

2027-2028

Supplemental Budget Request

WYOMING
JUDICIAL BRANCH

Supreme Court of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

LYNNE BOOMGAARDEN
CHIEF JUSTICE

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November 1, 2026

Senator Tim Salazar
Representative John Bear
Joint Appropriations Committee
200 West 24th Street
Capitol Building, E201
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Wyoming Judicial Branch Budget

Dear Chairman Salazar, Chairman Bear, and members of the Joint Appropriations Committee,

The Wyoming Judicial Branch respectfully submits two supplemental budget requests for the Joint Appropriations Committee's consideration. Both requests address strategic priorities and costs necessary to support the ongoing operation of Wyoming's courts.

The first request is for $2,187,514 in one-time JSA spending authority to address newly identified technology lifecycle and software costs. This request is tied to Pillar 1, Goal 4 in the 2025-28 Strategic Plan to "promote secure, effective and innovative use of technology." The spending authority to cover these costs is necessary because vital courtroom technology components will reach end-of-life in 2028 and need to be replaced. This spending authority will also cover Wyoming Judicial Council-approved e-filing and docket management system modifications necessary to maintain the functionality and improve the usability of those systems for judges, clerks, and litigants.

The second request is for $94,245 to upgrade the Judicial Branch's existing Westlaw subscription. This request is also tied to Pillar 1, Goal 4 in the 2025-28 Strategic Plan. The Branch's current Westlaw subscription/platform is nearly ten years old. It reflects antiquated legal research and document management tools. The current contract expires prior to the end of this biennium, at which time Westlaw will no longer support the existing platform. The courts have tested the requested upgrade to ensure it will provide the research and document management tools that Wyoming judges and Judicial Branch staff need to review documents submitted by litigants who have attorneys and those who do not, and to timely issue legally sound decisions.

These requests address needs and costs that were not known when the BFY27 budget was developed, and they cannot reasonably be deferred until the next biennial budget cycle. Delaying

either request until the next budget session would create unnecessary risk to the continuity of essential legal research and the Branch's ability to maintain critical courtroom technology and applications. Supplemental funding is therefore necessary to address these needs in a timely manner.

The Judicial Branch appreciates the Committee's consideration of these supplemental requests and its continued commitment to ensuring that Wyoming courts will be able to provide reliable and effective services statewide.

Sincerely,



Lynne Boomgaarden
Chief Justice

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Introduction to the Branch

Article 5, Section 1 of the Wyoming Constitution establishes the Wyoming Judicial Branch.

The judicial power of the state shall be vested ... in a supreme court, district courts, and such subordinate courts as the legislature may, by general law, establish and ordain from time to time.

The Wyoming Constitution establishes the framework for the State's judicial system and defines the separation of powers, as outlined in Article 2, Section 1.

The powers of the government ... are divided into three distinct departments: The legislative, executive and judicial, and no person or collection of persons charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any powers properly belonging to either of the others ...

The Wyoming Judicial Branch is open to "every person for an injury done to person, reputation or property" and "shall have justice administered without sale, denial or delay," as articulated in Article 1, Section 8. The Judicial Branch offers a fair way to settle disputes when people cannot resolve them on their own. It does not seek out cases; instead, it addresses matters brought before it by the parties involved. The Branch upholds the Constitution and interprets and applies the laws made by the legislature. It makes prosperity possible through the protection of constitutional rights, including private property rights, and creates certainty in business transactions.

Mission

As an independent branch of government, we provide access to justice through the timely, fair, and impartial resolution of legal disputes.

