

**Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting**

**Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

**May 7, 2026, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Attending:** Justice John Fenn (Chair), George Nykun (Co-Chair), Judge Darci Phillips, Judge Susan Stipe, Senator Jared Olsen, Representative Bob Nicholas, Commissioner Bob Latham, Sheriff Scott Matheny, Director Ronnie Jones. Also attending were Deputy State Court Administrator Claire Smith and Supreme Court Security Officer Joe Hartigan.

<b><u>Agenda Items</u></b>	
<b>Call to Order</b> Justice John Fenn	Justice Fenn called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees.
<b>Court Security Legislative Appropriation</b> Claire Smith	<p>The Wyoming Judicial Branch, in coordination with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), conducted court security assessments in nine counties (Big Horn, Campbell, Crook, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, Sheridan, Washakie, and Weston). Representatives from the various counties participated in the Commission meeting.</p> <p>During the 2026 Legislative Session, the Wyoming Legislature appropriated over 3.2 million dollars for court security improvements. Claire Smith, Deputy State Court Administrator and Chief Fiscal Officer, presented an overview of the granting process to be recommended to the Wyoming Judicial Council at its June meeting. Claire presented the following information:</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grants are available to address the security concerns noted in the assessment reports provided by the National Center for State Courts last year.</li><li>• If there are security concerns that weren't specifically addressed by the NCSC, there is a section in the application where details can be provided and requests can be made. The Administrative Office of the Courts will consider whether they are appropriate for this funding.</li><li>• Requests should not include items that are being covered by other grants.</li></ul>

	<p>Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications must be submitted by county commissioners.</li> <li>• Applications should be accompanied by bids or quotes.</li> </ul> <p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applications, award letters and reimbursements will be handled by the Administrative Office of the Courts</li> <li>• Contact Claire for an application and other details and documents</li> <li>• Application period will close August 31, 2026</li> <li>• Applications will be reviewed and compared to the NCSC report</li> <li>• Award letters will be provided by mid-September</li> <li>• Once approved costs are incurred and paid, counties can submit a reimbursement request, along with copies of the invoices</li> <li>• The Administrative Office of the Courts will process the reimbursement requests, minus the county's 10% <u>cash</u> match.</li> <li>• Funds must be spent by June 30, 2028.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission unanimously voted to recommend the Wyoming Judicial Council adopt this process.</p>
<p><b>Incident Reports Summary</b> Joe Hartigan</p>	<p>Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission that there have been a total of 80 incident reports since the last meeting.</p> <p>Joe provided the below list of reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disorderly Conduct – 23</li> <li>Medical Emergency – 7</li> <li>Bomb Threat – 1</li> <li>Verbal Threat – 11</li> <li>Prisoner escape – 1</li> <li>Written threat – 8</li> <li>Physical Assault – 1</li> <li>Suspicious Circumstance – 1</li> <li>Attempt to bring in firearm – 1</li> </ul> <p>Other – 26 (Other reports of the following incident type: panic alarm activation; arrest/take into custody; suspicious circumstance; vehicle crash; contempt of court; larceny; security breach;</p>

	<p>contraband; unattended backpack; suspicious package; mental health episode).</p> <p>Joe also provided the Commission information on the Iron Wall program for judges. This program helps remove judges’ personal information from public websites. Currently there are 46 judges and 79 family members enrolled in the program. The Iron Wall program has scrubbed over 11,472 pieces of information for the 125 enrolled members. Joe will be reaching out to the non-participating judges and encouraging them to enroll in the program.</p>
<p><b>Homeland Security Grants</b> George Nykun</p>	<p>George Nykun, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, provided the Commission with information regarding the five Wyoming counties who applied for and received 2025 SHSP Grants from Wyoming Homeland Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$209,081 - Park County - Cody and Powell court locations. Construction of bullet-proof wall, doors, window wrap.</li> <li>• \$59,076 - Natrona County - Townsend Justice Center. Ballistic window wrap</li> <li>• \$107,713 - Johnson County - County Judicial/Criminal Justice Center. Window wrap.</li> <li>• \$112,860 - Converse County - Courthouse lobby. Window wrap.</li> <li>• \$18,550 - Fremont County - Emergency medical training for courthouse employees.</li> </ul> <p>George stated 100% of the counties that applied for court security monies were approved. He encouraged more counties to apply.</p> <p>Justice Fenn thanked George for his work on the Commission and the dedication the Office of Homeland Security has shown the Wyoming court system.</p>
<p><b>Other Commission Work</b> Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn, Joe Hartigan and George Nykun attended a court security review at the Torrington courthouse on October 17, 2025.</p>

	<p>Justice Fenn, George Nykun and Claire Smith will attend the Safer Courts Initiative supported by the State Justice Institute in Atlanta, Georgia on October 26-27, 2026.</p> <p>The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy will host a judicial firearms training for judges on June 30, 2026.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.