

Supreme Court of Myoming Cheyenne, Myoming 82002

JOHN G. FENN



2301 CAPITOL AVENUE CHEYENNE, WY 82002 307-777-7421

September 1, 2023

TO:

Chief Justice Kate Fox Governor Mark Gordon

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 (Commission), enclosed is the 2023 Court Security Commission Annual Report. This past year, the Commission worked closely with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) to provide judges with information and training in workplace and personal security.

Over the last several years, the number and intensity of threats and attacks against judges in the United States have increased. Unfortunately, even in the less populated State of Wyoming, we are living in a culture where all manner of public officials are confronted with intimidating behavior, threats, and menacing rhetoric for simply doing their jobs. Threats to physical safety are particularly troubling for judges because the judiciary is a branch of government specifically designed to be insulated from intimidation, harassment, and fear of retribution so that judges can render decisions that are fair, impartial, and independent.

With federal funds granted through the WOHS, the Commission partnered with the Wyoming Supreme Court to host training for the District Judges on April 27, 2023, and the Circuit Court Judges on May 3, 2023. As a part of that training, Judge Julie Kocurek and John Muffler presented information and tactical strategies to help Wyoming judges identify and prevent threats against their person at work and at home.

Judge Kocurek shared her personal experience with the Wyoming Judiciary. She was wounded by a lone gunman outside her home on November 6, 2015, after returning from a high school football game, spent more than a month under hospital care, and underwent more than 30 surgeries to repair injuries from shrapnel and glass. The man convicted of trying to kill her found her home, had photographs of her car and, after surveilling her movements before the attack, was hiding near her house when she and family members returned from the game. Her assailant, a Houston resident, was sentenced to life in prison in March 2018.

John Muffler — a global keynote speaker on threat behavior, risk mitigation, judicial security, and workplace violence — provided a personal security guide, a safety and security checklist, and several articles to the judges. He also provided tips and tricks for a more security-conscious lifestyle.

In addition to providing training to the judges at their spring meeting, the Court Security Commission teamed up with the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy on July 12, 2023, to provide firearms training to district judges, circuit judges, supreme court justices, and court security personnel. The event was held in Douglas and was well received by those in attendance. The Commission hopes to set up similar training in the future.

Finally, the Commission traveled across the state touring courthouse facilities and speaking to county commissioners in Campbell County, Johnson County, Niobrara County, and Albany County. The Commission also provided testimony to the Joint Judiciary Committee on April 25, 2023, in Sheridan. As a result of that meeting, the Joint Judiciary is considering four bill drafts relating to intimidation of jurors, intimidating or influencing judges, prohibiting the publication of judges' personal information, and the duties of the sheriff and security of the court.

The Commission will continue its important work and stands ready to answer any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

John G. Fenn

Justice

JGF:rkm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Wyoming Court Security Commission Membership	1
Court Security Incident Report	3
WCSC Minutes from May 11, 2023, Meeting	7
County Local Management Committees, July 2023	9

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Authority W.S. 5-11-101 Number of Board Members: 10 Board Term Length: 3 Years

JUSTICE OF THE WYOMING SUPREME COURT

Justice John G. Fenn (Chairperson) Wyoming Supreme Court 2301 Capitol Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-7421

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LEGISLATOR, SENATE

Senator Tara Nethercott Wyoming Senate P.O. Box 1888

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District Judge, Fourth Judicial District

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CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Judge Craig Jones

Circuit Judge, Third Judicial Dist. Sweetwater County Justice Center 50140 US Hwy 191 South, Suite 200

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OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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Representative Art Washut

Wyoming House of Representatives

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Sheriff Scott Matheny Campbell County Sheriff

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COUNTY ATTORNEY

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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EX-OFFICIO COMMISSION MEMBERS

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WYOMING POST COMMISSION

Director Ronnie Jones Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation 208 S. College Drive Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-7181

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TO: JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: JOE HARTIGAN, COURT SECURITY MANAGER, WY SUPREME COURT

RE: COURT SECURITY INCIDENT REPORT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

The Wyoming Court Security Commission (Commission), established by W.S. § 5-11-101 et seq., continues its work to enhance court security in Wyoming courthouses by partnering with the Court Security Management Committees (local committees) established by Wyoming Court Security Standard 2009-1.

