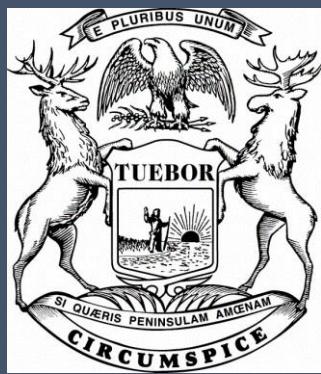


# 86TH DISTRICT COURT – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To ensure justice for all those involved in cases that come before the 86th District Court.



Leelanau County  
8527 E. Government  
Center Dr.  
Suttons Bay MI 49682

Grand Traverse County  
280 Washington Street  
Traverse City MI 49684

Antrim County  
205 E. Cayuga  
Bellaire MI 49615

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Judge's Pages	2-4
Foreword – By Chief Judge	2
Chief Judge Robert A. Cooney	3
Judge Michael S. Stepka	4
Court Administration	5-8
Court Administration	5-6
General Overview	7
Notes from 2022	7-8
Staffing Plan	9
Magistrates and Activity	10-12
Criminal / Traffic Division	12-14
Felonies	13
Misdemeanors	13
Civil Infractions	13-14
Civil Division	14
General Civil	15
Small Claims	15
Landlord / Tenant	15
Post Judgment Filings	16
Probation Division	17-21
Probation	17-19
Specialty Courts	19-21
Community Corrections	22-23
Court Recorders	24
Collections	24
Court Finances	25-28
Retirements	28
Promotions	28

## FOREWORD

By Robert A. Cooney, Chief Judge

The past year has been a period of substantial change and adaptation for the Court. As with many other institutions, we continue to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which brought a halt to jury trials in the spring of 2020. The moratorium was lifted at the beginning of 2022, however, the resulting buildup of cases pending trial significantly increased the Court's dockets. Through the hard work and dedication of staff, we were able to nearly eliminate that backlog and return to a more normal schedule by year's end.

In addition, as with the past two years, the Court has experienced an unusually high rate of staff turnover. This was in part due to the retirement of several long-time staff. Another factor has been the pandemic economy that saw record job openings and rapid increases in wages. The County Board acted by increasing wages an unprecedented 9.25% over the past year, which has helped to stabilize the situation. We continue to innovate to retain top quality employees.

After over twenty years of service to the Court, Administrator Carol Stocking retired in December 2021, resulting in several changes to our leadership team. Deputy Court Administrator Dawn Wagoner was promoted to Court Administrator, and Melanie Catinella was brought on to fill the Deputy Administrator role. Together with the Judges, Office Manager Gwen Taylor, Chief Magistrate Tammi Rodgers, Community Corrections Manager Sherise Shively, and Office Coordinator Sue Schaub, this rounds out our new management team.

The pandemic also brought with it the use of video-conferencing technology (VCT) as a generally accepted means to conduct court hearings. While videoconferencing has proven to be an effective and efficient resource for many proceedings, the past two years have taught us VCT's limitations, as well. Several local court rules were issued over the past year specifying which hearings may be conducted by VCT. For example, in general, all civil hearings other than jury trials are now held by VCT, a remarkable change from past practice. Criminal pleas, motion hearings, probable cause conferences and preliminary examination waivers are also generally held via VCT. However, criminal sentencing, pre-trials, preliminary examinations, final conferences, and trials are held in person. The Court recognizes the economy, convenience, and time-saving benefits of remote hearings for both litigants and attorneys, and we are committed to making the most of VCT whenever practical and effective. The Court will continue to regularly review its procedures and seek input from the public and the local bar as it gains more experience with VCT.

As we look toward the future, the Court is currently in the process of converting from our long time Judicial Management System (JMS) to a new data management system, Judicial Information Systems (JIS), anticipated to go live fall 2023. In addition, we hope to move to a new version of our case management system, the OnBase Standard Solution for Trial Courts, in the near future. The new systems, developed in conjunction with the State Court Administrators Office, will allow for integration of court forms, criminal history reporting, a prosecutor interface, better report generation, SOS and LEIN integration, electronic filing of documents and state-wide sharing of information. Moreover, there is no cost to the County in moving to these new systems at this time, and substantial savings are anticipated in the future. The migration to JIS and OnBase Standard Solution is another example of this Court's commitment to the continual improvement of its operations to best serve the public, parties, and attorneys who appear before the Court.

## JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES



### **Chief Judge Robert A. Cooney**

Judge Robert Cooney was elected to the bench in 2018 after serving as the elected Prosecuting Attorney for Grand Traverse County from 2012 to 2018. Judge Cooney is a 1986 graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and a 1992 graduate of Michigan State University School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate Degree and served as Managing Editor of the Law Review. He earned his law degree as an evening student while employed full time as an Engineer for the United States Army.

After graduating from Law School, Judge Cooney served as a Pre-hearing Attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals. In 1993, he was appointed Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Grand Traverse County where he served for 19 years prior to being elected Prosecuting Attorney. Judge Cooney presides over the Drug Treatment and Domestic Violence Courts. He is currently President of the Grand Traverse Area Chapter of Families against Narcotics, an organization whose mission is to save lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP), whose mission is to provide leadership and education to treatment courts throughout the State, and the Board of Directors of Generations Ahead, an organization that empowers young parents to build positive relationships, strengthen family resilience, and raise healthy children. Judge Cooney lives on Old Mission Peninsula with his wife Karin, their three children, Katie, Jack, and Maggie, and dogs Bondar and Yosemite. The Cooney's are members of Central United Methodist Church of Traverse City.



## **Judge Michael S. Stepka**

Judge Michael Stepka was elected to the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court in November 2010 and reelected in November 2016 and 2022. He grew up in Traverse City and graduated from Traverse City Central High School. After attending Northwestern Michigan College, he went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University where he graduated Cum Laude. He received his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law.

After graduating from law school, Judge Stepka returned to Traverse City to practice law until he was elected to the bench. Judge Stepka served as a Grand Traverse County Commissioner from 2009-2010. For many years he served on the board of the Women's Resource Center, and was a longtime volunteer at the Third Level Legal Aid clinic and the Women's Resource Center Legal Aid clinic. Judge Stepka served as the Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Antrim County Bar Association President, and was the Annual Law Day Chair for many years. Judge Stepka currently presides over the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court. Judge Stepka lives in Traverse City with his wife Susan and he has two children, Michael, and Betsie. Judge Stepka and his wife have two Shit Tzus and a cat.

## COURT ADMINISTRATION

### **Dawn Wagoner Court Administrator**

Dawn is a 1993 graduate of Ferris State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement. She was hired by the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office in 1994 and spent most of her career at the Sheriff's Office in the Investigative Services Division where she specialized in child abuse and sexual assault crimes. In 2012, she was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court as a Probation Officer. Dawn was promoted to the position of Deputy District Court Administrator in 2017. She received her magistrate appointment in 2017. Dawn is a 2019 graduate of the National Center for State Courts, Institute for Court Management - Certified Court Managers program. In 2020, Dawn served on the Michigan Virtual Courtroom Task Force.

Dawn has served as a board member of the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center and as the chairperson of the Tri-County Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. She was also a member of the Grand Traverse County Child Death Review team and served as the Region 5 representative of the Michigan Association of District Court Probation Officers. She currently serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Michigan Court Administrators Association, is the Michigan Court Managers Conference Committee Chair, is a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sub-committee of the MCAA, and has served as the Chair of the MCAA Awards Committee. In October of 2022, Dawn was nominated and received the "Rising Star" award from the Michigan Court Administration Association.

In October of 2021, Dawn was asked to serve in the capacity of Interim Court Administrator for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. In January of 2022, she was asked to fill this position on a permanent basis.

### **Melanie Catinella Deputy Court Administrator**

Melanie is a 2007 graduate of Michigan State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology with a concentration in Genetics. In 2008 she was hired by the Michigan Department of Corrections in Kent County as a Probation Officer. In 2011 she transferred to the Grand Traverse Probation/Parole Office as a Probation/Parole Officer.

In 2017 Melanie left the Michigan Department of Corrections and completed the National Law Enforcement Park Ranger Academy through Southwestern Community College in Franklin, NC. Following her graduation from the academy she worked as a Law Enforcement Park Ranger in Oregon, and Washington. In 2019, following a move to Maryland, she worked as a case manager for the Calvert County Adult Treatment Court.

In January 2020 Melanie was hired by Grand Traverse County as the Deputy Probate Register. She held that position until accepting her current roll as Deputy Court Administrator on February 14, 2022. She has been a member of the Michigan Court Administration Association since 2022.

## COURT ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

**Gwen Taylor  
Office Manager**

Gwen graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Criminal Justice. She went on to earn a Master of Public Administration at Grand Valley State University. Gwen began working for Grand Traverse County as an employee with the Sheriff's Office. She then worked as the Family Advocate for the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center. Gwen returned to Grand Traverse County in 2017, as a Probation Officer. She was promoted to Office Manager in May 2021. From October 2021 to January 2022, Gwen filled to role of Deputy Court Administrator. She is currently a member of the Michigan Court Managers Association.

**Sherise Shively  
Community Corrections Manager**

Sherise has worked for Community Corrections since 2006. She has bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology and a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health with an emphasis in substance use disorder. She has served as a board member for Northern Lakes Community Mental Health and serves as the secretary for the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Managers.

