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2025 Auglaize County Engineer's Annual Report

Introduction



As we look back at another year here in Auglaize County, I'm pleased to share what our team has accomplished and where we still have work to do. It's been a busy, productive year across our roads, bridges, and drainage systems at the Auglaize County Engineer's Office and Highway Department.

One of our biggest focuses this year was improving the safety and reliability on our roadways. We widened safety shoulders on several key routes. We worked on reshaping and improving both roadside ditches and drainage. These aren't the flashiest projects, but they make a real difference—protecting our roads from water damage, reducing flooding concerns for residents, and helping our infrastructure last longer.

Before going any further, I want to extend a sincere thank-you to our skilled and dedicated employees. The work we do is only possible because of their expertise, pride, and day-to-day commitment. They find ways to stretch every dollar, solve problems in the field, and keep projects moving even when challenges arise. Their efforts allow us to deliver quality improvements while staying responsible with our budget. I'm grateful for everything they bring to this department.

Of course, even with all this progress, we still face some lingering challenges. Our stagnant budget, along with continually rising material and construction costs, limits progress in some areas. Equipment maintenance and purchasing remain challenges as we pursue infrastructure improvement projects with our employees.

It is my privilege to offer this report on the improvements and accomplishments made by the Auglaize County Highway Department and Engineer's Office in 2025. I encourage you to contact our office if you have questions about this report or other undertakings of the County Engineer's Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew J. Baumer".

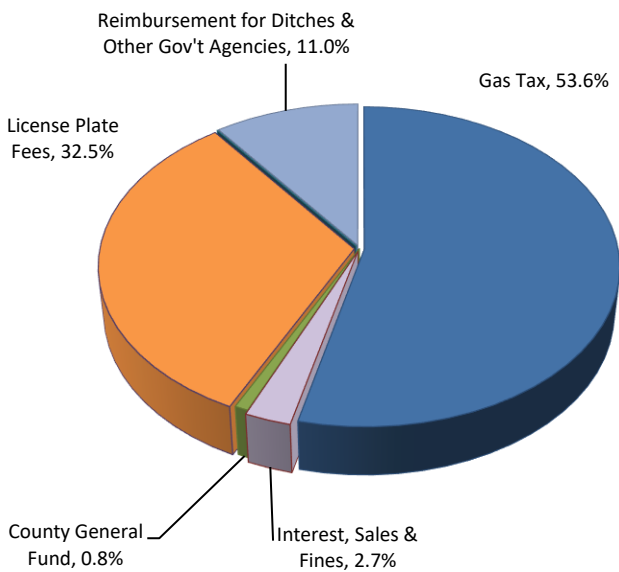
Andrew J. Baumer, P.E., P.S.
Auglaize County Engineer

Financial Summary

The financial summary for 2025 is illustrated below with graphs showing the revenues and expenditures of this department. Revenue in 2025 was lower than in 2024, due to the absence of grant funding and reimbursed work for other entities. Our main funding sources, Gas Tax and License Plate Fees, have seen a slight increase, but it is not enough to keep up with the inflation of construction-related costs we are still seeing.

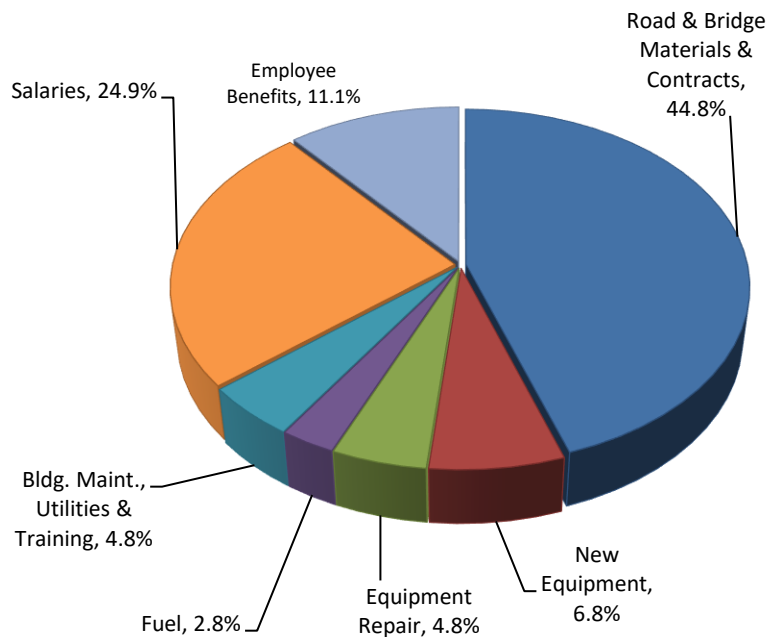
The main expenditures in 2025 were road and bridge materials and contracts, which accounted for 44.8% of the total expenditures. New equipment costs were over 6.8%, and maintenance repairs increased to 4.8%. Even with the rising costs of equipment and maintenance, utilizing our own equipment and our talented employees remains the most cost-effective way to accomplish projects along our County roadways.