As one of its main objectives, the Commission focuses its efforts on increasing awareness of potential court security situations and risks associated with courthouses across the state. To address this objective, the Commission adopted Standard 2014-1, Incident Reporting. On January 1, 2015, courts in Wyoming began submitting incident reports for security issues happening in their courthouses. As of July 1, 2023, there have been 489 incident reports submitted. Over this past fiscal year, there were 109 incident reports submitted, which is a 73% increase from the 63 reports submitted in the prior fiscal year, and a 319% increase from the 26 reports submitted two years ago. The incidents reported during the fiscal year 2023 include the following types of security events:

- 30 Disorderly conduct reports;
- 11 Verbal threat reports;
- 11 Medical emergency reports;
- 7 Written threat reports; and
- 50 Other reports of the following incident type: protection order violation; arrest/take into
 custody; attempt to bring in firearm; suicide attempt; hidden knife; contempt of court; criminal
 entry; unsecured doors; use of force; fire alarm; safety hazard; lost security key; intoxicated party;
 suspicious circumstance; panic alarm failure; panic alarm activation; improper court decorum;
 use of unauthorized devices; improper communication by an attorney.

The submitted report totals this year were significantly higher than all the past years. There has been a stepped-up effort to offer court security training across the state and for members of the State Court Security Commission to visit courthouses in counties across the state to express the importance of security in State Courthouses. This increased awareness has likely resulted in more reports being submitted. It has always been suspected that there are quite a few more incidents taking place than get reported.

Based on the reports the Commission receives, there is every indication that courthouses present special challenges in terms of security. In the past year, reports involving verbal and written threats increased by 80% while disorderly conduct reports increased by 58%. While there may be several reasons behind the increase in incident reports, the stories told in the reports reflect the absolute need for a solid physical security presence in all courthouses across the state. It is fortunate that the case of a loaded firearm being

detected by court security officers was in a courthouse utilizing an X-Ray machine. It is hard to say what may have happened had that incident taken place in a courthouse with no regular court security presence.

To effectively address the security issues in Wyoming courthouses, a collective knowledge of these incidents and security events is imperative and emphasizes the importance of having adequate security in every courthouse. The incident reports provide an important tool for local court security committees in identifying what actions were effective in each incident and what security practices need to be improved.

Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting Virtually via Microsoft Teams

*May 11, 2023, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members: Justice John Fenn, Judge Craig Jones, Senator Tara Nethercott, Representative Art Washut, Deputy Director George Nykun, Commissioner Mike Colling, Prosecutor Daniel Erramouspe, Sheriff Scott Matheny, Director Ronnie Jones, and Supreme Court Security Officer Joe Hartigan.

Agenda Items	
Call to Order Justice John Fenn	Justice Fenn welcomed and introduced the new members of the Commission – Judge Craig Jones replaced Judge Wes Roberts and Director Ronnie Jones replaced Director Forest Williams. Minutes were circulated. There were no corrections, changes, or discussions relating to the proposed August 18, 2022, minutes. Minutes were approved.
Incident Reports Summary Joe Hartigan	Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission that there have been a total 464 incident reports since the implementation of the report standard. He also reported: Incident Reports by Year: 2015 – 51 2016 – 50 2017 – 87 2018 – 37 2019 – 51 2020 – 28 2021 – 39 2022 – 85 2023 – 36 Reports since last meeting in August 2022 - 77
	Type of reports since last meeting: Disorderly Conduct – 22 Medical Emergency – 9 Verbal Threat – 9 Written threat – 3 Drugs / contraband – 1

Attempt to bring in firearm - 1

Other – 32 (to include the following type of incidents: Arrest/Remand to custody, panic alarm activation, intoxicated party, policy violation/electronics, panic alarm failure, unsecured door, use of force, protection order violation, knife on a person, safety hazard, building security breach, an unauthorized person in a secure area, lost security key, contempt, suspicious circumstance, fire alarm, intelligence information).

