

Goodyear Municipal Court Executive Summary FY25

The Goodyear Municipal Court serves the community with professionalism, empathy, and competence, each and every day.

City of Goodyear Municipal Court

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The Goodyear Municipal Court is part of the integrated judicial system and serves as the Judicial branch of the Goodyear Municipal government. The Court is subject to the administrative authority of the Maricopa County Superior Court, and the Arizona Supreme Court.

To Our Stakeholders

This summary provides highlights of the Court's performance & operational activity in Fiscal Year 2025, as well as goals for the current and coming fiscal years. The Court continues to model itself after the strategic agenda as set by Chief Justice Timmer of the Arizona Supreme Court, while simultaneously aligning with the City of Goodyear's own strategic plan initiatives.

Strategic Highlights

The Goodyear Municipal Court recognizes the importance of identifying opportunities to evolve as an organization, and therefore the Court designs goals that support the foundational components of a Court's purpose and responsibilities. Arizona Courts have established a nationally recognized reputation for excellence in innovation, judicial administration, and education.

Employee Engagement:

- *Employee Engagement: continued collaboration with Human Resources Department to complete Q12 Action planning and intentional design for culture development.*
 1. *Q12 Action Planning*
 - *Mini-retreat held with HR business partner to discuss Court Q12 results and division action plans*
- *Lean Process-Improvement efforts expanded into High-Impact/Low Effort workgroup meetings.*
 1. *Throughout FY25 the Court team focused on process improvement efforts in 15 focus areas. These focus areas were identified by Court-wide staff member suggestions. Focus groups were held throughout the year by small work groups for all 15 focus topics. Groups consisted of team members from each division of the Court, promoting problem-solving, unity, and collaboration. Work groups developed proposed plans of actions or process changes. As of December of 2025, 13 of the 15 focus areas have reached resolution, and the Court continues to partner with Human Resources to finalize the final two focus areas.*

Professional Development:

- Arizona Court's Association – 2025 Annual conference attendance in April of 2025 by Court personnel from each division of the Court team. Completion of accredited COJET training and networking with other statewide Court professionals.
- Court Leadership Conference - 2025 – Presiding Judge and Court Administrator (by invitation only).
- National Association for Court Management 2025 Annual Conference – Court Administrator attendance.
- National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO) – 2025 Annual Conference - Presiding Judge and Court Administrator.
- Annual Judicial Conference 2025 – Presiding Judge & Court Hearing Officer attendance.
- Arizona Supreme Court – Court Security Officer Academy – Court Administrator attendance.
- Women Leading Government Annual Conference 2025 – Court Administrator, Court Hearing Officer & Courtroom Supervisor attendance.
- Civil Traffic Hearing Officer Program – Court Specialist attendance; Presiding Judge Facilitator.
- Probation training – internal COJET instruction for the Case Processing Division by the Presiding Judge.
- 'Basics' training – internal COJET instruction for the Customer Service Division by Presiding Judge.
- Second Chance Center / IRC Tour for Court staff and Judges at the Arizona Department of Corrections.
- Veterans Court Conference 3/03/2025 – Court Hearing Officer, Court Administrator and Case Processing Supervisor attend first Veterans Treatment Court Conference at the Judicial Education Center.
- Trauma in the Workplace – 6 month training program provided to all Court personnel – this program provided practical advice on how to support those in trauma or distress in the workplace while protecting yourself from compassion fatigue and not running afoul of legal obligations.

Judicial Branch Community Engagement & Partnerships:

