

Mission

The mission of the Franklin County Municipal Court is to provide a judicial forum for the public and legal community to objectively and fairly administer justice in a timely and efficient manner.

Strategic Focus

Primary Initiative: Specialized Dockets - The mission of the Specialized Docket Department is to enhance public safety, rebuild lives, and reduce recidivism through the use of restorative justice programs. It addresses the problems exhibited by each target population by providing a coordinated, comprehensive approach to treatment and rehabilitation of criminal offenders who satisfy the program's target population.

Primary Issue: Specialized Dockets - For nearly two decades, five problem-solving courts have operated at the Franklin County Municipal Court focusing on mental health, drug and alcohol dependency, heroin dependency, military and veteran service, and human trafficking. The Franklin County Municipal Court collaborates with public and private agencies to provide wrap-around care, through the use of appropriate treatment and services, so that the underlying issues that have contributed to a participant's criminal behaviors can be resolved. - The results of specialized dockets include a reduction in jail nights for participants, improved community safety through lower recidivism rates, reunification of families, increased home-ownership, and an increase in the number of taxpayers. Overall, participants should be contributing members of the community upon completion of the program.

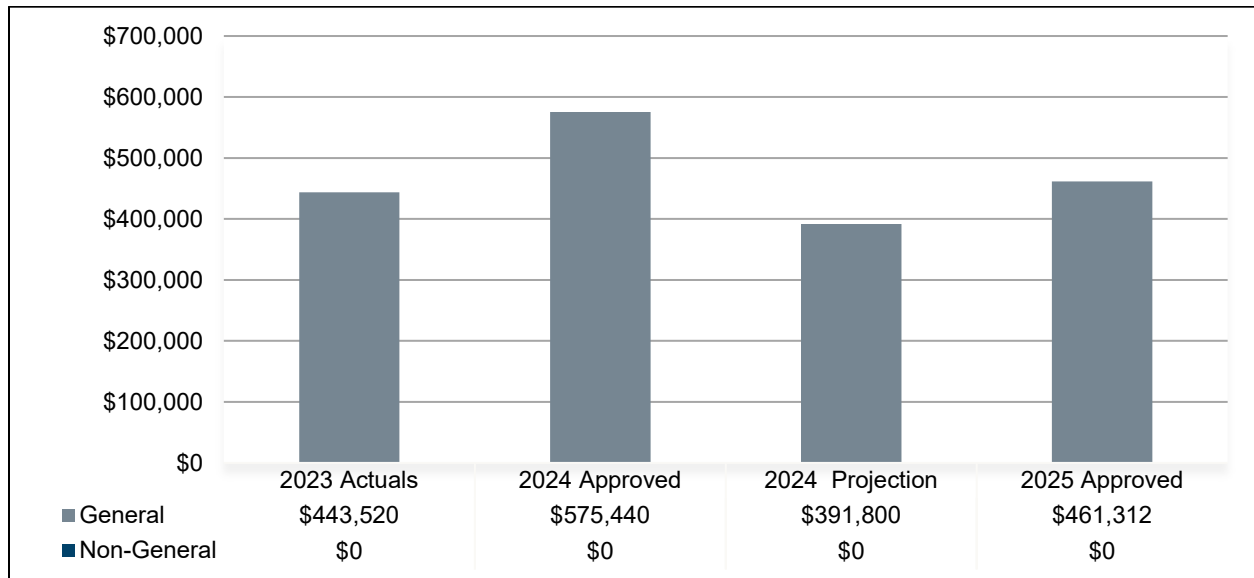
Performance Spotlight

Measure: Percent of clients that did not receive new charges in 2 years of programming

Program: Municipal Court

About this measure		Why it is important	
This measure tracks the percent of specialized docket clients that do not receive new charges in 2 years of programming. Data is collected from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office database and the Franklin County Municipal Clerk's Courtview Database for this measure.		Treatment courts are the most successful justice intervention for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. Graduates of problem-solving courts are much less likely to commit another crime within three years of admission. Restorative justice is the philosophical foundation of the division. In the context of the municipal court, restorative justice is a process by which offenders take responsibility for their actions, understand the harm they caused, redeem themselves through the process of recovery, become contributing members of their families and the community, increase public safety by ceasing criminal behavior, and reduce the emotional and financial burden on society.	
What is being done			
The Court provides quality programming to high risk/high need participants to link them with individualized treatment, reduce barriers to success, hold participants accountable for the impact of their behaviors, and encourage independent recovery. The Franklin County Municipal Court collaborates with public and private agencies to provide wrap-around care, through the use of appropriate treatment and services, so that the underlying issues that have contributed to participant's criminal behaviors can be resolved.			
2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Budget
84.2%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

