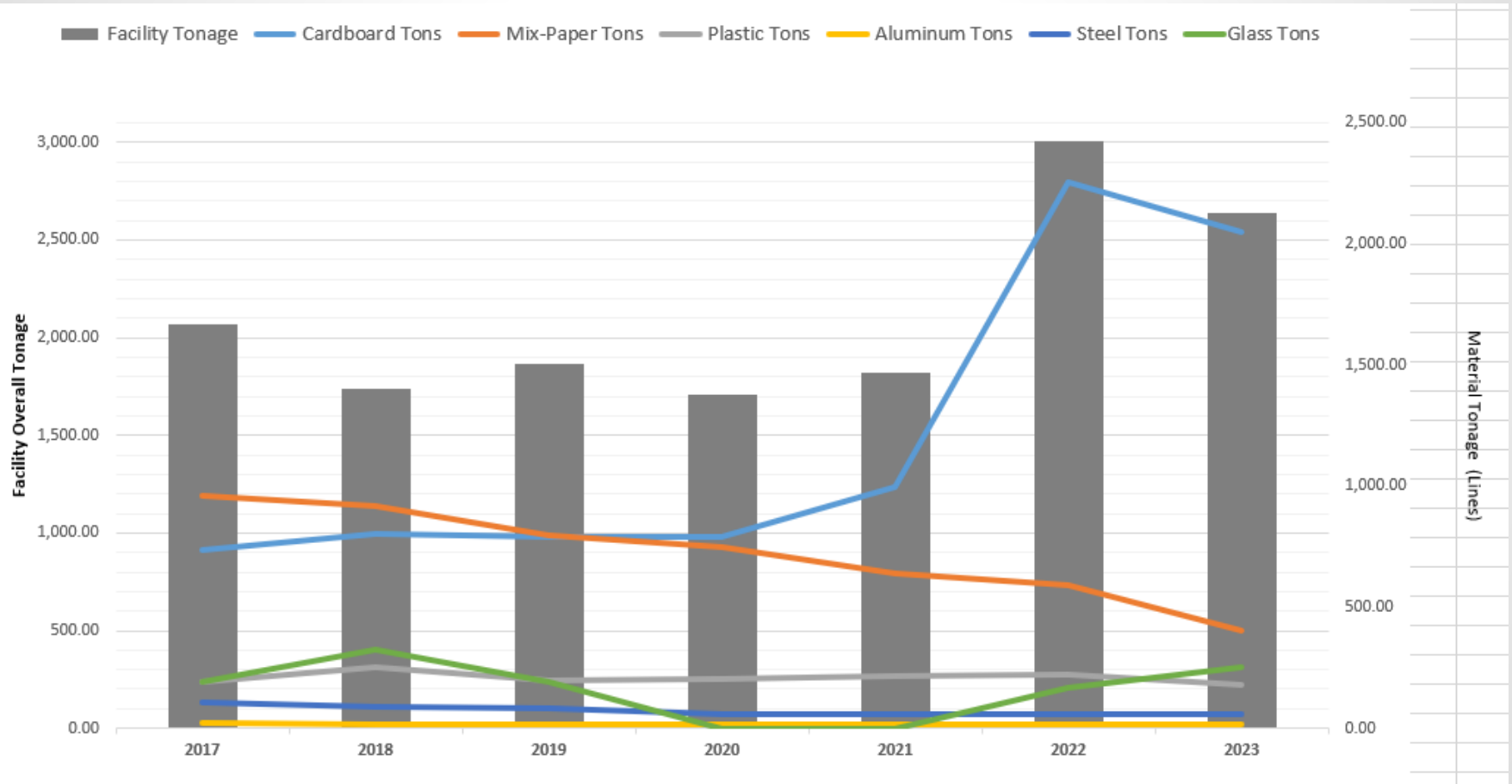
LITTER LANDING

RECYCLING MARKET REVENUE HISTORY – Updated Feb. 2024



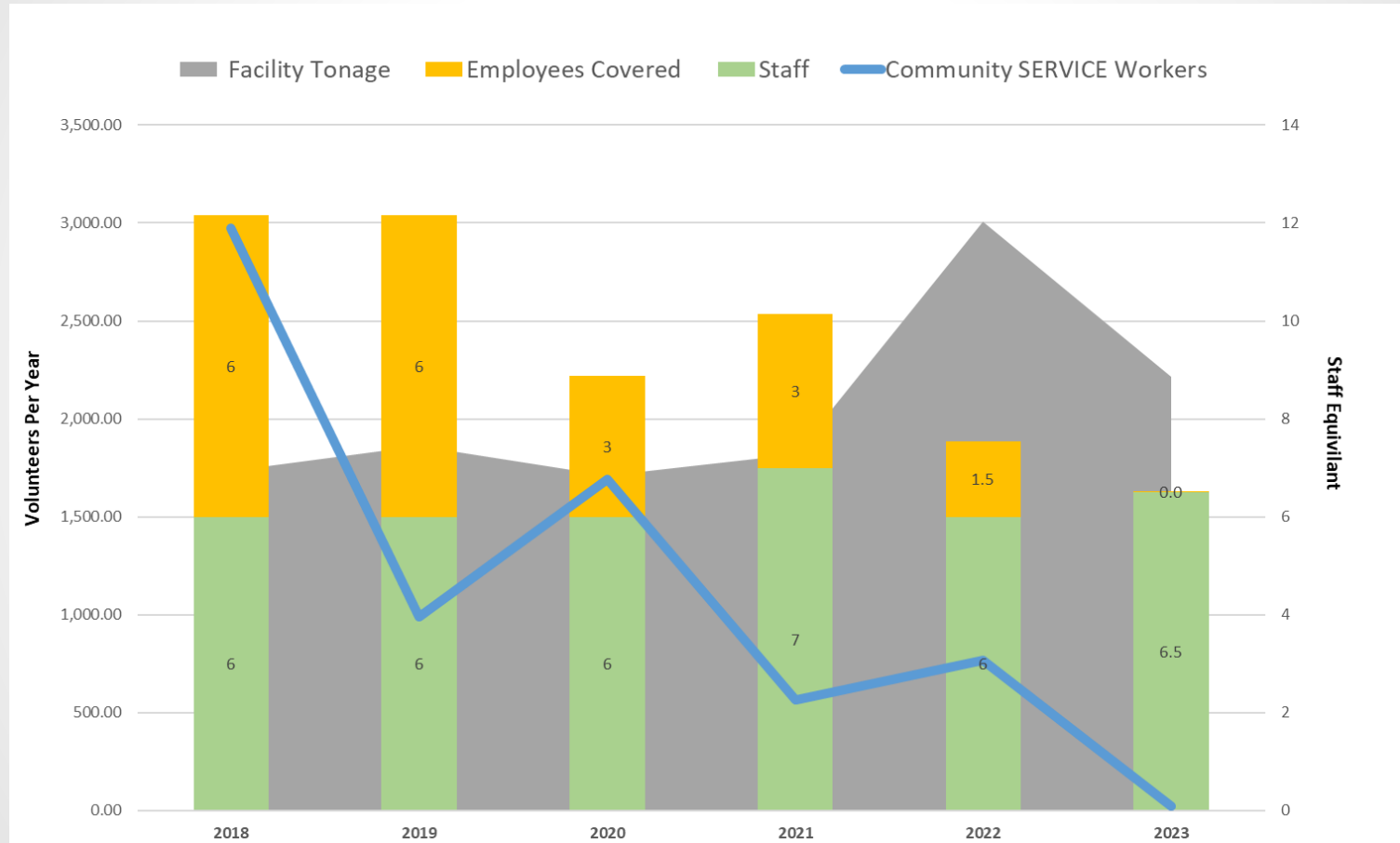
LITTER LANDING