Counties submitting reports since the last meeting:

Albany - 2

Converse - 1

Fremont -3

Goshen - 1

Laramie - 6

Natrona - 26

Sweetwater - 1

Uinta - 36

Joint Judiciary Meeting Justice Fenn

Justice Fenn met with the Joint Judiciary (JJC) in Sheridan on April 25th. The information discussed was well received by the JJC: Proposed legislation involving language in Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 6-5-305(a), a better definition of Sheriff's security duties, and personal information protections. The JJC also discussed additional manpower and training for county sheriffs and home security systems for judges.

Representative Washut confirmed the information was well received, however, he cautioned the Commission that unfunded mandates for the counties and carving out special classes of individuals could receive pushback from the committee.

Senator Nethercott advised that the timing of any request for appropriation is critical. If funds are to be requested, it would be beneficial to contact the County Commissioners Association and get a plan formulated. She informed the Commission that currently there are other situations where there is joint funding (county/state) for programs throughout the state. The first meeting of the Joint Appropriations Committee will be in July.

	Sweetwater County Attorney Dan Erramouspe hopes that any discussions regarding courtroom security will include the other individuals involved in the justice process: attorneys, litigants, staff, etc. He recommended reaching out to the local bar members to raise awareness about security issues in the courthouses.
Commission Work - Statewide Justice Fenn	Justice Fenn informed the Commission about the trips he and other commission members have taken around the state since the last meeting:
	Sheriffs' Meeting in Casper – December 2022
	 Court Security Training at the Law Enforcement Academy – March 2023
	Court Security Meeting in Gillette – April 2023
	Tour of Jackson Courthouse – May 2023
	The following trips are currently scheduled:
	 Albany County – June 2023
	• Johnson County – June 2023
	Niobrara County – July 2023
	Sheriff Matheny confirmed that the travel around the state by the Commission has lit a fire under the county sheriffs. He agreed a lot of positive things are happening because of the efforts of the Commission.
Training for Judges Justice Fenn	Justice Fenn provided the Commission with a summary of the spring judicial conferences. Judge Julie Kocurek and John Muffler provided training for judges on personal security and home security. The training was well received by the judges. Wyoming Office of Homeland Security provided the funding for the training.
	George Nyken told the Commission that there were \$186,00 of court security grants funded through the Office of Homeland Security in the 2023 grant cycle and that more courts and sheriffs should apply in 2024.
New Business	The Commission discussed up-and-coming topics for the future: the use of a judicial survey; an improved incident

		reporting system, to include quarterly reports for judges and sheriffs; firearms training; security assessments; and active shooter training.	
Adjourned		12:58 p.m.	
A	T.		
	ons Taken:		
1.	The Commission approved	the meeting minutes from August 18, 2023.	
ТоГ	Do List:		
1.	Justice Fenn will call Senator Nethercott and Representative Washut to discuss possible legislative changes and a funding approach for courthouse security.		
2.	Justice Fenn and Joe Hartigan will gather information about the funding of additional sheriff's deputies in Natrona County.		
3.	Dan Erramouspe and Judge Jones will reach out to the Sweetwater County bar members.		
4.	Justice Fenn will contact Jerimiah Rieman, Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association.		
5.	Judge Jones will provide Justice Fenn with information on the active shooter training conducted at the Sweetwater County Justice Center.		
6.	*The May 11, 2023, meetin	ng minutes will be approved at a future meeting.	

WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION LOCAL COURT SECURITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

ALBANY COUNTY

Misha Westby – District Court Judge, Chairman Rob Sanford – Circuit Court Judge Stacy Lam – Clerk of District Court Kayla Marroquin – Judicial Assistant Kurt Britzius – County Attorney Kayla White – County Clerk Aaron Appelhans – Sheriff Nicole Trampe – Detention Center Lieutenant Tracy Fletcher – Treasurer Adam Wales – IT Director Bailey Quick – Grants Manager Anthony Brown – Facility Manager

BIG HORN COUNTY

Kenneth Blackburn –Sheriff, Chairman
Bobbi Overfield – District Court Judge
Edward Luhm – Circuit Court Judge
Randy Royal – Circuit Court Magistrate
Serena Lipp – District Court Clerk
Diane Nuttall – Chief Circuit Court Clerk
Marcia Bean – County Attorney
Deb Craft – County Commissioner
Dave Neves – County Commissioner
Bruce Jolley – County Commissioner
Kyle McClure – Basin PD Chief
Lori Smallwood – County Clerk
Debbie Cook – Jail Captain
Dean Peranteaux – IT
Deb Rathbun – Secretary, Sheriff's Office

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Scott Mooney – Court Security Sergeant, Chairman Stewart Healy – District Court Judge Wendy Bartlett – Circuit Court Judge Nathan Henkes – County Attorney Scott Matheny – Sheriff Chuck Deaton – Chief of Police Pam Merchen – District Court Clerk Denton Knapp – County Administrator William Beastrom – Facility Maintenance Manager

CARBON COUNTY

Susan Stipe – Circuit Court Judge, Chairman
Dawnessa Snyder – District Court Judge
Mara Sanger – District Court Clerk
Jennette Hagan – Chief Circuit Court Clerk
John Espy – County Commissioner
Sarah Chavez-Harkins – County Attorney's Office
Gwynn Bartlett – County Clerk
Alex Bakken – Sheriff's Office
Lanette Rosacker – Sheriff's Office
Michael Newbrough – County Buildings & Grounds Manager
Lenny Layman – County Emergency Manager
Matt Webster – County IT Director

CONVERSE COUNTY

F. Scott Peasley – District Court Judge, Chairman
Clark C. Allan – Circuit Court Judge
Michelle Weeks– Chief Circuit Court Clerk
Pam McCullough – District Court Clerk
Brenda Ramseier – District Court Judicial Assistant
Mike Colling – County Commissioner
Clint Becker – Sheriff
Adam Alvarado – Captain, Detention
Kim Wright – CPL-Civil, Court Security, Transport
Russ Dalgarn – Emergency Management Coordinator
Don Gushurst – Maintenance Supervisor

CROOK COUNTY

Matthew F.G. Castano – District Court Judge, Chairman Lynda Bush – Circuit Court Judge Julie Altaffer – District Court Clerk Cindi Baudhuin – Chief Circuit Court Clerk Joe Baron – County Attorney Bob Latham – County Commissioner Jeff Hodge – Sheriff Larry Schommer--Facility Supervisor Ed Robinson—Emergency Management Coordinator

FREMONT COUNTY

Lander Court Security Committee

Jason Conder -- District Court Judge, Chairman
Jefferson B. Combs – Circuit Court Judge
Mike Jones – County Commissioner
Jeff Hutson – Sergeant, Sheriff's Office
Paul Beddoes – Transport Officer, Sheriff's Office
Sarah Trehearne – Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office
J.R. Oakley – County Building Superintendent
Joe Forton – Sheriff's Office, Court Security

FREMONT COUNTY

Riverton Court Security Committee

Dan Stebner - Circuit Court Judge, Chairman

Wendy Sutherland - Chief Circuit Court Clerk

Patrick LeBrun - County Attorney

Ron Fabrizius - County Commissioner

Ryan Lee - Sheriff

Mike Hutchinson - Undersheriff

Kevin Reiman - Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office

Delbert Dale - Sergeant, Sheriff's Office

Wesley Romero - Captain, Riverton Police Department

Mike Meeker - County Building Superintendent

Milan Vinich - County Emergency Management Coordinator

Joe Forton - Sergeant, Sheriff's Office

GOSHEN COUNTY

Kory K. Fleenor - Sheriff, Chairman

Ed Buchanan - District Court Judge

Nathaniel Hibben - Circuit Court Judge

Brandi Correa - District Court Clerk

Eric Boyer - County Attorney

Cydney Sharp - County Attorney Asst.

