



# BUILDING MOMENTUM

Report to the Citizens 2014



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Lebanon welcomed a new festival in 2014. Lebanon Oktoberfest was held on October 18, 2014. The annual festival raises funds for ongoing improvements to Miller Ecological Park, the only park of its kind in the area.*



We certainly kept the momentum in 2014, making great strides to keep our city moving forward, by maintaining our infrastructure, improving our tax base, and providing the amenities that make our community a great place to live.

The City's much anticipated roadway connector opened in October 2014. Neil Armstrong Way will help alleviate our existing and future roadway congestion in the downtown area. The connector is the first road to be built in our City since the early 1970's, and it has been dedicated to Neil Armstrong, Astronaut and former Lebanon resident. We also welcomed new retailer Peebles to our community, and became the proud home of a new downtown festival, Lebanon Oktoberfest.

The City Council and I remain committed to ensuring that our community continues to attract the kinds of quality development that will allow us to maintain the high quality of life for all residents and business operators.

I encourage you to get involved in your government by staying informed, letting us know what you think about our services, or by serving on one of the many City Boards or advisory Commissions. Lebanon's future continues to move forward and the City Council and I greatly appreciate your support and participation.

Mayor Amy Brewer



"The City of Lebanon staff is dedicated to improving our citizen's quality of life by delivering outstanding services and ensuring the efficient use of our resources. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the efforts made to accomplish this goal and to foster an environment of open and ethical government."

Pat Clements  
City Manager

# YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Lebanon Charter, adopted by the voters on October 4, 1960, mandates the Council-Manager form of government. The Council-Manager form is used by over 3,700 cities because it combines the political leadership of elected officials with the managerial experience of an appointed manager.

The Council members are the leaders and policy makers elected to represent the needs of the community. As a legislative body, the City Council determines policies, which direct the actions of government. Council members are elected, at-large, for four-year staggered terms. The Mayor is selected by a vote of Council.

The City Manager is appointed by the Council to serve as the chief executive officer of the City and to manage the daily operations of the City. The Manager is responsible for the development and execution of policies, administration of personnel, allocation of resources, and enforcement of the City's laws.



## VOICE YOUR VIEWS

Residents of Lebanon are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process by participating in public hearings, and by offering comments during appropriate opportunities at City Council meetings and all Board and Commission meetings.

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS MEMBERS

Boards and Commissions offer City of Lebanon residents the opportunity to become involved in local government.

### Board of Festivals and Tourism

Mary Alice Leasure,  
Mary Klei, Phyllis Wyatt,  
Raye Kimberlin, Darrell  
Tucker, Elizabeth Clarke,  
Jennifer Reed

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Thomas Siehl, John  
Magness, Robert Kaufman

### Citizens Housing Committee

William Ford, Doug Sibcy,  
Marcia Collopy, Greg  
Orosz

### Civil Service Commission

Brad Knapp, Bradd  
Testerman, Mary Ann  
Mulford

### Library Board

Wesley Kay Turner,  
Bonnie Ariss, Marilyn  
Russell, Gary Kuntz, Lee  
Weiderhold, Gail Rose,  
Connie Collins

### Planning Commission

Michael Murphy, Richard  
Fair, Kevin Glardon, Tom  
Miller, Mayor Amy Brewer

### Recreation Board

Beverly Ikenberry, Donna  
Prater, Mike Evans, Jeff  
Napier, John Leo Cronin,  
Jane Davis, Bernie  
Uchtman, Scott Nash,  
Adam Matthews

### Shade Tree Commission

Hewett Mulford, Mickie  
Marquis, Sara Timmerman,  
Casey Burdick, Jim  
Ludwick, Randy Duff,  
Margaret Uchtman

# LEBANON CITY COUNCIL



Top: Stephen Kaiser, Vice Mayor Mark Messer, Matthew Rodriguez  
Bottom: Jim Dearie, Wendy Monroe, Mayor Amy Brewer, James Norris II

## IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Annual Street Resurfacing  
\$485,808  
Resurfaced 1.82 centerline miles of roadway

ST. RT. 123/63 Connector  
\$5,799,532  
Completed October 2014

West Street Reconstruction  
\$797,349  
Completed Spring 2015

East Street Reconstruction  
\$1,268,655  
Completed Spring 2015

# 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

## CITY COMPLETES ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Lebanon completed the reconstruction of two roadways during 2014. Reconstruction of West Street, between West Main Street and West Silver Street, included the installation of a new water main, storm sewer system, replacement of the sanitary sewer main and new curb and sidewalks. The City received a \$300,000 State Grant in support of the project. Total project cost was \$797,349.