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

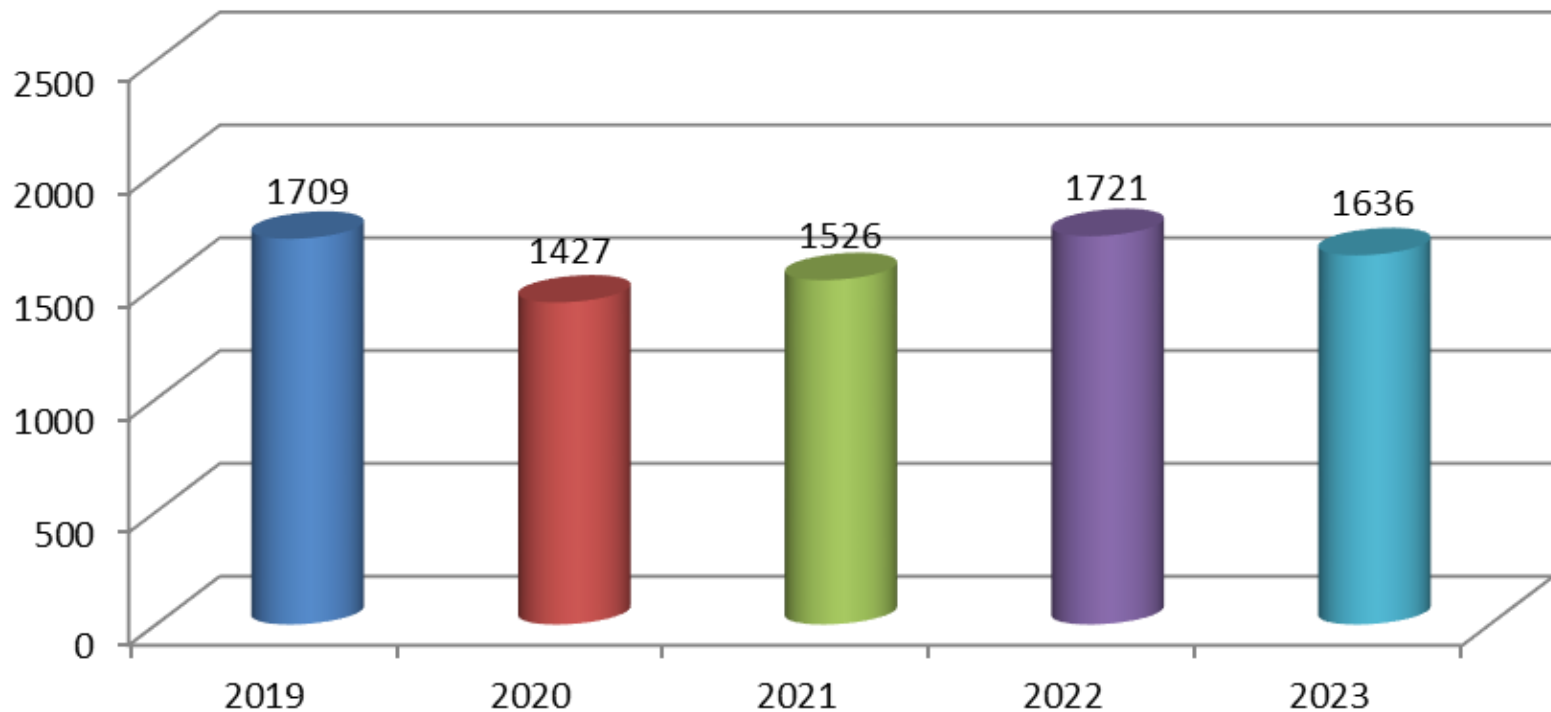
PROBATE COURT

- ❖ 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 5th for couples getting married on April 8th