She is a team member of both the Sobriety and Drug Court programs and participates in the Grand Traverse County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as well as several substance use coalitions in the region. She participated in the Governor's Task Force for Pretrial and Jail incarceration and is active in the Pretrial Reform Initiative in Michigan.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court is part of the judicial branch of government as provided for by the Michigan Constitution in 1963 and created by the Michigan Legislature in Public Act 154 of 1968.

The purpose of the District Court is to provide a system of justice for the citizens of Grand Traverse, Antrim, and Leelanau Counties. The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less and all criminal misdemeanors. The District Court also handles all arraignments and preliminary examinations in felony matters.

Judges hold court in Traverse City five days per week. In Leelanau County, Court is held every Friday. In Antrim County, our District Court Judges hold Court every Wednesday. Judges travel to Antrim and Leelanau on a rotating schedule.

Our Court has three divisions: criminal/traffic, civil and probation.

## NOTES FROM 2022

2022 was a year of teamwork and rebuilding. With the retirement of long time, key employees, and the difficulty of filling positions, this made 2022 a very challenging year.

In January, Judge Robert Cooney was appointed Chief Judge of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. Also, at the beginning of 2022, Dawn Wagoner was selected to fill the Court Administrator position and Melanie Catinella was hired as the Deputy Court Administrator.

From the top down we began the slow process of filling other positions. This turned out to be an unusually long process due to the lower-than-normal number of applicants for open positions. However, once those positions were filled, our experienced staff did an amazing job of pulling together and helping to train those new hires. Without their expertise and assistance, we would not have been able to effectively train our new staff. Though we lost a tremendous amount of experience, the team we assembled pulled together did a fabulous job of getting the work done.

As we transitioned from a court ruled by the pandemic to a post pandemic reality, this brought on challenges of its own. In 2022, after a year of no jury trials, we began to hold jury selections and trials once again. These selections bring in a large number of people and were held offsite in order to more effectively utilize CDC COVID safety protocols, thus minimizing exposure risks to those who are required to attend a court function. Since we hadn't held jury trials in over a year, we had a significant backlog of cases. It was determined that to assist with this backlog, we would bring in a visiting judge for some of those trials. At the end of 2022, we were almost caught up with our backlog.

## 2022 NOTES CONTINUED

Also, using guidelines from our Michigan Supreme Court, the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court identified which hearings would remain as virtual hearings and which hearings would return to in person hearings. Our Judges elected to continue the use of the YouTube streaming platform to continue to provide greater access of our judicial proceedings to the public. We also elected to continue the use of our court email to receive filings.

Since almost half of the entire staff of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court had less than one (1) year of experience, most of our front-line staff had never worked for the court when we were open to the public. Changing court processes and pivoting to having customers at the window made for more challenging training. Our team rose to the occasion and has done a great job of serving the public.

In 2022 there was a new law enacted to protect personal identifying information from being accessible to the public. As this law went into effect, our process for accessing cases open to the public changed. Also, in October of 2022 there was an extension to the Cunningham legislation. This legislation governs whether courts can assess fines/costs.

This year we also selected our new case management system, and we have elected to go with the State of Michigan's Judicial Information System. It is our understanding that we will begin the process of migration in the spring of 2023.

In October of 2022, our court administrator was nominated and received the Michigan Court Administration Association's "Rising Star" award. This award is given to a court administrator who has less than five (5) years of experience in the field of court administration and who has made significant accomplishment(s) in their position that demonstrates a promising future as a leader in court administration.

As we look back on the chapter of 2022, we are proud of our accomplishments as a team, and we look forward to 2023.

## STAFFING PLAN

### ADMINISTRATION

Dawn Wagoner – Court Administrator  
Melanie Catinella – Deputy Court Administrator  
Gwen Taylor – Office Manager

### ANTRIM COUNTY STAFF –

Sarah Lorigan – Magistrate  
Jerri White – Criminal/Traffic Clerk  
Taylor Simpkin – Criminal/Traffic Clerk  
Paulette Meyer – Civil Clerk

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY STAFF –

#### CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Tammi Rodgers – Magistrate  
Sue Schaub – Office Coordinator  
Hope O'Bannon – Criminal/Traffic Clerk  
Kayla Sklener – Criminal/Traffic Clerk  
Courtney Saxton – Criminal/Traffic Clerk  
Rye Youatt – Criminal/Traffic Clerk

#### PROBATION DIVISION

Stephen Saylor – Sobriety Court Probation Officer\*  
Tom Chapman – Sobriety Court Probation Officer  
Beth Lajko – Drug Court Probation Officer  
Jana Morton – Probation Officer - GT  
Kristy Helmreich – Probation Officer – GT/Leelanau  
Elizabeth Stanichuk – GT/Antrim  
Cori Valle – Probation Clerk  
Martina Biddinger – Probation Clerk

Part-time employee (\*)

### LEELANAU COUNTY STAFF –

Norene Kastys – Magistrate / Office Coordinator  
Cindy Schaub – Criminal/Traffic/Civil Clerk

#### CIVIL DIVISION

Patti Horrie – General Civil Clerk  
Casey Holliday – Landlord/Tenant Clerk  
Sheila Blesh – Small Claims Clerk  
Tammie McLain\*

#### ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

Tiffany Chupp

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Sherise Shively – Community Corrections Manager  
Morgan Dumond – Community Corrections Officer  
Lynn Hildebrand – CC/Pre-Trial Services Officer  
Courtne Smus – Compliance Officer

#### COURT RECORDERS

Tammy Odom  
Amanda Webster  
Hailey McGuire

## MAGISTRATES AND ACTIVITY

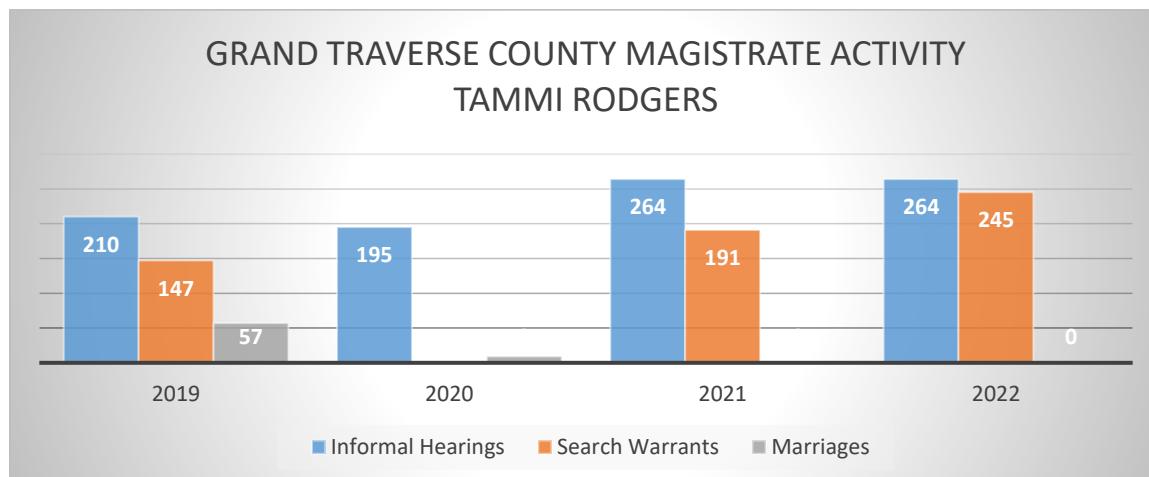
All Magistrates are appointed by the Chief Judge of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court and with approval of the County Board of Commission that they will be assigned to work in. Magistrates are required to reside in the county that they are appointed to work in, serve at the pleasure of the judges of the District Court, take a constitutional oath of office, file a performance bond with the county treasurer and complete a training course in traffic law adjudication and sanctions as well as a New Magistrate Seminar given by the State Court Administrative Office.

The Chief District Court Judge authorizes the duties that our Magistrates are allowed to perform. These duties are set forth in a Local Administrative Order. Magistrates conduct informal hearings on traffic tickets, perform weddings, issue arrest warrants and sign search warrants, conduct arraignments and probable cause conferences, set bonds, and accept pleas for misdemeanors and sentence cases that have a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and approve and grant petitions for appointment of attorneys to represent indigent defendants.

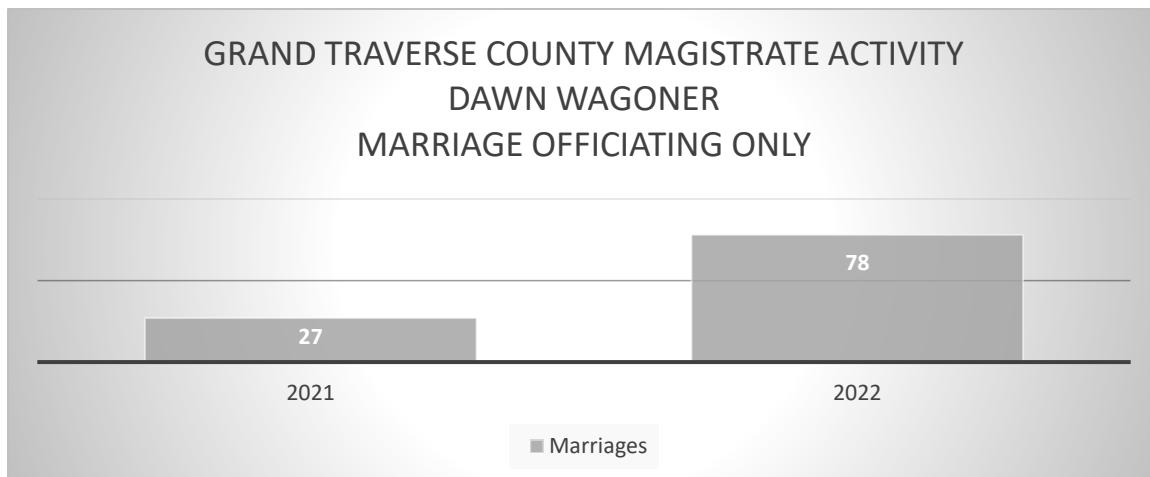
The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court has 4 magistrates that are appointed by the Chief Judge. Though the magistrates have assigned counties that they work in, all magistrates of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court work together to serve the residents of all three of the counties within the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court jurisdiction.

