

Agency Name: SUPREME COURT

B - Agency Summary

Agency Number: 101

1		Ch. 17 Base to Standard Reconciliation							9	
Description	Code	2 Actual Expenditures 2003-2004	3 Base Budget	4 Budget Division or Agency Adj's to Base	5 Agency Net to Zero/Other Changes	6 Standard Budget Col. 3+4+5	7 Exception Request	8 Total Agency Request	Supreme Court Recommendation	
ADMINISTRATION	0100	5,208,478	5,471,341	831,701	0	6,303,042	516,864	6,819,906	6,819,906	
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMM	0200	7,426	15,001	0	0	15,001	0	15,001	15,001	
GUARDIAN AD LITEM	0300	0	0	4,200,000	0	4,200,000	0	4,200,000	4,200,000	
LAW LIBRARY	0400	1,058,518	1,247,945	54,639	0	1,302,584	151,675	1,454,259	1,439,259	
CIRCUIT COURTS	0500	15,770,911	17,520,488	2,391,260	0	19,911,748	583,608	20,495,356	20,322,460	
COURT TECHNOLOGY	0600	3,110,733	2,717,846	-208,216	0	2,509,630	3,398,407	5,908,037	5,908,037	
JUDICIAL RETIREMENT	0700	2,429,717	2,558,224	18,252	0	2,576,476	0	2,576,476	2,576,476	
BOARD OF JUDICIAL POLICY & ADM	0900	113,353	895,383	-742,366	0	153,017	813,330	966,347	966,347	
TOTAL BY APPROPRIATION ORG		27,699,136	30,426,228	6,545,270	0	36,971,498	5,463,884	42,435,382	42,247,486	
PERSONAL SERVICES	0100	22,292,289	25,310,966	2,775,479	0	28,086,445	1,532,024	29,618,469	29,457,573	
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	0200	3,883,995	3,646,350	-233,293	0	3,413,057	3,022,645	6,435,702	6,435,702	
CENTRAL SERVICES/DATA SERV.	0400	182,284	330,564	-30,329	0	300,235	18,000	318,235	303,235	
GRANTS & AID PAYMENT	0600	198,157	250,000	0	0	250,000	0	250,000	250,000	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	0900	1,142,411	888,348	4,033,413	0	4,921,761	891,215	5,812,976	5,800,976	
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		27,699,136	30,426,228	6,545,270	0	36,971,498	5,463,884	42,435,382	42,247,486	
MEANS OF FUNDING										
GENERAL FUND	G	25,795,309	28,814,579	6,669,551	0	35,484,130	2,065,477	37,549,607	37,361,711	
SPECIAL REVENUE	R	1,264,538	1,611,649	-306,575	0	1,305,074	3,398,407	4,703,481	4,703,481	
FEDERAL FUNDS	X	639,289	0	182,294	0	182,294	0	182,294	182,294	
TOTAL BY FUNDING		27,699,136	30,426,228	6,545,270	0	36,971,498	5,463,884	42,435,382	42,247,486	
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES										
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		0	180	2	0	182	8	190	188	
PART TIME EMPLOYEE COUNT		0	35		0	35	-1	34	34	
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		0	215	2	0	217	7	224	222	
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES		0	215	2	0	217	7	224	222	

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WYOMING SUPREME COURT – AGENCY 101

The Supreme Court's budget consists of eight programs: Supreme Court Administration, Judicial Nominating Commission, Guardian ad Litem, Law Library, Circuit Courts, Court Technology, Judicial Retirement, and Board of Judicial Policy and Administration.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT DOES

Under the Wyoming constitution, the judicial power of the government of this 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." Article 5, Section 1; Article 2, Section 1. The Supreme Court has general appellate jurisdiction statewide in both civil and criminal cases; it also has "general superintending control over all inferior courts, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by law." Article 5, Section 2. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in quo warranto and mandamus as to all state officers and in habeas corpus. Article 5, Section 3. The Supreme Court also has power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari, and other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate and revisory jurisdiction. Article 5, Section 3. Five justices, one of who serves as the chief justice, sit on the Supreme Court. Each justice serves an eight-year term and may hold successive terms upon retention by the statewide electorate. Article 5, Section 4.

By statute, the Supreme Court manages and supervises the circuit court system created by the Legislature. Wyo. Stat. §5-5-108. All 23 of the state's counties have elected to establish the circuit court system. Wyo. Stat. § 5-5-102 & 103. Twenty-four circuit judges and six full-time magistrates serve in these courts.

