

Lawrence Municipal Court



2004 Annual Report
Vicki Stanwix, Court Manager

The Year in Review

2004

Revenue: *The annual net revenue to all city funds was \$2,502,309, up \$300,000 from 2003. The highest revenue month on record was November, ending with \$262,555.00.*

Citations: *The highest ticket month of the year was August. There were 5254 tickets issued during that month. The total number of citations issued for the year was 41,534, up 14% from 2003 and the highest annual total recorded. The largest increase noted in a single charge was in speeding violations. There were 9,215 speeding tickets issued during the year, up 32% from 2003. Increases in both citations and revenue can be contributed to the effectiveness of the traffic unit, established in March, 2003.*

Parking: *There were 105,915 meter tickets issued in 2004, up slightly from the 2003 total of 102,744. The collection rate remained steady throughout the year, averaging 68-70%. Parking statements, NTA parking notices, and 30-day traffic notices were mailed consistently throughout the year. There were 5970 overtime parking statements, 8780 NTA parking notices, and over 4200 30-day traffic notices generated.*

Customer Service: *Court clerks processed over 16,000 transactions at the customer service window, and received nearly 40,000 pieces of mail. Court was in session every weekday, and a monthly docket was added for defendants represented by Douglas County Legal Aid.*

Technology Improvements : *In September of 2004, the City Commission approved the purchase and installation of Full Court, a fully integrated records management system used by all District Courts and several other Municipal Courts in the state of Kansas.*

The system is funded from an increase in court costs, effective September 1, 2004. By the end of the year, revenue from this increase was 8% higher than projected, and had funded over 1/3 of the initial program cost.

Some of the many benefits of this program include electronic processing of traffic convictions to the Motor Vehicle Department, enhanced reporting and tracking features, and automatic detection of past due cases.

The Full Court system implementation is the first of a series of technology improvements geared toward improving the effectiveness of court operations.

The next phase of the project will involve the purchase of software to equip patrol officers with the capability to issue citations from the mobile data terminal inside their vehicle, and transfer them electronically to the court. Handheld units for parking control officers will also be purchased.

The final component of the project will be the installation of an enhanced records management module for the City Prosecutor's office. The program is in the final stages of development and is scheduled to be installed in the summer of 2005.

Overtime Parking Activity

While revenue in most areas was up in 2004, the Overtime Parking revenue dropped 24% from 2003.

The decrease in revenue from criminal parking complaints could be explained by the following:

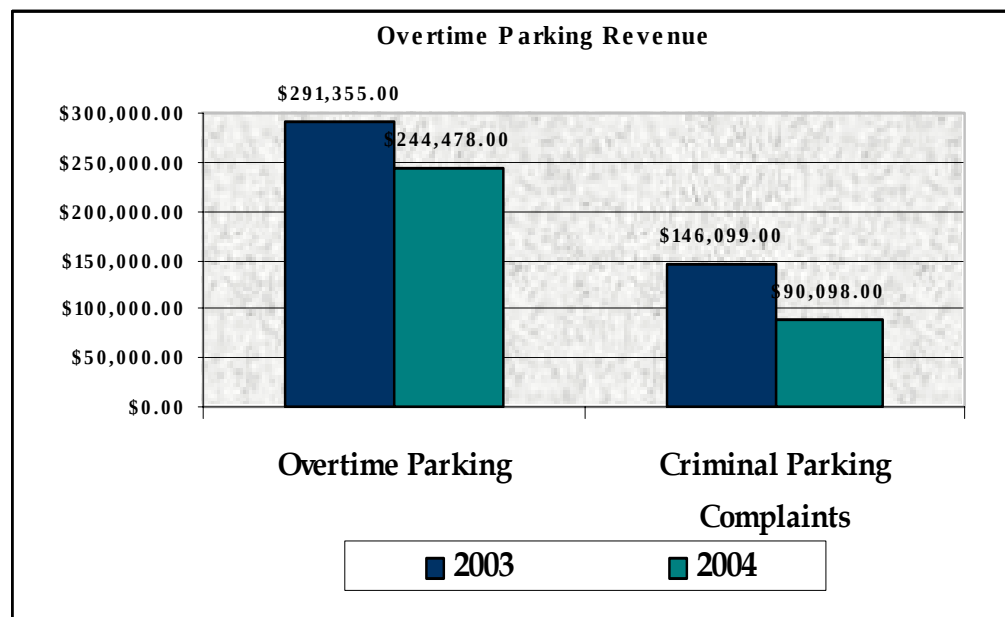
In 2003, there were 1405 overtime parking complaints issued with assessed fines totaling \$153,386. In 2004, only 737 complaints were issued. Our goal for 2003 was to aggressively pursue the top parking violators. In doing so, we collected on old outstanding debt that no longer exists. The average amount owed by a “top 10” violator in 2003 was around \$1000. In 2004, the average amount owed by top violators dropped to under \$300.