### **TAMMI RODGERS – CHIEF MAGISTRATE – GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY – 1.0 FTE**

Magistrate Rodgers was appointed as a full-time magistrate in Grand Traverse County in February of 1992. Magistrate Rodgers is a 1980 graduate of Michigan State University - James Madison College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy. She also attended the National Judicial College and earned her Limited Jurisdiction Certification. Magistrate Rodgers was the chairperson for the Northwest Michigan Traffic Safety Association and is a longtime member of the Michigan District Court Magistrates Association. She is currently a training magistrate, mentoring newly appointed magistrates and has assisted with the editing of the magistrates traffic manual.

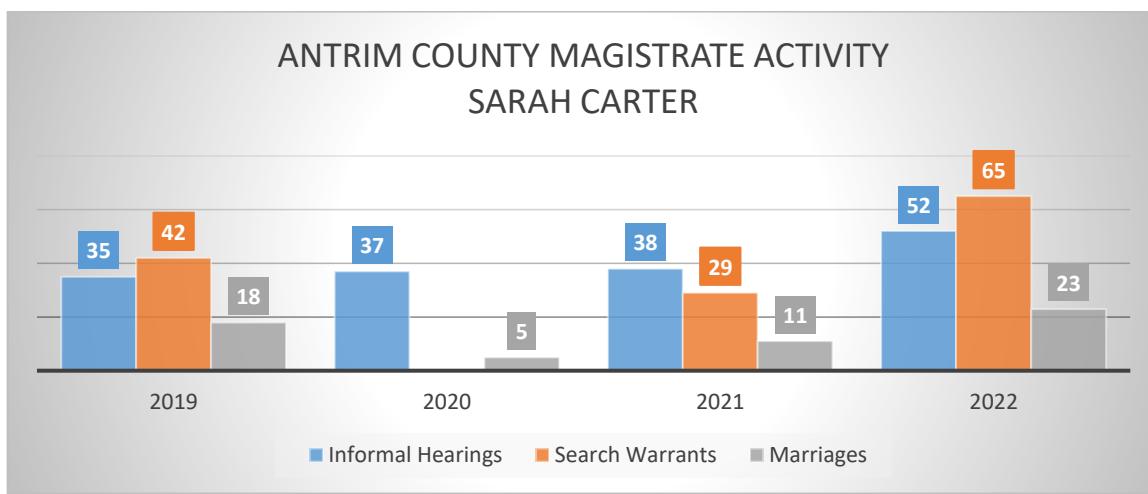


**DAWN WAGONER – MAGISTRATE – GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY –** Is the Court Administrator and serves as a magistrate in a backup capacity. As of 2021, Magistrate Wagoner is the primary magistrate to officiate weddings in Grand Traverse County. She was appointed in 2017.



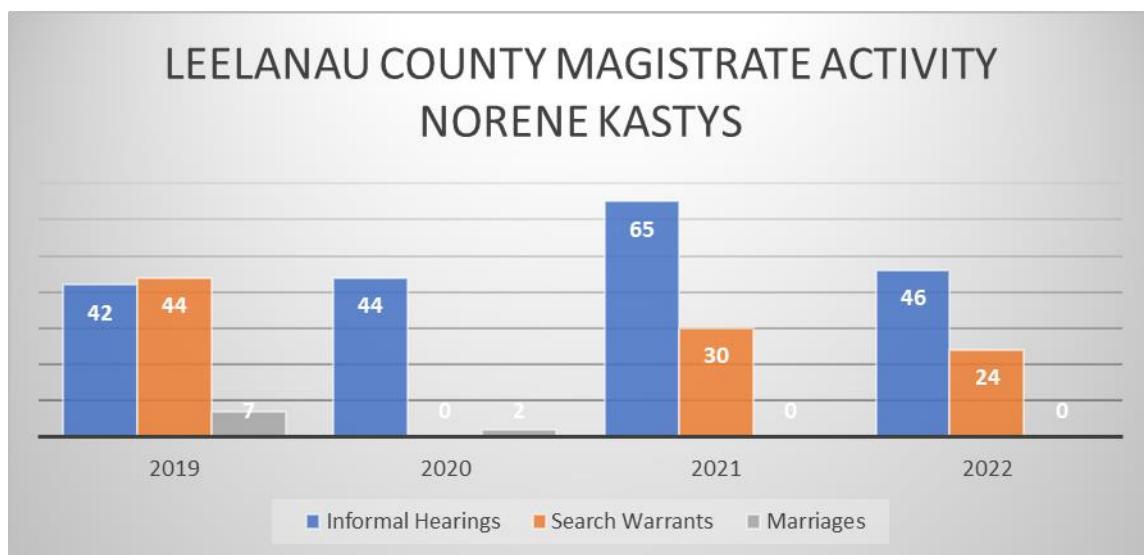
**SARAH CARTER – MAGISTRATE – ANTRIM COUNTY – .6 FTE**

Magistrate Carter was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court in 2018 and worked as a Compliance Officer in Antrim County until she was promoted to Probation Officer in Leelanau County. She was selected for the position of Sobriety Court Probation Officer in Grand Traverse County until she was appointed as a Magistrate in 2021 and assigned to Antrim County. She attended the University of Toledo where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and is a member of both the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.



### NORENE KASTYS – MAGISTRATE – LEELANAU COUNTY – .5 FTE

Magistrate Kastys was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court in October of 1998 and assigned to Leelanau County. She was appointed as a Magistrate for Leelanau County in August of 2000. She attended Michigan State University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Business and Education. She was a past President, Vice President, Secretary, and current member of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates. In 2014 she received the MADCM Distinguished Service Award. Magistrate Kastys is a current board member of the Suttons Bay Art Festival, the M-22art2art Tour, and a retired 4-H Leader from Barry County.



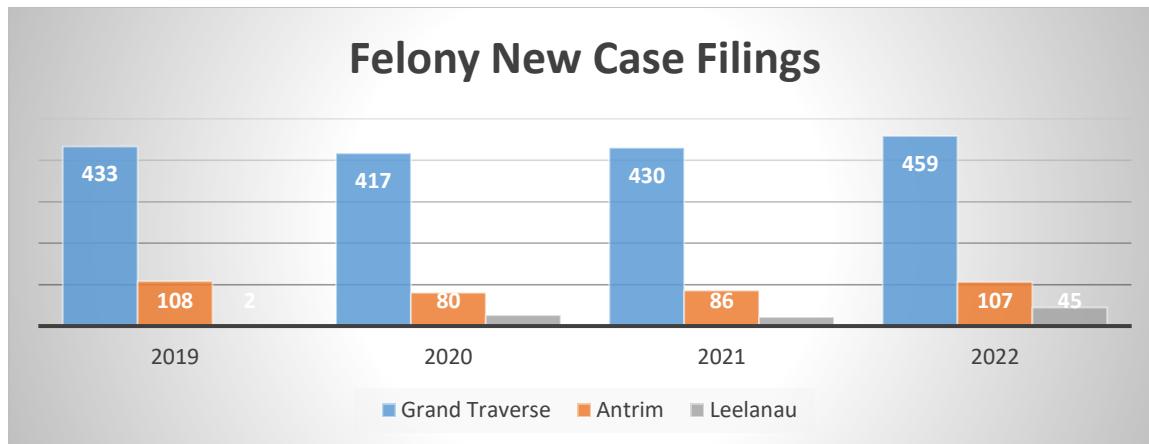
### **CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION**

Our criminal/traffic division clerks in all three counties are tasked with processing all the criminal/traffic cases in the district court. Their tasks involve tracking every case filed with the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court from beginning to end. This job requires a thorough understanding of the court system, knowledge of hundreds of codes, and the ability to perform a large amount of data entry with accuracy and attention to detail. They schedule all matters, open and close cases, communicate with the jails in all three counties regarding inmates that are court involved, and notifying the Department of State Police Records Division of case dispositions.