Reconstruction of East Street, between East Park Avenue and Maple Avenue, included the installation of a new storm sewer system, and new curb and sidewalks. The project cost was \$1,167,057, and the City received a state grant for \$670,000 in support of the project.



Pre & Post Construction  
West Street



Pre & Post Construction  
East Avenue

## NEIL ARMSTRONG WAY CONNECTOR OPENS

Neil Armstrong Way, Lebanon's new roadway, connecting State Route 63 and State Route 123 opened to the public in October 2014. The roadway has been designated as State Route 123, and will help alleviate existing and future roadway congestion in the downtown area.

The project costs were \$5.7 million, and the City received a \$3.2 million federal roadway grant in support of the project.

### ST. RT. 123-63 CONNECTOR FACTS

The connector is the first *NEW* state route to be constructed in the City since By-Pass 48, which was built in the early 1970's.

As part of the project, the first sound barrier wall was constructed within the City limits. The wall is 528 ft. long and ranges in height from 10 to 20 ft.

The connector adds 4,000 feet (3/4 of a mile) of new 2-lane roadway to the City's inventory.

2.6 miles of new curb and 1.5 miles of new storm sewer were installed in support of the new connector.

## CITY AWARDED CLEAN OHIO GRANTS

The City was awarded two state grants in the amount of \$337,000 to purchase several properties along North Broadway Avenue that will support the expansion of Colonial Park, and help maintain beautification efforts along the corridor. This competitive grant program supports property acquisition that focuses on enhancing and improving a community's green space and watershed protection initiatives. All of the properties purchased through this grant are located in the North Fork Creek watershed, and are located along major roadway corridors.

Several vacant properties were purchased through this program, in addition to two structures that will be removed. The City completed the demolition of the structure at 528 North Broadway in 2014. The cleared land provides increased visibility and future access into the park from North Broadway. Colonial Park is one of Lebanon's most utilized parks, which includes seven baseball & softball fields, a basketball court, playground areas, shelters, natural areas, and two miles of hiking trails.



528 North Broadway  
Before

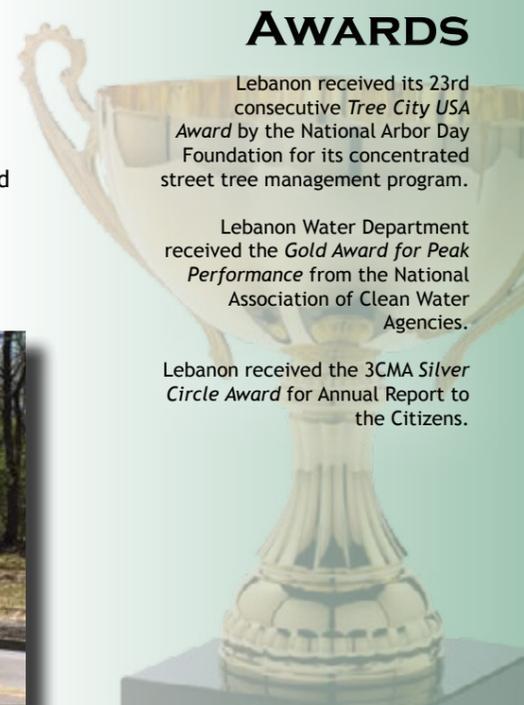
After

## AWARDS

Lebanon received its 23rd consecutive *Tree City USA Award* by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its concentrated street tree management program.