The reason for the decrease in yellow ticket revenue is harder to identify, but there are a few key factors:

-Fewer people paid. The collection rate dropped 5% in 2004.

-Fewer statements were sent. There were 5970 statements sent in 2004, compared to 7089 in 2003.

-In 2003, the “Top 10” list in the paper prompted citizens to pay off their parking debt for fear their name would be published.

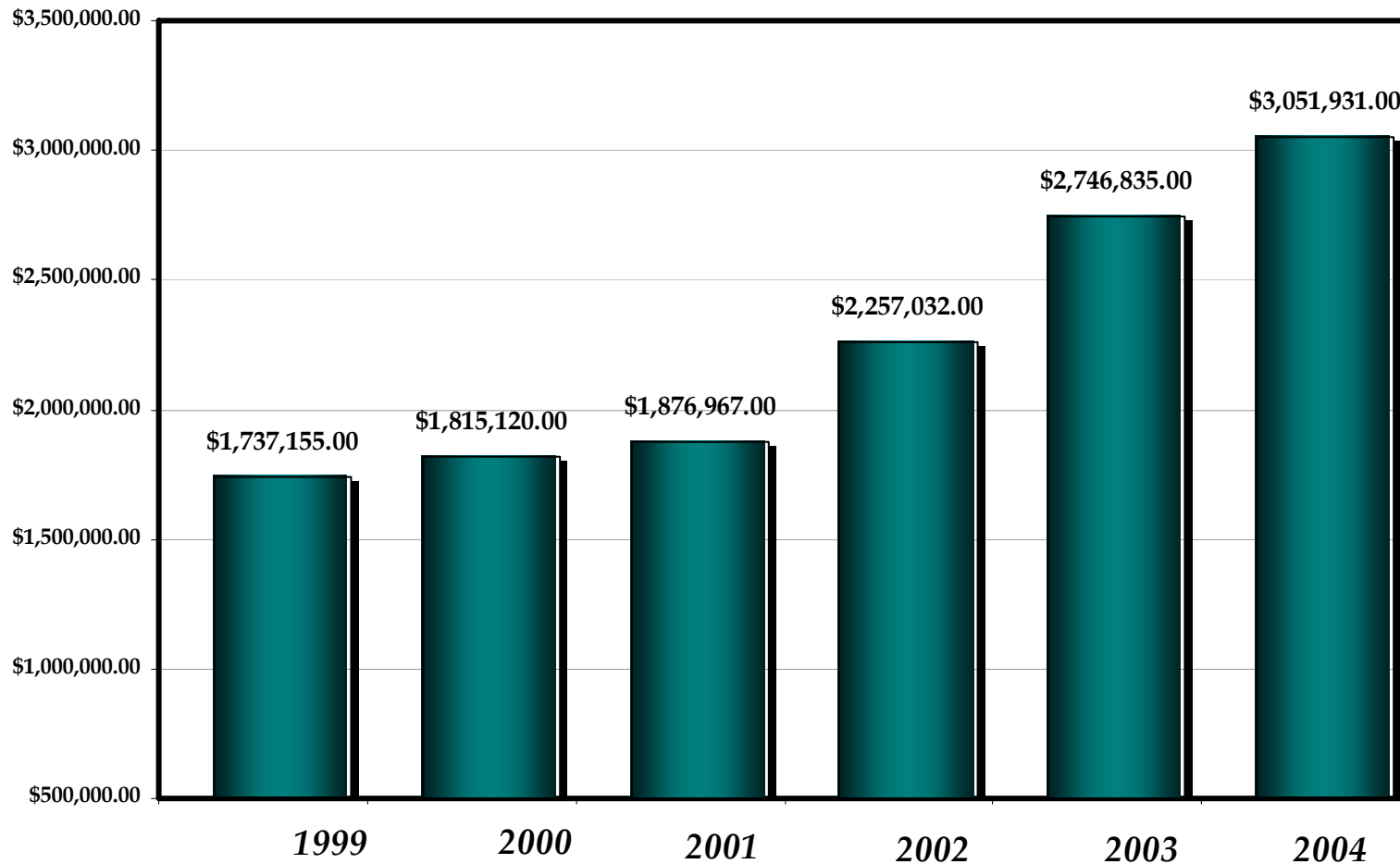


