

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



## Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Submitted by:  
Ronald J. Frantz  
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 **felony caseload** increased slightly (less than 1%) over the 2009 level (1,028 cases in 2010, compared to 1,023 cases in 2009). This number has generally been declining since reaching a high point of 1536 cases in 2002. Felony crime categories showing significant increases were criminal sexual conduct (up 11%, 71 cases) and robbery (up 17%, 7 cases in 2010 -- compared to 6 cases in 2009). Most felony crime categories remained constant or showed slight declines. However, arson dropped 29%, representing a reduction of 2 cases (7 in 2009 -- compared to 5 in 2010).

The total **misdemeanor caseload** fell 7% in 2010 (6,646 cases). **Juvenile crime**, as represented by petitions filed by our office, also fell by 7% to 1,274 delinquency petitions filed. **Total criminal caseload** (combined felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile statistics) dropped by 6% (8,948 cases in 2009).

Along with the decline in overall caseload the other good news is that no **1<sup>st</sup> degree murders** occurred or were charged in 2010. This is particularly noteworthy after the unprecedented homicide level in 2008 when ten people were murdered. Unfortunately, as 2011 begins we have filed charges against a Zeeland area teen for the murder of a 19 year old Zeeland youth.

**Gang violence** has been declining over the last three years, after a spike in gang activity in 2007. Our Gang Task Force, which includes the Holland Police Department, the Ottawa and Allegan County Sheriffs' Departments, WEMET, federal agencies, and the Ottawa County Prosecutor, has been effective in investigating and prosecuting many gang offenders. While investigations and prosecutions will continue, the outlook for 2011 is promising. Aggressive law enforcement is effective in reducing gang violence.

Our **domestic violence caseload** saw a 4% rise in 2010 (515 cases). This followed a modest 2% increase in 2009. The Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence continues to actively promote prevention efforts and improvements in serving domestic violence victims and offenders. Our court-based domestic violence offender treatment initiative also seeks to reduce recidivism and better serve victims through the court process.

Our District and Circuit **Drug/Sobriety Courts** continue to accept drug and/or alcohol dependent offenders using a treatment court model. The prosecutor is an integral part of an award-winning team that selects offenders for the program and monitors their success.

The **Children's Advocacy Center** has been providing age-appropriate services for sexually abused children for over twelve years. This nationally accredited center conducted 356 interviews of children suspected of being sexual assault victims in 2010 (as compare to 304 interviews in 2009). Our office continues to work directly with investigators and center staff to assist young sexual assault victims in seeking justice in the criminal justice system and restoration of their lives.

Our continued low crime levels contribute significantly to the positive national and regional perception our community enjoys. The Prosecutor's Office is proud to an integral part of our well-functioning criminal justice system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald J. Frantz, Prosecuting Attorney

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office is to preserve and improve the quality of life for Ottawa County residents by promoting lawful conduct and enhancing safety and security through diligent efforts to detect, investigate, and prosecute criminal offenses in Ottawa County.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROSECUTOR

The prosecuting attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for Ottawa County. The Office was created by the Michigan Constitution. The responsibilities and authority of the Prosecutor are established by common law, statute, court rule, and appellate case law. In recent years changing attitudes in the courts and state legislature have significantly altered the traditional role of the Prosecutor. While adult and juvenile criminal matters still represent the major portion of the prosecution effort, a growing list of additional responsibilities has placed larger demands on prosecution resources. Nevertheless, we provide all mandated services, maximizing our efficiency by offering specialty services to crime victims and law enforcement. These specialties include the Family Court Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Victims' Rights Unit, an Appellate Specialist, and a Law Enforcement Training Assistant.

Additional duties of the Prosecutor include serving as the chairman of the Concealed Weapons Licensing Board and Community Corrections Advisory Board. The Prosecutor also serves on the boards or oversight committees of the Children's Advocacy Center, Wrap Around Community Team, West Michigan Enforcement Team, Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Ottawa Area Law Enforcement Leadership Committee, C.H.O.O.S.E. underage alcohol initiative, Human Services Council of Ottawa County, U. S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, Child Death Review Team, and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Ronald J. Frantz** . . . . . **Prosecuting Attorney**

Douglas L. Mesman. . . . . Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Gregory J. Babbitt. . . . . Chief of Appeals Division

Craig E. Bunce . . . . . Chief of Holland Division

Lee F. Fisher. . . . . Chief of West Olive Division

Karen J. Miedema . . . . . Senior Attorney/Training Div.

Judy K. Mulder . . . . . Chief of Family Court Division

Deanna M. Sears. . . . . Office Administrator

## ATTORNEY STAFF

**GREGORY J. BABBITT**, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 30 years of prosecution experience.

**JUANITA F. BOCANEGRA**, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; entry level assistant prosecutor with 3 years civil experience.

**CRAIG E. BUNCE**, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Valparaiso University School of Law, J.D.; 20 years of prosecution experience.

**LEE F. FISHER**, Western Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 22 years of prosecution experience.

**RONALD J. FRANTZ**, Kalamazoo College, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.; 34 years of prosecution experience.

**JOELLEN HAAS**, Indiana University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 8 years of prosecution experience.

**JENNIFER N. KUIPER**, University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; 7 years of prosecution experience.

**SARAH F. MATWIEJCZYK**, Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.; Michigan State University - Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 10 years of prosecution experience.

