



2022 Year in Review



Themes of 2022

**1.) Financial
Management and
Fiscal
Responsibility**

**2.) County
Leadership and
Accomplishments**

**3.) Progress on
Major Priorities**

Financial Management and Fiscal Responsibility

Budget Stabilization Fund



Capital Budget Priorities



A Balanced Budget

Budget Stabilization Fund

Budget Stabilization Fund reaches nearly \$2 million, marking record high for the county.



“Rainy-Day” Fund was created in 2018 to protect against any economic downturn.



“We can do the opposite of what other government entities do. Instead of spending our grandchildren’s money, we can put it in a savings account.” – Commissioner Mike Kerschner



Capital Budget Priorities

County capital requests included more than 115 different projects, with 68 of them having price estimates and those totaling more than \$15 million. Commissioners and staff created a document with a priority list of these projects, deciding which might be funded over the next few years.

Due to excellent fiscal management and significant one-time federal funding, many of the projects have moved or are moving forward. A total of 35 projects were initially ranked, with a new Agriculture Services Building as the top priority, followed by replacing the county garage's backup power supply and adding an air ventilation system.

Commissioners also submitted requests for state capital projects, with the Community Kitchen Project and the Vanguard-Sentinel EMS Training Project receiving state money.

General Fund budget

- Managing finances and approving a balanced General Fund budget may be the most important task for the commissioners.
- Staff and commissioners worked closely with county departments on budget hearings.
- Approved a \$20.5 million GF budget for 2023. Revenue was certified at \$21.15 million by the County Budget Commission.

Top 15 General Fund budget lines

Rank	Department	Budgeted
1	County Jail	\$4,151,000.00
2	Sheriff's Office	\$2,491,831.83
3	Insurance and Pensions	\$1,881,000.00
4	Maintenance Department	\$1,274,246.80
5	Youth Center	\$1,271,987.30
6	Contingencies	\$1,081,400.00
7	Prosecutor's Office	\$1,008,720.89
8	Juvenile Court	\$815,801.73
9	Miscellaneous	\$769,795.00
10	Veterans Services Commission	\$724,500.86
11	Commissioners' Office	\$480,609.32
12	Seneca County Board of Elections	\$455,845.00
13	Common Pleas Court – Support	\$436,583.50
14	Auditor's Office	\$386,833.28
15	Clerk of Courts	\$322,137.67

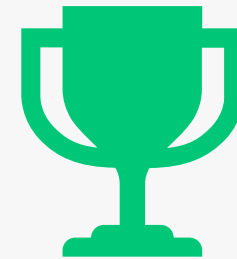
County Leadership and Accomplishments



Transitioning to new
leaders



Notable county
accolades



Recognition of local
achievers

Thanking long-time leaders, passing the baton to new ones



- Seneca County Administrator Stacy Wilson, steps down from her role after about 16 years of service to the county.
- Commissioner Mike Kerschner serves his final day in office on Dec. 31st, after serving eight years. He was replaced on Jan. 1 by Commissioner Bill Frankart.
- Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael P. Kelbley is replaced by newly-elected Judge Damon Alt. Kelbley served as a judge for 34 years.

Accolades for County Officials



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- Sheriff Fred Stevens among 31 honored with prestigious Patriot Award. He was nominated for his dual roles in keeping the community safe since 9/11, first as Tiffin Police Chief and now as Seneca County Sheriff.
 - Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Executive Director Mircea Handru was named Crisis Intervention Team Champion of the Year.
 - Tax Map Office employee Dawn Fitch recognized for 32 years of service to the county as she heads into retirement.

Recognizing local achievements

- Proclamations and recognition for many local standout athletes, including but not limited to: Two-Time State Wrestling Champion Brody Conley, the Division II State Champion Tiffin Columbian HS Cheerleaders, Tiffin Calvert's State Champion Lady Senecas Relay Team and Zaiden Fry, Brady Young and Sherron Jones, who were state track champions.
- Recognizing Seniors of the Year Robert and Rita Mae Kelbley for their many community service contributions.
- Isabelle, from Tiffin City Schools, named winner of the county's first dog license, through the Auditor's Office fifth-annual dog picture coloring contest.



