

## **Wyoming Court Security Commission Minutes May 10, 2018**

The Wyoming Court Security Commission met on May 10, 2018. Court Security Commission members in attendance via personal appearance, video or phone were: Director Guy Cameron, Justice Keith Kautz, Judge Wes Roberts, Judge Marv Tyler, Daniel Erramouspe, Commissioner Mike Colling, Representative Jared Olsen, and Sheriff Scott Matheny. Supreme Court personnel Lily Sharpe, Ronda Munger, Joe Hartigan, and Becky Craig also attended. Visiting county commissioners, judges, and court personnel from several counties also attended. Carbon County: Commissioners John Espy and Jim Piche, District Judge Dawnessa Snyder, Circuit Court Judge Susan Stipe, Deputy Sheriff/Court Security Officer Mishelle Howard, and Chief Circuit Court Clerk Jennette Hagan; Converse County: Commissioner Jim Willox; Hot Springs County: Commissioner Tom Ryan; Laramie County: Commissioner Troy Thompson; Lincoln County: Commissioners Kent Connelly, Jerry Harmon, and Robert King; Natrona County: Commissioner/WCCA President Rob Hendry; Sheridan County: Commissioner Bob Rolston; Uinta County: Kim West, Uinta County Emergency Management; Washakie County: Commissioner Terry Wolf; Weston County: Commissioners Marty Ertman and Ed Wagoner.

### **Call to Order – Director Cameron**

Director Guy Cameron opened the meeting by welcoming two new members: Wyoming Representative Jared Olsen and Campbell County Sheriff Scott Matheny. He also welcomed the County Commissioners, judges and court personnel in attendance and thanked them for their participation.

Director Cameron led a discussion of the August 2, 2017 minutes. Mike Colling moved to approve the minutes and Judge Roberts seconded the motion. The Commission approved the August 2, 2017 minutes on unanimous vote.

### **2018 Budget Session – Director Cameron**

Director Cameron reviewed the prior court security assessments and appropriated funds that were utilized for court security enhancements in 2014 and 2015. He explained that in 2016, the State Justice Institute again provided grant monies to conduct court security assessments in seven additional counties: Carbon, Converse, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Sheridan, Uinta, and Washakie. The National Center for State Court's on-site security assessments of those seven counties in 2016 showed a need for approximately 1.2 million dollars and prioritized the recommendations for each county into three categories: A) items that can be implemented relatively quickly with little or no cost, B) items that will entail a moderate amount of cost and time to implement, and C) items that will require a more significant amount of cost and time to implement.

Director Cameron explained that after receiving a funding request for court security improvements from the Court Security Commission (Commission), the 2018 Legislature appropriated \$400,000 to the Supreme Court from the General Fund. Any unexpended funds are to revert back to the General Fund on June 30, 2020. The Legislature directed that the appropriated funds "only be expended upon recommendation by the Wyoming court security commission for direct purchase by the state or grants to counties for security equipment within courthouses or construction or modification of facilities containing a state court." The Legislature did not, however, direct how the funding should be distributed. Director Cameron stated that the Commission's goal, before July 1<sup>st</sup>, is to develop a defensible, fair method for distribution of the

appropriation. He reviewed the methodologies used for previous distributions and presented two new distribution models. Lengthy discussion was held about the draft models. The Court Security Commission will continue to work to develop a fair distribution model. Upon further discussion, it was suggested that the amount of effort each county has put forth to address its court security needs should be taken into consideration when developing a distribution model.

The Commission also discussed whether access to the 2018 funding should be limited to the counties that were evaluated in the most recent round of assessments. The consensus was that the funds should be available to only those seven counties. Discussion was held as to whether these counties are permitted to use the funds for temporary security measures while upgrades and renovations are being made to their facilities. It was noted that in the past, the counties were allowed to use the funding for security measures that were not specifically identified in the SJI's assessment reports.

Judge Roberts noted the importance of having active local court security management committees and of having the judges in the counties actively involved on the committees. He urged the local court security management committees to review the Commission's standards, to assess their facility's needs, and to bring their most immediate security vulnerabilities to the attention of the commission. Judge Roberts cautioned that it takes a considerable amount of time to get from the point of identifying a problem to its resolution. Attention was brought to the importance of the counties being able to provide adequate staffing if, in fact, their facilities are upgraded; this is a vital piece that needs to be considered in the overall picture.

