

MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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INTRODUCTION

The Mount Vernon Municipal Court's Annual Report (2019) chronicles Court operations and major accomplishments for the year. Last year's successes would not have been possible without the Court's dedicated employees.

PERSONNEL

In July Will Champlin was hired as Court Bailiff. Mr. Champlin previously worked as a probation officer and bailiff for the Licking County Court of Common Pleas.

In October Court Security Officer Tom Brown received the Ohio Supreme Court's highest award—the Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton Award—for his leadership in developing effective court security systems throughout the State of Ohio.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Court is dedicated to enhancing the general public's understanding of how the legal system works. The Court's Facebook page currently has over 2,000 followers who receive information regularly about the Court's programs and activities. Follow us at www.facebook.com/MTVMunicipalCourt. We hope that the Annual Report (2019) will also be useful to that end.

Sincerely,

John C. Thatcher

John C. Thatcher, Judge

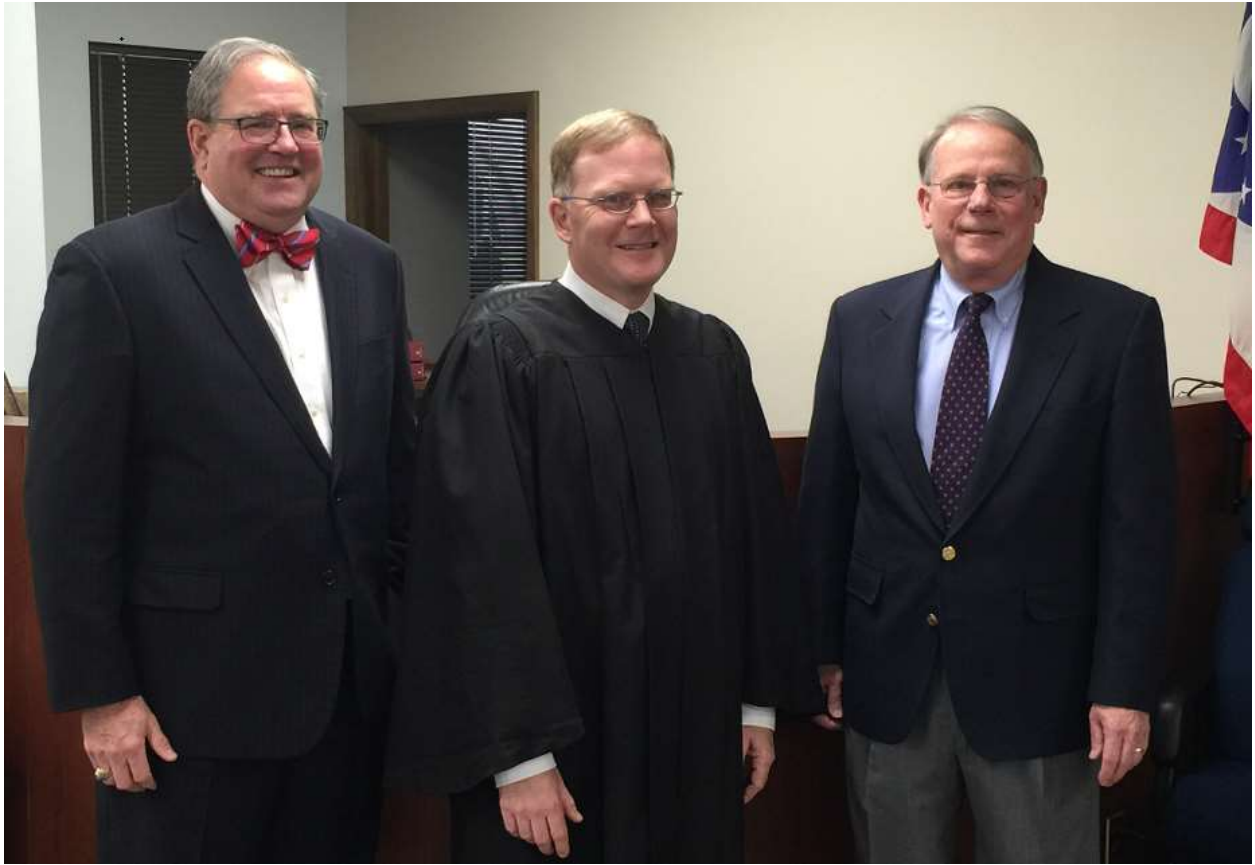
***JOHN C. THATCHER, JUDGE
STAFF***

Kenneth E. Lane	Acting Judge
Kim M. Rose	Acting Judge
Stephanie Hardman	Clerk
Todd Wells (Resigned May, 2019)	Bailiff
William Champlin (Appointed July, 2019)	Bailiff
Thomas Brown	Court Security Officer
Thomas Smith	Part-Time Court Security Officer
Dave Priest	Chief Probation Officer
Joel Carter	Special Docket Coordinator
Susie Eisel	Probation Officer
Julie Fisher	Probation Officer
Lisa Shaw	Probation Officer
Cheryl Jarrell	Probation Assistant/Deputy Clerk



Judge's Staff

Thomas Smith (Part-Time Court Security Officer), Judge John C. Thatcher, Thomas Brown (Court Security Officer) and William Champlin (Court Bailiff).



Acting Judges

Kim M. Rose, Judge John C. Thatcher and Kenneth E. Lane

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT PROBATION

The Department's main goal is to restore offenders to the status of law-abiding citizens. We believe the goal can be achieved through collaborative relationships between Probation Officers, the offenders we supervise and our community partners.

Partnerships with community service-providers enhances our rehabilitation efforts. These efforts reduce recidivism, protecting the public from future crimes and reducing incarceration costs.

The Department makes every effort to secure financial support outside of local operating funds. We do this by obtaining state and local grants and by working with community partners.

We strive to ensure that our Probation Officers are well trained and that they meet mandatory educational requirements. We engage in community outreach to share our knowledge with the community.

REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS

Supervised Community Service

The Supervised Community Service program added four non-profit project sites bringing the total to 18. Projects included: cleaning up Mound View Cemetery; participating in the annual Kokosing River Clean-up; clearing tree limbs from the Kokosing Gap Trail; and picking up trash on State Route 314.

Indigent offenders may perform community service to work off fines and costs. Over \$40,000.00 was credited to fines and costs last year. Community service hours are also imposed in lieu of costly jail terms for low level probation violations.

Thinking for a Change

A Probation Officer and a Behavioral Healthcare Partners ("BHP") counselor co-instructed Thinking for a Change ("T4C") classes getting four groups through the 16-week course of study. T4C addresses criminal thinking errors in moderate and high risk offenders. 12 offenders graduated from T4C.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) seeks to decrease recidivism among offenders by increasing moral reasoning. The MRT program is new, but has already shown great potential to modify offender behavior for the better.

Hands Down

Hands Down is a six-week class for offenders who have committed offenses such as domestic violence, assault and violations of protection orders. Tyler Hitzfield of Central Ohio Assessment graduated 55 participants last year.

Automated Drug Testing Program

Regular drug testing keeps offenders compliant with their probation terms. The Indiko Plus Analyzer and Paracelsus software system enables the Department to adapt our drug testing to current drug use trends.

The City of Mount Vernon uses our drug testing equipment to test seasonal workers. The Department saved the City almost \$9,000.00 in drug testing costs last year. We also drug test for the Knox County Common Pleas Court's Drug Court and the City Law Director's pretrial supervision cases.

GPS and Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM)

Offenders who are prohibited from having contact with victims or consuming alcohol are put on a GPS or SCRAM device. These devices have been a successful alternative to the cost of incarcerating offenders awaiting trial. 16 offenders were considered full-sobriety for 789 days monitored. 18 participants accounted for 333 total recorded days on GPS.

MERIT Court

44 referrals resulted in 25 admissions to the Mandated Education and Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) Drug Court. 14 participants graduated, six were terminated and one was removed from the program.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services awarded us a \$30,000.00 Specialized Docket Grant which partially compensates our MERIT Court expenses. We also secured \$501,480 from the Ohio Justice Re-investment and Incentive Grant (JRIG).