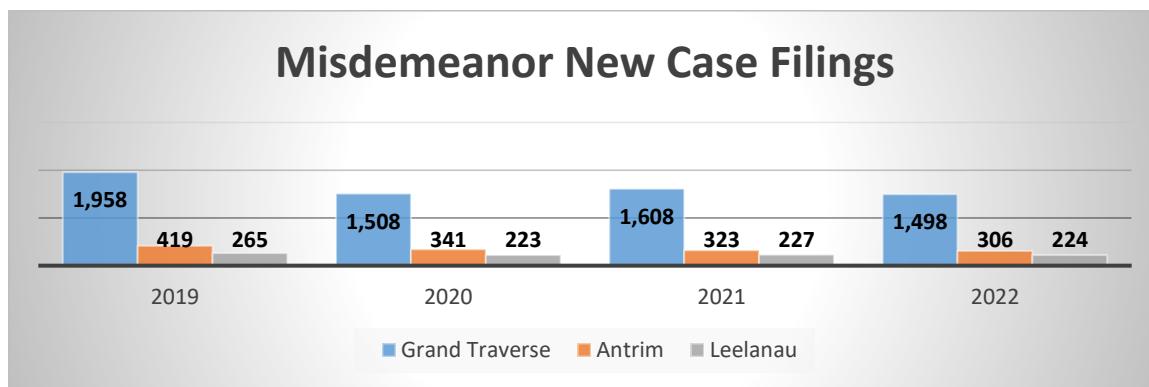
In addition, they are responsible for entering traffic tickets into the computer system, taking payments for both traffic and criminal cases, receiving, and disbursing bonds and notifying the Secretary of State of case dispositions. This division also handles weddings that are performed by the Court. Customer service is a big part of these positions as they have constant interaction with defendants, attorneys, law enforcement and the public, both face-to-face and on the telephone. Our court is proud of the fact that we consistently meet the required time guidelines for case disposition.

In Grand Traverse County, we have four full time clerks and a full-time office coordinator assigned to these tasks. In Antrim County we have two full time clerks which work in this division. In Leelanau County we have a part time Office Coordinator and a full-time clerk.

**Felonies** - The first court appearance for each defendant charged with a felony is the arraignment that is held in the District Court. The preliminary exam that follows must be held within 21 days after the arraignment and is also held in the District Court. If probable cause is established, then the defendant is bound over for further proceedings to the Circuit Court.



**Misdemeanors** - The District Court has jurisdiction over all crimes that are punishable by not more than one year in jail. The following statistics include all misdemeanor offenses; traffic and criminal, including Operating While Intoxicated. Indigent defendants are entitled to a court appointed attorney if their crime could result in a jail sentence.



**Traffic - Civil Infractions** - The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court receives violations of the motor vehicle code, township, or city ordinances, and DNR laws by way of tickets issued to citizens, from law enforcement agencies. These tickets come to us either electronically or in handwritten ticket form. Our court clerks then verify and enter the ticket information to begin the process.

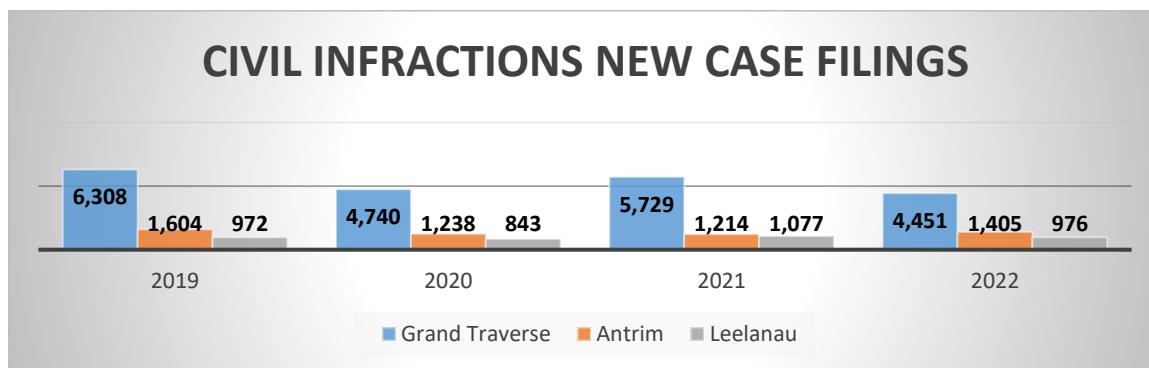
Most violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code are civil infractions. Probably the most common civil infraction is the speeding ticket.

A person receiving a civil infraction ticket can do one of three things:

1. Admit responsibility
2. Admit responsibility with an explanation
3. Deny responsibility and request an informal hearing in front of a Magistrate.

The decision of the magistrate may be appealed to the District Court Judge with a Formal Hearing.

This chart is a four-year comparison between the three counties of civil infractions that were filed with the district court.



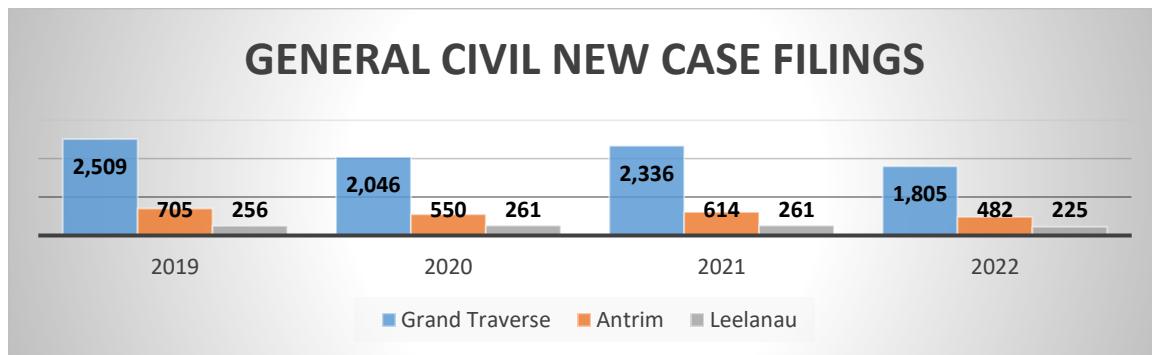
## CIVIL DIVISION

In Grand Traverse County we have three full time and a part time clerk assigned to process the civil case filings. In Antrim County we have one full time clerk assigned and in Leelanau we have one full time clerk assigned that also assists with the criminal/traffic clerk duties.

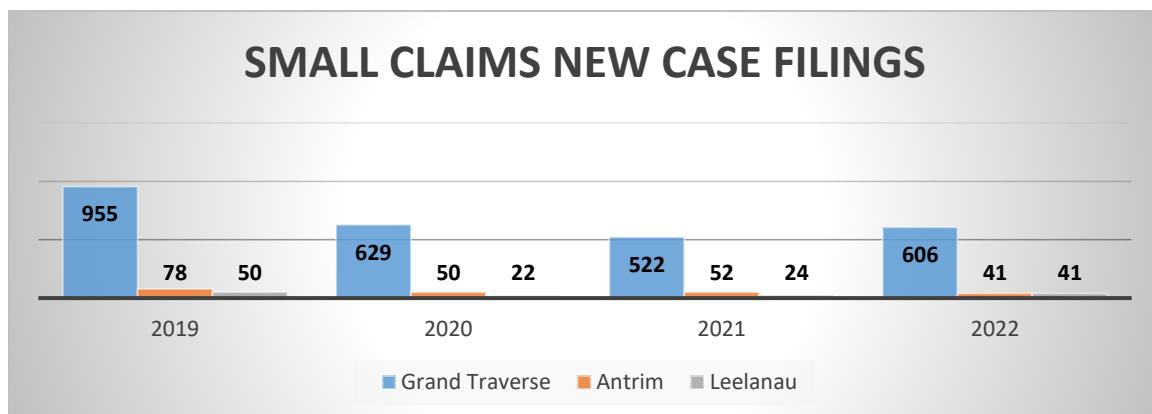
Each of the full-time clerks in the civil division in Grand Traverse County are assigned to a specific civil specialty and the part time clerk assists the full-time clerks with case entry and processing. In Antrim and Leelanau Counties, the clerks handle all the different types of civil cases. These positions require a thorough knowledge of civil court process and the ability to process many cases and information.

The civil division processes all general civil, small claims and summary proceeding (landlord-tenant) cases. They schedule civil hearings and trials, process civil writs, garnishments and they receive filing fees for cases filed. The clerks in this division have a thorough knowledge of their specific civil specialties and process many cases each year.

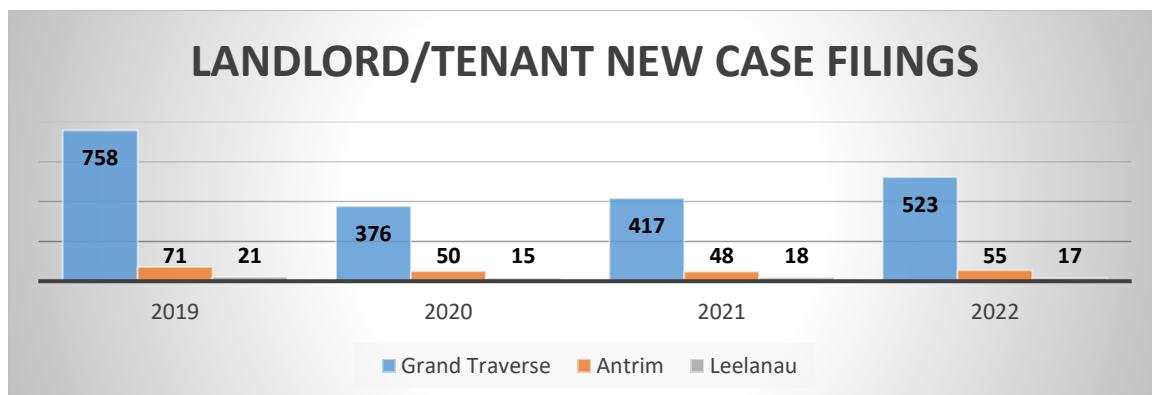
**General Civil** - The District Court has jurisdiction over disputes involving individuals and businesses where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less.