The primary reason for the decrease in overall parking activity was the increase in traffic citation activity, most notably the 32% increase in speeding tickets.

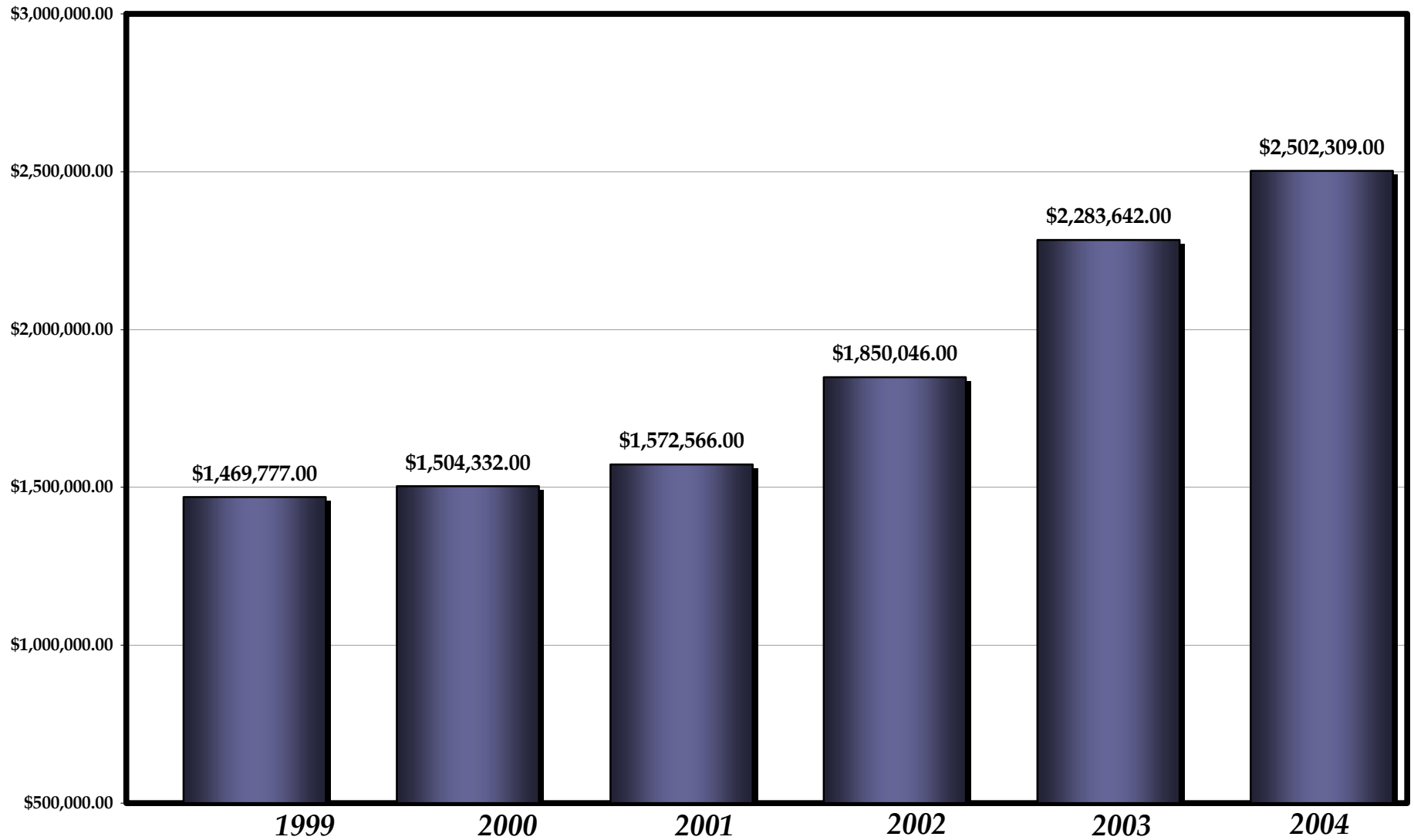
In 2003 we had a clerk dedicated to parking collections. In 2004, she was needed to assist with the volume of ticket entry, mail payments, and amendment data entry. We simply didn't have the time or the staff to run tags, enter owner information and generate notices.