Budget Summary – Revenues



Primary Revenue Sources by Fund Type

Fund Type	Fund Name (Number)	Primary Revenue Sources
General	• General Fund (1000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with the City of Columbus for appointed counsel costs associated with city code cases. • Reimbursement from the State Public Defender's Office for indigent defense cases.
Special	None	N/A
Debt	None	N/A
Capital	None	N/A
Enterprise /Internal	None	N/A

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$575,440	\$391,800	(\$183,640)	-31.9%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$575,440	\$391,800	(\$183,640)	-31.9%

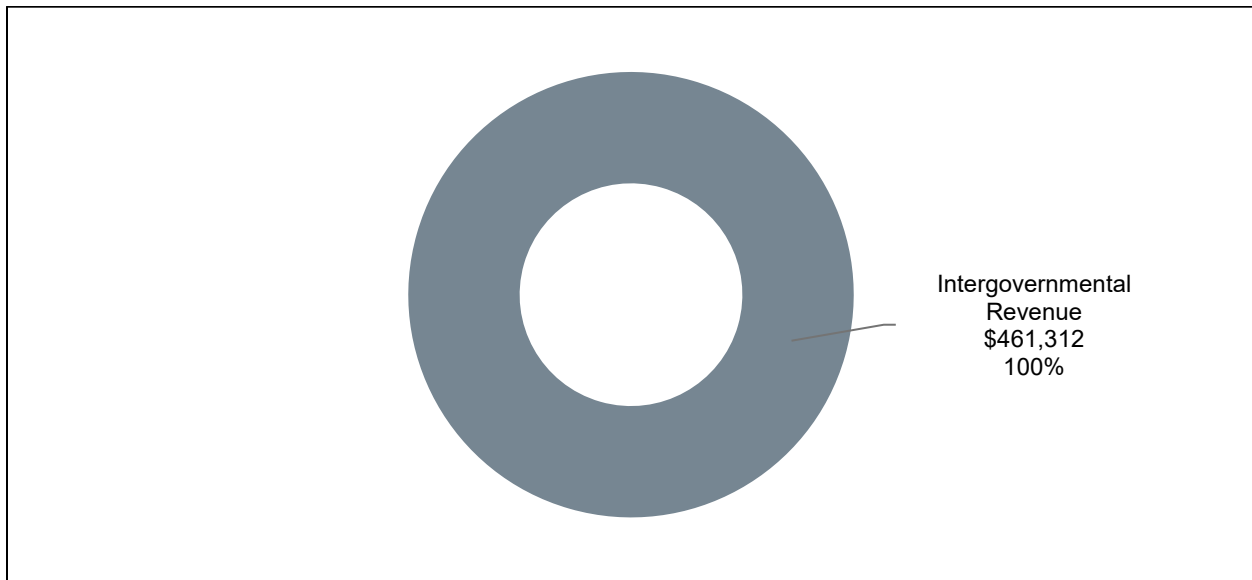
The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2024 Projection is primarily attributed to a decrease in State Public Defender’s Office Reimbursement for Appointed Counsel costs due to lower than anticipated expenditures in 2024.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Approved

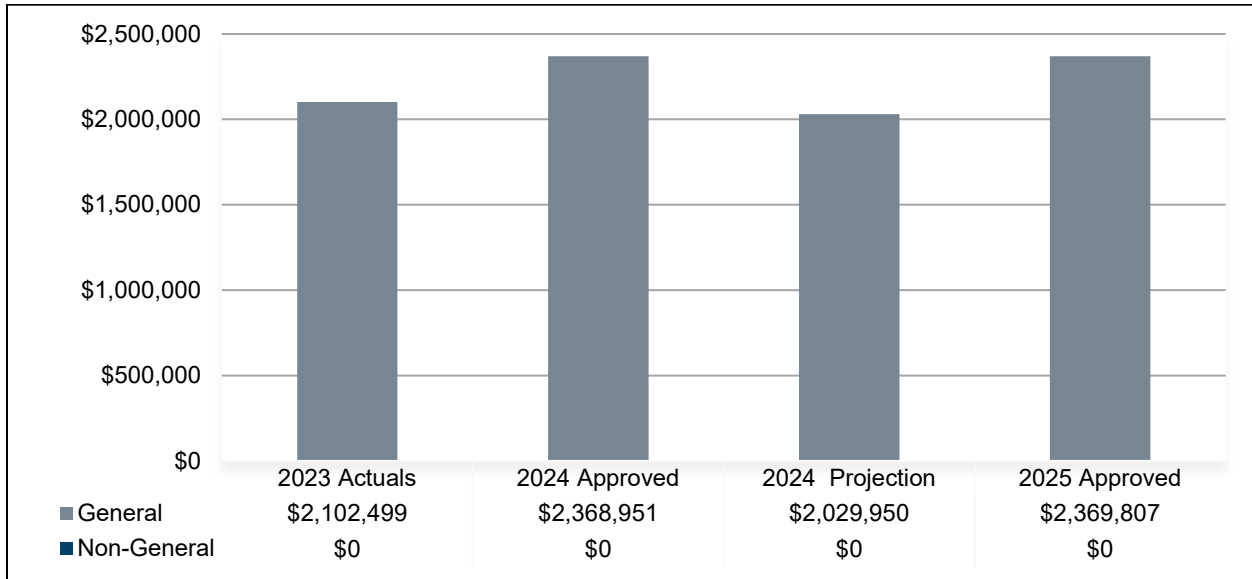
	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$575,440	\$461,312	(\$114,128)	-19.8%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$575,440	\$461,312	(\$114,128)	-19.8%