2025 RECEIPTS



Total Revenue = \$7,377,374

2025 EXPENDITURES



Total Expenditures = \$7,815,634

4-Year Financial Comparison

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue | \$7,821,030 | \$7,253,104 | \$8,287,617 | \$7,377,374 |
| Expenditures | \$7,452,735 | \$6,965,777 | \$7,368,512 | \$7,815,634 |

Roadway Improvements & Maintenance

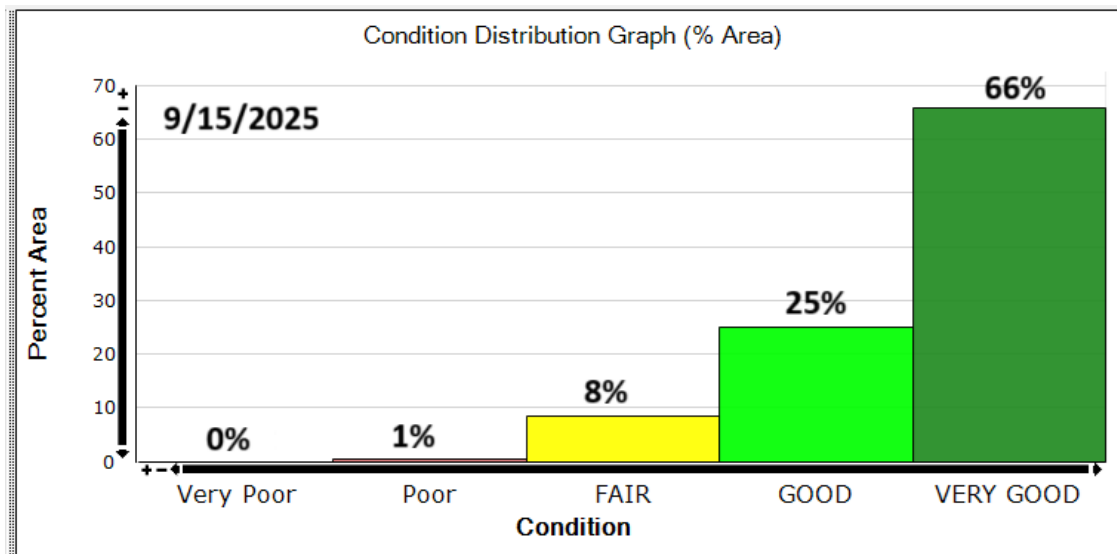
Paving Program

In 2025, our paving bid was awarded to *Shelly Company* for the placement of 9,785 tons of hot mix asphalt on 9.289 miles of county roads at a total price of \$1,182,455. Barber Werner Road, St. Marys River Road, and Aquaduct Road were paved with ½” lift of intermediate asphalt mix. The intermediate mix allows us to re-establish the road profile to remove rutting and other inconsistencies in the roadways. A 1.25” lift of surface mix is placed as the final wearing surface. Berm stone was placed by Auglaize County crews. *Olgesby Construction* placed the center and edge line striping to complete the road improvements.

| 2025 Paving Program – Funded by County Funds | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Road Name | From | To | Length (miles) | Asphalt (tons) | Cost |
| Barber Werner Rd. | St. Marys River Rd. | SR 66 | 2.5 | 2,929 | \$351,825 |
| Barber Werner Rd. | Mercer Line Rd. | SR 197 | 1.0 | 881 | \$106,251 |
| St. Marys River Rd. | Easterly Rd. | SR 197 | 2.5 | 2,725 | \$326,447 |
| Vogel Rd. | Townline Kossuth Rd. | Glynwood-NK Rd. | 1.0 | 820 | \$100,299 |
| Aquaduct Rd. | Greenville Rd. | Plattner Pike | 2.1 | 2,396 | \$290,005 |
| Repair CR 66A | Brewer Rd. | Old Mill Rd. | 0.189 | 34 | \$7,628 |
| Total: | | | 9.289 | 9,785 | \$1,182,455 |

Road Condition Report

All 347 miles of our county roads are evaluated annually to determine the best maintenance treatment. Our typical maintenance treatments include crack sealing, chip seal, and paving. The combinations of these treatments are important to stretch our budget to maintain and improve our roadways. I am happy to share the chart below, which shows the updated pavement condition ratings based on evaluations completed by *Kindler Engineering Systems, LLC*, following our road maintenance in 2025. We will continue to utilize different treatment methods to ensure we have a strong roadway network in Auglaize County into the future.