- Continued participation in the Glendale Municipal Court Annual Stand Up for Veterans event and Tempe Municipal Court Arizona StandDown for Veterans event.
- Continued partnership with Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court – granting approval for eligible defendants to complete community service in lieu of payment of fines, if they participate and successfully graduate in the Homeless Court program
- *Arizona Supreme Court, Committee on Leadership & Workforce Excellence (COLAWE) & National Center for State Court programs.* The COLAWE is led by experienced Arizona court faculty, scholars, and subject matter experts well-versed in the analysis and evaluation of Courts in a broad social and historical content. Programs are designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of Court employees as they grow professionally within the Arizona Court system.
 1. *COLAWE appointment: Court Administrator appointed by Chief Justice Brutinel as the LJ Administrator committee member, term ending 11/30/2025.*
- Court Administrator current facilitator for Arizona Court Supervisor program with the Arizona Supreme Court.
- Presiding Judge current member of the Judicial College of Arizona.
- Presiding Judge is a current instructor for the Civil Traffic Hearing Officer program with the Arizona Supreme Court.
- Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Glendale – February 2025 – agreement authorizes the partnership between the Goodyear Municipal Court and the Glendale City Court for the West Valley Regional Veterans Court program.
 1. From July 2024 to June 2025 – 25 defendants referred to the program during the period.
 2. FY25 WVRVC completions: 30 case resolutions (includes cases referred to the program prior to FY25).
 3. Case costs associated with this IGA are calculated by the Glendale City Court, with Federal Grant funding supporting a portion of the cost. The Goodyear Municipal Court does budget for invoices received from

Glendale, and the direct costs associated with Court Appointed Counsel requirements (Legal Fees budgetary allocations).

- Adoption of the Second Chance Center / Inmate Release Court (IRC) Program – The Inmate Release Court program is a collaborative partnership between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry (ADCRR) Second Chance Program (a pro-social program designed to prepare inmates for release). The IRC program was established to resolve outstanding cases in limited jurisdiction Courts for inmates participating in ADCRR's Second Chance Program. The primary focus of the program is to enable inmates to reenter society without financial burden of outstanding monetary obligations or additional sanctions, such as driver license suspensions or active warrants, that could hinder successful reintegration. The IRC program allows inmates the ability to take care of outstanding cases while serving out the remainder of their sentence. This program promotes compliance with Court orders and aligns with the Arizona judiciary's mission of providing fair justice for all, especially those who lack the financial means to pay off Court-ordered fines.
 1. 11 Defendants submitted an IRC Participant Agreement Form in FY25 with approval and issuance of a case plan by the Goodyear Municipal Court.
 2. 7 Defendants successfully completed their IRC plan in FY25 resulting in case resolution.

Local Public Community Engagement:

- Municipal Court 101 presentation incorporated in the LEAD program elective to educate Goodyear citizens about the Judicial Branch in the City of Goodyear (presented by the Court Administrator, Presiding Judge & City Prosecutor).
- Court Administrator mentorship with Desert Star Elementary School.
- BLCA Event – STEM student summit for development of skills for students to include panel interviews, presentations and professional skill building – February 2025 & April 2025 – Presiding Judge & Court Administrator
- 'Pizza with a Professional' – November 2024 – Presiding Judge attends lunch with students who are working on their professional development skills and preparing to enter the workforce in various capacities.
- Student shadowing & observation of Court proceedings – May 2025 – Goodyear Youth Commission student shadows Court Hearing Officer.

Access & Fairness:

- Language Services & Access. Court Language Access Plan revised April 2025. Language Access 'Court Interpreter Summit' attended at the Arizona Supreme Court by the Court Administrator & Case Processing Supervisor, October 2025.
- Remote/Virtual court appearances via Zoom/Microsoft Teams/facetime and or telephone
 1. Courtroom recording systems were upgraded in calendar year 2024 to add compatibility with Microsoft Teams, allowing the clerk to incorporate virtual appearances in the courtroom proceeding recording system.
 - The Court continues to partner with the judicial branch technology team and the City of Goodyear IT team to establish an effective and efficient virtual courtroom environment.
 - The Court piloted the Digital Evidence platform from July 2025 to September 2025 with the Arizona Supreme Court for Civil Traffic and Civil Protective Order digital evidence sharing. The program is used on an emergency-basis only to facilitate evidence-sharing between parties.
 - Future goals include creation of a video/remote appearance docket for qualifying misdemeanor cases.
- Self Help Center
 1. This public room includes a large directory map for local Justice, Superior and Juvenile Courthouses, as well as a guide as to services which can be obtained in each respective Court. The room also contains a display board for services in both English and Spanish, a resource wall, and a Public Access computer. Court customers can obtain certain documents required from MVD by using the computer and printing to the customer service station, saving time and reducing the amount of return visits to the Court. Customers can utilize the Public Access computer or various ipads in order to complete a Protective Order petition.