Lebanon Water Department received the *Gold Award for Peak Performance* from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Lebanon received the 3CMA *Silver Circle Award* for Annual Report to the Citizens.



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

Lebanon Police Department (LPD) replaced the remaining Kustom in-car cameras with Panasonic Arbitrator Camera Systems in the department's cruiser fleet. The new cameras are set up for automatic recording under certain situations, in addition to capturing audio within the vehicle and through a microphone carried on the officer. The video and audio are automatically downloaded to a LPD server.



LPD also transitioned from the TASER X26 to the TASER X2 Conducted Electrical Weapon. The TASER X2 provides a more reliable platform for electro-muscular incapacitation, as well as providing officers with an immediate backup cartridge.

## LEBANON OFFICERS COMPLETE TRAINING & VETERAN OFFICERS RETIRE

LPD focused on continuing education and training in 2014. Sergeant Mike McCutchan graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College, and Sergeant Jimmy Burns graduated from the Supervisor Training & Education Program. Officer Tim Cooper completed 280 hours of training in Computer Crime and Data Recovery.



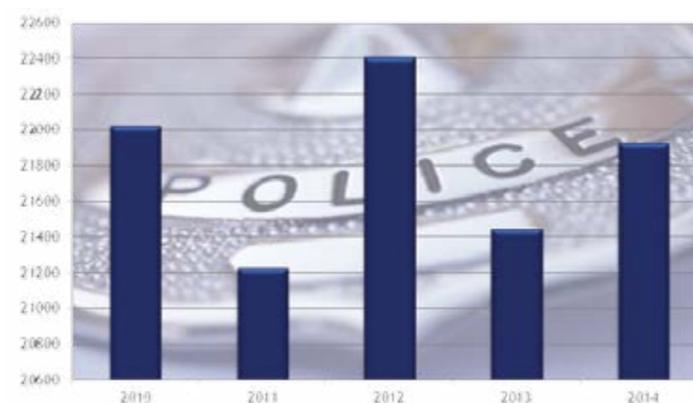
Officers also attended TASER training. Trainers, Chris Brock and Dave Gehringer, presented training that combined the yearly TASER certification with the conversion to the new TASER X2 equipment.

LPD said farewell to two veteran LPD Officers in 2014. Sergeant Rick Bens retired in April, after nearly 35 years of service with LPD. Bens was hired as a patrolman was promoted to Sergeant. Patrolman Robb White retired in July with 31 years of service. White served as a Communications Officer, Patrolman, Detective and Forensic Analyst.

## 2014 CITATIONS & ARRESTS



## 2014 CALLS FOR SERVICE



## FIRE EQUIPMENT UPGRADES MADE WITH ASSISTANCE OF STATE FUNDING

Lebanon Fire Department (LFD) was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the State of Ohio to acquire a Stryker power-loading cot fastener system. The Stryker Power-LOAD is a battery operated hydraulic lift system that supports the cot during loading and unloading of patients. It lifts or lowers the cot into or out of the medic unit mechanically instead of manually.



The system can be used for patients weighing up to 700 pounds, and will decrease the risk of injury in loading and unloading since personnel will not be required to lift the cot and patient into or out of the ambulance, reducing injury exposure. It also meets crash test standards for maximized occupant safety. Both front line medics were able to be equipped with the Power LOAD cot system with funds from the matching grant opportunity.

## LFD HIRES FIRE MARSHAL



Chief Gerome created the part-time Fire Marshal position in 2014, and hired Robert Hathorn, a recently retired fire officer from the Anderson Township Fire Department, Hamilton County, Ohio. Marshal Hathorn began his career in 1977 and retired as a lieutenant in 2014 after 37 years of service.

Marshal Hathorn is responsible for all fire prevention activities including, plan review, inspection and testing. He works closely with other city departments, building officials, engineers, architects, contractors and the public to provide life safety and enforce the Ohio Fire Code.

