

**Wyoming Court
Security
Commission**

Annual Report

September 1, 2014

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THE STATE OF WYOMING

MATTHEW H. MEAD
Governor

Office of Homeland Security

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5500 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

August 25, 2014

TO: Governor Matthew Mead
Chief Justice James Burke
Joint Judiciary Interim Committee Members
Joint Appropriations Interim Committee Members

SUBJECT: Annual Report from the Court Security Commission as required by
Wyoming Court Security Act, W.S. 5-11-101 et seq.

On behalf of the Court Security Commission, I respectfully present to you the 2014 Annual Report.

Wyoming continues to make progress for safer courts in many ways thanks to the efforts of dedicated judges, court staff, local court security committees, county sheriffs; and working in concert with the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. It is a responsibility that cannot be successfully discharged alone by the courts and law enforcement. Cooperation and coordination with a host of others is imperative.

This past legislative session six million dollars was successfully secured to fund security improvements on a matching basis for state courts in Fremont and Sweetwater Counties.

Additionally in August 2014, the Wyoming Supreme Court was awarded two State Justice Institute Technical Assistance Grants to assess security in seven courts in Wyoming and provide regional training across the state to enhance court security and personal safety in the event of emergencies affecting the court and the community.

We should all be proud today of the collective efforts to safeguard life, property and the judicial process in the Wyoming Court System and stand ready to address the new security challenges that await us.

Sincerely,

Guy Cameron, Chairman
Wyoming Court Security Commission

Wyoming Court Security Commission

July 30, 2014

Authority: W.S. 5-11-101

Number of Board Members: 10

Board Term Length: 3 Years

Director of the Office of Homeland Security or his designee

Director Guy Cameron (Chairperson)

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

5500 Bishop Blvd

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Phone: 307-777-8511

FAX: 307-635-6017

E-mail: guy.cameron@wyo.gov

District Court Judge

Judge Marvin L. Tyler

District Judge – Ninth Judicial District

P.O. Box 681

Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Phone: 307-367-3801

E-mail: pinedaleja@courts.state.wy.us

Justice of the Supreme Court

Justice William U. Hill

Wyoming Supreme Court

2301 Capitol Avenue

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Phone: 307-777-7571

E-mail: wuh@courts.state.wy.us

Circuit Court Judge

Judge Wesley A. Roberts

Fremont County Ninth Circuit Court

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Riverton, Wyoming 82501

Phone: 307-856-7259

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County Commissioner

Commissioner Mike Colling

Converse County Commissioners
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Phone: (307) 358-2244
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County Sheriff

Sheriff Jack “Skip” Hornecker (Co-Chairperson)

Fremont County Sheriff
460 Railroad Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
Phone: 307-332-5611
FAX: 307-332-1025
E-mail: skip.hornecker@fremontcountywy.gov

Representative of the Wyoming Peace Officer’s Standards and Training Commission:

Lt. Mike S. Thompson

Casper Police Department
201 North David Street
Casper, Wyoming 82601
Phone: 307-235-8303
FAX: 307-235-8425
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Legislator, House of Representatives

Representative Kendell Kroeker

Wyoming House of Representatives
P.O. Box 354
Evansville, Wyoming 82636
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Legislator, Senator

Senator Drew Perkins

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Phone: 307-315-6177
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District or County Attorney

Vacant

Ex-Officio Commission Members

Joann Odendahl

State Court Administrator
Wyoming Supreme Court
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Joe Hartigan

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The Wyoming Court Security Commission Recognizes The Honorable Jeffrey Donnell

The Wyoming Court Security Commission would like to recognize the Honorable Jeffrey Donnell for his leadership and dedication to improving court security in Wyoming. In December, 2005, District Court Judge Jeffery Donnell made a presentation to the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration on behalf of law enforcement entities statewide insisting on the creation of a Court Security Task Force. After his presentation and comments from local law enforcement, the Board realized the severity of court security issues in Wyoming, and a Task Force was established in January of 2006. Judge Donnell was appointed the Task Force Chair. For the next two years, the Task Force worked to bring awareness to court security and obtain Legislative support to improve court security statewide.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted W.S. 5-11-101, the Wyoming Court Security Act, which created the Wyoming Court Security Commission. Judge Donnell was appointed as a commission member and served in that capacity until June 30, 2014. Judge Donnell was instrumental in the development of Standards which recommended equipment, facilities, training, procedures, and the establishment of local court security committees in each county.

In 2013, Judge Donnell was also instrumental in the passing of W.S. 6-5-209, which authorizes a judge to limit deadly weapons in a courtroom.