Financial Highlights

Courts collect monies in the form of restitution, fines, and fees, and assessments, with the purpose of administering justice. Courts are not revenue-generating centers. The following financial data is due to the Courts ability to carry out the impartial administration of justice,

seeing to it that each case is sentenced fairly and impartially, and that sentences are applied to each individual case accordingly. Payment compliance is achieved in a number of ways, including payment plans, proactive enforcement, and enhanced collection efforts.

Programs and Services:

- Court Appointed Counsel
 1. Court Appointed Attorney contracts ensure an attorney is present at every in-custody docket. This ensures the Court compliant with Rule 6.1 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure. Additionally, attorneys represent defendants at Veterans Court, Rule 11 proceedings and all other matters scheduled within the Goodyear Municipal Court.
- Language & Accessibility Services – The Court provides interpreters for all limited-English proficient customer, in all languages, by utilizing various certified and freelance interpreters. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Court also provides Court certified ASL interpreters.
- Self Help Center
- Jury Management
- Security personnel
- COJET training and other professional development of staff – various training to include compliance with annual live and legislative training requirements set forth by the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration
- Electronic lobby check-in system for all courtroom appearances – WaitWhile account established with the Arizona Supreme Court. Allows customers to check in for courtroom and front counter services, and receive automated updates for service status.

Court Enhancement Fund

Pursuant to Goodyear City Code Article 6-3-5(E) the City Court shall annually report the amount of money collected and expended during the reporting period and the progress made in Court enhancement.

- FY25 budgeted \$46,500 to supplement the cost of the Court Security Guard position
- FY25 revenue \$100,094.56 (125% of estimated revenue)

Operating Highlights

The Goodyear Municipal Court holds jurisdiction over a limited variety of cases. The Municipal Judge presides over misdemeanor crimes and petty offenses committed within the City of Goodyear, including: civil traffic, criminal traffic, criminal misdemeanors, juvenile traffic, liquor violations, City code, protective orders and search warrants. The Court maintains agreements with other municipalities to ensure the efficient, effective and fair processing of all cases.

Goodyear/Guadalupe Intergovernmental Agreement:

Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement entered by the Town of Guadalupe and the City of Goodyear, the Goodyear Municipal Court retains all financials receipted for delinquent cases outstanding from the Guadalupe Municipal Court. Total fines and fees receipted from Guadalupe Municipal Court in FY25: \$7,924.91. the processing of financial transactions creates minimal impact on Goodyear Court personnel and resources as the transactions are primarily automated and receipted directly into the Court database without requiring Court staff to conduct additional case research. The agreement was renewed in FY24, with a one-time payment from the Town of Guadalupe received in the amount of \$20,240.00, deposited to the Court Enhancement Fund. The agreement will be reviewed for proposed renewal again in 2028.

One-time Funding – Problem Solving Pilot Court

The Court finalized their evaluation of Specialty Court Programs, and the Presiding Judge made his formal recommendation to the City Council at the December 9, 2024 work session. The recommendation included suspending the pursuit of specialty court program implementation, until a justifiable caseload exists. The Specialty Court programs evaluated included: Veterans Court, Rule 11 Court and Homeless Court.

Mental Health Court

While the Court recently evaluated the implementation of Specialty Court programs, the process was not specific to determining the potential need for a Mental Health Court, which

addresses defendants categorized as Seriously Mental Ill, or 'SMI'. Therefore, in June 2025 the Presiding Judge issued Administrative Order 2025-09, titled 'Implementation of Procedures to Share Identifying Information For Individuals With Serious Mental Illness'. This Order provides authority to the Court to facilitate the identification of such individuals and ensure appropriate legal services are provided, as well as to determine the overall need for a mental health treatment Court in the Goodyear Municipal Court, it is essential that Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa Health Finance Administration, the Maricopa Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) and AHCCCS Complete Care Contractor be able to share with the Goodyear Municipal Court through direct access database inquiries or other means, certain types of limited identifying information that will assist in providing appropriate legal programs and services for the mentally ill, accordingly.