## MUNICIPAL COURT

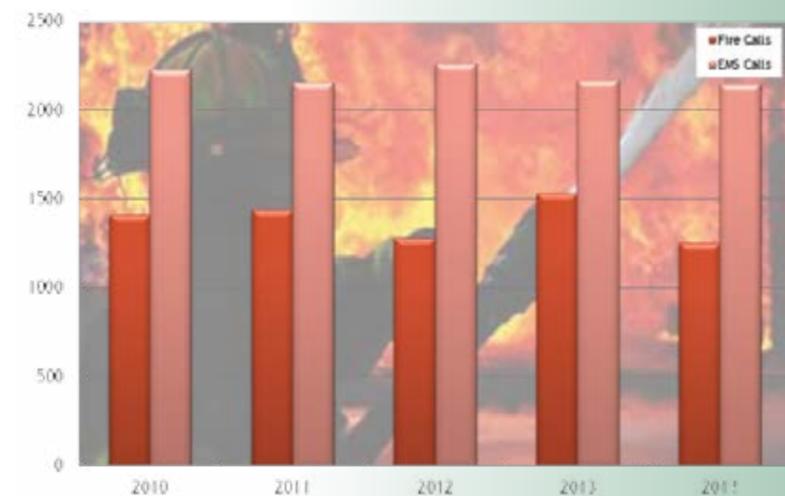
Judge Mark Bogen has served as Lebanon Municipal Judge since 1998. His court serves Lebanon and Turtlecreek Township. The Municipal Court staff includes five court clerks and two probation officers.

The Court handled 6,191 cases in 2014, which consisted of: 1,573 felony & misdemeanor cases, 273 DUI's, 4,345 traffic cases, 661 civil cases & small claims filed.



Judge Mark Bogen

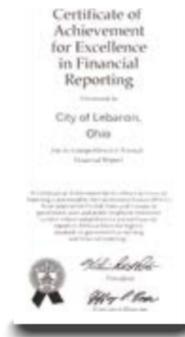
## 2014 CALLS FOR SERVICE



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

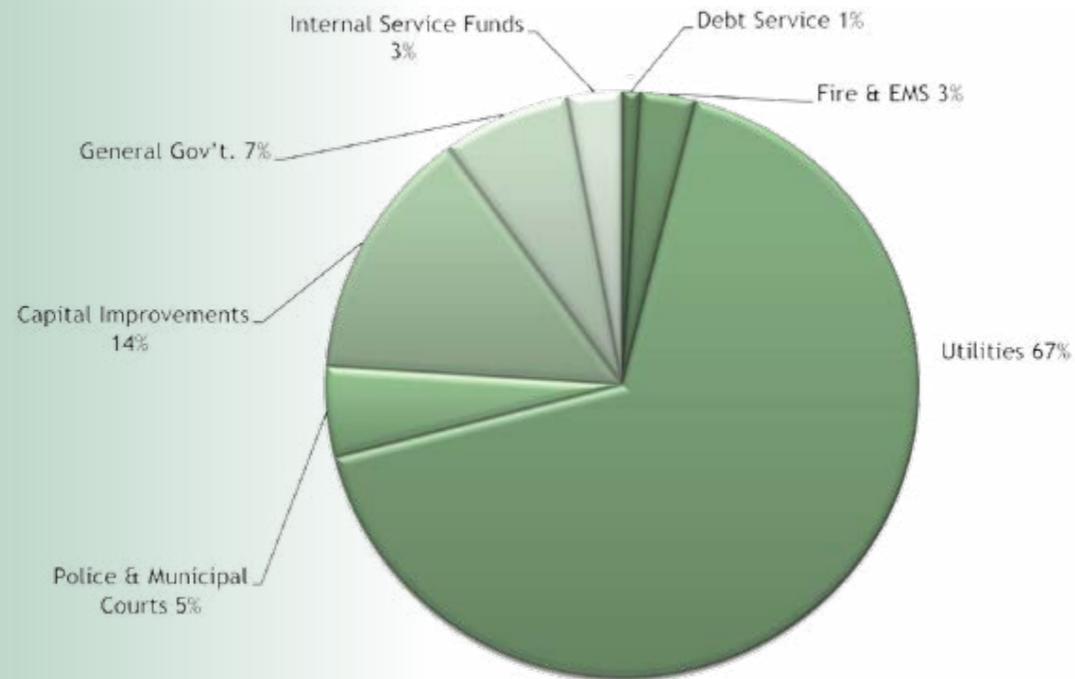
Lebanon's 2014 Operating Budget totaled 78 million. In addition to regular operations, the City Council approved a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan totaling \$47.6 million.