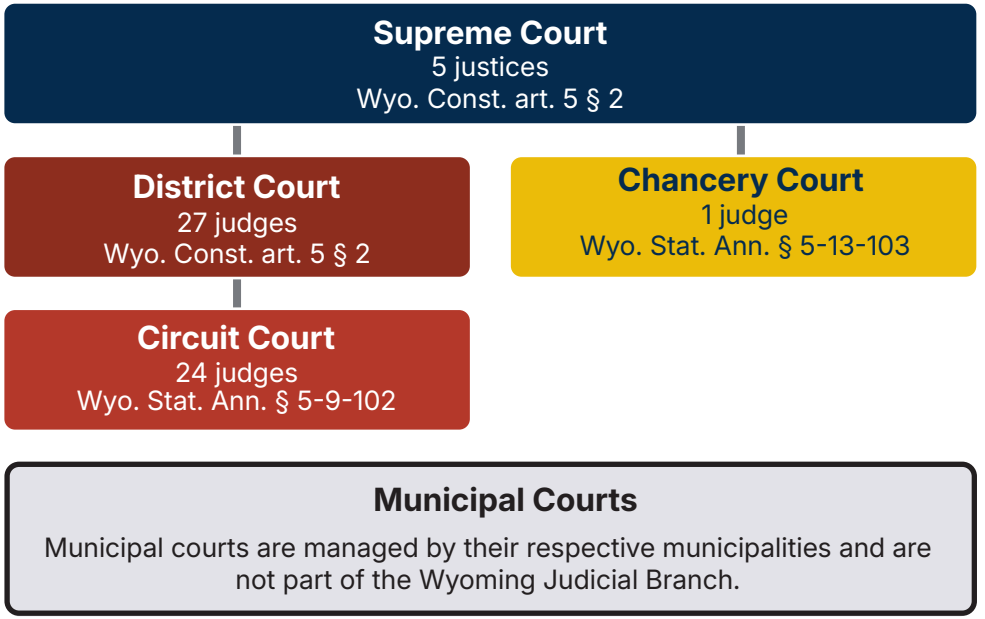
Vision

The Wyoming Judiciary is a cohesive and collaborative court system, characterized by excellence, that provides justice for the individual and society through the rule of law.

In addition to criminal and traffic matters, the courts handle a wide variety of cases, including:

- Business and contract disputes
- Small claims
- Juvenile abuse, neglect, and deliquencies
- Divorce and child custody
- Protection orders
- Landlord and tenant matters
- Probate
- Guardianship/conservatorship

The people of Wyoming can count on their courts to provide justice with integrity and respect for all.



Summary of Exception Requests

Description	Amount	Source	Ongoing?	Page
Spending Authority Request				
Courtroom Technology	*$2,187,514*	*Judicial Systems Automation*	*No (One-Time)*	*SC-6*
Total Spending Authority Request	**$2,187,514**			

Description	Amount	Source	Ongoing?	Page
General Fund Request				
Westlaw Legal Research Platform	*$94,245*	*General Fund*	*Yes*	*SC-9*
Total General Fund Request	**$94,245**			

WYOMING
JUDICIAL BRANCH

2027-2028

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST

WYOMING SUPREME COURT 101
Agency Name and Number

Submitted by:

Signature Lynne Boomgaarden

Name Lynne Boomgaarden

Title Supreme Court Chief Justice

Person(s) responsible for the preparation of this budget:

Elisa Butler, State Court Administrator

Claire Smith, Deputy Administrator/Chief Fiscal Officer

AGENCY SUPREME COURT **AGENCY NO. 101**

1 Description	Code	Base Budget	Standard Budget	Exception Request	Total Agency Request	Supreme Court Recommendation
ADMINISTRATION	0100	19,094,705	19,094,705	-	19,094,705	19,094,705
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMM	0200	34,942	34,942	-	34,942	34,942
CHANCERY COURT	0300	1,293,369	1,293,369	-	1,293,369	1,293,369
LAW LIBRARY	0400	1,232,179	1,232,179	-	1,232,179	1,232,179
CIRCUIT COURTS	0500	38,496,198	38,496,198	-	38,496,198	38,496,198
COURT TECHNOLOGY	0600	17,930,158	17,930,158	2,187,514	20,117,672	20,117,672
JUDICIAL RETIREMENT	0700	1,750,598	1,750,598	-	1,750,598	1,750,598
TREATMENT COURT	0800	6,937,585	6,937,585	-	6,937,585	6,937,585
BRANCHWIDE RESOURCES	0900	1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
TOTAL BY DIVISION		87,923,657	87,923,657	2,281,759	90,205,416	90,205,416
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	60,011,427	60,011,427	-	60,011,427	60,011,427
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	15,736,516	15,736,516	1,251,296	16,987,812	16,987,812
ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	0400	190,439	190,439	-	190,439	190,439
GRANTS	0600	8,156,701	8,156,701	-	8,156,701	8,156,701
CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0900	3,828,574	3,828,574	1,030,463	4,859,037	4,859,037
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		87,923,657	87,923,657	2,281,759	90,205,416	90,205,416
SOURCE OF FUNDING						
GENERAL FUND	G	69,677,753	69,677,753	94,245	69,771,998	69,771,998
SPECIAL REVENUE	R	15,093,736	15,093,736	2,187,514	17,281,250	17,281,250
TOBACCO TRUST FUND	X	2,398,072	2,398,072	-	2,398,072	2,398,072
FEDERAL FUNDS	X	754,096	754,096	-	754,096	754,096
TOTAL BY FUNDING		87,923,657	87,923,657	2,281,759	90,205,416	90,205,416
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES						
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		217	217	-	217	217
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		21	21	-	21	21
AT-WILL EMPLOYEE CONTRACT COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		238	238	-	238	238