**DOUGLAS L. MESMAN**, Calvin College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, J.D.; 32 years of prosecution experience.

**KAREN J. MIEDEMA**, Ferris State University, B.S.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; 22 years of prosecution experience.

**JUDITH K. MULDER**, DePauw University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 22 years of prosecution experience.

**JOHN R. SCHEUERLE**, Michigan State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 12 years of prosecution experience.

**EDUARDO VELAZQUEZ-HERNANDEZ**, Carleton College, B.A.; Notre Dame College of Law, J.D.; 12 years of prosecution experience.

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Amanda Arismendez . . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Jennifer Bastien. . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Mallory Beil . . . . . Legal Clerk  
Belinda Coronado. . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Mary Dykstra. . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Cathy Eidson. . . . . Legal Assistant III  
Soonja Hixon . . . . . Legal Assistant I  
Angie Rogers . . . . . Legal Assistant II  
Dawn Slater. . . . . Legal Assistant III

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

**Juvenile & Probate Court**

Jane Gardner . . . . . Legal Assistant II

**Child Support Unit**

Toni Sleutel. . . . . Child Support Investigator  
Becky Visser . . . . . Child Support Investigator

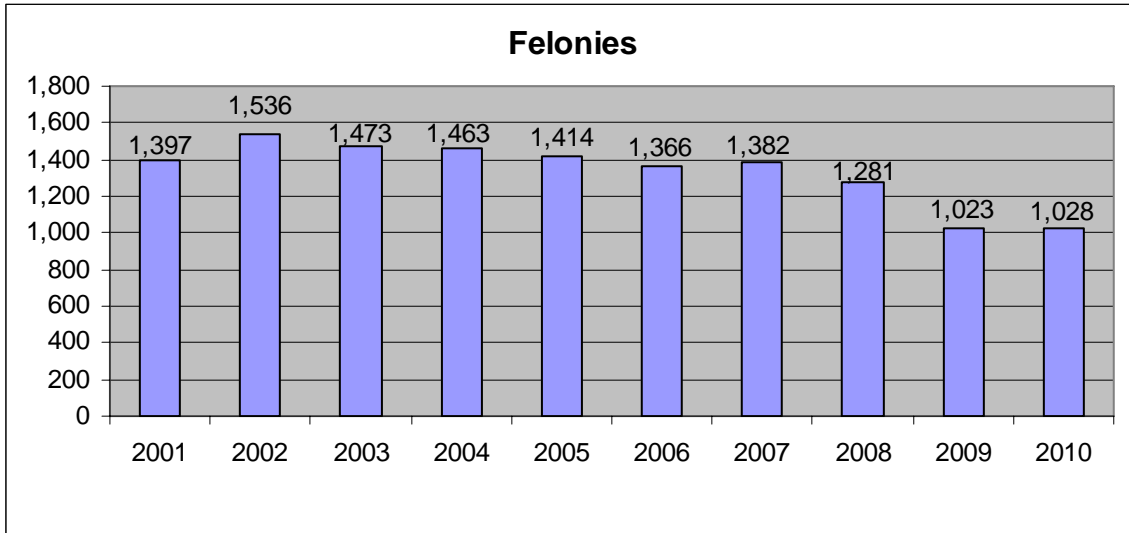
**VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT**

Joan Grillo . . . . . Victims' Rights Coordinator  
Lesley Morano . . . . . Victim Advocate  
Stephanie Stoddard. . . . . Victim Advocate