Statutes relating to the state's courts are found in Wyo. Stat. § 5-1-101 through 5-7-107. Those statutes, which specifically relate to the Supreme Court, are found in Wyo. Stat. § 5-2-101-501. Of particular note, the Supreme Court has extensive rule-making authority, Wyo. Stat. § 5-2-113 -119, including rules relating to the practice of law and procedures relating to review of decisions in cases originating in a municipal court, or a circuit court. The Supreme Court "superintend(s) and direct(s) all expenditures of money for the law library." Wyo. Stat. § 5-2-501.

As an independent, co-equal branch of state government, the judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court, exercises the state's judicial power to ensure to all of the state's citizens the protection of civil, political, and religious liberties secured by the state constitution. Preamble and Article 1, Wyoming Constitution. The mission of the Supreme Court is to ensure that all courts exercise their respective judicial powers within the bounds of the state constitution and the laws of the state not inconsistent therewith so that "(a)ll courts shall be open and every person for an injury done to person, reputation or property shall have justice administered without sale, denial or delay." Article 1, Section 8, Wyoming Constitution.

In order to exercise its judicial powers, the Supreme Court must maintain a support staff of well qualified and adequately compensated employees to assist the five justices as they daily carry out their constitutional and statutory duties and responsibilities.

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The Supreme Court has a constitutional obligation to ensure that the state's courts at every jurisdictional level are sufficiently funded by the Legislature so as to ensure to the state's citizens uninterrupted access to the courts and expeditious and efficient delivery of justice. Operational expenses incurred in fulfilling the Supreme Court's constitutional obligation including, but are not limited to, salaries and benefits to employees, supplies, equipment including the court computer automation system, furnishings, communications, travel, legal research materials of both print and electronic variety, circuit court magistrates, jurors, continuing judicial education programs and judicial administration programs including membership in the National Center for State Courts.

2007-2008 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

The Supreme Court's Recommended 2007-2008 Biennial Budget Request is \$42,247,486. The following charts summarize the Supreme Court's budget request by program and expenditure category.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>Percent of Entire Budget</u>
Supreme Court Administration	\$ 6,819,906	16.14	Personal Services (100)	69.73
Judicial Nominating Commission	\$ 15,001	.04	Supportive Services (200)	15.23
Guardian ad Litem	\$ 4,200,000	9.94	Central Services/Data Services (400)	.72
Law Library	\$ 1,439,259	3.41	Grants & Aid Payment (600)	.59
Circuit Courts	\$20,322,460	48.10	Contractual Services (900)	13.73
Automation & Electronic Mgmt	\$ 5,908,037	13.98		100.00
Judicial Retirement	\$ 2,576,476	6.10		
Board of Judicial Policy & Administration	\$ 966,347	2.29		
Total	\$42,247,486	100.00		

Means of Funding

General fund	\$37,361,711
Special Revenue	\$ 4,703,481
Federal Funds	\$ 182,294
Total	\$42,247,486

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SUMMARY OF 2007-2008 EXCEPTION BUDGET REQUEST

The Supreme Court's 2007-2008 Standard Budget totaled \$36,971,498. The Court is submitting an exception budget request to increase the budget by \$5,463,884. The following is a summary of the exception budget requests.

SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATION – PROGRAM 0100 – \$516,864

The Supreme Court is submitting an exception budget for the following items:

\$23,000 – To cover the increase in Dues to the National Center for State Courts which has increased by 22% during the last five years.

\$15,864 – To cover the increase in the monthly maintenance fee for Supreme Court's two permanently assigned vehicles.

\$462,000 – To purchase new furnishing for the justices and staff to be used when the Court returns to the remodeled Supreme Court Building. The estimated completion date is the Spring of 2008. These funds would be used to replace furniture that is 20-25 years old and older.

\$16,000 – To cover the increased cost of providing continuing legal and judicial education for Wyoming's judges.

LAW LIBRARY – PROGRAM 0400 – LEGAL PUBLICATIONS FOR THE LAW LIBRARY - \$151,675

The Supreme Court's Law Library is a valuable resource available to the judiciary, members of the legal community in the State of Wyoming, and the general public. The cost of legal materials continues to rise. Due to economies of scale, the rate of increase for legal publications is higher than many other types of publications. The Law Library is requesting:

\$128,275 – Maintain the collection at its current level, which is an increase of 8.8% per year for the next biennium.