John Ellis - County Commissioner

Shelly Kirchhefer – Emergency Management Coordinator/Grant Coordinator (SHSP)

Cindy Kenyon - County Clerk/Grant Coordinator (SLIB)

Kelly Flock - Maintenance Supervisor

Jesse Bowen - IT Department Supervisor

Melissa Stevens - District Court Judicial Assistant

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

Edward Luhm - Circuit Court Judge

Tom Ryan - County Commissioner, Chairman

Bobbi Overfield - District Court Judge

Terri Cornella - District Court Clerk

April Andreen - Chief Circuit Court Clerk

Jill Logan - County Attorney

Kelly Owen - Deputy County Attorney

Phillip Scheel - County Commissioner

Paul Galovich - County Commissioner

Becky Kersten - County Clerk

Dan Webber - County Assessor

Julie Mortimore - County Treasurer

Jerimie Kraushaar - Sheriff

Patrick Cornwell - Chief of Police

John Dorman - Courthouse Maintenance

JOHNSON COUNTY

Rod Odenbach - County Sheriff, Chairman Benjamin Kirven - District Court Judge Shelley Cundiff - Circuit Court Judge Paul G. Jarvis – Circuit Court Magistrate Paige Rhoads - District Court Clerk Katerie Driskill - Chief Circuit Court Clerk Tucker Ruby - County Attorney Josh Stensaas – Deputy County Attorney Bob Perry - County Commissioner Jeff Shelly - County Commissioner Bill Novotny - County Commissioner Pat Monroe - County Undersheriff Colter Chapman - Sargent Wes Killian – Captain/Jail Administrator Marilyn Connolly - Emergency Management Dave Eads - Facilities Manager

LARAMIE COUNTY

Gunner Malm – County Commissioner
Linda Heath – County Commissioner
Peter Froelicher – District Court Judge
Thomas Lee – Circuit Court Judge
Diane Sanchez – District Court Clerk
Mark Voss – County Attorney
Jerry Preble – Building Maintenance
Perry Rockvam – Sheriff's Department
Brad Alexander – IT
Lori Pollack – Rick Management
Michael Parker – Sheriff's Department
Dylan Turley – Sheriff's Department
Timothy Johnson – Sheriff's Department

LINCOLN COUNTY

Joseph Bluemel - District Court Judge, Chairman Gregory Corpening - Circuit Court Judge Ken Roberts - District Court Clerk Spencer Allred - County Attorney Kent Brown - Public Defender's Office Shane Johnson - Sheriff John Stetzenbach - Sheriff's Office Lance Francis - Court Security April Brunski - County Clerk Debbie Larson - County Assessor Jerry Greenfield - County Treasurer Destry Dearden - IT/GIS Dept. Matt Mochel - Maintenance Kent Connelly - County Commissioner Teri Bower - County Commissioner Jerry Hansen - County Commissioner

NATRONA COUNTY

Catherine Wilking – District Court Judge, Chairman
Nicole Collier – Circuit Court Judge
Dallas Laird – County Commissioner
John Harlin – County Sheriff
Bart Olson – County Undersheriff
Corey Davison – County Lieutenant
Tyler Hoffman – County Sergeant
Jay Snider – County Corporal
Gordon Schuler – IT Supervisor, Natrona County

NIOBRARA COUNTY

Ed Buchanan – District Court Judge, Chairman Denny Meier - Magistrate
Chrisanna Lund – District Court Clerk
John Midkiff – County Commissioner
Elaine Griffith – County Commissioner
Teri Stephens – County Assessor
Keri Thompson – County Treasurer
Anne Wasserburger – County Attorney
Doyle Davies – Deputy County Attorney
Randy Starkey – Sheriff
Kelly Dean – Undersheriff
Bo Krein – Chief of Police
Becky Freeman – County Clerk

PARK COUNTY

Dossie Overfield – Chairman, County Commissioner
William Simpson – District Court Judge
Joey Darrah – Circuit Court Judge
Darrell Steward – Sheriff
Andy Varian – Undersheriff
Bryan Skoric – County Attorney
Teresa VanButsel-Rowan
Sarah Ziska – Circuit Court Chief Clerk
Trever Kattenhorn – County Buildings and Grounds