Progress on major priorities



SENECA COUNTY EMS



RURAL BROADBAND



CAPITAL PROJECTS

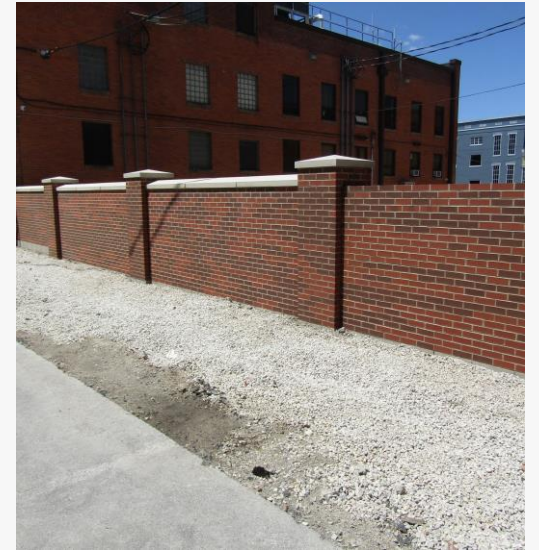
Seneca County EMS

- Major strides were made in 2022. A 2.5-mill levy was approved through the Seneca County Joint Ambulance District to help provide funds to put more personnel on the road, thus providing quicker and better service to those who need it.
- County and EMS officials attended the “EMS on the Hill” event in Columbus in May to advocate for federal and state funding for third-service EMS agencies. A focus on classifying the service as “essential.” Work continues with legislators in 2023.
- Don Ballah, a 30-plus-year veteran of the EMS field, is named new Seneca County Emergency Services Director in early 2023.



Capital Projects

- Progress continued on the design and construction of an EMS station on the east side of the county. Also, purchased two new ambulances and radio equipment for emergency service departments.
- Work began on the County Services Building/Health Department Entrance and Wall Project.
- Major improvements at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, the Seneca County Engineer's Garage and the Seneca County Airport.



Rural Broadband

- Many community partners collaborated in the completion of the Countywide Rural Broadband Study.
- Local officials worked closely with Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership to speak with state officials in Columbus to learn about opportunities to improve broadband service.
- Local organizations like North Central Electrical Cooperative and Bascom Communications are getting creative and working together to help achieve our goal: to provide internet access to all residents across the county.



Other notable achievements

- Continued improvement of transparency and accessibility (nearly 700,000 people reached on Facebook alone in 2022). You can find information on county government in more places than ever before. Work begins on Video Tour of the county.
- Formalized a resolution opposing expansion at Sunny Farms Landfill. Worked closely with constituents on language. Continue working with proper authorities to hold the facility accountable to the highest standards of state and federal regulations.
- **Approved the 2022 County Façade Enhancement Program. Approved eight project applications, providing a total of \$23,855.32 in reimbursement grants to spark a total investment of about \$68,165.12 in Seneca County businesses and commercial buildings.**
- Seneca County Veterans Service Office received \$63 federal for every dollar invested locally, honored local veteran of the year and distributed thousands in food cards for local vets. 1,845 \$30 food cards were handed out, meaning more than \$55,000 in food was purchased for veterans.
- Seneca County Museum Celebrates 80th year and continues successful speaker series.



Head Shed Stylists, of Fostoria, was among the eight recipients of the county's 2022 Façade Enhancement Grant Program. The business used the funds to improve signage.

2023 Goals and Priorities

- **Continuity on major priorities**
 - Solidifying the future of ambulance service in the rural areas of the county
 - Working to create an environment in which all residents have access to high-speed internet service
 - Making significant investments in our future through capital projects to bring down recurring costs, become more efficient and lower maintenance burden.



2022 Photo Highlights

* Since it was impossible to include everything from last year, enjoy some of our favorite photos from a productive 2022.



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

SENECA CO. COMMISSIONERS