Yearly Gross Revenue (1999 - 2004)

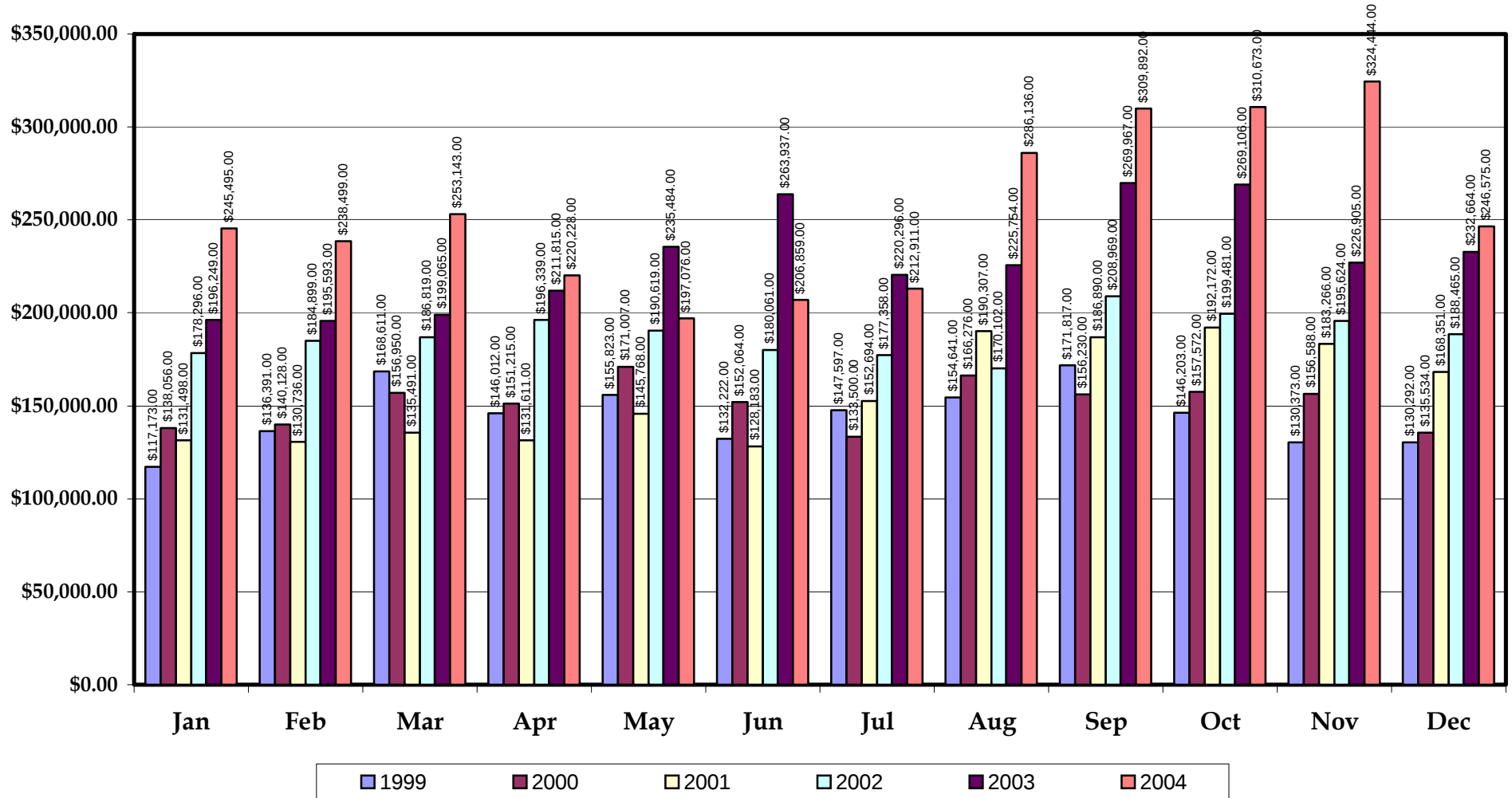
The totals below reflect all revenue received in the Lawrence Municipal Court, including overtime parking, restitution payments, and fees that are forwarded to the State Treasury pursuant to Kansas state law.