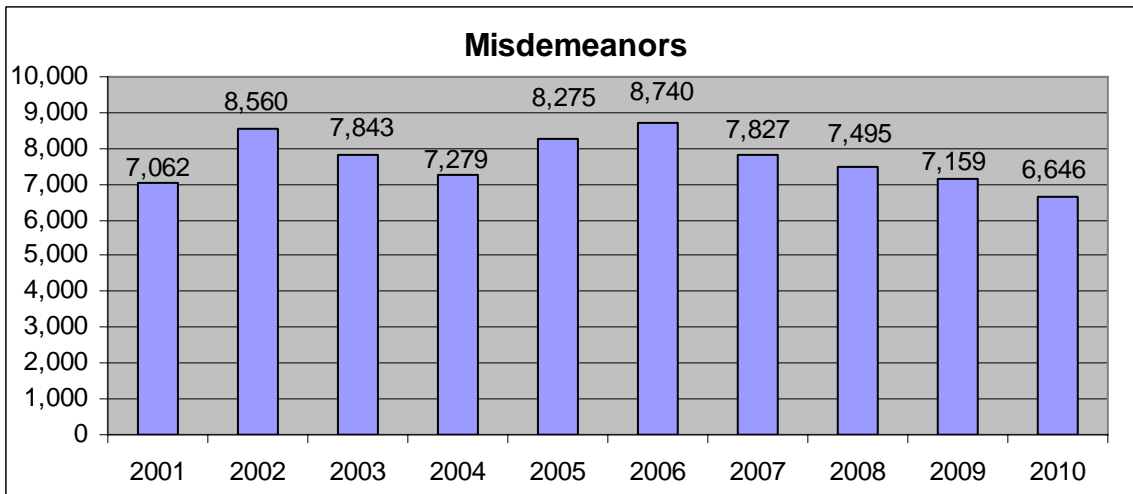
**DOMESTIC ASSAULT UNIT**

Jennifer Bouwens . . . . . Violence Intervention Officer

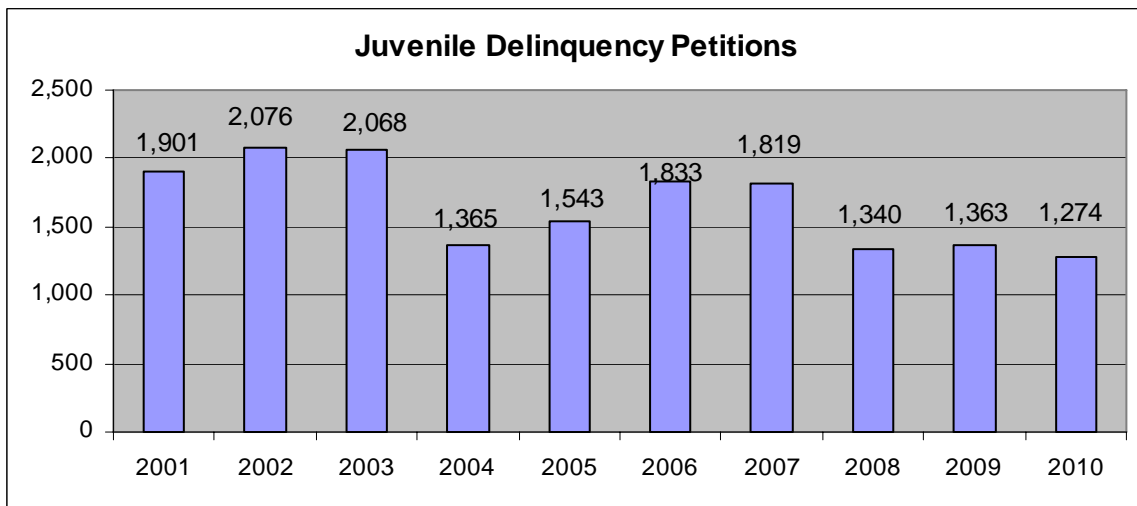
# CRIMINAL CASELOAD



**Adult Felony Cases:** 2009: 1,023 2010: 1,028 <1% increase



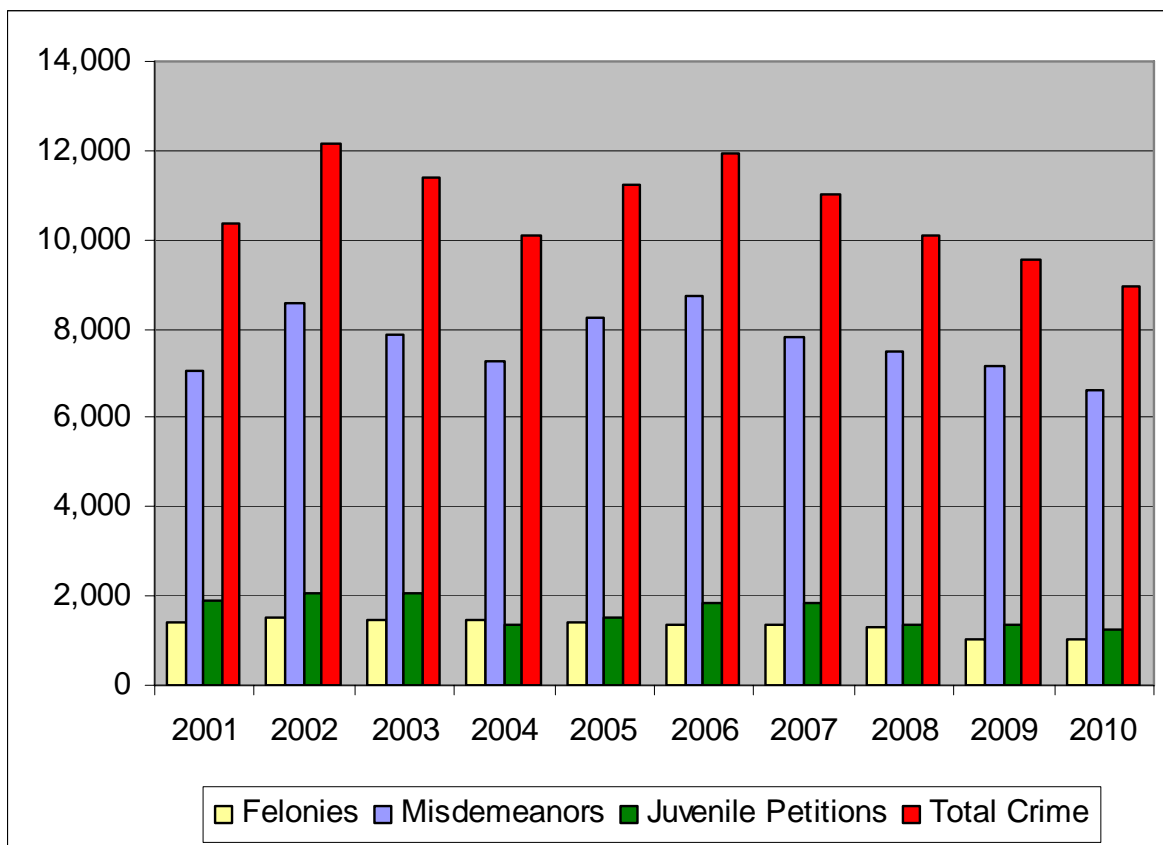
**Adult Misdemeanors:** 2009: 7,159 2010: 6,646 7% decrease