The JRIG grant pays for a full-time Specialized Docket Coordinator, a full-time Probation Officer and partially for the administrative assistant. The JRIG grant subsidizes a drug and alcohol counselor from the Freedom Center who provides services for inmates at the Knox County Jail. The grant also allows for outpatient mental health, drug and alcohol engagement groups and individualized assessments through BHP and the Freedom Center.

The Department received a \$5,000.00 grant from United Way of Knox County (Women United) for the "Chris-Fit" program which supports wellness for people recovering from addiction. Participants may exercise at Knox Community Hospital's Wellness Center without paying a membership fee. Women United also awarded \$3,000.00 for an in-house Restorative Yoga Program. We also encourage wellness by having the Knox County Health Department do health screenings in the Department.

The Elks Lodge awarded us a \$2,000.00 grant to purchase an additional Taser and camera unit.

We promote personal financial responsibility with Knox County Job and Family Services' JOBS program. The program helps probationers with resume building and interview skills. We offer transportation services through Knox Area Transit to facilitate employment opportunities.

OFFICER TRAINING

All Officers completed 20 hours of continuing education through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and by attending annual conferences of the Adult Parole and Probation Association, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Ohio Chief Probation Officer Line Officer Training and various Ohio Judicial College workshops. Three Officers are licensed social workers who completed 30 hours of continuing education to maintain state licensure.

All Department staff completed the American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid, CPR and AED training.

All Officers qualify annually to carry a firearm and Taser. They also participated in Tactical Decision Making, De-Escalation and use of Force training facilitated by the Mount Vernon Police Department (MVPD). The training increased non-lethal skills by teaching various unarmed self-defense techniques. The training included 1.5 hours of weapon engagement scenarios.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Department hosted three "Square Roots" programs at the Mount Vernon Elks Lodge. These drug abuse, crime awareness and recovery programs included presentations by the MVPD, Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Fredericktown Police Department. The Department co-hosted a Neighbor Watch presentation with Fredericktown PD to promote "See Something, Say Something" program. And we gave a "Hidden in Plain Sight" presentation to approximately 100 people attending an Ohio District Elks Lodge meeting with the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team.

PROBATION SERVICES FUND

The Probation Services Fund pays for the Administrative Assistant's salary and benefits. The funds can also be used to pay for Probation Officer continuing education, yearly firearm qualification costs and other mandated training. In the past year, supplemental grant revenue has increased available funds.

*Beginning Cash Balance Dec. 1, 2019 \$50,133.57

Revenue		Expenses	
December 1, 2018	\$5,118.12	December 1, 2018	\$24,831.68
Jan. 1, 2019- Nov. 30, 2019	\$93,979.48	Jan. 1, 2019 – Nov.30, 2019	\$14,676.16
Total Revenue	\$99,097.60	Total Expenses	\$39,507.84

Beginning Cash Balance Dec 2017 \$50,521.57

Revenue 2019	+	\$99,097.60	
Sub-Total		\$ 149,619.17	
Expenses 2019	-	\$39,507.84	
Ending Balance Nov 30, 2018		\$110,111.33	(Cash Balance for Dec.1, 2020)
2020 Financial Outlook Estimated Revenue		\$50,000	

**Probation Services budget extends from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.*

2019 STATISTICAL REPORT

Caseload Activity

Defendants Sentenced to Probation:		366
Level of Supervision:	Low Risk	188
	Moderate Risk	128
	High Risk	50
Overall Caseload:		1,081
Reporting Probation:		731
Non-reporting Probation:		320
Pretrial Bond/ PSI Supervision		30
Total Cases Closed:		420
Successful Terminations:		328
Unsuccessful Terminations:		92
Arrest Holders Issued:		236
Probation Violations Filed:		70
Active Probation Warrants:		65
Total Municipal Court Jail Inmates:		1410*
Average days served:		13.08*

*The totals reflect additional time served based on a subsequent felony charge associated with a misdemeanor offense and initial Municipal Court appearance.