Roadway Improvements & Maintenance

Winter Weather

The winter of 2024-2025 was much closer to our historic average when comparing to several statistics. Our crews responded to snow and ice events 30 times between November 21, 2024, and March 6, 2025. We used 1,292 tons of salt at a price of \$72.93 per ton in 2024-25. Auglaize County has averaged 1,250 tons of salt and 34 responses per winter since 1985, which makes this winter right at the average mark.

The colder, harsher winter weather puts more stress on our roads and bridges, as well as our budget. We spent \$94,225 on salt, not including the additional costs of truck maintenance, fuel costs, and labor. When money is spent to clear roads during weather events, our road construction budget is reduced. Being able to maintain our roadways efficiently is crucial to sustainable infrastructure in Auglaize County.



County Road Improvements

Over the last several years, it's become a priority to improve our roadside safety shoulders and ditches. Our equipment operators have done a great job reshaping the berm and shoulder to create a wider, safer shoulder for off-road departures and large agricultural equipment. We have also been able to regrade and improve the side ditch drainage along these roadways.

Bridge Program & Construction

Inspection Ratings

There are currently 357 bridges under the responsibility of the Auglaize County Engineer. Each bridge is given a condition rating between 0-9, with 9 being a bridge in new/excellent condition and 0 being a failed bridge. Below is the breakdown of ratings for the bridges in Auglaize County by condition:

| Condition Rating | Total | % of bridges |
|------------------|------------|--------------|
| 9 – Excellent | 10 | 2.8% |
| 8 – Very Good | 172 | 48.2% |
| 7 – Good | 135 | 37.8% |
| 6 – Satisfactory | 36 | 10.1% |
| 5 – Fair | 3 | 0.8% |
| 4 - Poor | 1 | 0.3% |
| Total: | 357 | 100% |

88.8% of Auglaize County's bridges are in Excellent (9), Very Good (8), or Good condition (7). Only 11.2% of Auglaize County's bridges are in Satisfactory (6), Fair (5), or Poor condition (4). One bridge that is in Fair condition (5) is on a section of road that is on non-maintained status and does not carry traffic. The other two bridges in Fair condition (5) are scheduled to be replaced in 2026 and 2027. The bridge rated in Poor condition (4) will receive federal funding for construction in 2028. Of the 357 bridges, 8 bridges are posted for minor weight reductions due to recent Federal law changes in load postings.

Bridge Construction

We had a busy and productive bridge construction season. We once again utilized our precast box beams and 3 sided boxes to complete projects in a very efficient and cost-effective manner. The projects listed below represent those constructed by Auglaize County forces, and the cost represents the labor, materials, and equipment used on each project.

2025 Bridge Construction Projects

| Road Name | Structure Type/Work Completed | Cost |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Zerkle Road | 10' Precast 3-sided concrete box | \$54,933.93 |
| East Shelby Road | 10' Precast 3-sided concrete box | \$31,935.03 |
| Koop Road | 10' Precast 3-sided concrete box | \$50,885.48 |
| Salem-Noble Road | 10' Precast 3-sided concrete box | \$44,419.50 |
| Buckland-Holden Road | 10' Precast 3-sided concrete box | \$38,610.68 |
| Geyer Drive | 34"x53" Elliptical concrete pipe | \$41,296.93 |
| Clover Four Road | 43"x68" Elliptical concrete pipe | \$28,704.00 |
| Fike Road | 60" Round concrete pipe | \$25,533.82 |
| East Shelby (Shelby Co.) | 20' Precast concrete bridge beams | Material/Labor Trade |
| Total Cost for Bridge Construction = | | \$316,319.37 |

Bridge Program & Construction

Bridge and Large Culvert Construction



In addition to our yearly in-house bridge replacements, Auglaize County bridge crews are also responsible for maintaining approximately 309 large culverts ranging in size from 36" up to 10' span. Although these do not meet the true definition of a bridge, they are still significantly sized structures that need regular inspection, maintenance, and replacement to keep the traveling public safe. We are currently into our fourth year of a five-year plan to replace culverts from the

1940's to 1960's. These culverts are either corrugated metal structures that have rusted out or are concrete structures that need improved due to narrow safety shoulder widths or overall deterioration due to age. Recently, we have been incorporating 6 to 10 large culvert replacements into our bridge program each year, and we will have almost 35 structures replaced in five years. The attached photos show just a few of the eight structures that were replaced in 2025.