In 2014, Judge Donnell lead efforts to develop legislation to create a court security assistance fund, which would make it possible for counties to apply for grants to remodel or rebuild a more secure courtroom structure to ensure that all citizens feel safe in a courtroom. Although Senate File 14 did not pass, Section 328 of the 2015-2016 Biennium Budget Bill passed, making it possible for Fremont County and Sweetwater County to apply for grant funds through the State Loan and Investment Board to improve their courthouses.

Judge Donnell continues to be an advocate of courtroom security for citizens, attorneys, and court staff.

Wyoming Court Security Commission
Record of Proceedings
Supreme Court Building, Room 237
Cheyenne, Wyoming

December 5, 2013

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., December 5, 2013, by Chairman Guy Cameron at the Supreme Court Building, Room 237, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

II. Roll Call and Introductions – Chairman Guy Cameron

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Judge Denise Nau – Laramie County Circuit Court

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Jeffrey Donnell – Second Judicial District Court, Laramie, WY

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court
Jeni Stone – Campbell County Attorney
Lt. Mike Thompson - Casper Police Department
Representative Kendell Kroeker – Wyoming House of Representatives
Commissioner Mike Colling – Converse County Commissioner
Sheriff Skip Hornecker – Fremont County Sheriff

Absent:

Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming Senate

Ex-Officio Commission Members:

Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator, Supreme Court
Joe Hartigan – Court Security Officer, Supreme Court

Also Attending:

Joe Moore - United States Marshal
Pete Obermueller – Executive Director, Wyoming County Commissioners Assoc.
Pam Eisenach –Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Doug Gumm –Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

III. Approval of July 17, 2013 and September 5, 2013 Minutes

Chairman Cameron entertained a motion to approve the Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2013 and September 5, 2013. Sheriff Hornecker made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Judge Donnell. The motion was voted on and carried.

IV. Wyoming Court Security-A Matter of Time Video – Chairman Guy Cameron

Chairman Cameron thanked Chief Justice Kite and to everyone who participated in the development of this court security video. This video addressed threats that are faced in court settings and courtrooms, as well as courthouse buildings. This video has been distributed for review to the governor, governor's staff, the Wyoming Bar Association and members of the Wyoming Legislature. Chairman Cameron indicated that this court security video will help the legislative efforts during the 2014 Legislative Session.

Joann Odendahl indicated Chief Justice Kite forwarded this court security video to the judicial branch. Joann also indicated a comment received expressed concern that state funds were being used as a lobbying tool. Joann explained that was not the intention of the video. The video was intended for all citizens to understand the concerns of security within courthouses and especially in courtrooms. This video was used as an information tool and not a lobbying tool. The \$2,000 cost for the video was paid from the State Supreme Court budget. The YouTube video link can be found on the State Supreme Court Website.

V. Legislative Overview and Governor Mead's Budget Message for Courthouse Security – Chairman Guy Cameron

Governor Mead assigned a priority to courthouse security in his budget message for the 2014 Legislative Session:

"Courthouse security has recently become a topic of major concern. It gained urgency when the courthouse in Riverton was shot at and rounds passed through the walls. Each county has dealt with courthouse security differently and each county has unique challenges. There are policies to be considered and details to discuss. I will work with you to develop a plan that improves safety and treats counties equitably. I recommend

\$10 million effective immediately as a place to start. We can continue to work with the court security team and develop a mechanism to assess needs and distribute funds during the session.”

Chairman Cameron reported Judge Donnell and the subcommittee prepared a draft bill to be presented to the Governor’s Office as well as the Joint Appropriations Committee. The highlights of this bill provide supplemental grant funding for counties through an application process submitted by the local court security management teams. The grant funding provides on-going court security staffing, court security equipment, construction, training of local court security teams and emergency court security needs.

Grant funding shall be used to fund counties that meet certain criteria. The grants will not exceed fifty percent of the proposed project costs and the remaining balance will need to come from other sources at the county level or from some other source.

Currently the bill sets the administrative review of the grant applications with the Wyoming Court Security Commission to make a recommendation based on those applications.

Grants shall be used to fund counties with the most need and meet at least two of the following criteria for evaluation purposes:

- Counties in which the total population is below the state median
- Counties in which the property tax revenues are below the state median
- Counties in which the total county population is living below the federal poverty level
- Counties in which there have occurred recent and serious security breaches or issues
- Counties which are assessing their full authorized mill levy
- Counties in which the local court security team has adopted a complete operational plan for court security with commission standards
- Counties which demonstrate a previous financial commitment to court security initiatives

Joann Odendahl, State Court Administrator, reported she attended the Joint Appropriations Committee Meeting in Casper in October. The Joint Appropriation Committee discussed the proposed bill and this bill was passed out of the Joint Appropriations Committee to move forward. The fiscal note has been received and is moving forward as a separate bill. The Joint Appropriation Committee will forward this bill as a committee bill.