AGENCY SUPREME COURT **AGENCY NO.** 101
DIVISION COURT TECHNOLOGY **DIVISION NO.** 0600

1 Description	Code	2 Base Budget	3 Standard Budget	4 Exception Request	5 Total Agency Request	6 Supreme Court Recommendation
COURT TECHNOLOGY	0601-001-601	8,524,151	8,524,151	-	8,524,151	8,524,151
JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AUTOMATION	0610-424-424	9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
TOTAL BY UNIT		17,930,158	17,930,158	2,187,514	20,117,672	20,117,672
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	4,175,006	4,175,006	-	4,175,006	4,175,006
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	12,279,666	12,279,666	1,157,051	13,436,717	13,436,717
ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	0400	37,142	37,142	-	37,142	37,142
CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0900	1,438,344	1,438,344	1,030,463	2,468,807	2,468,807
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		17,930,158	17,930,158	2,187,514	20,117,672	20,117,672
SOURCE OF FUNDING						
GENERAL FUND	G	8,524,151	8,524,151	-	8,524,151	8,524,151
SPECIAL REVENUE	R	9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
TOTAL BY FUNDS		17,930,158	17,930,158 -	2,187,514	20,117,672	20,117,672
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES						
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		16	16	-	16	16
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		16	16	-	16	16

Exception Request

Courtroom Technology

The Judicial Systems Automation (JSA) Fund provides the primary funding source for technology systems and equipment necessary to support court operations statewide. The JSA projections used in developing the BFY27 budget request were prepared before the Judicial Branch received notification that an integral piece of the courtroom technology equipment would reach end-of-life status in 2028.

The Judicial Branch has since determined that a full refresh of the equipment will be necessary by the end of 2028 to maintain reliable courtroom technology and support. JSA expenditures are also needed to implement modifications to the Branch's e-filing and case management systems in order to maintain functionality and improve the usability of those mission-critical systems.

The requested $2,187,514 in one-time spending authority will allow the Branch to address these newly identified technology equipment lifecycle and software costs. These expenditures are consistent with the statutory purpose of the JSA Fund.

Object	Description	Request
0242	IT Hardware	$1,157,051
0903	Contract Professional Services	$1,030,463
	Total Request	**$2,187,514**

Exception Budget Request: $2,187,514

The Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court recommends approval of the Exception Budget Request.

The long-term sustainability of the JSA Fund remains in jeopardy. In previous biennia, the Branch provided the Legislature with information about the projected fund balance decline. Technology costs continue to increase while revenue from the existing JSA fee remains relatively flat. Current projections indicate that, without changes to the revenue structure, the JSA Fund will be depleted by BFY 31. The long-term sustainability of the JSA Fund is an issue that warrants priority consideration.

The replacement of courtroom technology equipment illustrates why maintaining a healthy JSA Fund balance is important. Technology systems and equipment can have unpredictable requirements, which means the timing and cost of major replacements are not always known when a biennial budget is developed. Maintaining sufficient fund reserves provides the Judicial Branch with the ability to address significant, necessary technology replacements when they arise without jeopardizing other essential technology services or requiring immediate funding adjustments.

One potential solution is to authorize the Judicial Branch to set the JSA fee so that revenue might better align with the cost of maintaining the technology systems and equipment supported by the fund. Senate File 0075, which did not meet introduction during the 2026 Budget Session, contemplated providing the Supreme Court with authority to establish the JSA fee by rule within statutory parameters. Although the legislation did not advance, the Judicial Branch continues to believe that greater flexibility in adjusting the fee could help provide a more sustainable funding structure as technology costs change over time.

AGENCY	SUPREME COURT	Wyoming On-Line Financial System Code				
DIVISION	COURT TECHNOLOGY	AGY	DIVISION	UNIT	FUND	APPR UNIT
UNIT	JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AUTOMATION - Special Revenue	101	0600	0610	424	424