Pursuant to the Presiding Judge's Employment Agreement, the Court will evaluate and make recommendation to the Council regarding the creation of a Specialty Court addressing Mental Health (SMI) defendants, either within the Goodyear Municipal Court or through an IGA with the Glendale City Court.

Operational, Security & Financial Reviews

The Goodyear Municipal Court underwent a Tri Annual financial review, required by the Arizona Supreme Court Minimum Accounting Standards. The auditor's report was delivered in August 2024 with positive remarks. The Court's audit was mentioned in the independent auditor's presentation given to the City Council at the meeting on December 9, 2024.

The Court also completed a mandatory Court Security Assessment & Checklist in September of 2024. This assessment is required to be completed every three years. The Goodyear Municipal Court completed the assessment in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court, Court Security Unit. Additionally, the Court completed a Thread Vulnerability Assessment with the Goodyear Police Department in 2025. Recommendations for security enhancements were received and an action plan was developed by the Court Administrator to address any areas of improvement or security resources needed.

Charge Filing Stats

- FY25: 17,151
 1. Misdemeanor Non-Traffic: 1,718
 2. Domestic Violence: 658

3. DUI: 1,340
4. Criminal Traffic: 2,001
5. Civil Traffic: 10,146
6. Local Non-Criminal Ordinance: 835
7. Protective Orders: 453

Municipal Court Ranking:

- Ranked 12th largest out of the 21 Municipal Courts in Maricopa County
 1. Ranked 7th largest in DUI volume for Municipal Courts in Maricopa County
- Ranked 13th largest out of the 80 Municipal Courts in Arizona
 1. Ranked 8th largest in DUI volume for Municipal Courts in Arizona

Caseload metrics:

FY25 filings by volume:

Civil Traffic & Local Ordinance: 64.5%

Protective Orders: 3.3%

Misdemeanor: 32.2%

The Goodyear Municipal Court continues to experience an elevated DUI and criminal traffic filing volume. In FY25 the Court focused on expedited continuance practice for DUI matters, taking a more aggressive approach in efforts to gain compliance with the requirements of the Arizona Supreme Court Time Standards processing for DUI and misdemeanor matters. These case types are the most time and resource-intensive for the Court. An increase of DUI Jury Trials have also been experienced in the Court, further resulting in additional Court resource strain and strategic scheduling of courtroom dockets.

The Goodyear Municipal Court has continued to exceed charge filing rates. FY25 charge filings reflect a 34% increase (up from 15% increase in FY24). This continued growth requires a response by the Court to ensure the correct staffing and Court resources are readily available in order to avoid backlogs, or a negative impact on the delivery of timely and efficient justice.

Clearance Rate:

Measured by the number of charges terminated/completed compared to number of charges filed. This data is useful for Courts to analyze charge volume and trends, such as the workload on existing staff and the potential for developing a backlog. The Goodyear Court holds a high-performance standard for case processing and compliance policies, and Court staff are trained to operate at highly efficient levels. The Court aims to reach 100% clearance rate each month.

- FY25: 99.9% (17,146 terminated charges / 17,151 filed charges)

Courtroom Activity:

240 Trials/Hearings held – 15% increase from Trials held in FY24

Jury Trials scheduled – 8 trials. Scheduling of Jury Trials requires a significant use of court resources, and blocking of other regular calendars in order to accommodate the proceeding. Without the sufficient courtroom and facility space, this will continue to present a scheduling conflict for the Court.

Continued Innovation, Efficiencies & Projects

The Presiding Judge and Court Administrator continually evaluate Court processes and operations, and work closely in collaboration with Court team members and stakeholders, providing direction on initiatives that reflect on the Courts commitment to continuous improvement and a future shaped by our values. Transparency, efficiency and collaboration remain our priorities so that every individual who interacts with the Court feels listened to, respected and confident in the fairness and impartiality of the administration of justice. Court programs, services and innovations implemented in FY25 include:

- Implementation of Administrative Order 2024-06 'Authorizing Restrictions on Permitting Hazardous Evidence Inside a Courthouse'. Establishes a policy for Court Security personnel to respond in the event a hazardous or toxic substance is encountered within the Court facility, including reporting and chain of custody transfer to law enforcement, and requiring training on the administration of Naloxone Hydrochloride or Narcan.
- Implementation of Administrative Order 2025-03 'Citation Amendments and Clerical Corrections'. Replacing Administrative Order 2018-02, this Order is a collaborative document with the Goodyear City Prosecutor's Office, which authorizes prior to judgment, if no additional or different violation is charged and if substantial rights of the defendants

are not prejudiced, certain clerical errors to be amended or corrected on citations; pursuant to Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure (ARCrP) and the Arizona Rules of Procedure in Civil Traffic and Boating Violation cases (ACvTrP).