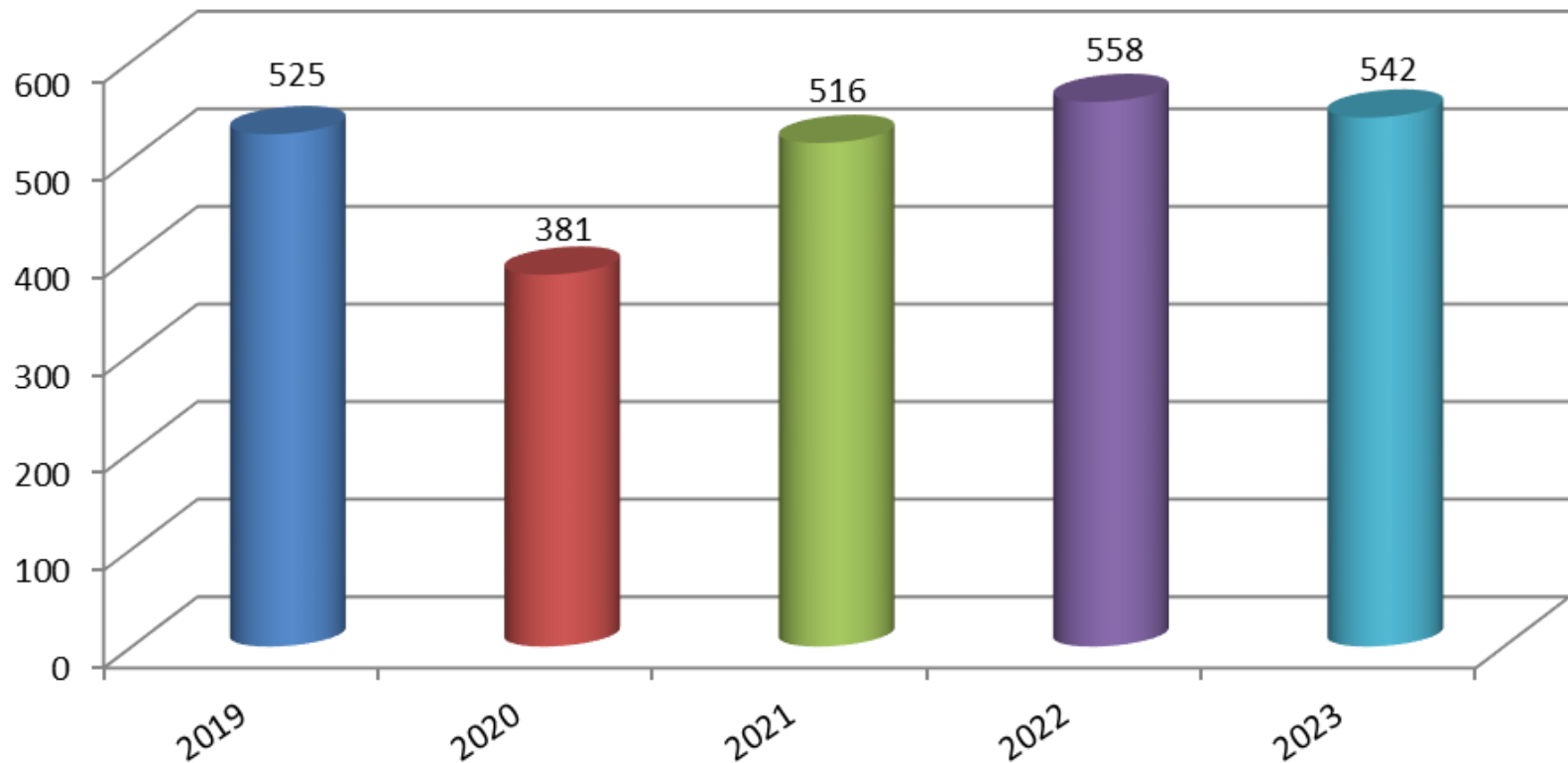
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Common Pleas Court Total Case Filings



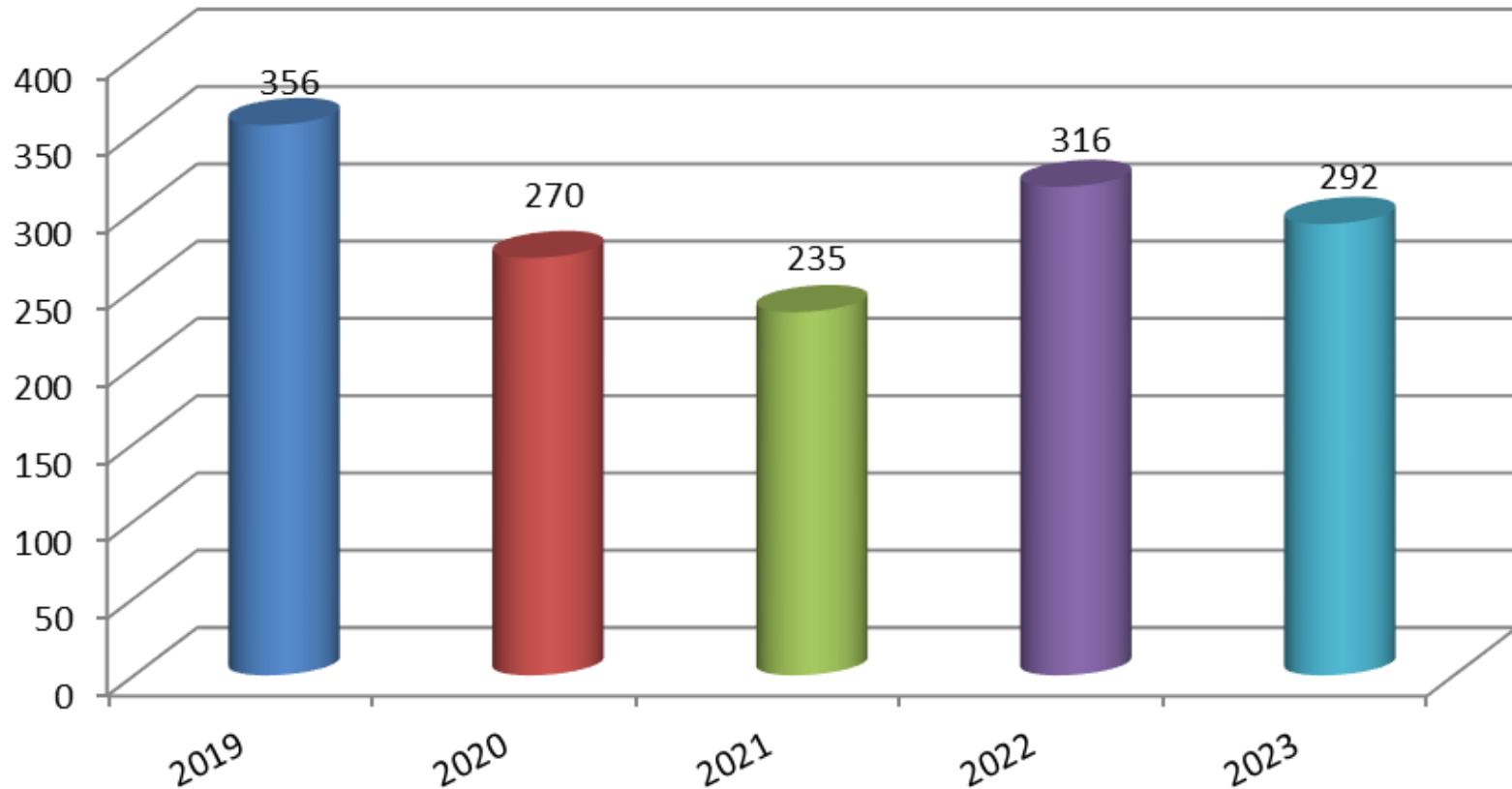
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Criminal Filings by Calendar Year