**Juvenile Delinquency:** 2009: 1,363 2010: 1,274 7% decrease

Note: 33% reduction from 2003 to 2004 due in part to a change in data collection methodology

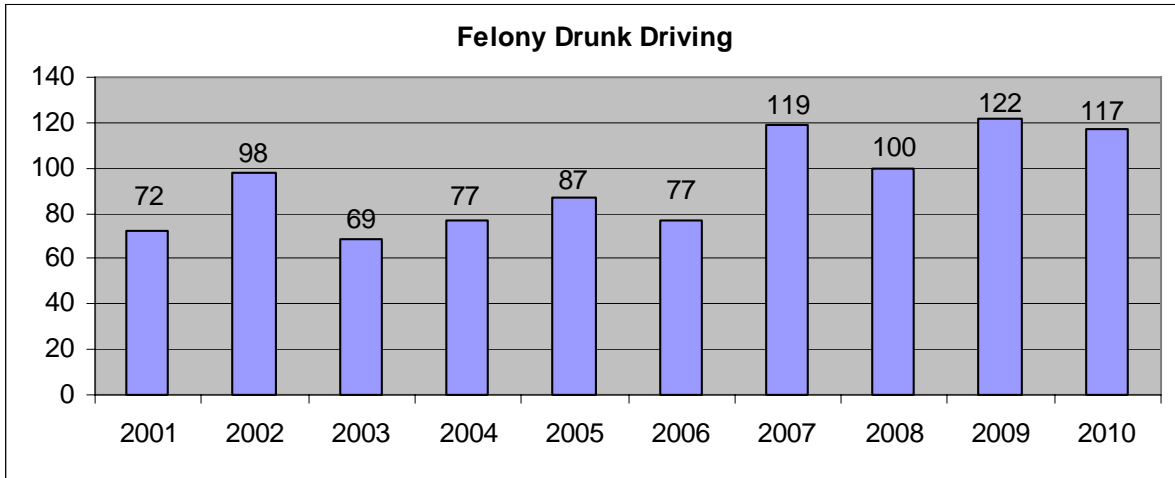
## TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS



**Total Crime (combined):**                      **2009:** 9,545                      **2010:** 8,948                      6 % decrease

# CRIME CATEGORIES

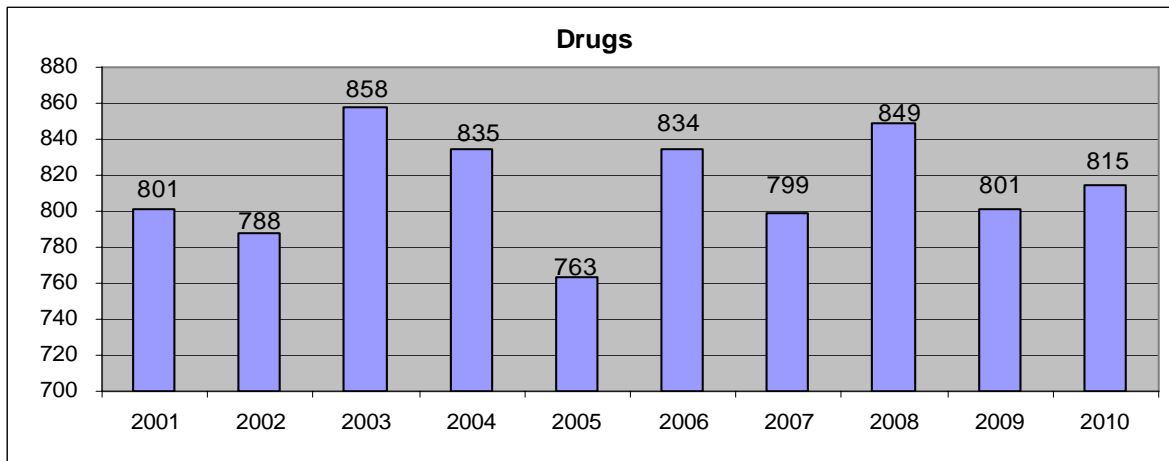
All categories reported for adult crime data only.