- Implementation of Administrative Order 2024-04 'Disposition of Civil Violations by Non-Judicial Staff'. Replacing Administrative Order 2018-03, this Order sets policy and guidance to non-judicial Court personnel, with strict parameters on accepting civil traffic and non-misdemeanor pleadings and various documentation in the Court. The Order expands upon previously set policy, further authorizing the use of automated forms and eliminating cumbersome steps that were being required by defendants to submit information to the Court. The Order creates a more efficient and timely process for handling non-misdemeanor cases within the Court and improves customer service.
- Collaboration with the City Prosecutor to refine Probation case processing practices. This reduces the volume of cases proceeding to a Probation Hearing.
- Revision to Criminal Restitution Order. Update the Court's procedure, to ensure best practice processing standards.
- 'Probation Training'- facilitated by Presiding Judge, to educate Court personnel on the handling of Probation matters on a case. Probation is not a mandate that has historically been commonplace in the Goodyear Municipal Court, and the training was welcomed by Court personnel.
- Court Administrator shadows Glendale Mental Health Court and West Valley Regional Veterans Court.
- Capital Improvement Project – Temporary Facility Improvements. Project finalized in FY25.
 - o The temporary improvements included:
 - New Prosecutor Pre-Trial Conference rooms
 - New Prosecutor cubicles & workstations
 - New Prosecutor transaction counter
 - New Prosecutor staff break room & conference room
 - South lobby public seating area
 - North lobby public seating area
 - Additional Court Case Processing counter for second courtroom transactions
 - Additional Court cubicles & workstation
 - New Court conference room
 - New Court break room
 - Additional facility surveillance cameras

- AJACS database authority obtained to manage Court form templates. Court forms are now generated for most Court processes, with email functionality also incorporated in Court policy, eliminating physical mailings where possible. This process improvement provides access to Court information and notices to parties and customers in a more timely and efficient manner.
- eWarrants implemented in June 2025 with the Goodyear Police Department. Establishes a process to send electronic warrant information between the Goodyear Police Department and the Court.
- ADRS electronic reporting with the AZ Department of Public Safety repository. Establishes an automated process to report disposition information for Arrest Records filed in relation to misdemeanor violations filed in the Goodyear Municipal Court.
- Digital Evidence Portal implemented in July 2025. Pilot period ended September 2025. Establishes a portal for use in Civil Traffic and Protective Order matters for parties to upload and share evidence that is presented in Hearings. The use of the portal was modified to 'on emergency basis only' after determining that the portal was too resource-intensive to support on-going use.
- In-person Spanish Interpreter dockets scheduled every 2 weeks. Establishment of a routine in-person, credentialed, interpreter for misdemeanor Spanish-language case proceedings. Reduces the use of remote interpreters, unless necessary.

Looking Back at Our FY25 Goals & Initiatives

In the FY24 Executive Summary provided to the Council in January 2025, the Goodyear Municipal Court set forth numerous future goals for FY25, which support Judicial Branch priorities in the State of Arizona as well as priorities specific to this Court. The following goal and project statuses are being provided to the Council:

Goal/Objective	Status
Continue to evaluate the excessive number of DUI & misdemeanor filings; including the potential need of additional resources to manage case load, including Time Standards compliance	On-going; implementation of Time Standards letter for misdemeanor cases reaching 100+ day case age. Plans to expand the Court Appointed Counsel docket in FY27 to provide adequate attorney calendars for in-custody and non-in custody matters. This is due in part to increased DUI caseload and attorney assignments, and dockets are exceeding a reasonable volume.

