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(Wyo.)-State Chief Justice Identifies Possible Budget Cuts



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/10/2013 09:20 AM

Photo: Wyoming State Chief Justice Marilyn Kite

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - State Chief Justice Marilyn Kite says Wyoming's court system is working to cut costs as best it can because of predictions of flat state revenue.

Kite addressed a joint session of the Wyoming Legislature on Wednesday.

She says based on case filings and workload studies the system is proposing to close satellite courts in Dubois, Lovell and Powell. Their court functions would move to their respective county seats.

Kite acknowledged local opposition to the decision but says the court system is working with lawmakers to address the concerns of the communities.

She also asked the Legislature to change some outdated and costly requirements, such as phasing out some full-time circuit court magistrates and cutting down on certain required court transcripts.

Gov. Matt Mead delivered his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the both houses on Wednesday. Mead emphasized that Wyoming is in a strong position. But he also urged lawmakers to take action to cut state spending and make improvements in the state education system. He said the state has failed to make progress on the issue of education accountability despite its hefty investment in public schools.