VI. Courthouse Violence in 2010-2012 Lessons Learned – Joe Hartigan, Supreme Court Security Officer

The National Center for State Courts prepared the report, "Courthouse Violence in 2010-2012 Lessons Learned." Representatives from six courthouses – judges, law enforcement officers and court administrators met in Denver, Colorado. These representatives met to share their collective experiences, to identify lessons learned and to offer their hard-earned advice to their counterparts in courthouses throughout the country. As a result of this meeting, a guideline was made to prepare judges and court staff how to react during a courthouse incident. Lessons learned from these incidents are:

Lesson #1: Everything during a violent courthouse incident happens unbelievably fast.

Recommendation: Training, practice and communication.

Lesson #2: It may not be possible to prevent a violent incident, but there may be "indicators" to look for in advance of the incident.

Recommendation: Maintain a heightened awareness, look for indicators and trust your instincts.

Lesson #3: There are obvious needs for certain security measures, and courts need to be proactive in making sure those measures are in place.

Recommendation: Rigorously pursue and obtain the implementation of certain essential security measures.

Lesson #4: These violent incidents have significant impact on court staff and their families.

Recommendation: Pay attention to concerns of staff and their families.

Although it is apparent there is not one simple answer or solution, there are directions that can be taken to improve court security in this country. These directions included: (1) accepting the challenge that doing nothing is not an option; (2) obtaining additional funding to improve staffing and equipment; and (3) coordinating and support court security programs.

Joe Hartigan indicated that all judges and sheriffs in the state, as well as all members of this commission have received a copy of this report.

VII. High Profile Cases – Joann Odendahl, State Court Administrator

Chairman Cameron gave background information regarding the request from Judge Thomas Campbell and the Laramie County Commissioners for assistance securing court security funds for a high-profile case in Laramie County scheduled in February 2014. The grant request in the amount of \$53,824 was approved by the Wyoming Court Security Commission. This is the first request in securing court security funds for a high-profile case that was provided by the Wyoming Legislature in the amount of \$100,000.

Joann Odendahl thanked everyone on the commission for quickly responding to to this request. This request was unanimously approved by this commission. Joann also indicated if approved, the 2015-2016 biennium will replenish this fund up to \$100,000.

VIII. New business

Chairman Cameron thanked everyone for the good beginnings, dedication and momentum of this commission. Please participate in the 2014 legislative session as a voice for court security and the commission.

US Marshal Moore indicated that the US Marshal's Office will be conducting classes on court security at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy February 4-10, 2014. The deadline to register for this class is January 15th.

IX. Next Meeting

Chairman Cameron will contact commission members regarding scheduling the next meeting in 2014.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Cameron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Record of Proceedings

Supreme Court Building, Room 237

Cheyenne, Wyoming

July 30, 2014

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., July 30, 2014, by Chairman Guy Cameron at the Supreme Court Building, Room 237, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

II. Roll Call and Introductions of new Commission Members – Chairman Guy Cameron

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court

Commissioner Mike Colling – Converse County Commissioner

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Wesley Roberts, 9th Judicial District Circuit Court, Fremont County

Judge Marvin Tyler, District Court, 9th Judicial District, Sublette County

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Sheriff Skip Hornecker – Fremont County Sheriff

Absent:

Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming Senate

Representative Kendell Kroeker – Wyoming House of Representatives

Lt. Mike Thompson – Casper Police Department

Ex-Officio Commission Members:

Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator, Wyoming Supreme Court

Joe Hartigan – Court Security Officer, Wyoming Supreme Court

Also Attending:

Chief Justice James Burke – Wyoming Supreme Court
Judge Randal Arp – Circuit Court, 8th Judicial District
Judge John Perry – District Court, 6th Judicial District (Teleconference)
Dave Harris – Director, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Bern Haggerty – Deputy County Attorney, Laramie County
Eydie Trautwein – Children's Justice Project Coordinator,
Wyoming Supreme Court
Pam Eisenach – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Doug Gumm – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

III. Election of Commission Officers

Justice Hill made a motion to nominate Guy Cameron as Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Colling seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Colling made a motion to nominate Sheriff Skip Hornecker as Co-Chairman of the Commission. Justice Hill seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of December 5, 2013 Minutes

Chairman Cameron entertained a motion to approve the Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2013. Justice Hill made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Colling seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

V. 2014 Legislative Overview – Chairman Guy Cameron

Chairman Cameron shared with new members of the commission background information regarding the 2014 Legislative Overview. Chief Justice Kite and the Supreme Court Justices took an active role in enhancing court security. Chief Justice Kite made it a priority to get educational information on court security to all branches of government. The Supreme Court developed a video entitled, "Wyoming Court Security-A Matter of Time." This video addressed violence in courtrooms and courthouses. The Court Security Commission was asked to prepare a model for court security funding. As a result of those discussions and research, Senate File 14 was introduced as a court security funding bill. This bill was an application process where a local community would contribute 50% funding and it would be matched through

the Wyoming State Land and Investment Board. This bill provided \$10M in seed money and would allow a court security committee at the local level to work with their county commissioners to apply for funding. The funding was for security equipment and construction for court security initiatives.