The City ended 2014 with a General Fund balance of \$4.8 million, which is equivalent to about 170 days of operating expenses.

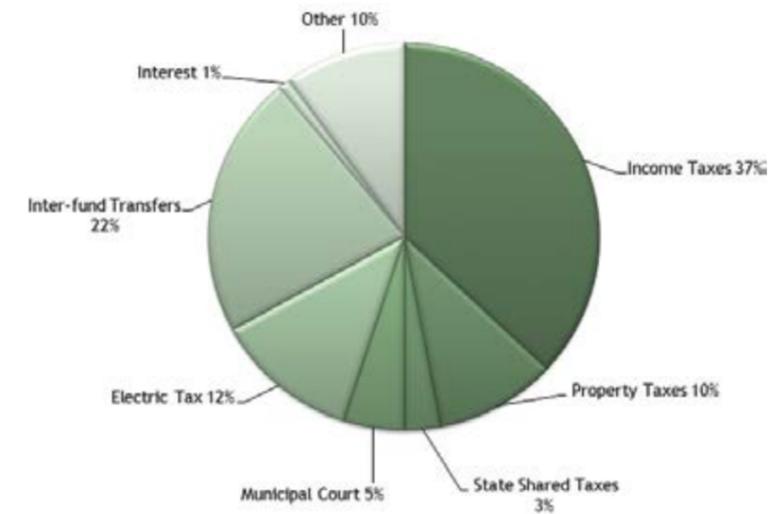


Lebanon has received the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officers of the United States and Canada for 25 consecutive years.

## TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET \$78 MILLION

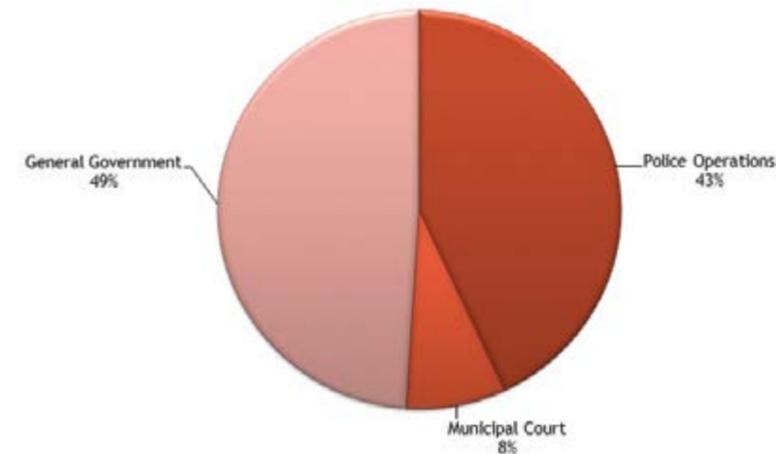


## 2014 GENERAL FUND REVENUE



- Revenues**
- Income Taxes:** Funds generated from the City's 1% earnings tax.
  - Inter-fund Transfers:** Payments made by the various utility funds to reimburse the General Fund for the cost of administrative support.
  - State Shared Taxes:** Revenues from the Local Government Fund and Homestead Rollback Tax.
  - Municipal Court:** Court fees, fines and probation department reimbursement.
  - Property Taxes:** Revenues from collection of tax on real estate and personal property.
  - Electric Tax:** Revenues from the collection of the Kilowatt Hour tax from the City-owned electric utility.
  - Other Receipts:** Interest, charges for services, cable TV franchise fee and miscellaneous receipts.
  - Building Permits:** Inspection and permit fees.