Discussion was held about cameras in the courtroom and the importance of having them manned by law enforcement personnel. Judge Tyler explained that a bill that passed in the last session delineates the responsibility of the county and the Supreme Court as to courtroom technology. The bill states that the counties are responsible for the infrastructure up to the courtroom walls, and any technology other than that is the responsibility of the Supreme Court. Any security cameras that are linked into the state server will need to be disconnected by the end of June 2018, which then makes the cameras the county's responsibility. Director Cameron suggested that from a policy standpoint, cameras are an ongoing discussion for the legislature, but that there is a budgetary solution available regarding their cost and installation. He pointed out that there are federal funds available through the Office of Homeland Security for purchase of the cameras. The main criteria necessary to obtain the funding is that there must be a possible link to terrorism. He pointed out that these funds are only part of the solution, and that the legislative solution to determine whether each county or the Supreme Court is responsible for the cameras will hopefully be addressed in the 2019 session. Lily Sharpe assured the county commissioners that she will work with them to develop adequate language concerning cameras in the courtrooms and the level of involvement and responsibility of local law enforcement. Judge Tyler pointed out that the cameras and monitors are not the main expense—it's the equipment's software and the need for IT personnel. Available bandwidth is another very important concern. Discussion was held about the possibility of this matter being resolved without the need for legislation.

## **Annual Reports – Director Cameron**

Joe Hartigan, the Supreme Court Security Officer, discussed the annual reports submitted by the counties. He will reach out to the chairs of the local court security management committees to remind them that their individual reports are due by July 1, 2018.

Director Cameron reviewed a draft of a standing order template for court security. He explained that it is a general order that establishes a policy regarding dangerous weapons in the courtrooms and court operations area. The proposal is that the order be provided to the local court security management

committees and judges for their consideration. He noted that there are currently eight different standing weapons orders in place in Wyoming. Of main concern are the judges who travel across the state for their judicial duties and are generally unaware, from one court location to the next, of the weapons order that's in place—if any. Discussion was held on this matter. Mike Colling moved to send the template to each of the local court security management committees for their consideration; Judge Tyler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update Incident Reports – Joe Hartigan**

Joe Hartigan provided a summary of the incidents that were reported during the year. After reviewing the reports and statistics, Joe has concluded that there are a large number of security related events that are taking place in the courthouses that are not being reported. The Court Security Commission's 2018 Annual Report (due September 1, 2018) will highlight the need for incident reporting as set out in Standard 2014-1. Sheriff Scott Matheny offered to distribute the summary of incident reports to the sheriffs and to stress the importance of filing the incident reports.

### **Court Security Commission Annual Report – Ronda Munger**

Ronda Munger will prepare a draft of the commission's annual report for review by Director Cameron and distribution by September 1, 2018 to the Chief Justice, Governor, Joint Appropriations Committee, and Joint Judiciary Committee. The report will include a description of the grant process for distribution of the court security funding appropriation.

### **Next Meeting – Director Cameron**

The next meeting will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The main topic on the agenda for this meeting will be to discuss the grant process and application. Ronda will send a draft of the grant application to the commission members for review prior to the meeting.

### **Commission Adjourned**

#### **Actions Taken:**

1. The commission approved the minutes from its August 2, 2017 meeting.
2. The commission will discuss working with the County Commissioners' Association and the Office of Homeland Security to see if the issue of cameras in the courtrooms can be resolved without legislation.
3. The commission approved sending out a template for a weapons order to the local court security management committees.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Staff will send out the court security standards to the new commission members.

2. Staff will send a template of a weapons order to each county's local court security management committee.
3. Joe Hartigan will send Sheriff Scott Matheny the Compilation of Incident Reports from the counties. Sheriff Matheny will distribute the compilation to the county sheriffs.
4. Staff will clarify in the grant application the particular body that should apply for funding and the criteria to be addressed.
5. Staff and Director Cameron will reach out to Senator Perkins and the State Land and Investment Board to learn the criteria used in the past for the 90 – 10% funding and for awarding grants.