Senate File 14 passed the majority of the process through the Wyoming State Legislature, but at the end of the process the funding was stripped from the bill and the structure of the bill died in the House of Representatives.

There were successes for court security from the 2014 Wyoming Legislature. Section 328 of House Bill 001 appropriated \$6M out of the general fund for purposes of court security that must be matched at the local level. This bill helped assist courts in Sweetwater County and Fremont County for application. This legislation, working with the State Lands and Investment Board, provided funding based on certain criteria: 1) Imposition of local taxes; 2) Demonstration of previous financial commitment to court security initiatives; 3) Adoption of a complete operational plan for court security in accordance with court security commission standards; 4) Demonstration for need for facilities, including additional judicial resources as determined by the supreme court's weighted caseload studies; 5) Recent and serious security breaches or issues which cannot be adequately addressed by available county funds or resources.

The Wyoming Supreme Court received two State Justice Institute Technical Assistance Grants to assess security in several courts and improve court security in Wyoming. One grant was for court security assessments of courtrooms and judicial chambers in Albany, Platte, Goshen, Niobrara, Weston and Crook Counties. To the extent funds are available, assessments will also occur in Big Horn and Park Counties. The team from the National Center for State Courts is scheduled for on-site visits in Laramie on August 11th; Wheatland on August 12th; Torrington on August 13th and in Lusk on August 14th. In addition, on-site court security assessments are scheduled in Newcastle on September 22nd; Sundance on September 23rd; Basin on September 25th and Cody on September 26th.

The second grant received from the National Center for State Courts will provide training opportunities that would focus on local court security committees, involve the courtroom staff, as well as law enforcement that provide security in those courtrooms. It allows for the opportunity in three locations to provide that training.

VI. Court Security Grant Funding – Eydie Trautwein, Wyoming Supreme Court

Eydie Trautwein reported that the Wyoming Supreme Court has negotiated with the National Center for State Courts to assess all eight courtrooms. Big Horn County and Park County will be added to the list for assessments. The total project budget for the court security assessment grant is \$75,000. The Wyoming Supreme Court must provide \$5,000 in cash match and \$20,000 in-kind match.

The Regional Court Security Training Grant contract with the National Center for State Grants is \$30,000. The National Center will be providing three regional trainings, locations are to be determined. The Supreme Court must provide \$3,000 in cash match and \$12,000 in-kind match. The total project budget is \$45,000. A project start date has not been scheduled.

The Supreme Court was able to get additional technical assistance money from the National Center for State Courts to bring in two court security experts. Judge Bill Dressel will make a presentation at the Wyoming State Bar Association Meeting in Cheyenne on September 9th. Judge Kevin Burke will make a presentation at the Wyoming Association of County Officials in Lander at the end of September.

Joann Odendahl, Wyoming Supreme Court Administrator, indicated to the commission members that these assessments are only for the security in the courtroom, which includes only the courtroom and chambers. These assessments do not include the courthouse as a whole.

VII. Update on Court Security Issues around the State

Chairman Cameron summarized for the commission the Court Security Standards. These four standards deal with the right equipment incorporated in a courtroom, planning initiatives in emergency operation plans, training and reports from the local court security committees. These Court Security Standards are recommendations for local court security committees.

Doug Gumm, Critical Infrastructure Coordinator for the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, reported great progress has been made in receiving annual reports from the local court security committees. Three years ago, only three reports were received. In 2013, 12 county reports were submitted. As July 30, 2014, annual reports have been received from all 23 counties.

Joe Hartigan, Wyoming Supreme Court Security Officer, reported to the commission that last year a checklist was developed and sent to all 23 court security committees. This checklist was used as an assessment tool for each county to use and was adapted from the Court Security Commission Standards. Comments received from the committees indicated that the greatest need for their counties was funding and manpower for court security.

Mr. Hartigan suggested to the commission, that it would be helpful if the local judge on the county court security committee be designated the chairman of the committee. Mr. Hartigan also suggested Security Incident Reporting be established in the state. It was agreed that the Wyoming Supreme Court will develop a Security Incident Report Form and present it at the Circuit Judges Conference and the District Judges Conference for their comments.

In addition to the court security training offered at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, the Advanced Law Enforcement Readiness Training Company will present a training opportunity scheduled for August 19th through August 21st. This three-day court security training will be held in Cheyenne at the Sheriff's Office.