## 2014 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES



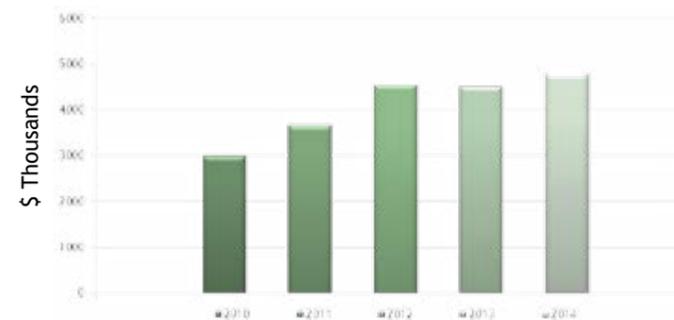
- Expenses**
- General Government:** Expenses associated with the administrative functions of the City including: legal expenses, building inspections & code enforcement, City Council, finance & accounting, city administration, facility maintenance, engineering, marketing, and economic development.
  - Police Operations:** Police & emergency communications center operations.
  - Municipal Court:** Expenses associated with the municipal court & probation department.



"The mission of the Finance Department is to develop sound fiscal policies, fiscal management and integrity, maintain cash reserves, develop and implement financial accounting policies, and protect and optimize the financial resources and assets of the City."