Jail time served from arrest holders, direct Court sentencing and filed probation violations accounted for approximately 21% of the monthly Knox County Jail inmate population. The total number of Municipal Court jail intakes decreased by 34.2%, along with a 4.08 day reduction in the average time served per inmate. In a comparison, at \$60 per day, the reduction of Municipal Court commitments would have contributed to an approximate \$1,100,000 yearly savings in inmate housing costs.

Electronic Alcohol Monitoring

SCRAM Units Installed	16	
Electronic House Arrest/ GPS	11	
Total Units	27	
GPS Days Monitored	333	
Continuous Alcohol Days Monitored	789	
Avg. days on the Program	80	(National avg. 120 days)
Daily Compliance Percentage	98.5%	(National avg. 99. %)

Automated Drug Testing

Test Results

Total Individual Assays Tested*	21,171
Positive	2,247
Negative	18,924

Drug Trend Percentages *

OxyContin	.85%	Marijuana	30.23%
Benzodiazepines	3.48%	Amphetamines	14.42%
Heroin	1.36%	Fentanyl	5.26%
EtG (Alcohol)	7.67%	Opiates	3.17%
Cocaine	1.24%	Buprenorphine**	42.68%
Other***	3.5%		

* Drug testing statistics do not reflect test results for Thermo Fisher assay pilot program, the City Law Director’s pretrial services, Knox Co. Common Pleas, or Mt Vernon City seasonal work program.

**Percentage of positive screens accounts for defendants that also participate in a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Suboxone program.

***Irregular Creatinine levels: Test samples were altered or manipulated.

Community Service Program

Supervised Hours Worked:	2,153
Standard Comm. Service Hours :	4,733
Total Credit hours:	6,886
Credit for Fines and Costs:	\$42,851.00



Probation Department

Dave Priest (Chief Probation Officer), Lisa Shaw (Probation Officer), Susie Eisel (Probation Officer), Julie Fisher (Probation Officer), Cheryl Jerrell (Probation Clerk) and Joel Carter (MERIT Drug Court Coordinator).

***STEPHANIE HARDMAN, CLERK
STAFF***

Pamela Fuller	Deputy Clerk
Tammy Cunningham	Deputy Clerk
Lisa Mazza	Chief Deputy Clerk
Jamie Morand	Deputy Clerk
Katie Spearman	Deputy Clerk



Clerk's Office

Jamie Morand (Deputy Clerk), Katie Spearman (Deputy Clerk), Stephanie Hardman (Clerk), Lisa Mazza (Chief Deputy Clerk), Pam Fuller (Deputy Clerk) and Tammy Cunningham (Deputy Clerk).

MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT

FIVE NORTH GAY STREET

THIRD FLOOR

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO 43050-3241

TELEPHONE: (740) 393-9510

FAX: (740) 393-5349

Stephanie Hardman
Clerk

John C. Thatcher
Judge

William Champlin
Bailiff

Mount Vernon City Council Members
City Hall
40 Public Square
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

And

The Board of County Commissioners
117 East High Street, Suite 161
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Dear Public Officials,

The following pages contain the case activity, financial receipts and disbursements for 2019. Pursuant to R.C. 1901.31 two of the main duties my office is responsible for is maintaining the public records and receipting and disbursing all monies collected.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hardman

Stephanie Hardman,
Clerk of Court

The Mount Vernon Municipal Court was created by the Ohio General Assembly, pursuant to Section 1901.01, Ohio Revised Code. The Court hears cases throughout Knox County and has the authority to hear the following cases:

- Felony Cases – initial appearance/preliminary hearings
- Misdemeanor Cases – through final determination
- Civil Actions – up to \$15,000.00
- Small Claims Actions – up to \$6,000.00
- Administrative Appeals – BMV case appeals

CASES FILED IN 2019

Felony	71
Misdemeanor Criminal	1,119
OVI	183
Other Traffic	4,517
Personal Injury	20
Contracts	827
Other Civil Filings Including Transfers and BMV Cases	293
Forcible Entry & Detainer (Evictions)	227
Small Claims	95
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>7,352</u>

The Judge conducts hearings and finds probable cause to issue search warrants, pursuant to Rule 41, Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure. During regular business hours these hearings are conducted in Court. After regular business hours the hearings are conducted electronically. In 2019 the Judge conducted 45 search warrant hearings.