Dave Harris, Director of the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, reported that court security training was offered beginning in March 2008. Seven courses have been offered, 84 officers (primarily sheriff officers) have attended the course representing 23 agencies throughout the State of Wyoming. The next class for court security training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy is tentatively scheduled for February 9th through February 13th, 2015.

VIII. High Profile Cases – Joann Odendahl, State Court Administrator

Supreme Court Administrator Odendahl summarized court security for high profile cases for the new members of the commission. During the last biennium, the Supreme Court received \$100,000 from the legislature to set aside for security for high profile cases. These particular funds are in the Board of Judicial Policy Administration Budget. A judge has the opportunity to contact their local sheriff's department and county commissioners to make sure adequate security is provided for the judge, the jury, the courtroom and the courthouse environment. These funds are available so the necessary needs were met and there is no financial burden to the county. The process of requesting these funds for high profile cases can be found on the Wyoming Supreme Court's website.

IX. New Business – Satellite Courtroom Security – Bern Haggerty, Laramie County Attorney's Office, Deputy County Attorney

Deputy County Attorney Bern Haggerty thanked the commission for inviting him to discuss Satellite Courtroom Security. Every district court in the state is authorized to conduct hearings for emergency mental health detention and involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill persons. These conference rooms are adjacent to the Behavioral Health Unit at a local hospital. Mr. Haggerty inquired whether the Wyoming Court

Security Commission, or the local court security committee, is responsible for safety security protocols for satellite courtrooms for emergency mental health hearings. Mr. Haggerty noted that he is confident that the Laramie County District Court, in consultation with our local committee and security coordinator, as well as hospital staff, can provide adequate security for these hearings. The concern is that the statewide Security Standards have not been developed with these satellite courtrooms in mind and he would like to learn how other counties provide for security in their satellite courtrooms. Mr. Haggerty is requesting the Wyoming Court Security Commission consider conducting a satellite courtroom security survey to find out how each county configures, equips and staffs its mental health courtrooms. Supreme Court Administrator Joann Odendahl will work with Bern Haggerty to develop a survey on security in satellite courtrooms and then distribute the survey to circuit and district judges for their comments.

X. Annual Report

The Court Security Commission Annual Report is due to the Wyoming State Legislature on September 1, 2014. The Wyoming Supreme Court Administration Office and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security will work together to prepare the annual report.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Cameron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Justice Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Colling seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

NOTE: MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2014 MEETING HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 2014.

Wyoming Supreme Court

2301 Capitol Avenue

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Joann Odendahl
State Court Administrator



Ph. 307-777-7581
jodendahl@courts.state.wy.us

TO: Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee and Joint Appropriations Committee

FROM: Joann Odendahl, State Court Administrator

RE: Update on Legislative Appropriations for Court Security

DATE: August 22, 2014

Court Security Contingency Funds Update:

In the 2013-2014 Biennium Budget, the Wyoming Supreme Court received \$100,000 on behalf of the Wyoming Court Security Commission. The funds were made available to counties for reimbursement of additional costs associated with law enforcement. If a judge decides additional security is necessary for a high profile case for the courthouse, courtroom, jurors, or a judge, then the unexpected overtime cost is covered by the contingency funds.

During the 2013-2014 Biennium, Laramie County received \$50,847.33. The remaining balance of \$49,152.67 reverted to the General Fund as of June 30, 2014. The Wyoming Supreme Court received an additional \$100,000 for the 2015-2016 Biennium.

SLIB Funds Update (Sweetwater and Fremont Counties):

During the 2014 Legislative Session, the Wyoming Supreme Court requested \$10 million dollars to create a court security fund. This request was partially funded and \$6 million in funding was appropriated to improve security by remodeling courthouses in Fremont and Sweetwater Counties. Sweetwater County is currently exploring multiple options and has an architectural firm under contract to provide court security recommendations. For an update on Fremont County, please see Page 21.

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

FROM: JUDGE WES A. ROBERTS, FREMONT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

RE: UPDATE ON FREMONT COUNTY SLIB REQUEST

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2014

The official ground breaking for a new justice center in Riverton, Wyoming took place July 11, 2014. The ceremony was attended by Justice Kite (Chief Justice through June 30, 2014), Senator Eli Bebout, Representatives Rita Campbell and David Miller, Fremont County Commissioners Doug Thompson and Travis Becker, Fremont County Sheriff Skip Hornecker, Riverton Police Chief Mike Broadhead, Chief Deputy Fremont County Attorney Bob Rose, and Circuit Court Judge Wes Roberts along with many staffers from the offices of the court, sheriff department, and county attorney.

The Fremont County Commissioners were able to proceed with this long-awaited and much needed project as a result of legislative action that appropriated court security grant funds and made available to them through the State Loan and Investment Board. Without the State funds to bridge the funding gap this project would not be underway, and there could be no definite commitment to the project or a timeline for doing so. Yet the urgency of the project was clear: A bullet fired from outside the facility pierced the exterior wall and struck an interior partition in the courtroom of the current court facility in Riverton in late July 2012.