Yearly City Revenue(1999 - 2004)

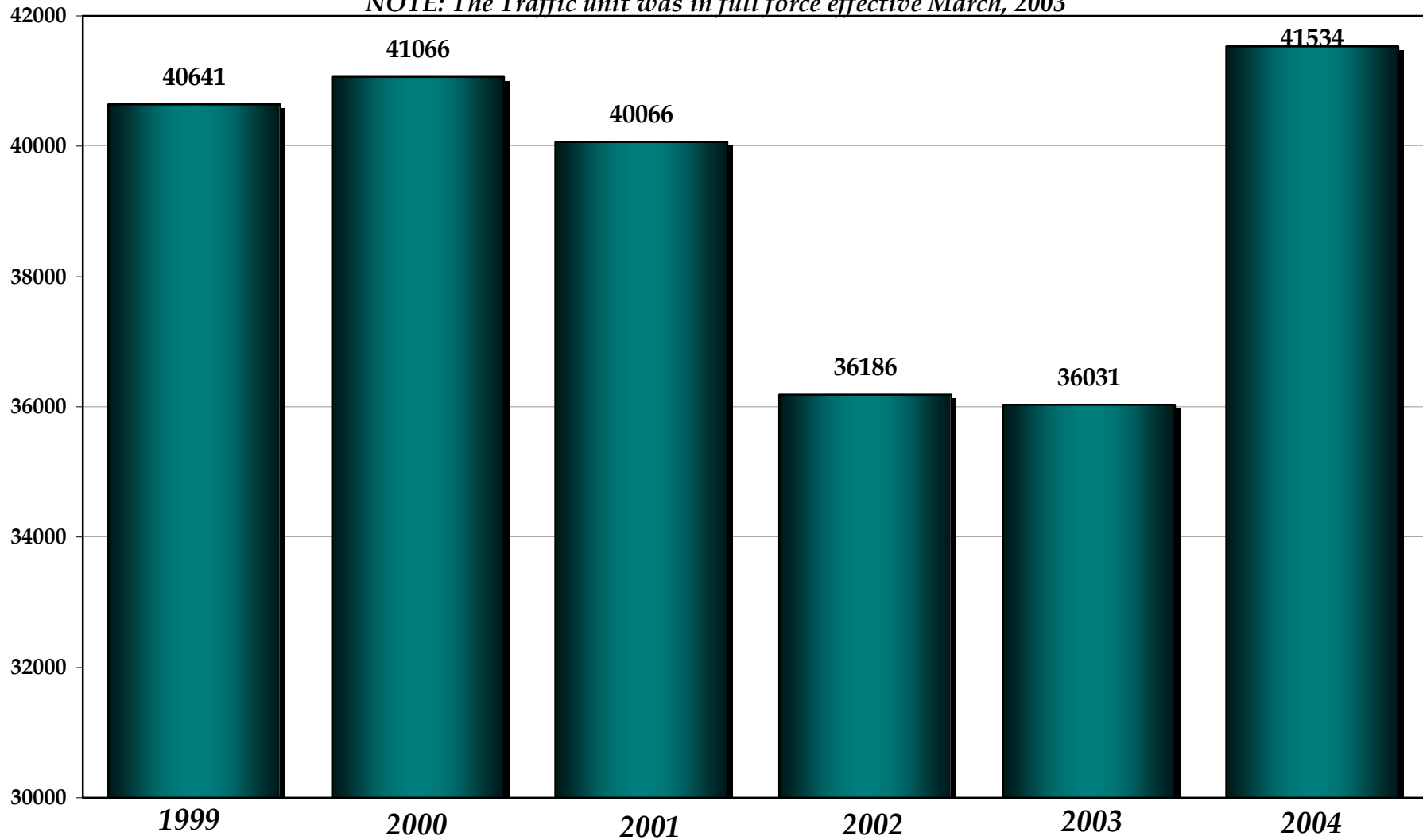


Monthly Gross Revenue (1999 - 2004)