**Felony Drunk Driving:** 2009: 122 2010: 117 4% decrease

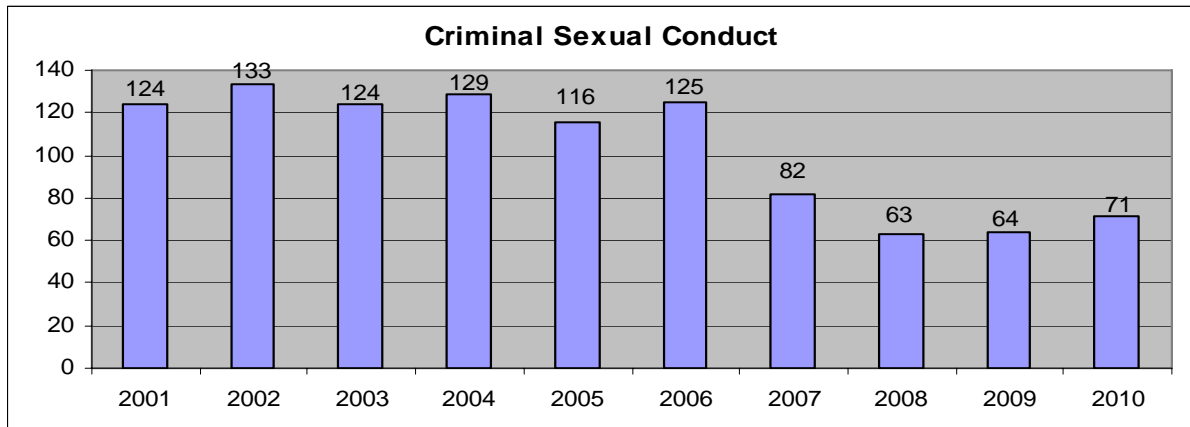


**Misdemeanor Drunk Driving:** 2009: 791 2010: 734 7% decrease

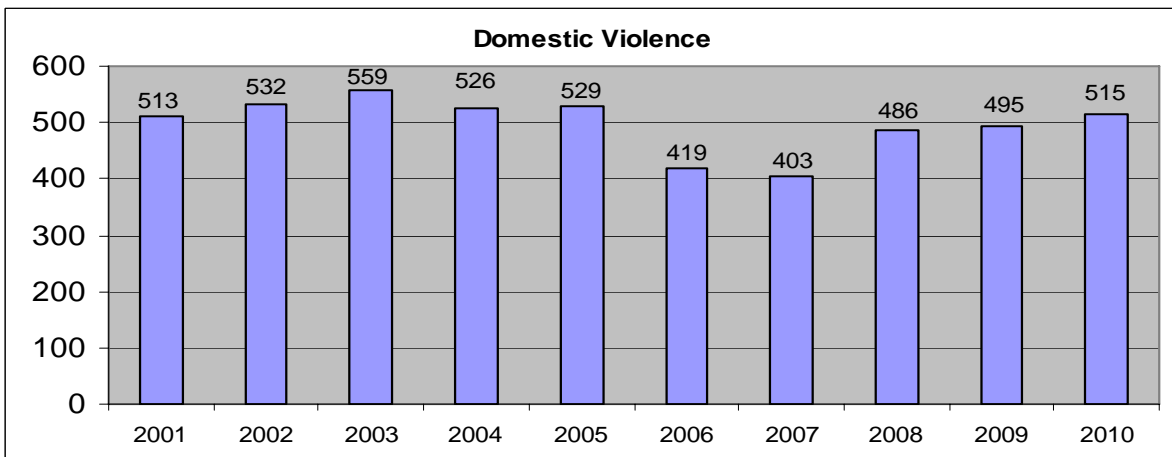


**Drug Cases:** 2009: 801 2010: 815 2% increase

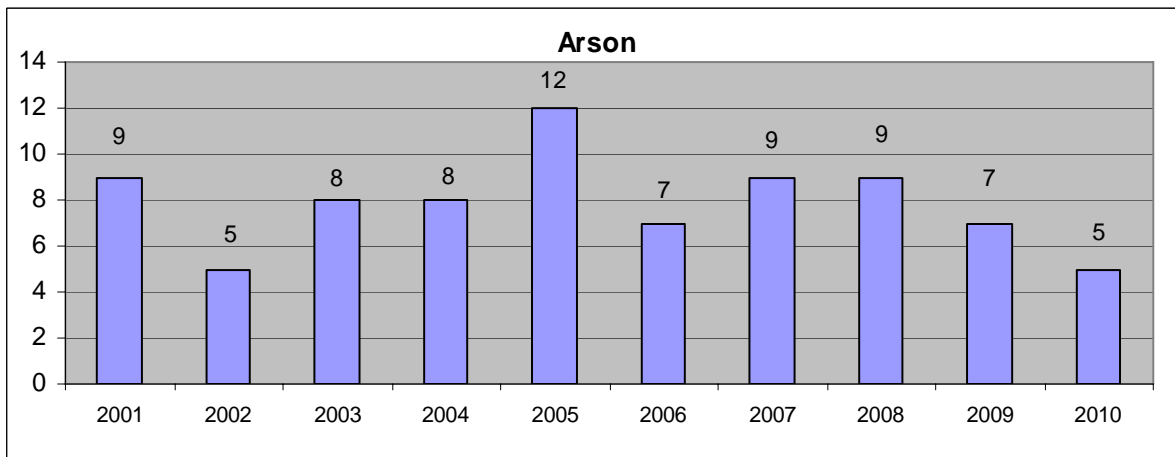
## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Criminal Sexual Conduct:**            **2009: 64**            **2010: 71**            11% increase