The Fremont County Board of Commissioners was able to act quickly when the grant funds became available. They had made an unsuccessful application for a SLIB grant in the spring of 2013. That original application was bolstered substantially by complete plans for a new facility as prepared by Riley-Johnson Architects of Boulder, Colorado. In the year following the unsuccessful application in 2013 the stakeholders spent a significant amount of time planning and revising plans for a new facility that would meet the current and future needs of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, and County Attorney, while the Commission held the line on the scope of the project to fit within their commitment for matching funds. The end result is a practical, functional and safe facility that came in under the original total cost estimate.

Fremont County requested, and was awarded \$2.52 mm of a possible \$3mm by SLIB.

Court Security Assessments and Training Activities

In April, 2014, the Wyoming Supreme Court received \$5,000 in technical assistance monies from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to host two (2) national court security speakers. The Honorable William F. Dressel, a retired judge from Colorado and court security expert, will speak at the Judicial Conference during the Wyoming Bar Convention on September 9, 2014. The Honorable Kevin S. Burke, a judge from Minnesota and court security expert, will speak at the Wyoming Association of County Officials Convention on September 25th.

In June, 2014, the Wyoming Supreme Court received two State Justice Institute technical assistance grants to assess security in several courts and improve court security in Wyoming. The Supreme Court received \$50,000 to conduct court security assessments of the courtrooms and judicial chambers in Albany, Platte, Goshen, Niobrara, Weston, Crook, Big Horn and Park counties. Additionally, the Supreme Court received a \$30,000 grant to provide court security team building trainings at three regional sites across the state. The purpose of these regional trainings is to convene and train interdisciplinary teams consisting of judges, court administrators, court security providers, law enforcement, first responders and other judicial system stakeholders. The regional trainings aim to enhance trainees' knowledge of court security and personal safety and to help prepare counties for and improve inter-agency communication during unexpected emergencies affecting the court and the community. The grants are funded through July, 2015.

The Wyoming Court Security Commission met in July to finalize plans to organize and schedule the court security assessments and regional trainings. Court security experts from NCSC conducted court security assessments in Platte, Goshen and Niobrara counties the week of August 11, 2014 and plan to conduct additional assessments in Albany County on September 4, 2014 and Weston, Crook, and Big Horn counties the week of September 22, 2014.

The regional trainings are scheduled for the week of October 27th, 2014.

Wyoming Court Security Commission

The Wyoming Court Security Commission continues to make progress working with the County Court Security Committees by assisting them in their ability to protect life, property, and the judicial process.

The Wyoming Court Security Act W.S. 5-11-101 sets forth requirements for the establishment of local Court Security Management Committees. The Wyoming Court Security Commission sets standards and makes recommendations to each county regarding appropriate levels of security based on the size of each county, the use of their court facilities and the security risks they face.

These standards are recommendations only, and any modification of the standards rests solely with the Wyoming Court Security Commission.

- Wyoming Court Security Standard 2009-1
 - Counties shall establish Court Security Management Committees (Committee). The Committees will assist the Commission in the mission to protect life, property and the judicial process in the Wyoming court system.
- Wyoming Court Security Standard 2010-1 (Equipment)
 - Established a compilation of minimum equipment to be considered for providing court security.
- Wyoming Court Security Standard 2010-2 (Scope)
 - Establishing emergency response plans for situations most likely to impact court operations.
- Wyoming Court Security Standard 2010-3 (Training)
 - Basic training requirements for peace officers authorized to act as court security officers.
- Court Security Checklist link <http://HLS.wyo.gov/cssc.docx>
 - This is a tool for individual courts to self evaluate current policies and procedures and identify gaps.

Use of the Court Security Checklist, as well as annual County court security committees, has improved awareness and levels of security in courts across the state. In an attempt to improve the skill levels and knowledge of the court security officers, the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy has implemented and conducted training classes for Wyoming peace officers entitled “Court Security for Law Enforcement.”

The Court Security Checklist enables the Counties to self evaluate each specific court within their jurisdiction in the following areas.

- Equipment
- Manpower
- Training

- Funding
- Facility security
- Annual report

Annual reports were received from twenty three counties throughout the state between September 1, 2013 – July 30, 2014. The reports identified issues and concerns for improving court security. The main issues identified are funding, manpower, training and planning.

Funding:

Funding has a direct affect on security levels within the court security community. The reports the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security received identified a shortage of funds for the initial set up and maintenance of the necessary security equipment, along with a shortage of personnel for maintaining the security and use of the equipment. The State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funds provided to the counties, by the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security are managed and prioritized at the local level.