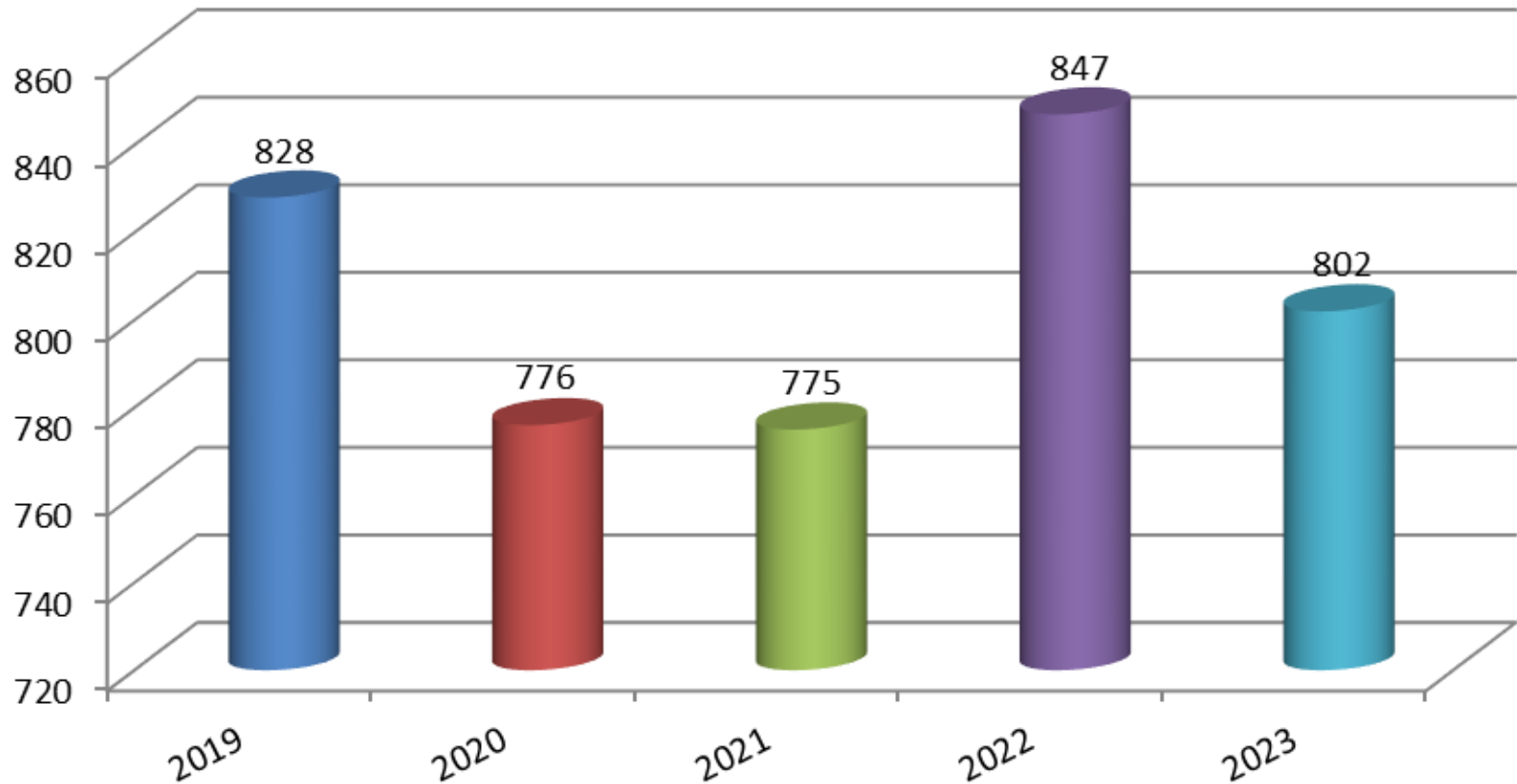
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Civil Filings