Ditch Construction & Maintenance

Ditch Maintenance

As required by Ohio Revised Code 6137, Auglaize County is responsible for maintaining all petition ditches constructed since 1957. This includes oversight of **137 miles of tile ditches, 175 miles of open ditches, 8.6 miles of waterways, and 71 miles of log jam removal.**

In 2025, maintenance was performed on **223 of the 335 ditches under county jurisdiction**, with a total expenditure of **\$351,537**. Routine maintenance activities included:

- Ditch dip-outs and leveling
- Tile suck hole and catch basin repairs
- Herbicide spraying
- Mowing

These efforts ensure the long-term functionality of the county’s drainage infrastructure and support effective water management across the region.

GIS & Map Office

The Map Office reviews boundary, subdivision, condominium, and annexation survey plats as well as legal descriptions of real estate transfers to ensure they comply with the Auglaize County’s Conveyance Standards and Minimum Standards for Boundary Surveys.

In 2025, our Map Office reviewed and filed 95 new boundary surveys and reviewed 2,675 legal descriptions of conveyance documents for deeds, plats, land contracts, certificates, and affidavits transfer of real estate.

In 2026, you will see a revision to the Auglaize County Conveyance Standards. The Ohio Revised Code allows the County Auditor and Engineer to establish conveyance standards for real property in Ohio. The last time these conveyance standards were revised was in 1996. The revisions coming in 2026 will allow both offices to efficiently review and transfer deeds as well as aid the County Recorder with new requirements associated with electronic recordings that are set to take effect in May 2026.



AUGLAIZE COUNTY
DESCRIPTION PRE-APPROVAL FORM



Submissions may be made via:
Mail or drop off: Map/GIS Office, 209 S. Blackhoof St., Suite 104, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Fax: 419-738-6741
Email: MapOffice@AuglaizeCounty.org

Instructions: This form is required for all submissions for pre-approval at Auglaize County. Once an acceptable conveyance pre-approval has been granted, this form is required along with the executed conveyance to the Auglaize County Map Office for the appropriate stamp to be affixed to the description within the conveyance document. This must be completed prior to transfer at the Auglaize County Auditor’s Office.

TAX PARCEL(S) #: _____

SUBMITTING PARTY: _____

Return comments via: Fax: _____
 Email: _____
 Mail (include self-addressed stamped envelope)
 Pick-up in person

***** AREA FOR MAP OFFICE USE ONLY *****

Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Contact County Engineer about sewer payment prior to closing.

Acceptable Conveyances:

Description pre-approved for transfer.

Description pre-approved for transfer with "New survey required next transfer".

Description pre-approval for transfer with "New survey recommended next transfer".

Rejected Conveyances (Must be resubmitted for an Acceptable Conveyance):

Correction needed on the description before transfer.

New survey required before this transfer.

Employee Spotlight

It is becoming far less common for someone to dedicate their career to one company or employer. We have been fortunate to have several long-tenured employees who have dedicated their careers to Auglaize County. We wish all three of these employees a long, enjoyable retirement!

TJ Place, Drainage Technician, retired from our office in February 2025. TJ served Auglaize County in the Soil & Water Conservation Office as well as the Engineer's Office for 32 years. His knowledge and efforts helped to drive many successful drainage tile, open ditch, wetlands, and waterway projects. The impact of TJ's work will be felt in Auglaize County well into the future. Thank you, TJ, for your service to not only our office but also to the Auglaize County residents.



Mike Etkorn retired after 36 years with our Highway Department. Mike was a very skilled excavator operator and spent many hours removing countless trees, debris, and log jams from the St. Mary's and Auglaize Rivers in the County. Mike dedicated many hours in the excavator, snow plow, and also worked on many small engines. He was always willing to work even if that call came in the middle of the night! Thank you, Mike, for dedicating your time and talents to serve Auglaize County!

Mary Lou Hume retired from our office in May 2025. Over the course of her 41 years with the Engineer's Office, she was responsible for directing phone calls, paying bills, employee payroll, and many HR related items. You could always count on Mary Lou's smile and personality to brighten the day of anyone who came through the office. I am grateful for Mary Lou's dedication to our office over the years, but more importantly, our friendship. It was a pleasure working with you every day!