Training:

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy has conducted training in courtroom security for the state's security officers. In February 2014 fifteen officers received the training; there were three officers trained in Albany County, five in Teton County, two officers in Johnson County, two officers in Sublette County, one each in Converse County, Park County and Crook County, with additional training to be conducted in 2015.

Planning:

The ongoing actions of the County Court Security Management Committees include conducting surveys of their court facilities, designing emergency response plans, planning for high risk profile trials, and planning response to security threats and adequately protect the judiciary and public who use the county's courthouse on a daily basis.

Manpower:

Manpower continues to be a challenge in court security. Many law enforcement departments have increased workload and responsibility in recent years, making it difficult in maintaining the exact size of the workforce needed. With a reduction in personnel or as a result of economic conditions, manpower will always be one of the leading issues.

**WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION
LOCAL COURT SECURITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES
(AS OF JULY 2014)**

ALBANY COUNTY

District Court Judge Jeffery A. Donnell — Chairman
Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Castor
Commission Chair Tim Sullivan
Commissioner Tim Chestnut
Commissioner Jerry Kennedy
County Attorney Richard Bohling
Devon O'Connell – BAR Association
Roy Torres – Courthouse Maintenance
County Sheriff Dave O'Malley

BIG HORN COUNTY

Sheriff Kenneth Blackburn — Chairman
County Attorney Michael Burns
Circuit Court Judge Randy Royal
Commissioner John Hyde
Circuit Court Judge Tom Harrington
Emergency Management Coordinator Jason Beal

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Sheriff Bill Pownall — Chairman
Police Chief Jim Hloucal
Circuit Court Judge Wendy Bartlett
County Attorney Jeanie Stone
Vern Sundenberger – Department of Public Works
Kevin King – Department of Public Works
County Emergency Manager Dave King
County Commission Administrative Director Bob Palmer
County ITS Supervisor Phil Harvey
Charlotte Terry – County Human Resources
Tina Honeycutt – County Human Resources
Sergeant Scott Mooney (CSO)

CARBON COUNTY**Cont'd**

Sheriff Jerry Colson — Chairman
Deputy Mishell Howard (CSO)
District Court Judge Wade Waldrip
District Court Judicial Assistant Barbara Casados
Circuit Court Judge Jane Eakin
Circuit Court Chief Clerk Laoretta Sheller
Commissioner Lindy Glode
Gwynn Bartlett – County Clerk

CONVERSE COUNTY

Sheriff Clinton Becker — Chairman
Deputy Dan Maidl — CSO
District Court Judge John Brooks
Circuit Court Judge I. Vincent Case
Don Gushurst – Converse County Building Maintenance
Mike Colling – Converse County Commissioner
Russ Dalgarn – Converse County Emergency Management Coordinator

CROOK COUNTY

Sheriff Steve Stahla — Chairman
Undersheriff Tom Adams
Cpl. Darren Horn (CSO)
Clerk of Circuit Court Arna Montgomery
County Attorney Joe Baron
Clerk of District Court Tina Wood
Commissioner Jim Hadley

FREMONT COUNTY**Riverton Court Security Committee**

Circuit Court Judge Wes Roberts — Chairman
County Attorney Michael Bennett
Sheriff Jack R. “Skip” Hornecker
Undersheriff Ryan Lee
Lieutenant Darwin Glasgow
Sgt. Chris Rohrbacher – Fremont County SO (CSO)
Deputy Randy Trehearn
Captain Eric Murphy – Riverton Police Department

Fremont County Building Maintenance Supervisor JR. Oakley
Emergency Management Coordinator Kathi Metzler
Wendy Sutherland — Chief Clerk of the Circuit Court

FREMONT COUNTY**Lander Court Security Committee**

Circuit Court Judge Rob Denhardt — Chairman
Sheriff Jack R. “Skip” Hornecker
County Attorney Michael Bennett
County Commissioner Stephanie Kessler
Deputy John Applegate – Fremont County SO (CSO)
Chief Deputy Clerk of District Court Cora Gist

GOSHEN COUNTY

Sheriff Donald Murphy — Chairman
District Court Judge Keith Kautz
Circuit Court Judge Randall Arp
City Attorney Pat Korell
Commissioner Carl Rupp

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

Sheriff Lou Falgoust — Chairman
Lt. Dan Pebbles – Sheriff’s Department
Thermopolis Police Chief Mike Chimenti
District Court Judge Robert Skar
Circuit Court Judge Thomas Harrington
Terri Cornella – Clerk of District Court
April Andreen – Circuit Court Clerk
John P. Lumley – County Commissioner
Brad W. Basse – County Commissioner
Jerry Williams — County Attorney
Bill Gordon – County Emergency Manager