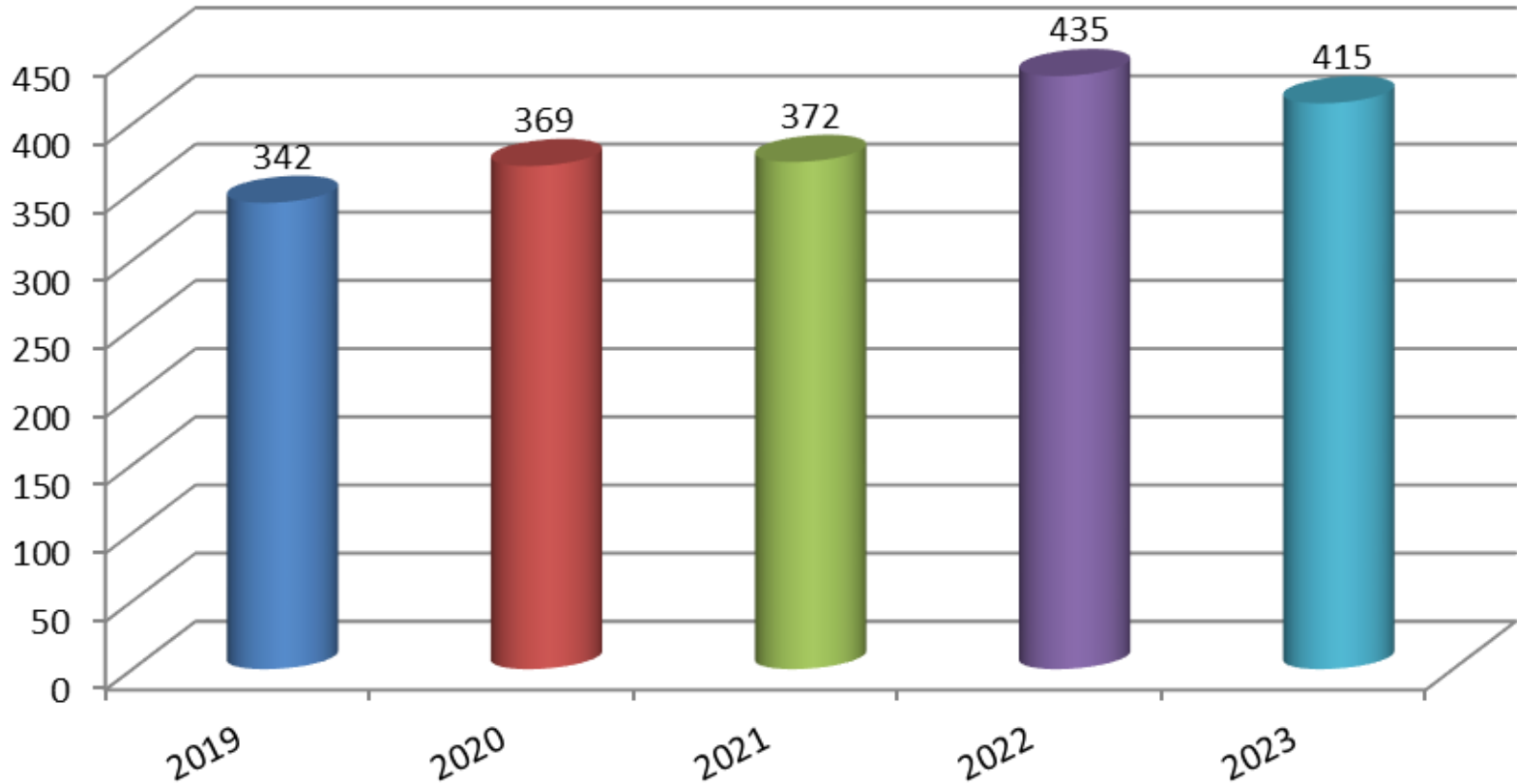
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Domestic Relations Filings



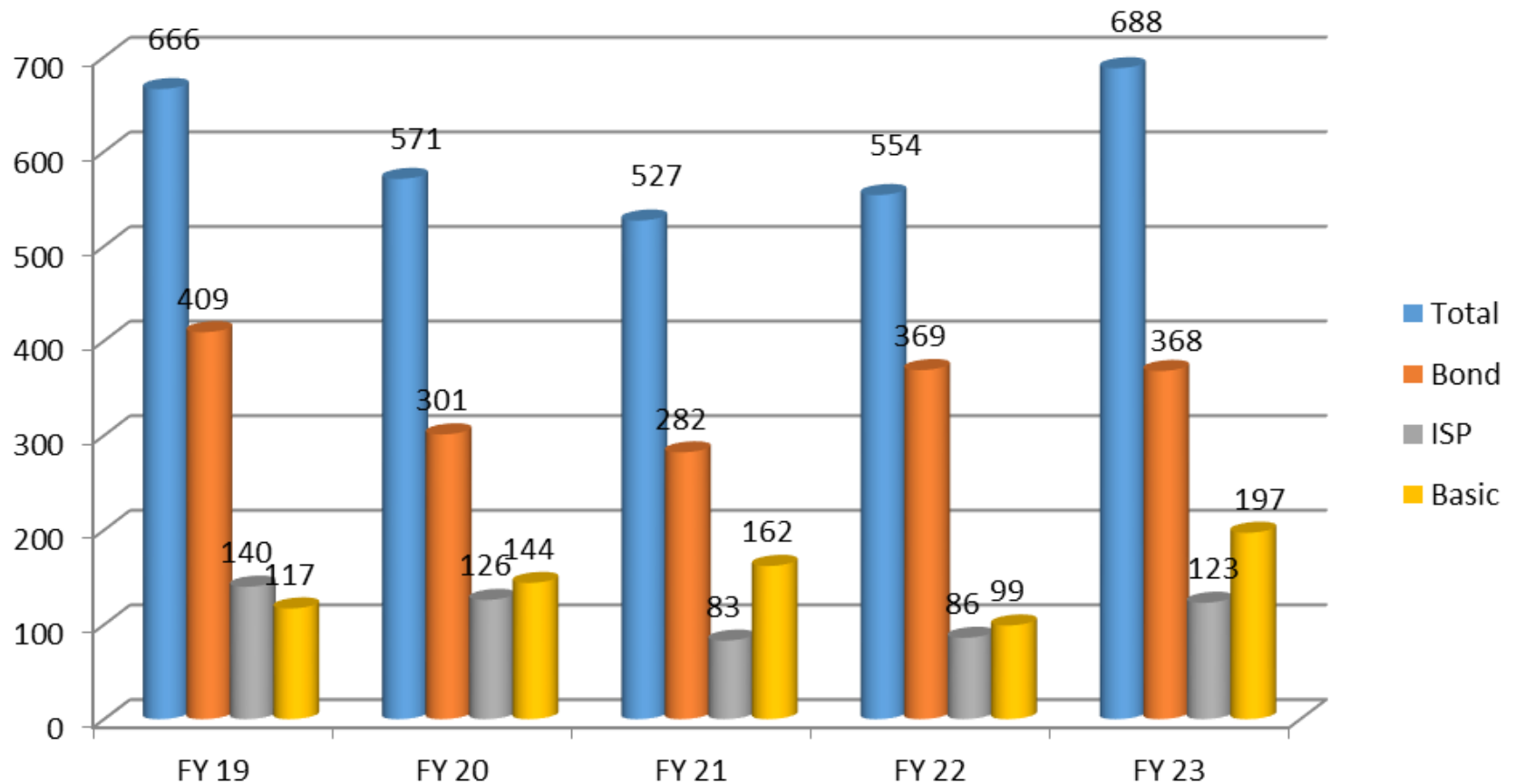
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Protection Order Filings