FY27 Facility Study – pursue future facility plan	In progress; Phase I 'Feasibility Assessment' in progress for FY25. Project kick-off conducted 12/10/2025 with a completion date of June 2026. This project will lead the Court into the FY27 Facility Study in the City's Strategic Plan. Determination will be made as to whether the old City Hall facility is a feasible option for the next Court facility.
Innovation & technology - Expanded use of scanners; case management and paperless initiatives - Expansion of video appearance to include in-custody/misdemeanor case types (under consideration) - Refresh Court website content and encourage expanded usage by Court customers - Automation of courtroom forms - Fingerprint & signature pads for Court forms	On-going; 1. Scanners are in use at all workstations. Phased scanning plans have been implemented in both divisions of the Court and most communications to Court customers are sent via email. 2. Video remote appearances were sought with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for inmates, however the agency is not expanding this technology option with Courts. The Court will continue to in-person inmate appearances. 3. The Court website will be refreshed as a part of the Digital Communications and IT project for City-wide website enhancements. Evaluation of the current website content began in November 2025. 4. Court forms are now automated, with the Court controlling form templates; implementation of signature pads is a pending goal.
Lean 'Impact-Effort Matrix' & Q12 Action Planning	On-going; continued partnership with Human Resources to facilitate and achieve Lean Impact Effort initiatives. Active Q12 Action Plans for all Court divisions.
eWarrant process with the Goodyear Police Department to send electronic warrants / ADRS electronic reporting to upload disposition information into the AZ Department of Public Safety repository / use of additional technology such for fingerprinting (LiveScan) and signature pads / Digital Evidence Portal.	Completed; 1. Ewarrants implemented June 2025. 2. ADRS Implemented and pending final audit review with AZDPS in December 2025. 3. LiveScan fingerprinting solution evaluated, not implemented due to AZ Supreme Court legal opinion 4. Digital Evidence Portal – implemented; piloted; ended pilot phase, decision to use under emergency-basis only.
Inmate Court Release program	Program adopted and available for defendant participation.

Looking Ahead: As shared in the Court Quarterly Report to Council in FY25Q4, the Goodyear Municipal Court will pursue the following goals and initiatives in FY26:

Goodyear Municipal Court FY26 Goals

Court Programs

- Implement process for identifying defendants with Serious Mental Illness in the Case Processing Division; Mercy Care database access

Court Innovations

- Implement process & procedure for scanning of Civil Traffic case files; paperless case handling
- Implement process & procedure for scanning of misdemeanor case files; post-adjudicated case documents
- Incorporate lobby customer queuing system (replacing current system)
- Refresh Court website to increase access to Court information; docket informaton/forms/motions
- Evaluate & implement a virtual Courtroom process for appropriate Court proceedings; out-of-state defendants
- Implement Digital Evidence Portal

Data Integrity

- Review of misdemeanor case files meeting retention, prior to destruction (DPS purge project)

Collaboration & Culture

- All staff passing audit in division duties; cross-training
- Q12 Action Planning
- Lean Impact/Effort Matrix Workgroups
- Annual Court Retreat

Compliance

- MAS Action Plan (if applicable)
- Time Standards
- Evaluate Court processes and identify areas of opportunity; evaluate Court efficiencies

Technology

- Improve courtroom audio/visual platform to incorporate a seamless virtual/hybrid platform (includes Digital Evidence platform)

Presiding Judge Contractual Goals:

Judge Delgado reported on goal success during his employment contract renewal process in 2025. New contractual goals have been established for October 2025 thru October 2027, as follows:

Goal 1: Continue Q12 Employment Engagement, focusing on the Lean Impact Effort Matrix, in partnership with HR. *in progress, see report detail above.*

Goal 2: Evaluate and make recommendations to Council regarding the creation of a Specialty Court addressing Mental Health (SMI) defendants, either within the Goodyear Municipal Court or through an IGA with the Glendale City Court. *in progress, see report detail above.*

The Goodyear Municipal Court will schedule a future work session to report findings and provide a recommendation to the Council.

Goal 3: Improve the courtroom technology platform, with the goal of implementation of a virtual court proceeding docket for out-of-state defendants and to accommodate other special circumstances. *in progress, FY27 supplemental position requested in partnership with Information Technology.*