JOHNSON COUNTY

Sheriff Steve Kozisek — Chairman
Undersheriff Kerry Wolf
Captain Jake French – Johnson County SO
Deputy Rod Odenbach – Johnson County SO (CSO)

District Court Judge William Edelman
Circuit Court Judge Shelley Cundiff
Magistrate Paul Jarvis
Thelma Axberg – Clerk of the District Court
Debby Vandel – Deputy Clerk of the District Court
Anne Tkach – Chief Clerk of Circuit Court

LARAMIE COUNTY

Sheriff Danny Glick — Chairman
Lieutenant Shawn Olsen
Sergeant Richad Lounsbury
County Commissioner Troy Thompson
County Attorney Mark Voss
Susan Sweeney – Risk Manager
David Flood – Information Technology
Clerk of District Court Sandy Landers
District Court Judge Thomas Campbell
Circuit Court Judge Denise Nau
Chris Wegner – Building Maintenance Manager
Lieutenant Jared Keslar – Cheyenne Police Department
Public Defender's Office – Representative Unknown

LINCOLN COUNTY

Sheriff Shane Johnson — Chairman
District Court Judge Dennis Sanderson
Circuit Court Judge Frank Zebre
Kent Brown – Public Defender
Lieutenant Troy Jansen
Steve Dillree – Court Security

NATRONA COUNTY

District Court Judge Katherine Wilking — Chairman
Circuit Court Judge Steven Brown
Undersheriff Dave Kinghorn – Natrona County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant Lisa Bush – Natrona County Sheriff's Office
Gordon Schuler – Natrona County Sheriff's Office IT
Deputy Jim Clark – Natrona County Sheriff's Office

NIOBRARA COUNTY**Cont'd**

Commissioner Richard Ladwig — Chairman
Sheriff Rick Zerbe
District Court Judge John C. Brooks
Circuit Court Magistrate Dennis C. Meier
Kayla Carter – Clerk of District Court
Richard Ladwig – County Commission Chairman
Arlene Rapp – County Commissioner

PARK COUNTY

Sheriff Scott Steward — Chairman
Brian Skoric – County Attorney
District Court Judge Stephen Cranfill
Circuit Court Judge Bruce Waters
Park County Board of Commissioners

PLATTE COUNTY

Sheriff Steve Keigley — Chairman
Circuit Court Magistrate Scott Cole
Patti Thompson – Circuit Court Clerk
Blayne Tamlin – Platte County Building Maintenance
Tim Millikin – County Commission Chairman
Eric Jones – County Attorney
Lisa Millikin
Tiffany Duncan
Candy Wright
Mona McCauley
Chris Kanwischer

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheriff Dave Hofmeier — Chairman
Lieutenant Mark Conrad – Sheridan County SO
Dave Coleman – Emergency Management Coordinator
Renee Obermueller – Administrative Director/County Commission
Mike Morris – Facilities Management Coordinator
Greg McClintock – IT Department

SUBLETTE COUNTY**Cont'd**

District Court Judge Marvin L. Tyler — Chairman
Deputy Mike Peterson – Sublette County SO (CSO)
Circuit Court Judge Curt A. Haws
Janet Montgomery
Neal Stelting

SWEETWATER COUNTY

District Court Judge Richard Lavery — Chairman
Gary Bailiff – County Commissioner
Circuit Court Judge John Prokos
Sheriff Richard Haskell

TETON COUNTY

Corporal Breton J. Bommer — Chairman/Deputy
District Court Judge Tim Day
Circuit Court Judge James Radda
Dee Mahoney – Clerk of District Court
David Baker – Circuit Court Clerk
Steven Weichman – County Attorney

UINTA COUNTY

Sheriff Lou Napoli — Chairman
Lt. Tom Saprony – Uinta County SO
Deputy Andy Kopp – Uinta County SO (CSO)
District Court Judge Dennis Sanderson
Circuit Court Judge Michael Greer
Laura Steele – District Court Clerk
Terry Munk – Circuit Court Clerk
Lana Wilcox – County Clerk
Terry Brimhall – County Treasurer
Lori Perkins – County Assessor
Dean Stout – County Attorney
Kim West – Emergency Management Coordinator
Craig Welling – County Commissioner

Leonard Hysell – County Commissioner
Robert Stoddard – County Commissioner

WASHAKIE COUNTY

Sheriff Steve Rakness — Chairman
Commissioner Ron Harvey
District Court Judge Robert E. Skar
Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Harrington
Washakie County Sheriff Deputy – To be determined
County Attorney Marcy Argeris

WESTON COUNTY

Sheriff Brian Colvard — Chairman
Scott Rager – Homeland Security Coordinator
Jerry Shepperson – County Commissioner
Mamie Krank – County Clerk
Sandra Walford – Clerk of Courts
Circuit Court Judge Matthew Castano

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Annual Report



September 1, 2014