**Small Claims** - The plaintiff in a case that has an amount in controversy of not more than \$6,500 can elect to file in small claims. Lawyers cannot represent either party in a small claims case and the rules of evidence during a small claims trial are much less formal than in a general civil case trial. In the fall of 2022, we began using a visiting judge to hear small claims cases in Antrim and Grand Traverse counties. Prior to this we utilized an attorney magistrate.

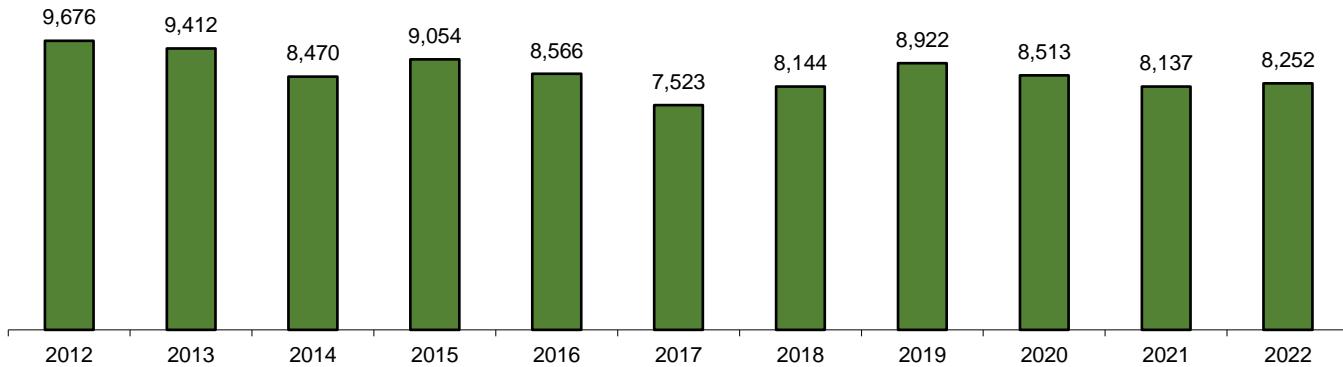


**Landlord/Tenant** (Summary Proceedings) - Landlord/Tenant cases were created to provide real property owners a quick method to recover their property from a tenant or land contract vendee that is not complying with the terms of the lease or contract. These cases are usually originated by apartment owners, land contract holders, mobile home park operators and even boat slip owners.

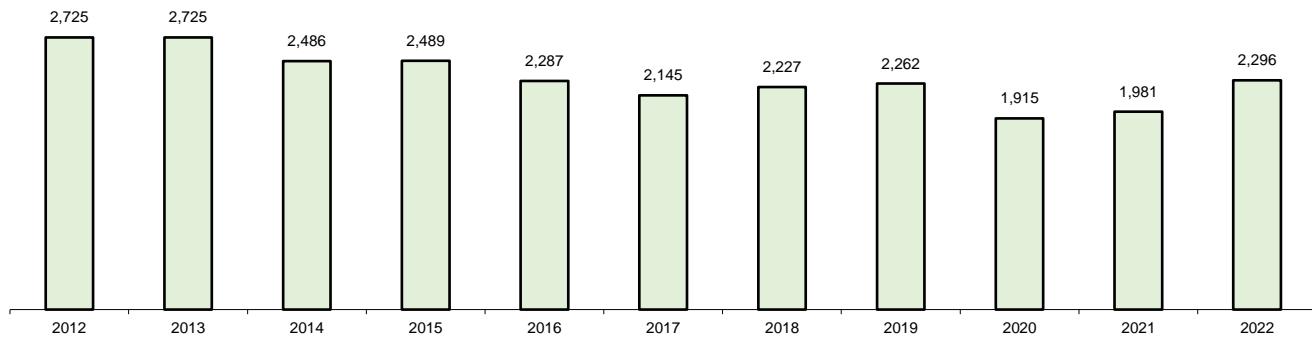


**Post Judgment Filings** – These filings mean that plaintiffs are filing garnishments, motions, writs of execution or writs of restitution in cases after obtaining a judgment to collect what is due to them. All these filings require a fee be paid, a portion which stays local and a portion that goes to the state.

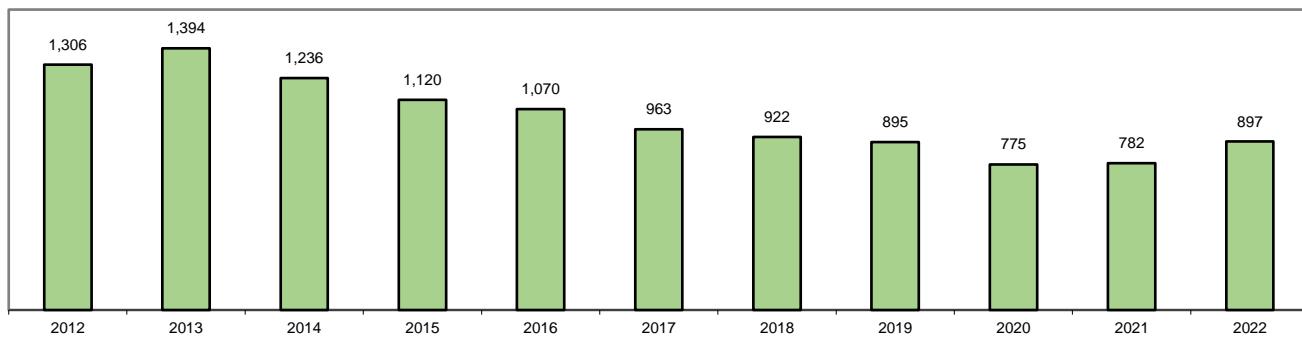
Grand Traverse County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Antrim County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Leelanau County Civil Postjudgment Filings



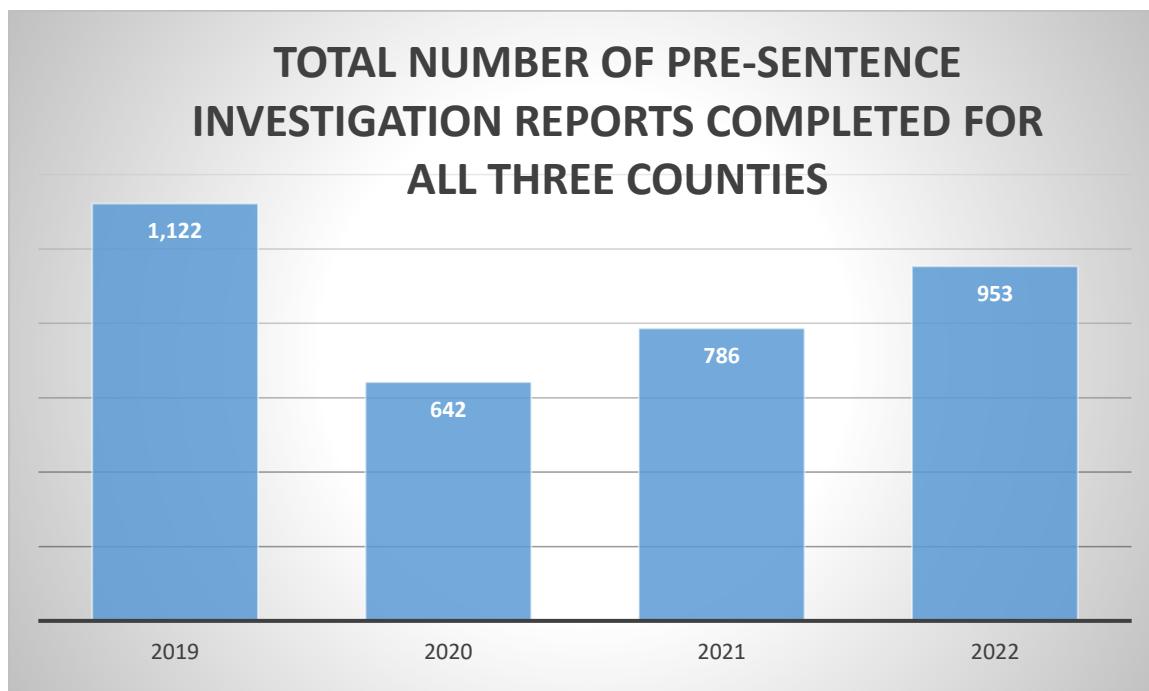
## PROBATION DIVISION

The mission of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court Probation Division is to provide quality services to judges, victims, probationers and the communities of Grand Traverse, Antrim, and Leelanau counties. The probation department performs two main functions:

1. Pre-sentence investigation reports (also known as PSI's)
2. Supervises defendants who were sentenced to a probation term.

Our probation department is staffed by 5 full time and 1 part time probation officer. We also have 2 full time probation clerks.

Prior to sentencing, the Judge may request a Pre-Sentence Investigation to be done by a probation officer in our Probation Department. The PSI is completed by interviewing the defendant and compiling information into one report with recommendations made by the probation officer on what should happen to the defendant in the case. The purpose of this report is to assist the Judge in sentencing a defendant.