\$2,000 – Is requested to cover the increased cost of supplies

\$1,000 – In-state travel

\$1,700 – Out-of-state travel

\$700 – For the increased cost of dues/registrations

\$15,000 – To support the Law Library's network (The Supreme Court recommends this request be denied)

\$500 - For the increase in telecommunications and

\$2,500 – To obtain PC support from the ITD Service Center

CIRCUIT COURTS – PROGRAM 0500 - \$583,608

The Supreme Court is submitting an exception budget request for the following items within the Circuit Court Program:

\$ 24,500 – Common Jury Fund – To cover the increased cost of jury trials within the circuit court system

\$ 24,750 – Equipment Fund – To replace two copy machines and to cover the cost of increases in existing lease contracts

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- \$ 128,740– Examination of Courts – To provide salary and benefits for a full-time auditor
\$ 183,918 – Personal Services – To provide salaries and benefits for two full-time Substance Abuse Coordinators (Laramie Co. and Natrona Co.) and to increase the part-time position in Niobrara to a full time position. (Circuit Court Budget Committee and the Supreme Court recommend the request for the two Substance Abuse Coordinators be denied)
\$ 27,500 – To cover the increased cost of postage and telecommunications
\$ 33,000 – In-State Travel - To cover the increased reimbursement allowance of In-State Travel
\$ 42,000 – To cover the rising cost of supplies
\$ 12,200 – To cover the cost of obtaining Surety Bonds for the Judges and Magistrates
\$ 12,000 – Professional Fees – Teton Circuit Court is requesting funds to hire a summer-time law clerk to assist in case research (Circuit Court Budget Committee recommended this request be denied)
\$ 75,000 – Professional Fees – In order to increase the hourly rate of Magistrate services from \$50.00 per hour to \$75.00 per hour
\$ 20,000 – Interpreter Fees – To cover the increased need of providing foreign language interpreter services in court proceedings

COURT TECHNOLOGY – PROGRAM 0600 -- \$3,398,407

- The Supreme Court is requesting spending authority for an additional \$3,398,407 from the Special Revenue Account for Judicial Systems Automation.
- \$312,000 – Salaries Classified – To hire two Network Specialists and two Help Desk Specialists
\$116,036 – Employer Paid Benefits – To provide benefits to four full-time positions
\$592,280 – Computer Equipment - To purchase digital recording equipment for 34 courtrooms in 29 circuit court locations
\$147,403 – Computer Equipment - To purchase hardware for the Wyoming Criminal Justice Information System (WyCJIS)
\$65,362 – Computer Equipment – To purchase two servers for the Judicial Branch
\$27,600 – Computer Equipment – To purchase two servers for the web-based municipal court system
\$29,000 – Computer Equipment – To purchase 58 scanners for document imaging in the circuit courts
\$175,735 – Computer Software - To purchase software required to connect the partners of the WyCJIS project
\$500,000 – Computer Software – To purchase an appellate case management software system for the Wyoming Supreme Court
\$145,000 – Computer Software – To procure software licenses to enable electronic citation import/export for all 29 circuit courts
\$225,000 – Computer Software – To purchase software to enable document imaging in circuit courts
\$44,000 – Computer Software – To purchase the Child Welfare module of FullCourt for 11 district courts, in order to provide detailed tracking and reporting of child abuse and neglect cases
\$250,776 – Computer Software – To purchase the FullCourt case management system to municipal courts in Wyoming
\$400,000 – Professional Fees – To contract with a vendor for appellate case management software
\$111,180 – Professional Fees – Annual maintenance for municipal court case management software
\$50,000 – Professional Fees – To contract for services to film and convert the Big Horn Basin Water Lawsuit to a digital record for future access
\$98,600 – Professional Fees – To contract programming services and licenses for the citation import/export project

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\$45,000 – Professional Fees – To purchase software licenses for document imaging

\$24,100 – Professional Fees – Annual maintenance for the Child Welfare module

\$39,335 – Contractual Travel – To cover the cost of contractual travel during programming, installation and training of software

BOARD OF JUDICIAL POLICY & ADMINISTRATION – PROGRAM 0900 - \$813,330

\$ 22,000 is requested to cover the increased cost of research software (Lexis/Westlaw) for the Supreme Court, District Court and Circuit Courts for the next biennium.

\$791,330 is requested to provide salary adjustments and benefits during the 2007-2008 Biennium for Judicial Branch employees.

Supreme Court

\$31,950 to provide market increases to Supreme Court Staff Attorney's. This increase is consistent with the Attorney General's Office

District Courts:

\$334,119 is requested to provide market Increases for the District Law Clerks. This increase is consistent with the Attorney General's Office.

Circuit Courts:

\$289,385 is requested to bring the salaries of the Circuit Court Clerks up to a salary consistent with the Executive Branch Administrative Specialist 1, 2 & 3's.

Employer Paid Benefits:

\$135,876 is requested to cover the additional cost of benefits associated with salary increases.