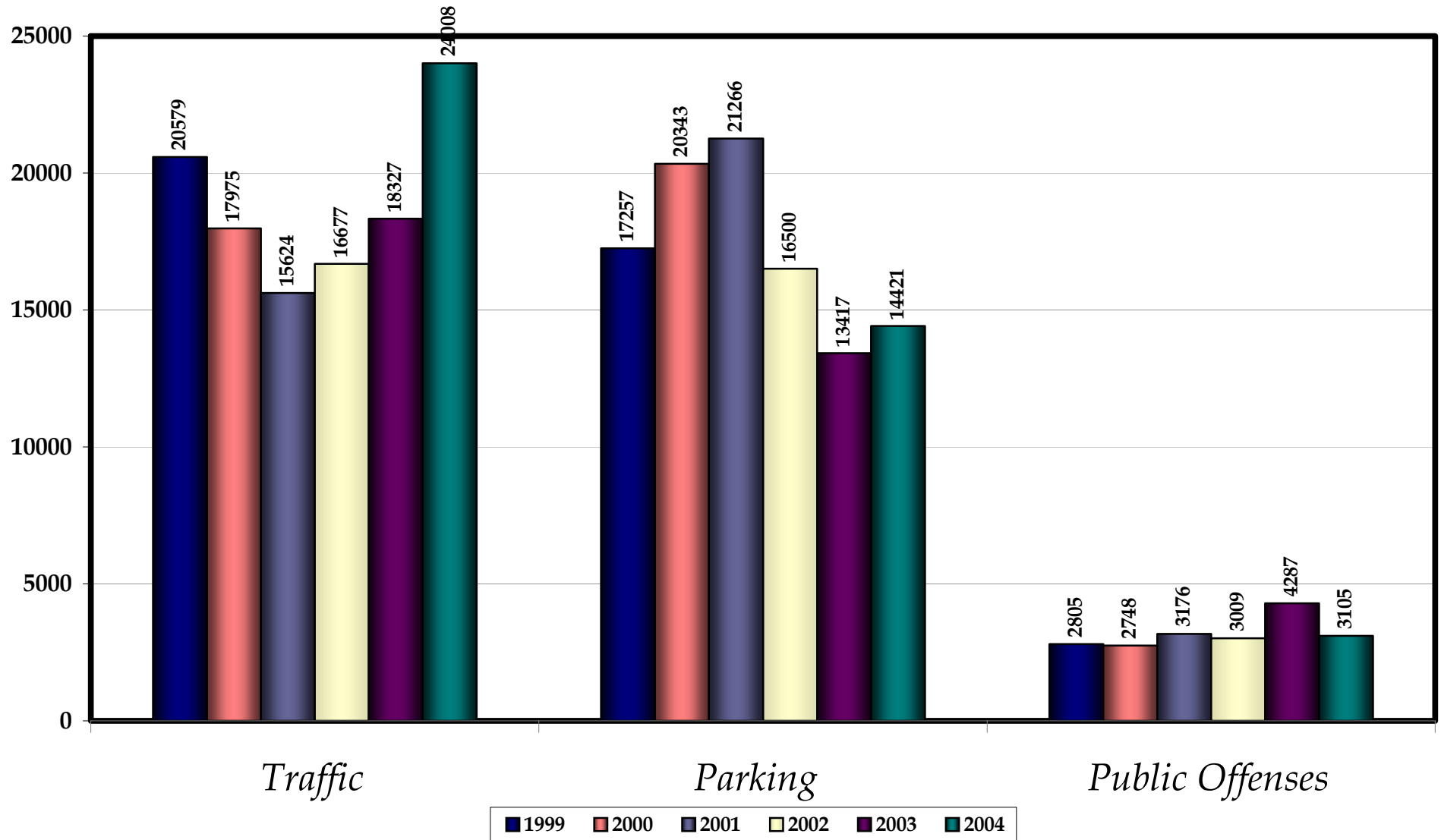


Total Tickets Issued (1999 - 2004)