Sharee Dick  
City Auditor

## GENERAL FUND CASH RESERVES



## GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

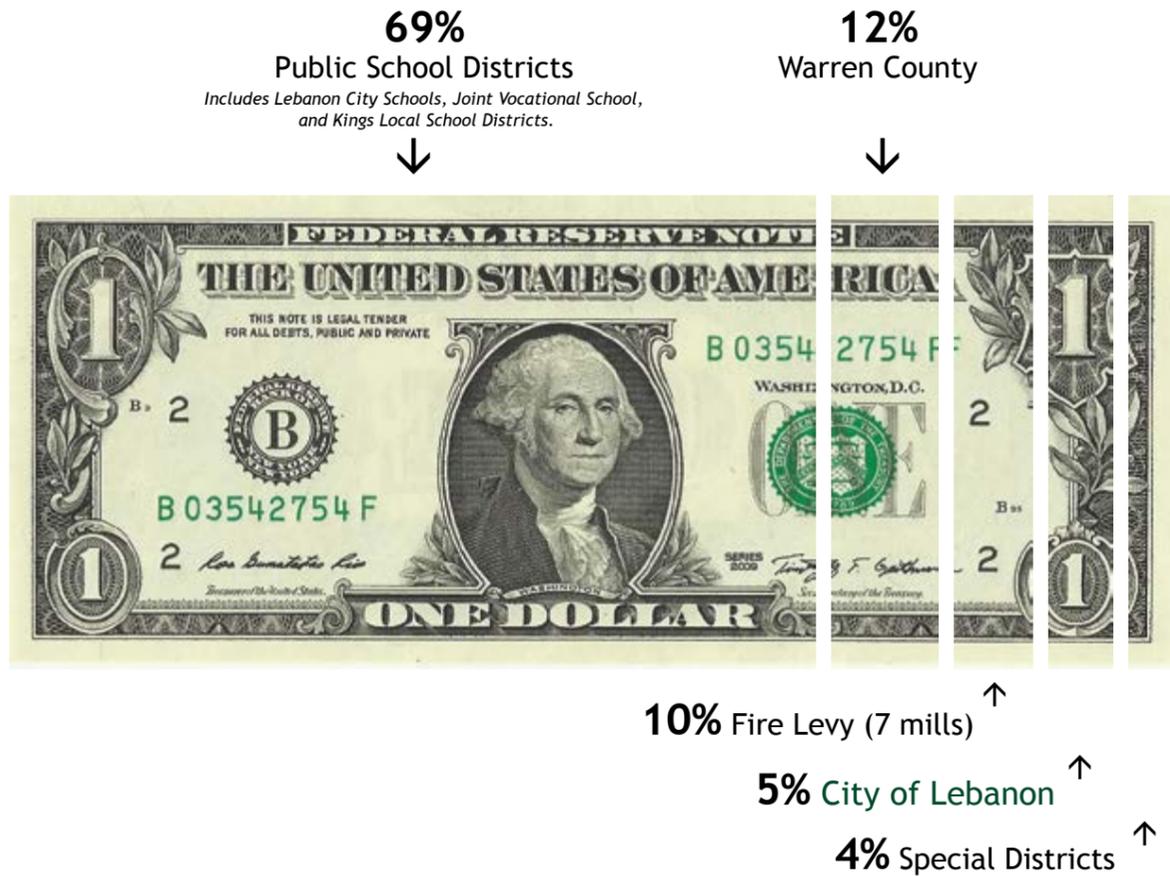


# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

A home with a market value of \$200,000 generates about \$4,284 in property taxes each year, not including special assessments. The City's share of a property tax bill is only about five percent, with 10 percent going to fire service. The local school districts receive 69 percent, special districts receive four percent, while the remaining 12 percent goes to Warren County.

Property tax revenues, minus any special assessments, allocated to the City are used to support a wide range of local government services including; police, fire & emergency medical services, street maintenance, code enforcement and general administration. Since property taxes provide a very small portion of the City's overall revenue, the City relies heavily upon the revenue generated from the one percent earnings tax.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### INX

INX International Ink Co. completed construction of its new 63,000 square-foot facility at 350 Homan Drive in the Lebanon Commerce Center. The solvent-ink manufacturing operation will have 38 employees by 2016. Water and paste ink production is currently underway, with additional product development planned for 2015.



### ADVICS CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY & NAMED INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR

ADVICS Manufacturing Ohio, Inc. celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. The Japanese-owned company began producing the front brake caliper for the Ford escort in 1989 with 50 employees. Today, after five expansions and the building of a second manufacturing plant, ADVICS has more than 650 team members producing disc brake calipers and electronic stability control units for many of the world's leading automotive manufacturers.

In addition to being the largest employer within the city, they are the largest manufacturing employer in Warren County. ADVICS is a tremendous asset and corporate partner to the Lebanon community.

The company was recognized for its outstanding contributions to our community, by being awarded with the City's 2014 Industrial Business of the Year award. ADVICS was selected for its enhanced quality of life through job creation, facility improvements and community involvement.



### TOMAK

Tomak Precision, a leader in precision machining for the aerospace, medical, and hydraulic industries completed a 15,000 square-foot expansion in October 2014. The company invested \$750,000 to expand the facility and install new machinery to position the company for growth within the thriving aerospace industry.

### FECON

FECON, Inc. expanded their operations in Columbia Business Park by purchasing a 40,000 square-foot building located across the street from the company's primary facility. The company invested \$1.5 million in renovating the building to expand its engineering and tractor production facility. FECON, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of forestry mulchers, forestry track carriers, and biomass harvesting equipment. The company has 140 employees with annual payroll of \$5.7 million.

## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### PEEBLES



Peebles opened its new retail store in the Watson's Crossing shopping center in November 2014 with 30 employees. The grand opening marked the 199th Peebles store to open nationally and the 30th store in Ohio.

The retailer invested over \$750,000 in renovations to the 22,000 square-foot store that occupies a portion of the former Kroger supermarket. Peebles department store offers apparel, accessories, cosmetics and household goods.



## CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Manager	228-3101
City Auditor	228-3163
Municipal Court	933-7210
Probation	228-3190
Fire Department <i>non-emergency</i>	932-6119
Police Department <i>non-emergency</i>	932-2010
Customer Service (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F)	933-7200
After Hours Service	932-2010
Economic Development	228-3172
Electric	228-3200
Engineering	228-3130
Inspections & Permits	228-3171
Community Info. & Events	228-3110
Planning & Zoning	228-3171
Public Works	228-3701
Solid Waste	933-7200
Tax	228-3121
Water & Wastewater	228-3601

City of Lebanon ♦ 50 South Broadway ♦ Lebanon ♦ Ohio ♦ 45036  
www.lebanonohio.gov ♦  ♦ phone: 513-933-7200