PLATTE COUNTY

Scott Peasley – District Court Judge, Chairman
Nathaniel Hibben – Circuit Court Judge
Scott Cole – Circuit Court Magistrate
David Russell - Sheriff
Mona McAuley – District Court Clerk
Heather Stigall – Chief Circuit Court Clerk
Doug Weaver – County Attorney
Steve Shockley – County Commissioner
Kayla Mantle – County Commissioner
lan Jolovich – County Commissioner
Malcolm Ervin – County Clerk
Terry Stevenson – Emergency Management Coordinator
Jordan Ham – IT Management Company
Jim DeWitt – Maintenance Supervisor

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Darci Phillips – District Court Judge, Chairman
Ben Kirven – District Court Judge
Shelley Cundiff – Circuit Court Judge
Dianna Bennett – County Attorney
Anna Malmberg – Public Defender
Levi Domingez – Sheriff
Charles Gibbons – Undersheriff
Steve Matheson – Courthouse Deputy
Cameron Duff – Administrative Director
Mike Morris – Facilities Manager
Alex Cremer – Law Clerk
Amy Leininger – Law Clerk
Julie Babbitt – Judicial Assistant
Wendy Bloxom – Clerk of Circuit Court

SUBLETTE COUNTY

Tyson Gulbrandson – Deputy Sheriff, Co-Chairman
Kate McKay – District Court Judge, Co-Chairman
John LaBuda – Circuit Court Judge
Janet Montgomery – Clerk of District Court
Amy Knotts – Circuit Court Chief Clerk
Sam White – County Commissioner
K. C. Lehr – County Sheriff
Carrie Long – County Clerk
Andre' Irey – County Maintenance Department
Lisa Copeland - IT

SWEETWATER COUNTY

Craig Jones – Circuit Court Judge, Chair Suzannah Robinson – District Court Judge, Vice-Chair Dan Erramouspe – County Attorney Matthew Bartolotta – Sheriff's Office

TETON COUNTY

Michael Crook – Sergeant, Court Security Supervisor, Chairman Melissa Owens – District Court Judge Curt Haws – Circuit Court Judge Anne Sutton – District Court Clerk Erin Munk – Chief Circuit Court Clerk Mark Newcomb – County Commissioner Matt Carr – Sheriff Erin Weisman – County Attorney Paul Cote – County Facilities Manager

UINTA COUNTY

James Kaste - District Court Judge, Chairman Michael Greer - Circuit Court Judge Kerri Wright - District Court Clerk Andy Kopp - Sheriff Trevor Rasmussen - Undersheriff Matias Taliercio - Court Security Brent Hatch – County Commissioner Loretta Howieson Kallas – County Attorney Terry Brimhall - County Treasurer Amanda Hutchinson - County Clerk Lori Perkins - County Assessor Jeff Breininger- Maintenance Josh Rasnake - Emergency Management Kent Brown - Public Defender's Office Gary Welling - Planning and Zoning Chris Lym – Judicial Assistant Lydia Wagstaff - Circuit Court Chief Clerk

WASHAKIE COUNTY

Austin Brookwell – Sheriff, Chairman
Bobbi Overfield – District Court Judge
Edward Luhm – Circuit Court Judge
Christy Schneider – Clerk of District Court
Tiffany Burgess – Detention Sergeant
Aaron Anderson – County Commissioner
Anthony Barton – County Attorney
Ryan Cassad – County Maintenance Foreman

WESTON COUNTY

Michael Causey -District Court Judge, Chair
Lynda Bush – Circuit Court Judge, Vice Chairman
Tina Cote – District Court Clerk (Recording Secretary)
Donna Podio – Chief Circuit Court Clerk
Michael Stulken – County & Prosecuting Attorney
Marty Ertman – County Commissioner
Ed Wagoner – Chairman, County Commissioners (Ex Officio Member)
Bryan Colvard – Sheriff
Becky Hadlock – County Clerk
Gilbert Nelson – Homeland Security