Once a criminal defendant is sentenced to probation, the probation department takes over supervision of the case. This includes monitoring a defendant to ensure compliance with Court ordered requirements, scheduling any court dates related to defendants on probation, entering and processing any paperwork and entering any required LEIN information. The services that the probation department provides are necessary to restore victims and communities, protect the public, promote probationer accountability, and create a climate for probationer behavioral change.

PROBATION CASELOAD	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Grand Traverse</b>	925	701	648	669
<b>Antrim</b>	154	119	91	105
<b>Leelanau</b>	158	117	116	100

The chart above shows the Annual Probation Survey Report between the dates of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each listed year. The number used is the total number of adults on probation as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

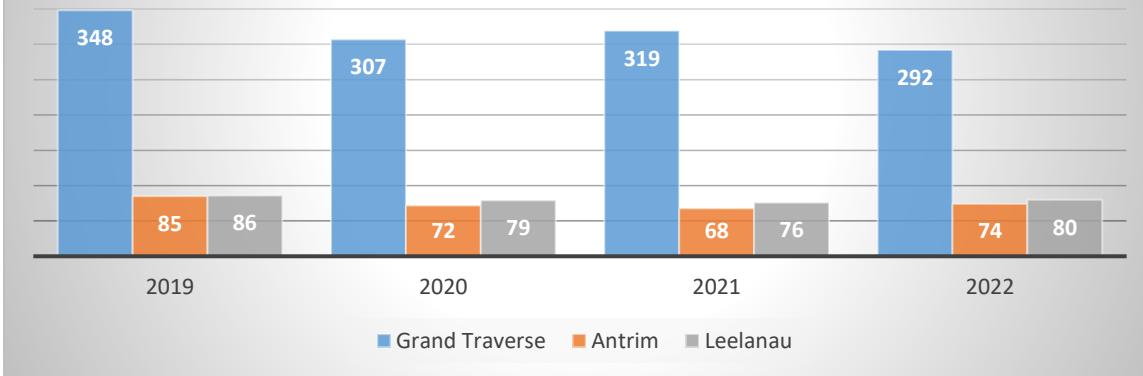
On December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the number of Probationers and their **MOST** serious offense:

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Felony	42	35	50	35
Misdemeanor	874	662	596	620
Other	9	4	2	14
<b>Antrim County</b>				
Felony	1	0	2	3
Misdemeanor	153	119	88	102
Other	0	0	1	0
<b>Leelanau County</b>				
Felony	1	2	0	1
Misdemeanor	157	114	114	94
Other	0	1	2	5

On December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the **TYPE** of most serious offense:

	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Drug law violation	46	35	27	24
Driving under the influence	247	202	178	132
Other	632	464	443	513
<b>Antrim County</b>				
Drug law violation	3	1	2	0
Driving under the influence	57	41	41	46
Other	94	77	48	59
<b>Leelanau County</b>				
Drug law violation	3	1	0	0
Driving under the influence	93	61	57	58
Other	62	55	59	42

## Operating While Intoxicated Operating While Visibly Impaired



## SPECIALTY COURTS

This caseload follows a nationally developed model of Drug Treatment Courts and is designed to provide treatment alternatives to repeat drunk drivers and those charged with felony drug offenses to promote rehabilitation and recovery in lieu of jail. With intensive supervision by a case manager and judicial monitoring throughout probation, these chemically dependent offenders may avoid incarceration by pleading guilty and successfully completing probation. Those with felony charges are sentenced to a 36-month probation. While those with misdemeanor charges complete a 24-month probation.

In 2019 both our Sobriety and Drug Treatment Courts went through the State's Certification process and are now certified treatment courts. This certification allows our courts to be eligible for grant money through the State of Michigan.

**Sobriety Court** – Since 2001, the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court has had a successful Sobriety Court. The primary focus of the program is 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense drunk drivers. Currently, 78% of the cases in Sobriety Court are felony 3<sup>rd</sup> offense drunk drivers. All Sobriety Court cases are heard in front of Judge Michael S. Stepka.

One of the many successes of a Recovery Court can be shown in the recidivism rates. The following chart shows a comparison of our program participants and graduates compared to matched pairs according to age, race, gender, geographic location, etc.

**D86 – Grand Traverse Adult Hybrid Court**

<b>Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission</b>	<b>Any New Conviction</b>	<b>New Alcohol or Drug Conviction</b>	<b>Number of Matched Pairs</b>
All Program Participants	14%	13%	136
Matched Comparison Members	29%	29%	

Graduates Only	1%	0%	84
Matched Comparison Members	32%	32%	

**Statewide Adult Hybrid Court**

<b>Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission</b>	<b>Any New Conviction</b>	<b>New Alcohol or Drug Conviction</b>	<b>Number of Matched Pairs</b>
All Program Participants	19%	12%	6,195
Matched Comparison Members	28%	20%	

Graduates Only	10%	6%	3,890
Matched Comparison Members	26%	20%	

<b>2022 – Sobriety Court - Jail Alternative</b>	<b>GRAND TRAVERSE</b>	<b>ANTRIM</b>	<b>LEELANAU</b>
<b>Admissions in 2022</b>			
Felony admissions	23	0	6
Misdemeanor admissions	1	0	0
<b>Active Cases</b>			
Felony	67	0	11
Misdemeanor	11	0	2
<b>Successful Discharges</b>			
Felony	15	0	0
Misdemeanor	7	0	0
<b>Unsuccessful Discharges</b>			
Felony	13	0	0
Misdemeanor	0	0	1

**Drug Court** – The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court started our Drug Treatment Court in the fall of 2016. The primary focus of the program are those defendants with felony drug convictions. All Drug Treatment Court cases are heard in front of Judge Robert A. Cooney.

**D86 – Grand Traverse Adult Drug Court**

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	40%	33%	48
Matched Comparison Members	31%	21%	

Graduates Only	0%	0%	11
Matched Comparison Members	27%	18%	

**Statewide Adult Drug Court** (Data are measured three years after admission into the programs since 2015)

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	19%	12%	6,195
Matched Comparison Members	28%	20%	

Graduates Only	10%	6%	3,890
Matched Comparison Members	26%	20%	

2022 – Drug Court - Jail Alternative	GRAND TRAVERSE	ANTRIM	LEELANAU
<b>Admissions in 2021</b>			
Felony admissions	13	0	0
<b>Active Cases</b>			
Felony	37	0	0
<b>Successful Discharges</b>			
Felony	4	0	0
<b>Unsuccessful Discharges</b>			
Felony	11	0	0

**Domestic Violence Court** – Our criminal division has a separate docket referred to as our Domestic Violence Court. All misdemeanor charges of domestic violence filed in Antrim and Grand Traverse Counties are scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Robert A. Cooney. Having a specialized docket allows cases to come to trial quickly so that those cases are not only decided fairly, but also swiftly. Prompt court action enhances the safety of domestic violence victims and leads to prompt punishment and treatment of convicted offenders.

## 13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

**Community Corrections Staff** – Our Community Corrections division employs 1 full time community corrections officer, 1 full time community corrections/pre-trial services officer and 1 full time compliance officer.

### 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections

The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) within Field Operations Administration of the MDOC administers Public Act 511 passed in 1988. The goal of the Act is to reduce prison commitments through state grant programs for community-based sanctions and services.

OCC works in cooperation with local governments to reduce admissions to prison, improve local jail utilization, improve rehabilitative services to offenders and strengthen offender accountability.

Local governments apply for grants by establishing community corrections advisory boards (CCAB's) which develop comprehensive corrections plans. The plans identify local policies and practices, as well as programs and services which will help achieve their goals. OCC requires each CCAB to identify linkages with Michigan Works! agencies, the local Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, the local community health departments, local school districts and other agencies to help provide cost-effective and non-duplicated services to offenders.

Grants are awarded to help support services such as substance-abuse treatment and provide residential programs for certain types of offenders. Cognitive restructuring is often a part of treatment in the community.

Most of the offenders enrolled in treatment-type programs are sentenced felons. Offenders with higher sentencing guideline scores, probation violators and those who have convictions for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol account for increasing proportions of new enrollees in residential programs. Misdemeanants account for most enrollments in Community Service Work and House Arrest Programs. By supporting appropriate use of non-prison sanctions for felony offenders who might otherwise go to prison, the department has helped reduce the state prison commitment rate.

The 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections Department has served Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau counties since 1991. Services are provided to both the Circuit Court and District Court offenders. The Community Corrections Department is a recognized leader in providing valuable information to Judges, Probation Agents, and Offenders of available programming to assist the offender in addressing their problems that bring them into the Criminal Justice environment. The available programs and services they provide enable the offender to become a healthy and productive member of society.

## Programs offered by 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections include the following:

**Pre-Trial Services-** The process has three primary functions: to collect and analyze defendant information for use in determining risk, to make recommendations to the court concerning conditions of release, and to supervise defendants who are released from secure custody during the pretrial phase while on bond.

**Probation Residential Services-** Comprehensive chemical dependency treatment services offered in a structured treatment environment. Services often include individual and group counseling, structured physical activities, vocational training, relapse prevention support, social skills training, educational services, and 12-step recovery programs.