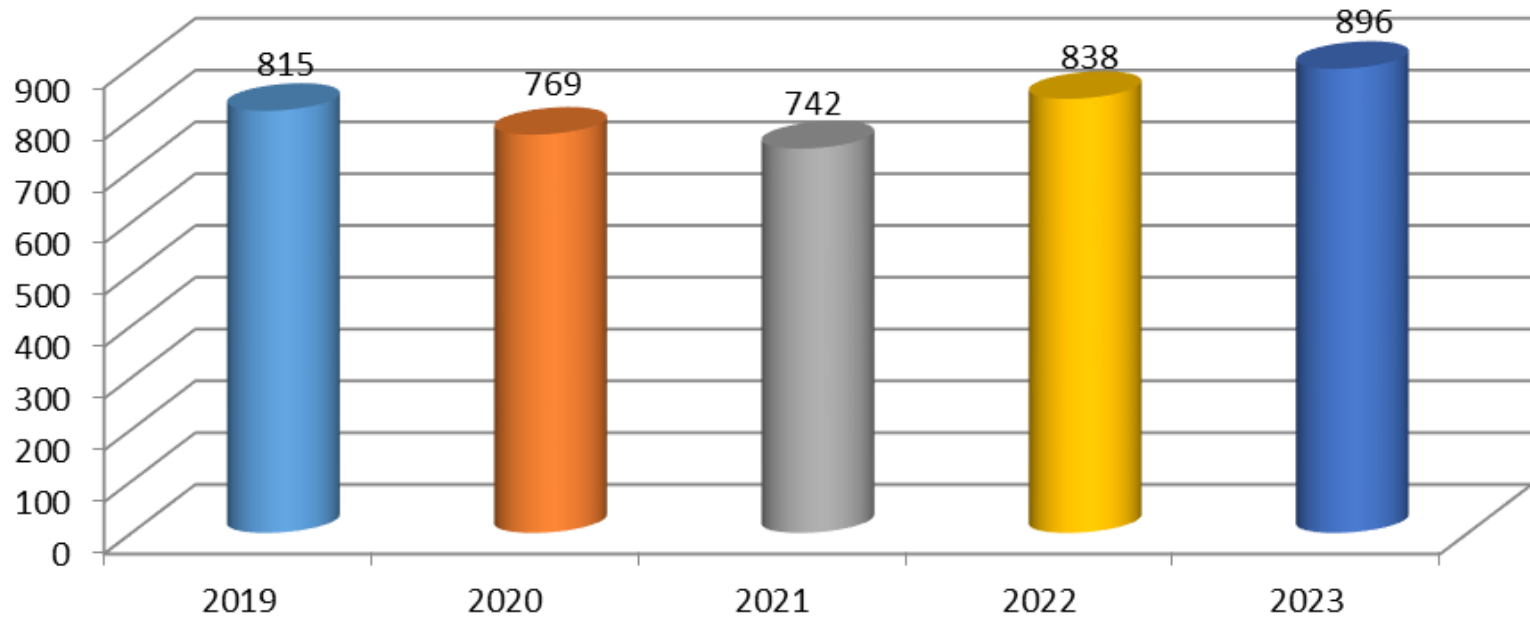
COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probation Intakes