The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget is primarily attributed to a decrease in the budgeted appointed counsel reimbursement rate from 80% to 70%.

**2025 Approved Budget
Revenues by Category**



Budget Summary – Expenditures



Significant items in the 2025 Approved Budget

Object Code	Budgeted Amount	% of Budget
PERSONAL SERVICES & FRINGE	\$909,607	38.4%
PURCHASED PERSONAL SERVICES	\$735,000	31.0%
APPOINTED COUNSEL	\$700,000	29.5%
JUROR FEES	\$25,000	1.1%
APPOINTED COUNSEL EXPENSES	\$200	0.0%
Total	\$2,369,807	100.0%

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$2,368,951	\$2,029,950	(\$339,001)	-14.3%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$2,368,951	\$2,029,950	(\$339,001)	-14.3%

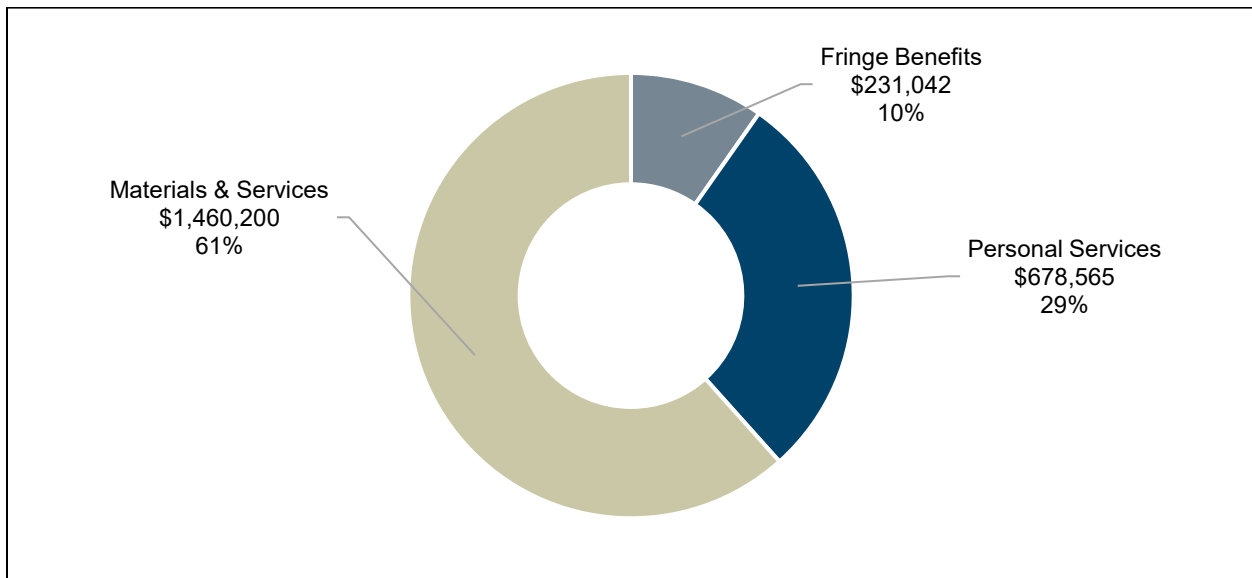
The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2024 Projection is primarily attributed to a decrease in the Appointed Counsel Costs associated with the number and complexity of cases being lower than anticipated.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Approved

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$2,368,951	\$2,369,807	\$856	0.0%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$2,368,951	\$2,369,807	\$856	0.0%

There is no significant variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget.