1 Description	Code	Base Budget	2 Standard Budget	3 Exception Request Special Rev Funds	4 Total Request	5 Supreme Court Recommendation
EXPENDITURES						
SALARIES CLASSIFIED	0103	2,396,126	2,396,126	-	2,396,126	2,396,126
EMPLOYER PD BENEFITS	0105	606,529	606,529	-	606,529	606,529
EMPLOYER HEALTH INS BENEFITS	0196	535,826	535,826	-	535,826	535,826
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	3,538,481	3,538,481	-	3,538,481	3,538,481
DUES-LICENSES-REGIST	0207	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
TRAVEL IN STATE	0221	39,000	39,000	-	39,000	39,000
OFFICE SUPPLY, PRINTING	0231	30,500	30,500	-	30,500	30,500
EDUCA-RECREATNL SUPP	0236	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
IT HARDWARE	0242	1,601,289	1,601,289	1,157,051	2,758,340	2,758,340
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	0292	2,981,803	2,981,803	-	2,981,803	2,981,803
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	4,658,592	4,658,592	1,157,051	5,815,643	5,815,643
CENTRAL-SER DATA-SER	0410	-	-	-	-	-
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	0420	-	-	-	-	-
ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	0400	-	-	-	-	-
PROFESSIONAL FEES	0901	1,208,934	1,208,934	-	1,208,934	1,208,934
SPECIAL PROJ & SVCS	0903	-	-	1,030,463	1,030,463	1,030,463
CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0900	1,208,934	1,208,934	1,030,463	2,239,397	2,239,397
EXPENDITURE TOTALS		9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
SOURCE OF FUNDING						
JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AUTOMATION	3309	9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
SPECIAL REVENUE	R	9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
TOTAL FUNDING		9,406,007	9,406,007	2,187,514	11,593,521	11,593,521
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES						
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		13	13	-	13	13
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		13	13	-	13	13

AGENCY SUPREME COURT					AGENCY NO. 101	
DIVISION BRANCHWIDE RESOURCES					DIVISION NO. 0900	
1		2	3	4	5	6
Description	Code	Base Budget	Standard Budget	Exception Request	Total Agency Request	Supreme Court Recommendation
BRANCHWIDE RESOURCES	0901-001-901	1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
TOTAL BY UNIT		1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	250,000	250,000	-	250,000	250,000
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	563,079	563,079	94,245	657,324	657,324
ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	0400	-	-	-	-	-
CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0900	340,844	340,844	-	340,844	340,844
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
SOURCE OF FUNDING						
GENERAL FUND	G	1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
TOTAL BY FUNDS		1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES						
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		-	-	-	-	-

Exception Request

Westlaw Legal Research Platform

The Branch's current Westlaw legal research subscription is out-of-date and nearing expiration. The Wyoming Judicial Branch requests $94,245 to upgrade its subscription to Westlaw's CoCounsel Legal platform.

Westlaw is an essential legal research tool used extensively by Wyoming judges, justices, and Judicial Branch staff. It provides access to the most current case law, statutes, regulations, court rules, secondary legal resources, and other legal information necessary to conduct thorough and accurate legal research. Access to comprehensive and current legal research tools is critical to effective court operations. A new subscription to the more robust legal research platform will reduce time spent on routine and complex legal research and enhance document review capacity, thus allowing judicial officers and staff to focus their time on substantive legal analysis and other core responsibilities.

The Judicial Branch has not upgraded its Westlaw subscription in approximately ten years. The requested funding is necessary to modernize an existing, mission-critical resource. It will allow the Judicial Branch to transition to a more robust and supportable Westlaw legal research platform. This is an ongoing request that will be biennialized for BFY29.

Object	Description	Request
0236	Educational Supplies	$94,245
	Total Request	**$94,245**

Exception Budget Request: $94,245

The Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court recommends approval of the Exception Budget Request.

AGENCY	SUPREME COURT	Wyoming On-Line Financial System Code				
DIVISION	BRANCHWIDE RESOURCES	AGY	DIVISION	UNIT	FUND	APPR UNIT
UNIT	BRANCHWIDE RESOURCES	101	0900	0901	001	901

1 Description	Code	Base Budget	2 Standard Budget	3 Exception Request	4 Total Request	5 Supreme Court Recommendation
EXPENDITURES						
SALARIES CLASSIFIED	0103	150,000	150,000	-	150,000	150,000
SALARIES OTHER	0104	100,000	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
EMPLOYER PD BENEFITS	0105	-	-	-	-	-
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	250,000	250,000	-	250,000	250,000
COMMUNICATIONS	0204	25,495	25,495	-	25,495	25,495
DUES-LICENSES-REGIST	0207	298,799	298,799	-	298,799	298,799
TRAVEL IN STATE	0221	40,809	40,809	-	40,809	40,809
TRAVEL OUT OF STATE	0222	14,040	14,040	-	14,040	14,040
OFFICE SUPPLY, PRINTING	0231	14,283	14,283	-	14,283	14,283
EDUCA-RECREATNL SUPP	0236	129,653	129,653	94,245	223,898	223,898
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	0292	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	40,000
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	563,079	563,079	94,245	657,324	657,324
PROFESSIONAL FEES	0901	340,844	340,844	-	340,844	340,844
CONTRACT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0900	340,844	340,844	-	340,844	340,844
EXPENDITURE TOTALS		1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
SOURCE OF FUNDING						
GENERAL FUND	1001	1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
GENERAL FUND	G	1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
TOTAL FUNDING		1,153,923	1,153,923	94,245	1,248,168	1,248,168
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES						
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		-	-	-	-	-