COMMON PLEAS COURT

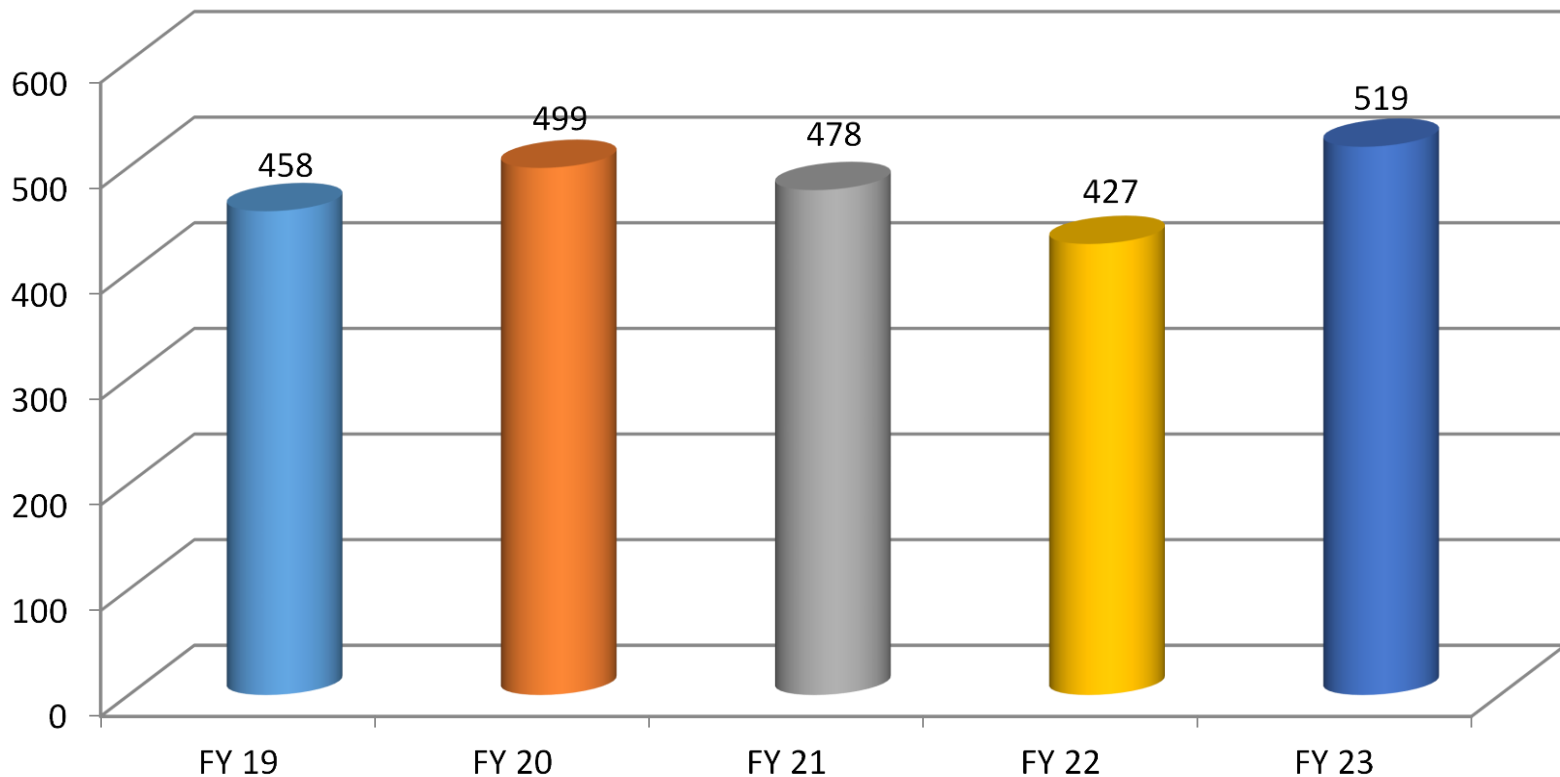
APD Year-End Probation Cases



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

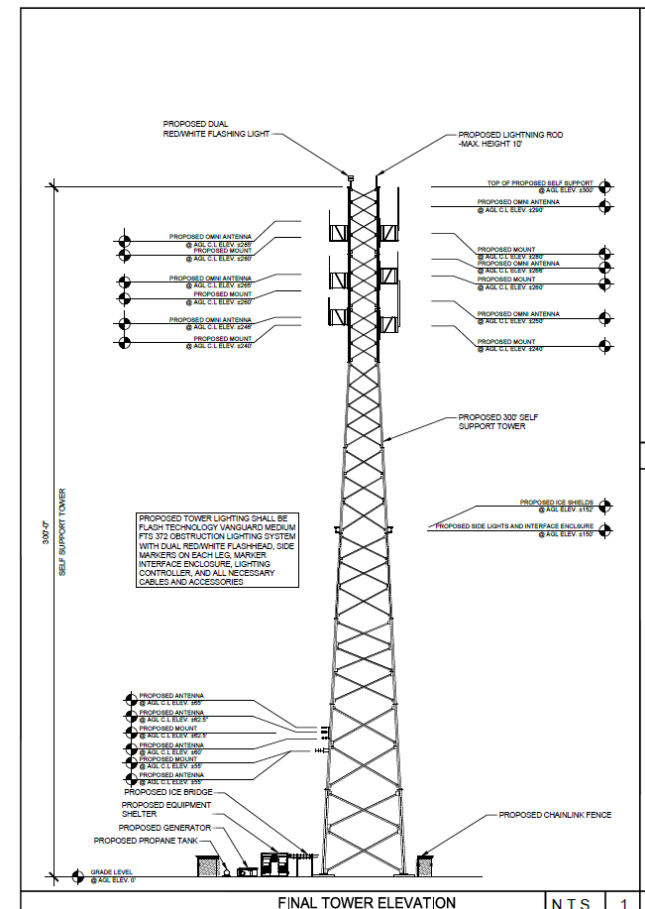
- Received \$246,000 grant from the State of Ohio
 - Upgraded door controls and inmate intercom system in the jail
 - Both systems were at the end of the useful life and no longer serviceable

❖ 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 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 77th year

BRSEP

BLANCHARD LOG JAM REMOVAL 2023-2024

	Log Jam Size Pulled					
Week	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					
TOTALS	147	213	31	10	5	3/4 AC

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

County Flood Mitigation Fund

As of 12/31/2023

Cash Balance	\$6,754,828.00
Encumbrances	\$ 310,514.00
Free Cash Balance	\$6,444,314.00

2023 Expenses

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
Total 2023 Expenses	\$1,126,547.00

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

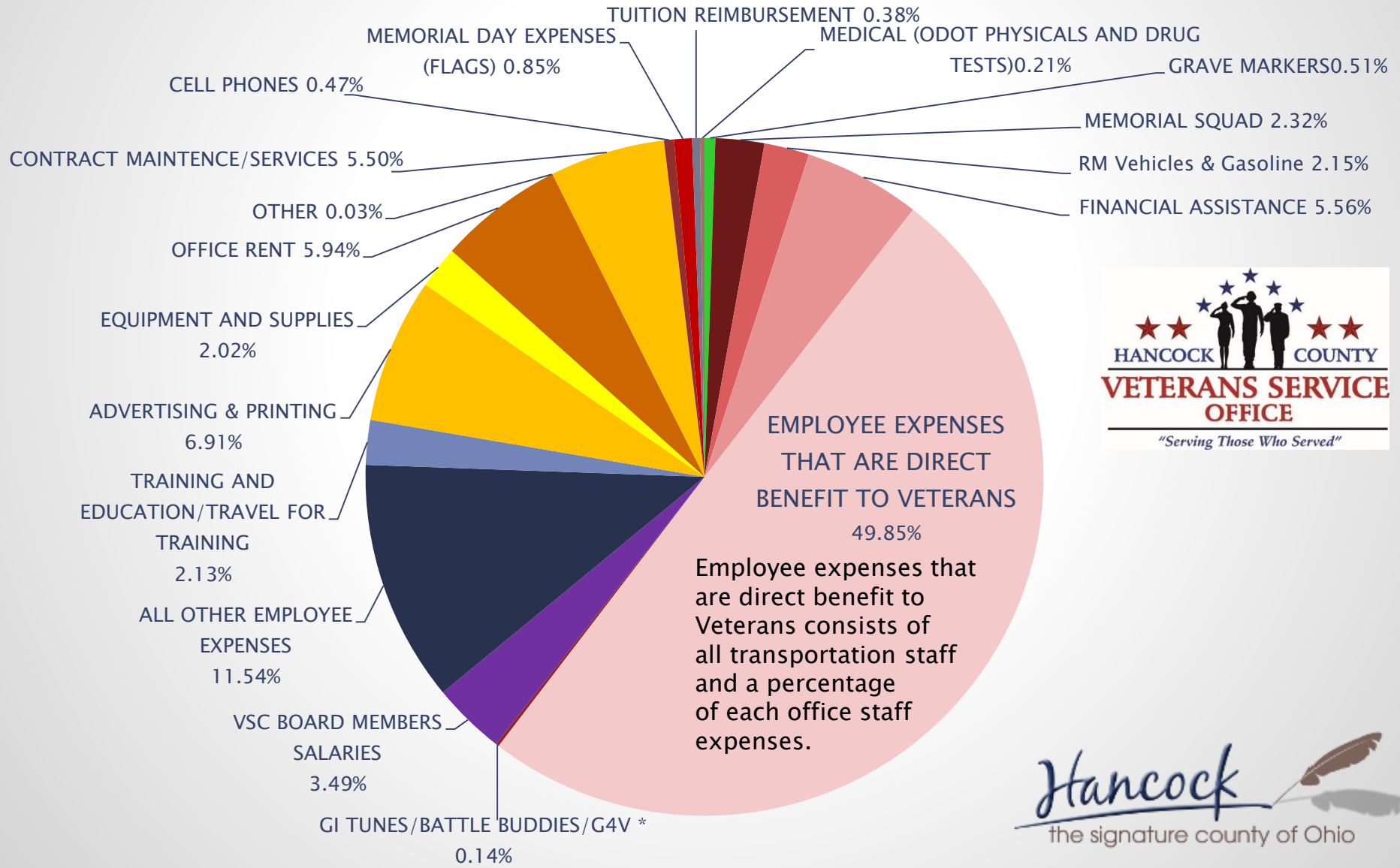
- Transported 803 veterans to VA medical appointments
- Provided 65 veterans with a total of \$44,749 in financial assistance to veterans for rent, food, utilities, fuel, school supplies and car repairs
- Provided 94 State Veterans ID cards