**2025 Approved Budget
Expenditures by Category**



Budget Summary – FTEs

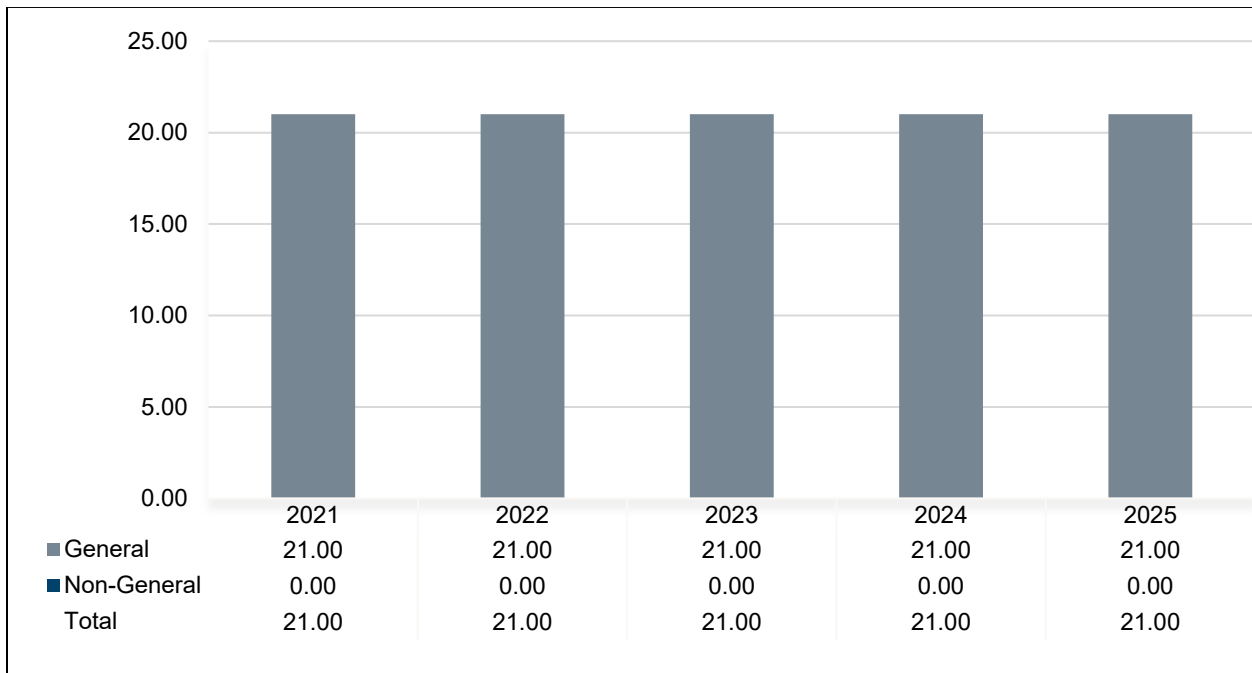
	2024 Budget	2025 Approved	Approved Budget as % of Total FTEs
General Fund	21.00	21.00	100.0%
Non-General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Agency FTEs	21.00	21.00	100.0%

There is no change in the number of FTEs from the 2024 Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget.

New Positions

Position Title	# of Positions	Annual Salary	Source
<i>None</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Budgeted FTE History



Vacancy Credit

The vacancy credit process is designed to more accurately reflect the expenditures for Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits within the agency budget request. The calculations for the budget process begin with funding all approved positions for the entire year excluding new positions contained in a Request for Results. Vacancy credits take into account that not all approved positions will be filled for the entire year. The methodology historically used to estimate an agency’s vacancy credit utilizes a four-year history of unused personnel budgets to determine an appropriate percentage of Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits that will likely remain unspent at the end of the year. However, vacancy credits may vary from the four-year average due to staffing trends or the number of positions supported within a fund. Vacancy Credits may also differ between Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits due to the timing and fixed amount charged for healthcare.

Salaries & Wages

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Approved	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	\$0	21.00

Fringe Benefits

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Approved	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	\$0	21.00

The only personnel expenditures for the Municipal Court are the County’s 40% share of the Salaries & Wages for the Judges and Magistrates.

Municipal Court

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Franklin County Municipal Court is to provide an impartial forum for the fair, efficient, and timely adjudication of cases that fall within the Court’s territorial, monetary, and subject-matter jurisdiction, and to exercise any other powers authorized by law. The purpose of the specialized docket programs is to address the problems exhibited by each target population by providing a coordinated, comprehensive approach to treatment and rehabilitation of criminal offenders who satisfy the program’s target population.

Primary Services

- Perform Magistrates & Judges duties under R.C. Chapter 1901 of the Revised Code and all applicable court rules.
- Operate five specialized dockets that provide intensive treatment and supervision of individuals who fall within the program’s target population and meet the legal and clinical eligibility requirements.
- Operate a behavioral treatment-based class for low-level felony offenders who plead guilty to a first-degree misdemeanor but do not meet the criteria to participate in a specialized docket.

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$667,208	\$678,565	\$11,357	1.7%
Fringe Benefits	\$219,245	\$231,042	\$11,797	5.4%
Materials & Services	\$1,482,498	\$1,460,200	(\$22,298)	-1.5%
Total Expenditures	\$2,368,951	\$2,369,807	\$856	0.0%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

The Municipal Court improves safety and security by effectively administering justice for the community while also addressing the root causes to reduce recidivism rates and save taxpayer dollars.