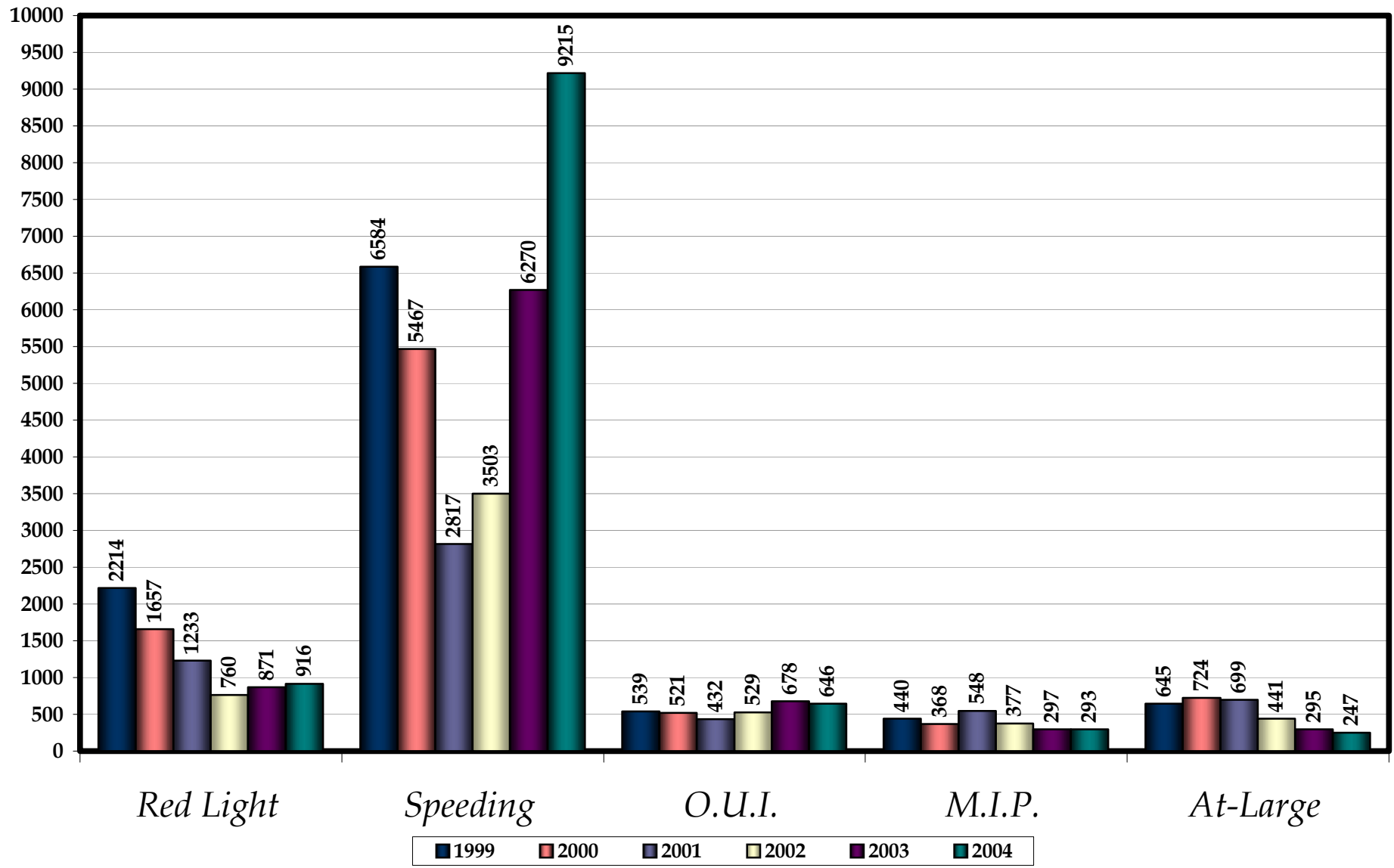
NOTE: The Traffic unit was in full force effective March, 2003