❖ 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

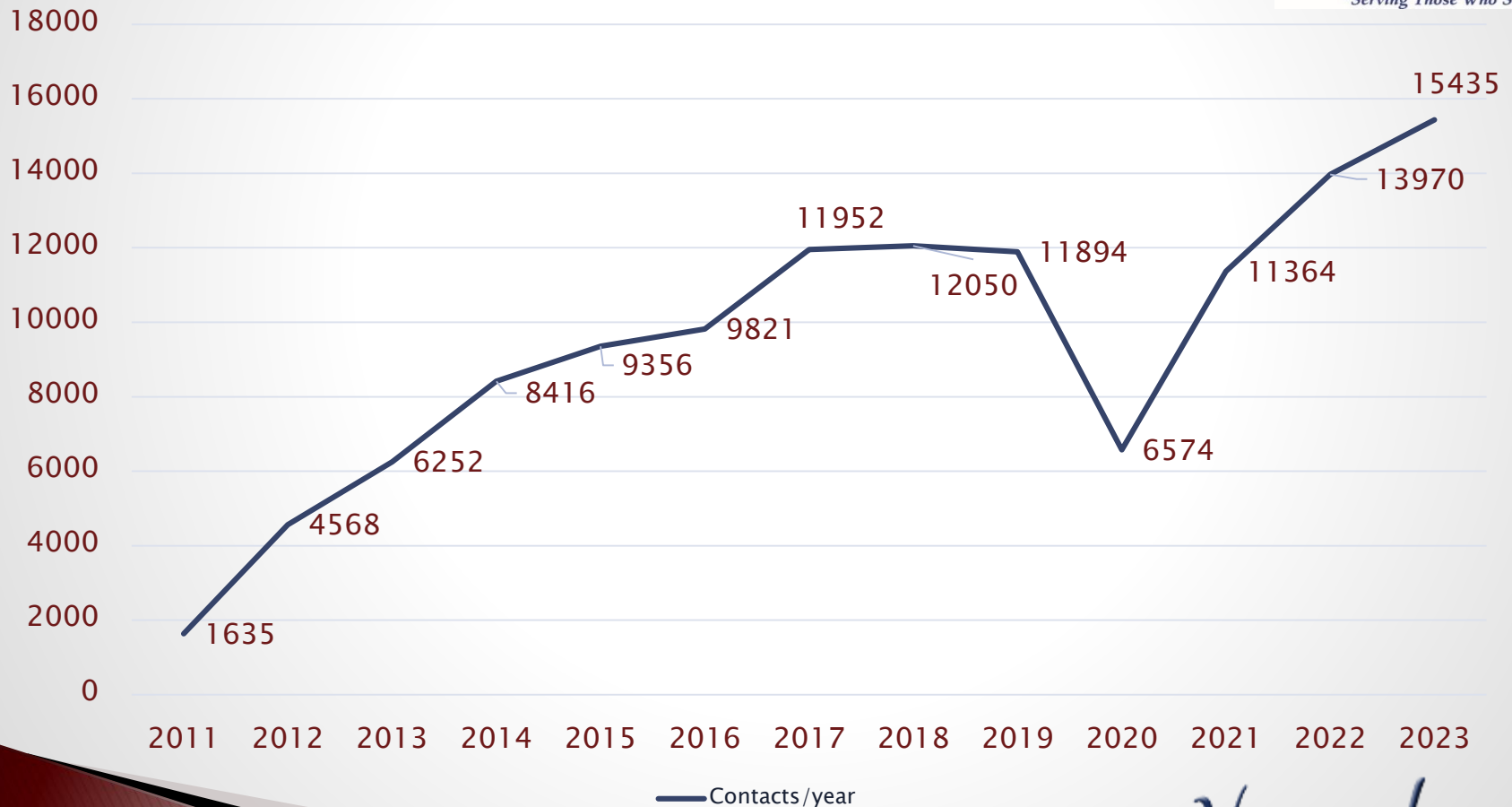
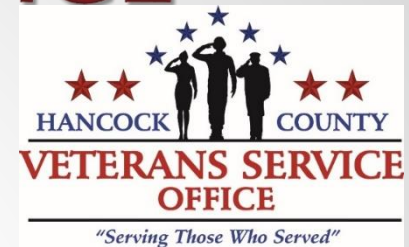
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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