There were a total of 69 applications to seal the record of criminal cases filed and 8 marriages performed in 2019.

OVI CITATIONS ISSUED BY MONTH 2019

JANUARY	14
FEBRUARY	20
MARCH	20
APRIL	10
MAY	10
JUNE	8
JULY	18
AUGUST	25
SEPTEMBER	9
OCTOBER	11
NOVEMBER	15
DECEMBER	23
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>183</u>

2019 CITATIONS
“OPERATE VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE”

<u>Ohio State Highway Patrol</u>	
1 st Offense	62
2 nd Offense	1
3 rd Offense	2
Felony	1
Physical Control	7
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Knox County Sheriff</u>	
1 st Offense	51
3 rd Offense	1
Felony	1
Physical Control	7
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Villages</u>	
1 st Offense	5
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Mount Vernon Police Department</u>	
1 st Offense	34
2 nd Offense	4
3 rd Offense	3
Physical Control	4
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>183</u>

2019 DISPOSITIONS
“OPERATE VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE”

Cases Pending 1-1-19	52
New Cases Filed 2019	183
Reactivated Cases	17
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>252</u>
“Guilty or No contest” plea at arraignment	25
Dismissed	17
Jury Trial	3
Changed Plea to “Guilty or No Contest”	80
Plea to a Reduced Charge	12
<u>TOTAL CASES COMPLETED</u>	<u>137</u>

**2019 DISPOSITIONS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Cases Filed 2019	131
Pending 2019	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>132</u>
Plea of “Guilty” or “No Contest” or found “Guilty” at Trial	34
Reduced to lesser charge	11
Dismissed	56
Warrants Issued	8
<u>TOTAL CASES COMPLETED</u>	<u>109</u>

There were a total of 78 temporary protection orders issued in 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

The Mount Vernon Municipal Court is mandated by the Ohio Revised Code to collect and disburse fines and fees to the law enforcement agencies throughout Knox County and the State of Ohio. The collection of these monies has a positive financial impact on the local government of Knox County.

Criminal and Traffic Division	1,090,976.59
Bond	129,830.70
Civil Division	829,171.45
Small Claims Division	32,559.56
Bond Account Balance on 12/31/18	31,547.60
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$2,114,085.90</u>

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS 2019

The Mount Vernon Municipal Court is governed by Section 1901.26, Ohio Revised Code, to establish a schedule of fees and costs to be taxed in any civil or criminal action or proceeding. Users of the Court are taxed these fees to pay for their utilization of the Court. The Court is required to collect costs for law enforcement agencies throughout Knox County and the State of Ohio to pay for services established by statute.

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC DIVISION

Court Costs	369,873.10
Computer Fund (Clerk) – fund to computerize the Clerk – R.C. 1901.261	47,786.91
Computer Fund (Court) – fund to computerize the Court – R.C. 1901.261	14,167.20
Fines - Mount Vernon Police Department	63,494.85
10% Bond Costs	1,132.50
Ohio State Highway Patrol City Fines	35,578.06
Enforcement Agency-OVI	39.00
Housing Prisoner Fund	65.00
Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment – fund set up for indigent defendants that cannot afford alcohol treatment or interlock devices – R.C. 2949.094	12,967.25
Probation Services Fees	1,940.00
Probation Supervision Fees	51,984.25
Restitution	2,152.16
Unclaimed Funds	2,492.00
Special Projects	20,115.00
Court Reporter Fund	103.50
TOTAL	\$623,890.78

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS 2019

CIVIL DIVISION

Court Costs	233,106.13
Computer Fund (Clerk)	12,560.00
Computer Fund (Court)	3,768.00
Special Project Fees	6,280.00
TOTAL	\$255,714.13

SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

Court Costs	5,599.60
Computer Fund (Clerk)	950.00
Computer Fund (Court)	285.00
Special Project Fees	475.00
TOTAL	\$7,309.60