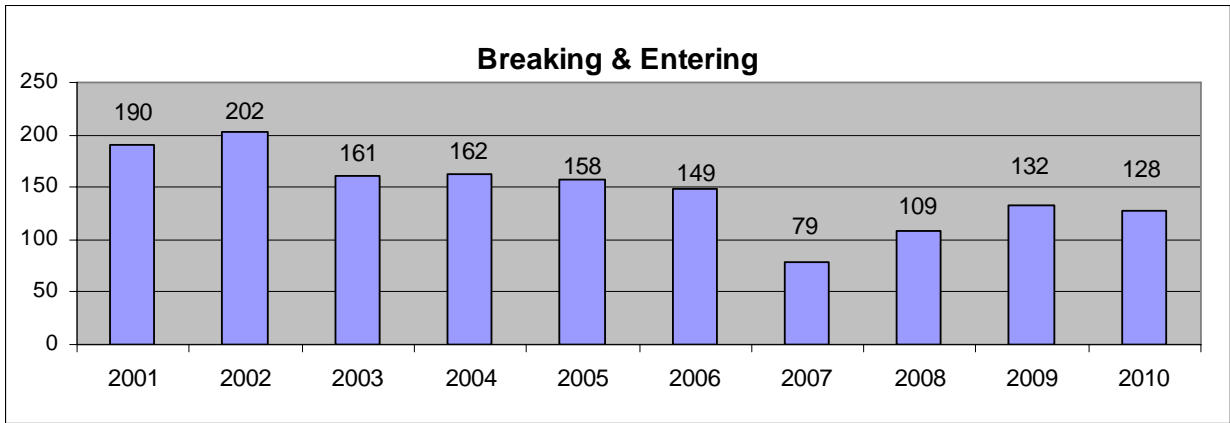


**Domestic Violence:**            **2009: 495**            **2010: 515**            4% increase

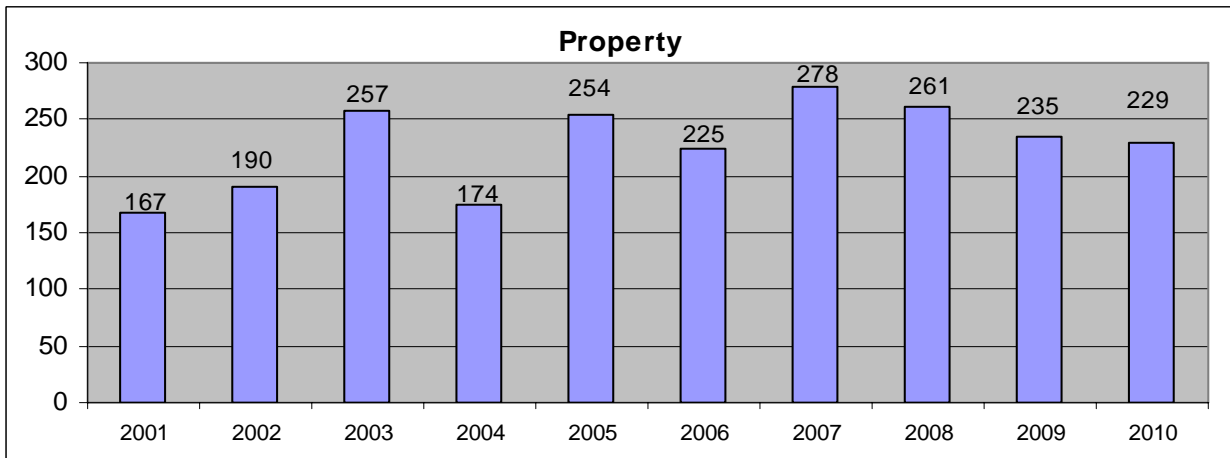


**Arson:**            **2009: 7**            **2010: 5**            29% decrease

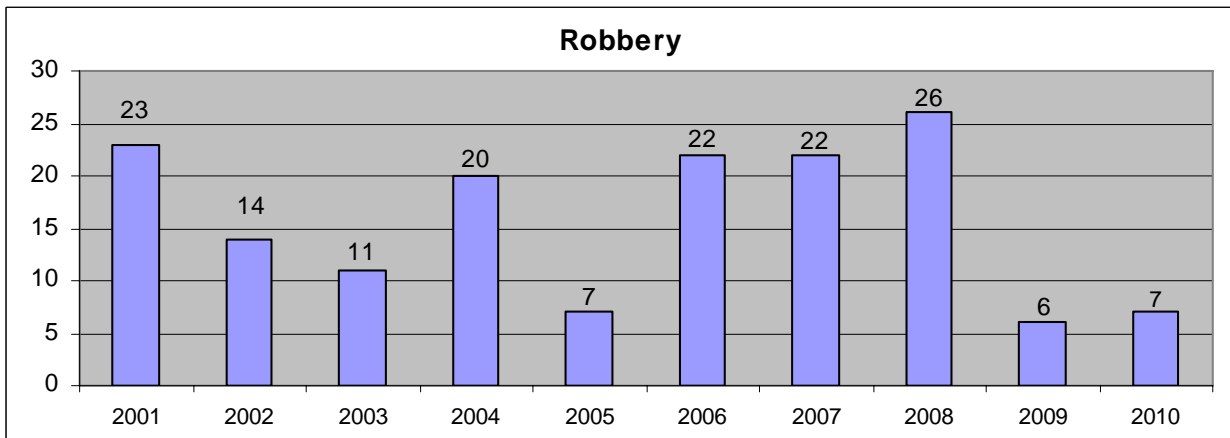
## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Breaking & Entering:**                      **2009:** 132            **2010:** 128            3% decrease