**Recovery Home Supervision:** Recovery homes (sometimes known as transition houses or T-houses) offer individuals with substance abuse issues a safe and sober living environment and provide a structured opportunity to work toward positive change in their lives. The recovery homes are supervised by Case Managers who offer residents educational, employment and life skills assistance to guide them on their path to getting and staying clean.

**House Arrest Services:** 24/7 GPS monitoring of offenders in lieu of jail. They must participate in outpatient counseling, drug/alcohol testing when required, 12 step recovery meetings, be employed full time and always provide proof of their whereabouts.

**In-Home Alcohol Monitoring-** Rental of portable breathalyzer units and continuous alcohol ankle monitors allow an offender the option to test at home or work in lieu of traveling to an agency to test. This reduces their need to miss work to test and relieves the cost of travel and time associated with getting to testing.

## ANNUAL STATISTICS

2022	Grand Traverse	Antrim	Leelanau
<b>Jail Alternative programs</b>			
Assessed	56	16	4
Approved & Enrolled	52	16	4
Positive Completion	49	16	4
Failed and returned to jail	3	0	0
Successful Completion %	94%	100%	100%
Average Daily Jail beds saved	13	4.40	2.24
Jail Bed Days saved annually	6320	1520	380
<b>Pretrial Services</b>			
PRAXIS Assessments	509	13	13
Felony Defendants supervised	316	32	13
Failure to comply and returned to jail on bond	108	1	3

## COURT RECORDERS

Court Recorders have the responsibility of making a permanent record of court proceedings and providing a transcript of these proceedings upon request. Along with the efforts of other clerical staff, a probation officer, and a court officer, they assist the judge in providing efficient docket movement. They are also responsible for filling out court disposition sheets as each case is heard, which provides for a written record of what transpires during a case from time of arraignment to conclusion.

All three counties are equipped with technology that allows for court proceedings to be captured on video. Each courtroom is also equipped with a Polycom system allowing our magistrates and judges to perform video arraignments and other hearings on defendants who are incarcerated without the defendant having to be physically transported to the courthouse. Since most jails around the state have this type of system, it also allows our judges to conduct these hearings on defendants around our state, without our jail staff having to provide a transport. This makes the process more efficient, safe and provides a cost savings for our counties.

## COLLECTIONS

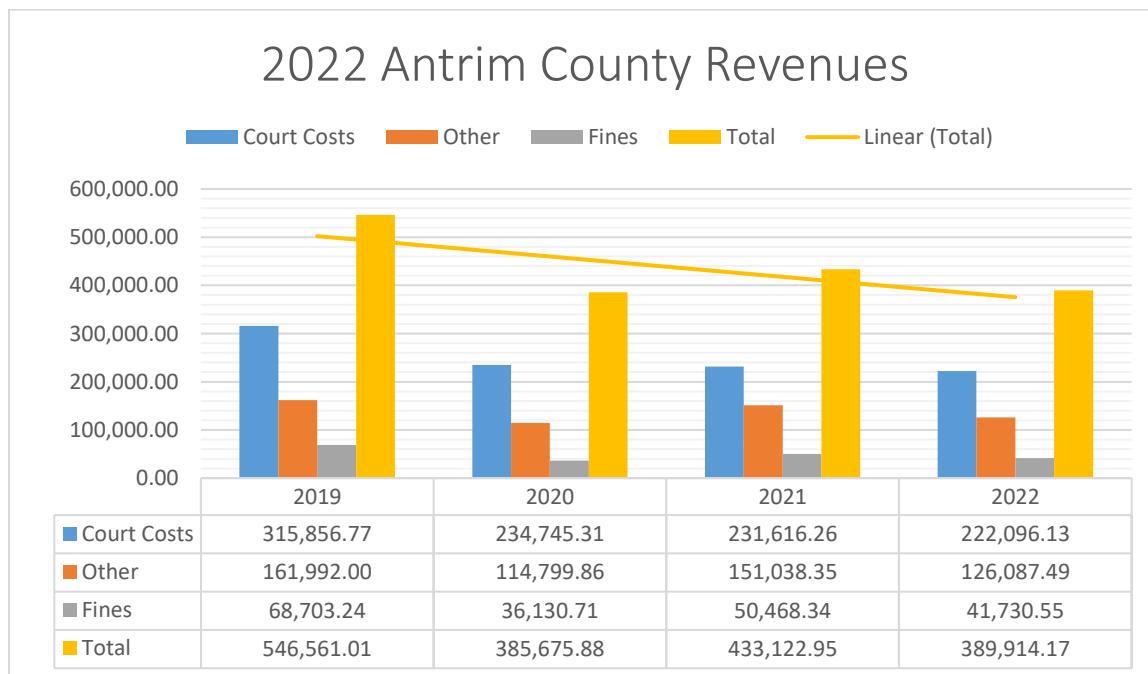
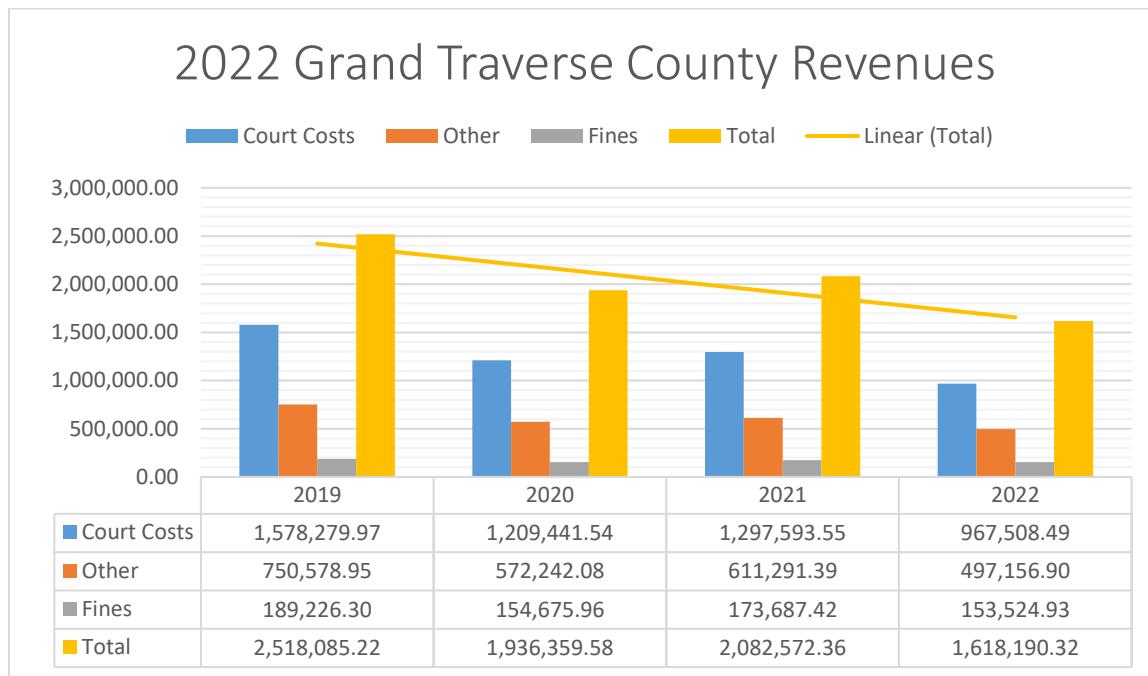
The court has a formal Collections policy and collection efforts have been implemented in all three counties. The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court utilizes an outside collections agency called Court Collections.

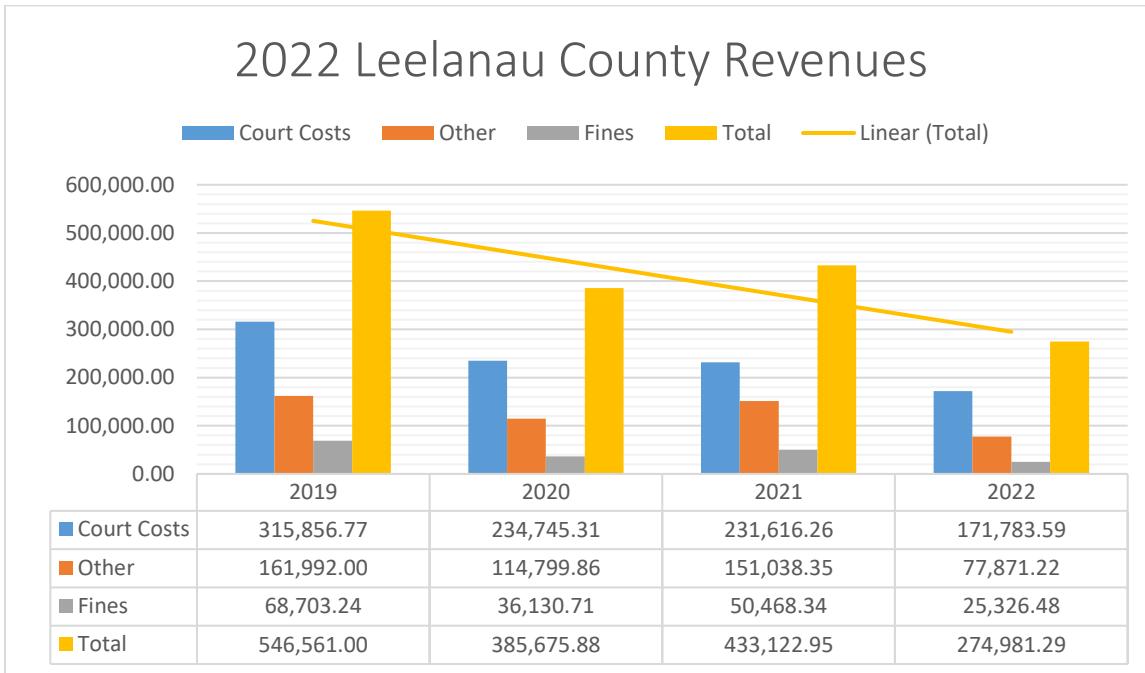
The purpose behind using the court collections agency was due to a decrease in the amount of court costs assessed due to a defendant's ability to pay and in anticipation of an even deeper reduction in the amount of court costs that can be imposed. It was felt that by eliminating a staff position and utilizing an outside agency, we could help offset that reduction.