CITY GRAND TOTAL **\$886,914.51**

COUNTY OF KNOX

County Court Costs	39,309.54
Sheriff Fees	49,294.25
Ohio State Highway Patrol County Fines	8,894.52
Dog and Kennel Fees	1,860.00
County Liquor Fines	698.00
Housing Prisoners	12,796.50
Public Defender Application Fees	6,057.05
County Drug Fines	1,556.00
Enforcement Agency – OVI	1,200.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$121,665.86</u>

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS 2019

STATE OF OHIO

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP/EMS)	44,487.42
Ohio State Highway Patrol (Drug Fund)	355.00
Ohio State Highway Patrol (DUI Arrest Fund)	4,394.00
Victims of Crime	37,761.60
Department of Natural Resources	5,680.00
Child Highway Safety Fund	420.00
State of Ohio Pharmacy Board	6,085.76
State of Ohio Liquor Board	698.00
Seatbelt Fund	20,190.00
Treasure of State (Expungements)	1,545.00
Legal Aid Fund (Civil cases)	32,656.00
Legal Aid Fund (Small Claims cases)	1,045.00
Indigent Defense Support Fund – governed to collect by R.C. 120.08	114,813.65
Drug LE/Justice Program	12,632.75
Address Confidential Program	1,780.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$284,544.18</u>

VILLAGES

Centerburg Police Department Fines	2,500.00
Danville Police Department Fines	2,675.00
Fredericktown Police Department Fines	11,391.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$16,566.00</u>

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS 2019

KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF

Mileage and Service Fees	2,325.27
Jail Fees	901.85
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$3,227.12</u>

FOREIGN SHERIFF

Criminal Division Mileage and Service	328.65
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>328.65</u>

MISCELLANEOUS CRIMINAL

Capital Recovery (collection costs paid by Defendants)	12,556.65
National Enterprise Systems (collection costs paid by Defendants)	730.50
Law Offices of Robert Schuerger	11,962.30
Restitution	9,500.35
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$34,749.80</u>

MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL

Garnishment Pay Outs	508,984.76
Security	16,063.72
Escrow	15,276.40
Miscellaneous	476.44
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$540,801.32</u>

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL CLAIMS

Garnishment Pay Outs	24,143.26
Miscellaneous	61.70
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$24,204.96</u>

<u>GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENT</u>	<u>\$1,913,002.40</u>
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BALANCE FORWARD TO 2020

Bond Account Balance on 12/31/19	31,547.60
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$31,547.60</u>

EXPENSE REPORT 2019 - SALARIES

The Judge's salary is set according to R.C. 141.04 and 1901.11; the Clerk's by R.C. 1901.31; the Bailiff by R.C. 1901.32; the Deputy Clerk's by the Clerk; the Probation Officer's and Probation Clerk by the Judge and City Council; and Security Officer's by the Judge.

	Paid By City	Paid By County	Paid By State
Judge	37,950.00	25,300.00	75,550.00
Clerk & Bailiff	63,225.54	45,138.09	
Security Officers	63,293.45		
Deputy Clerks	230,561.81		
Probation Officers	153,544.02		
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$548,574.82</u>	<u>\$70,438.09</u>	<u>\$75,550.00</u>

Probation Clerk **\$16,176.00**

Paid from Probation Services Fund

OTHER EXPENSES 2019

	Paid by City	Paid by County
PERS	96,541.06	8,181.85
Bailiff's Mileage & Training	4,614.11	
Jury and Witness Fees	0.00	5,300.00
Workman's Compensation	15,023.10	1,739.81
Medicare	9,998.90	1,021.36
Insurance (Life & Health)	247,279.94	
Telephone (Clerk)	4,471.43	
Telephone (Probation)	1,178.95	
Incidentals (Clerk) (office supplies, postage)	33,169.83	
Incidentals (Probation) (office supplies)	2,932.30	
Travel and Training (Judge and Clerk)	2,275.00	
Travel and Training (Probation)	800.20	
Computer Maintenance/Personnel (Court)	20,970.29	
Computer Maintenance/Personnel (Clerk)	73,327.40	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$512,582.51</u>	<u>\$16,243.02</u>