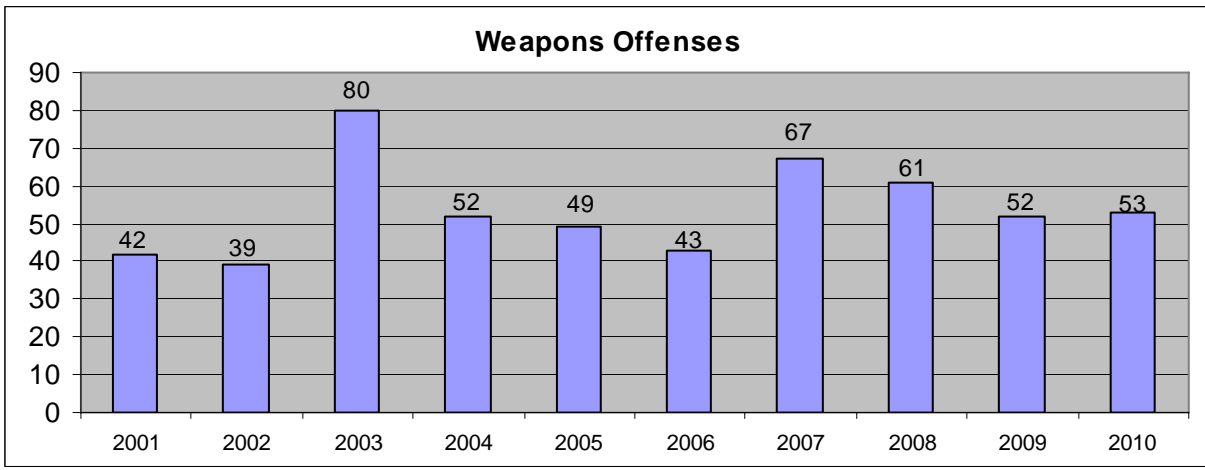


**Property:**                                      **2009:** 235            **2010:** 229            3% decrease



**Robbery:**                                      **2009:** 6              **2010:** 7              17% increase

## CRIME CATEGORIES CONTINUED



**Weapons Offenses:**

**2009:** 52

**2010:** 53

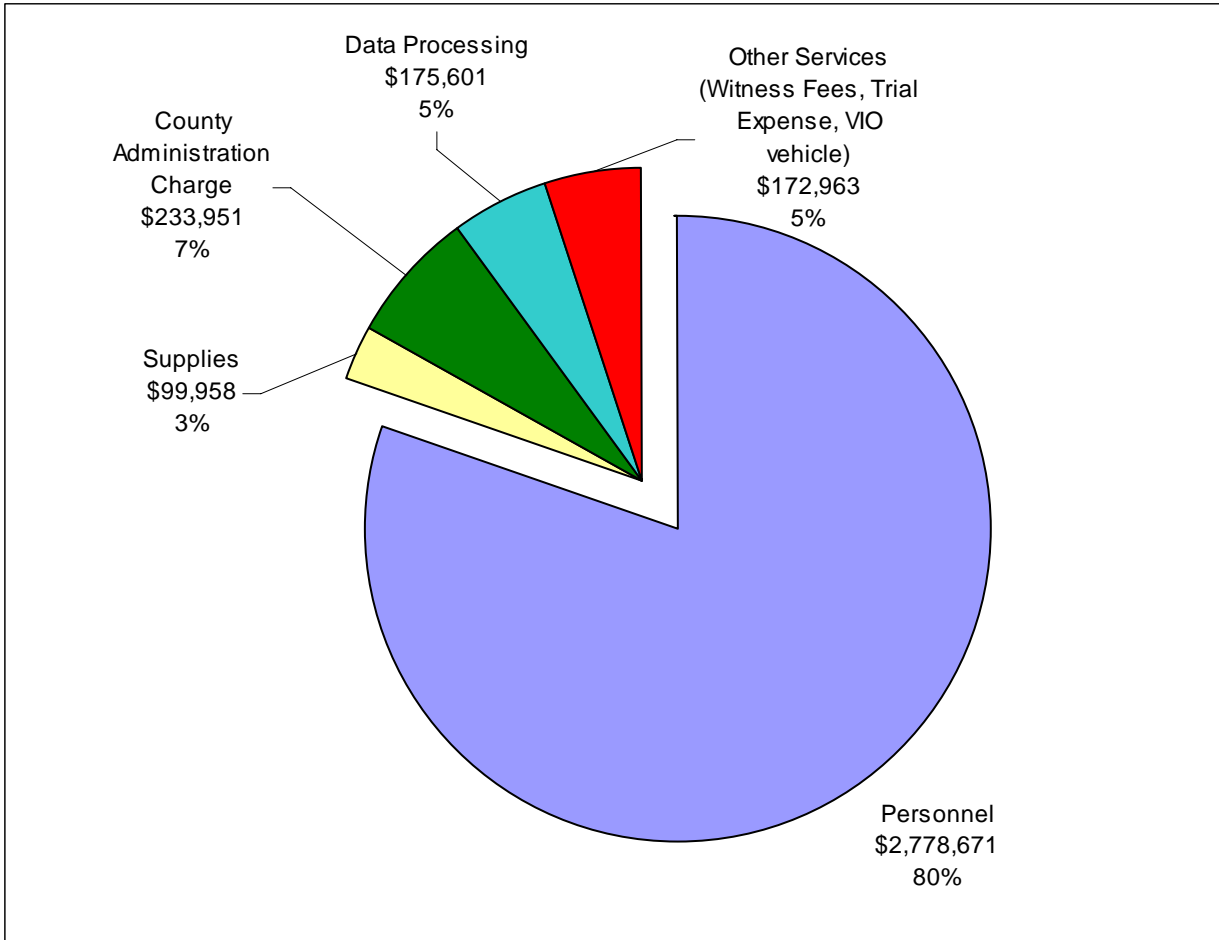
2% increase

## ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Category	2009	2010	% Change
<b>Felony Trials:</b>			
Jury	22	31	41%
Non-Jury	10	1	(90 %)
<b>Misdemeanor Trials</b>			
Jury	14	11	(21%)
Non-Jury	31	45	45%
<b>Civil Infraction Non-Jury Trials</b>	945	1,019	8 %
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Appeals Filed	8	13	63%
Applications for Leave to Appeal	33	34	3 %
Appeals Pending Decision	21	18	(15 %)
Parole Reviews	182	132	(27 %)
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Child Abuse & Neglect Cases	79	93	18 %
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<b>Child Support Cases</b>			
Paternity	176	183	4 %
Non-Support	352	341	(4%)
URESAs: Incoming	18	13	(28%)
Outgoing	46	38	(18%)
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<b>Concealed Weapons Board:</b>			
Applicant Interviews	1059	832	(22 %)
Reviews (without applicant present)	541	702	30 %
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<b>Crime Victims Rights:</b>			
Felony	754	807	7 %
Misdemeanor	516	496	(4 %)
Juvenile	516	490	(5 %)
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Extraditions (Governor's Warrants)	4	0	(100 %)
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Contested Mental Hearings & Guardianship Hearings	53	65	23 %
