



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairfield County Clerk of Courts Receives U.S. Department of Justice Grant for Fingerprint Machine Purchase

On December 16, 2020, the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts office was awarded a grant for \$10,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics to purchase a live scan fingerprint machine.

The Clerk of Courts Office submitted a grant application to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) for consideration in December of last year. The proposal requested funds to purchase a live scan fingerprint machine which would allow the machine to be located on site at the Hall of Justice.

Currently if a person is appearing in response to a summons, or if the person has not yet been fingerprinted at the time of appearance, they are sent to the Sheriff's office to be fingerprinted. This current process is time consuming and does not always play out in the most efficient manner. Now any individuals needing to be fingerprinted can immediately be fingerprinted on site at the Hall of Justice. Once the fingerprints are taken on site, the disposition cards can immediately be brought upstairs to the Clerk's office and not have to be sent from the Sheriff's office to the Hall of Justice. This live scan machine allows for the electronic storing of an unlimited number of fingerprint cards. Cards only need to be printed when needed. This eliminates the need for manual filing of the cards. If a copy is needed to be retrieved, it can be retrieved from the machine.

This machine will help complete background checks by comparing fingerprints received against a database of criminal fingerprints to determine if there is a criminal record. If a disposition is not transmitted, this information is missing from the databases. Sheriff's deputies assigned to the Hall of Justice and Probation officers will use the machine to take fingerprints on site. Sheriff Alex Lape supported the grant request, stating that "it makes sense to have the ability to capture a defendant's fingerprints at the Hall of Justice. It is less confusing, more effective and efficient use of resources."

Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer's office is responsible for providing public access to the records of the Common Pleas Court and the 5th District Court of Appeals; be the first stop in initiating any court action in civil, criminal or domestic relations court matters; collect and disburse court-ordered fees, fines, victim restitution in an expedient manner; receive, distribute and preserve official court documents; and be responsible for issuing and maintaining all motor vehicle and watercraft titles in Fairfield County. The Clerk of Courts office is made up of the following departments: Administrative & Fiscal, Legal and Title.

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