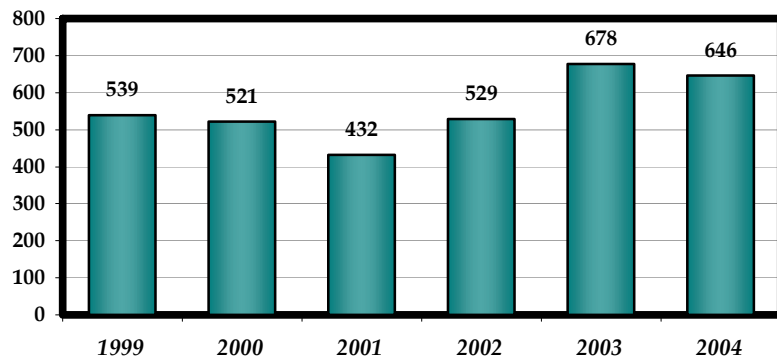
Tickets by Type (1999 - 2004)



Special Citation Monitoring (1999 - 2004)



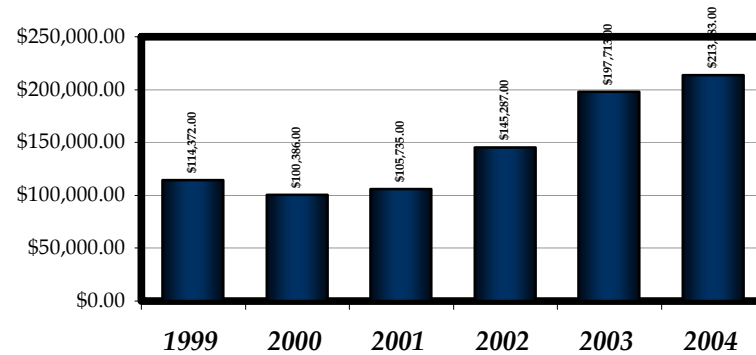
OUI Tickets



The highest month for O.U.I. violations in 2004 was January. There were 71 O.U.I. citations issued.

The total amount collected in alcohol evaluation fees in 2004 was \$53,795.38. The city retains 10% of this amount.

OUI Revenue



Top 5 Public Offenses of 2004

1	Overtime Parking Complaints	737
2	Theft	338
3	Minor in Possession	274
4	Animal at Large	216
5	Disorderly Conduct	198

Top 5 Parking Offenses of 2004

1	Parked with Expired Tag	4298
2	Posted No Parking	3260
3	Parked on Left	955
4	Parked within 15 ft of Fire Hydrant	725
5	Parked within 30 ft. of a Stop Sign	611

Top 10 Traffic Offenses of 2004

1	Speeding	9215
2	No Insurance	2308
3	Seat Belt Violation	1418
4	Stop Sign Violation	1314
5	Driving While Suspended	1200
6	Expired Registration	1124
7	Violating Traffic Control Signal	915
8	Inattentive Driving	771
9	Driving Under the Influence	642
10	No Valid Drivers License	368