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Civil Infractions	17,058	15,110	(12%)
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Violation of Personal Protection Order Hearings	65	75	15 %
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Requests for Warrant Authorization (Returned for more investigation or denied)	1,825	2,272	25 %

# BUDGET

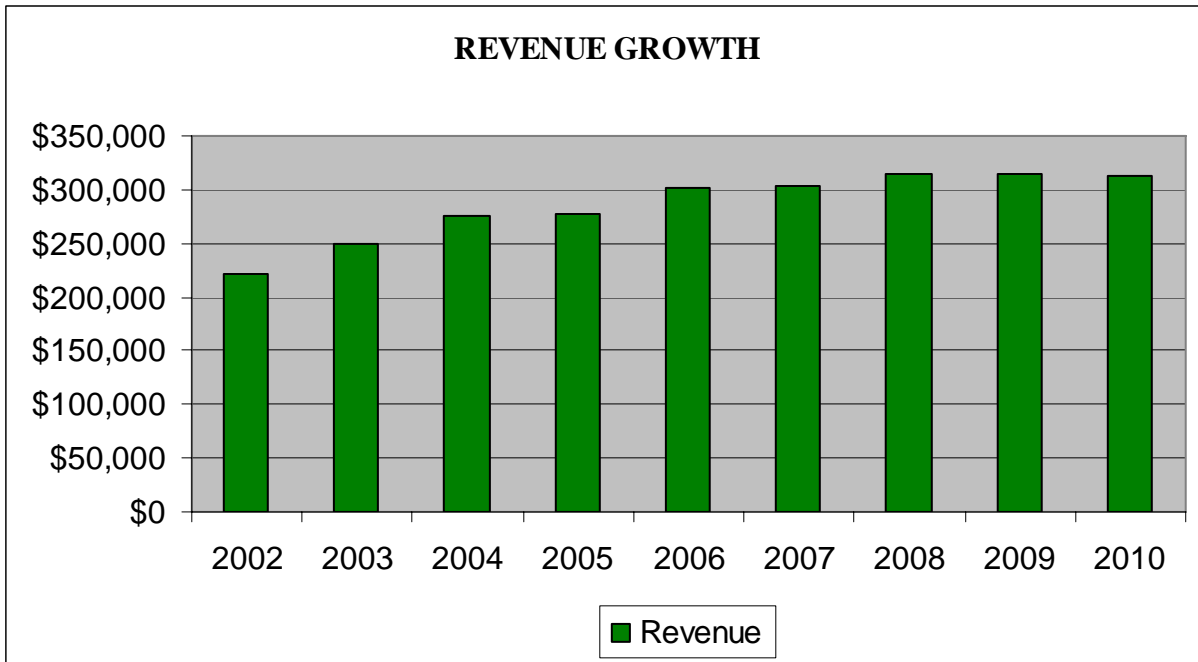
## Annual Expenses 2010



<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$3,399,705	\$3,461,144	2 %

## REVENUE

The Prosecutor's office revenue consists of state funding via grants, contracts and cost reimbursement. Services include Crime Victims' Rights, legal services provided to the Department of Human Service in child abuse and neglect matters, establishment of child support and paternity orders, food stamp fraud prosecution, drivers license hearings for the Secretary of State, and legal services for Allegan County cases pending in the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court in Holland (venue: Holland City, Allegan County). The County also bills offenders convicted of Operating While Intoxicated and other specified offenses, for reimbursement of prosecution costs pursuant to local ordinance.



50% Increase over ten year period

<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>% change</b>
Annual total:	\$314,665	\$313,054	(1 %)

2010 Prosecutor Revenue:

Crime Victim's Rights	\$144,500
F.I.A. Contract	15,771
Cooperative Reimbursement	114,805
OWI Reimbursement	20,755
Allegan Reimbursement	10,196
Driver License Hearings	2,808
Food Stamp Fraud	<u>4,219</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$313,054</b>