All money collected is deposited with the County Treasurer and dispersed monthly according to state guidelines. Some of the collected money stays with the local county, the fines collected go to the local libraries, and other monies are distributed to the State of Michigan, local townships, and the victim's fund.

In 2016 the Michigan Supreme Court announced the adoption of amendments to court rules that codify existing case law regarding determining a defendant's ability to pay fines, fees, and costs. This has made the court review our collections procedures and has ultimately had a negative impact on the amount of money the court is able to collect. However, it is important to point out that the courts are not revenue generating entities.

## COURT FINANCES





Grand Traverse County is the fiscal agent for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses. The District Court maintains three separate budgets for each of the counties and one shared-cost budget. Separate budgets are also maintained for Community Corrections and for the grants associated with the Treatment Courts.

In October of 2022, Grand Traverse County went to a new system called Workday. Therefore, the reported expenditure types are now different from previous annual reports.

### Total Budget

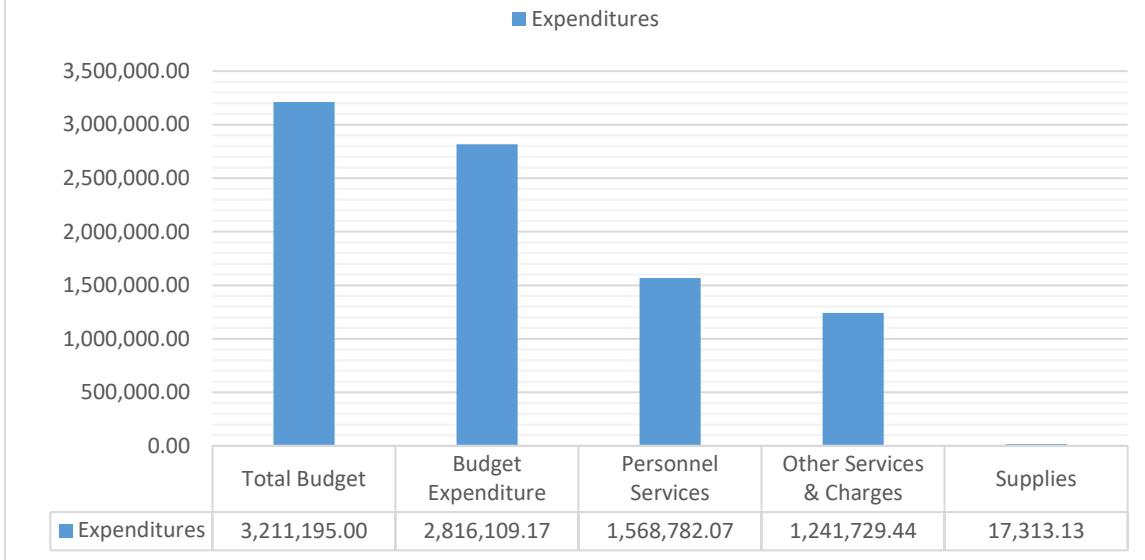
### Budget Expended

**Personnel Services** include all costs associated with personnel

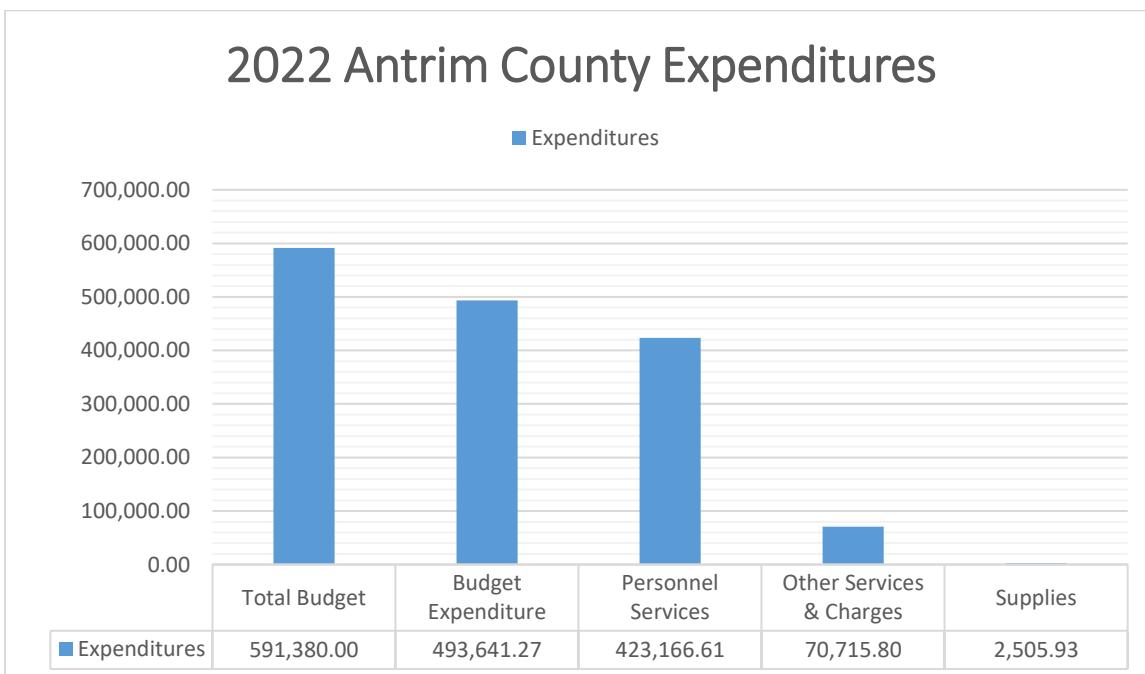
**Other Services and Charges** includes attorney fees, contract services, awards & recognition, conventions/conferences, copy machine use, county indirect costs, dues, employee training/development, tuition reimbursement, interpreters, IT charges, jury fees, office equipment repairs/maintenance, postage, printing and binding, service of papers, tele-cellular, telephone, transcripts, travel, visiting judge and witness fees

**Supplies** Includes office supplies, office equipment, other supplies

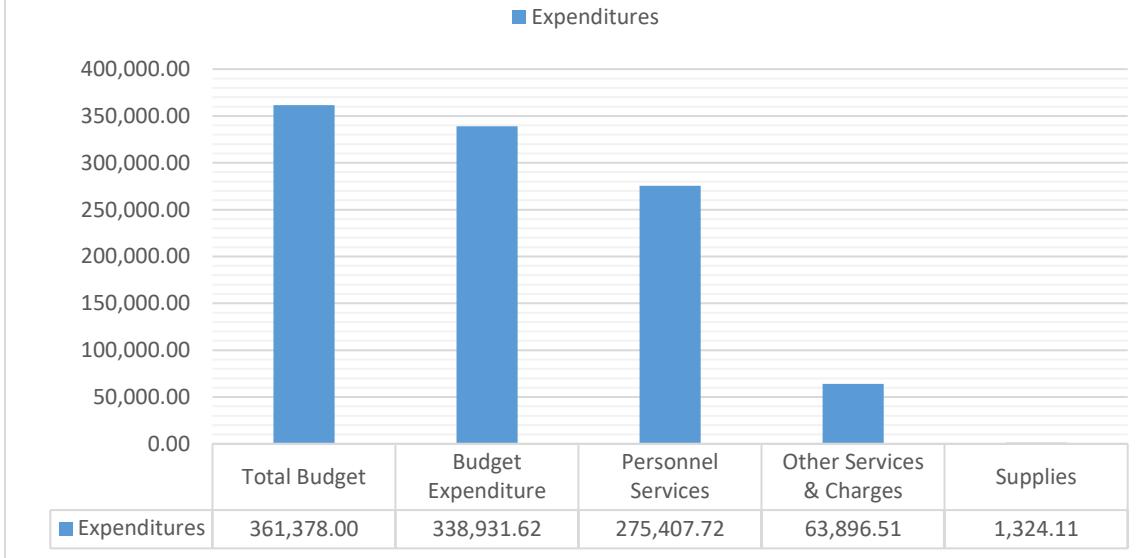
## 2022 Grand Traverse County Expenditures



## 2022 Antrim County Expenditures



## 2022 Leelanau County Expenditures



## STAFF RETIREMENTS

### Heide Gilde

Heide began her employment with the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court in June of 2005. Ms. Gilde was hired as a sobriety court probation officer and was an asset to the Court until she left in June of this year. Her absence will be keenly missed.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

### Tiffany Chupp

Tiffany was promoted to the position of account technician in the fall of 2022.