

used for such jobs as counting traffic and surveying wildlife and wildfires by the departransportation and Natural Resources.



Doyle made sharp travel reductions by supplanting short flights with drives, aide Dan said.



"In the previous administrations, it was very common for cabinet secretaries or other s take a plane on their own and fly all over the state on a regular basis, and that has com end in the Doyle administration," Leistikow said.



Doyle also cut back on state plane use by taking out-of-state trips on commercial fligh when he went to Seattle last month for the National Governors Association's annual m Leistikow said. Doyle most recently used a state plane for a tour of northwestern Wisc week.



Doyle no longer allows the Natural Resources Board, the State of Wisconsin Investme the Technical College System Board and the like to pick up members for meetings, as McCallum and Thompson did. Use of the planes by cabinet secretaries is strictly limit



Election issue



State plane use was a major element of Doyle's 2002 successful run against McCallum spent \$9 million to buy three planes at the same time he cut \$8 million from programs elderly.

Past Features



McCallum also came under fire for such things as flying from Madison to Janesville, 4 away, and using state planes for personal trips. In April 2003, McCallum paid the state Board a \$13,000 settlement for using a state plane in summer 2001 to take his son, Ro soccer tournament in Colorado.



Thompson and McCallum, both Republicans, maintained Thursday that their heavier preflected that they were more in touch with the citizens of the state than Doyle, a Dem



"Governor Thompson was upfront from day one that he would travel to talk to and list Wisconsinites in every corner of the state, and these numbers reflect that," said Tony J aide to Thompson, who now serves as President Bush's secretary of health and human



When told Doyle claims to travel as extensively, but to do more of it in cars, Jewell sa "Unlike Governor Doyle, we have little interest in sitting around counting miles."



McCallum struck a similar note.

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"I viewed my job not to be sitting in Madison, but to be out meeting the people," he sa believe the citizens have every right to expect their public officials will be available to

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Reducing fleet

The sale of four Cessnas and two single-seat planes from the 1970s and 1980s used by and Transportation Department brought in a combined \$381,805.

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The state will accept no less than \$320,000 for a pricier, five-seat 1987 Beech Baron it trying to sell, Leistikow said. A minimum price has yet to be set for the other plane, a Beech Baron.

Those sales will bring the size of the fleet to 19, and further cuts are being contemplate Leistikow said.

The figures released Thursday also show that Doyle's staff travels less than those of pr administrations. For the most recent fiscal year, agencies using the state planes logged passenger-miles. That is 18% of the 299,520 passenger-miles traveled by state staff in year 2001, when Thompson and McCallum were in charge.

Passenger-miles are calculated by multiplying the number of passengers by the numbe traveled. For instance, if four people flew a 500-mile flight, it would count as 2,000 pamiles.

The reduced plane use comes at a price, said Stephen D. Willett, an attorney in Phillipserves on the Natural Resources Board.

"It's difficult or almost impossible for us to do various projects or attend certain meetin hearings" without access to the state planes, said Willett, who lives four hours by car f Madison.

A Thompson appointee, Willett last year accused Doyle of playing politics by cutting board's access to planes. But his attitude changed over time, particularly when he saw Commerce Secretary Cory Nettles make a seven-hour drive for an economic summit.

"I figured if he's driving, everybody's driving," Willett said.

But Willett raised concerns about recruiting people to sit on the board, which is require balanced with members from around the state.

"There's no question it limits the field" of potential members, Willett said. "It limits it wealthy and retired."

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A NEW OR USED CAR? PREVENTING YOU

Editorial: Downsizing the fleet

SURFORMES

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IS YOUR CREDI FROM OWNING

From the Journal Sentinel

Posted: Aug. 8, 2004

into last winter was the discovery that the state of Wisconsin owned too many automobiles. That discovery has now allowed the state to identify more than 1,000 cars that it plans to sell, and the One good thing to emerge from the mess that Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager got herself proceeds could put more than \$4 million into the state's treasury.

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What's more, the downsizing promises to generate a more progressive way to buy and use cars, which means the state can save even more money and do a better job of protecting the environment.

car while drunk prompted the Department of Administration to intensify The arrest of Lautenschlager last February on charges of driving a state investigation subsequently disclosed that hundreds of state-owned cars its search for ways to reduce the fleet of cars owned by the state. An were underused and misused.

In June, therefore, Gov. Jim Doyle announced that the state would sell least 1,000 of these vehicles. Last week, he completed his search for

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when they travel at lower speeds, they can get as much as 61 miles to the hybrid cars to its fleet will both strengthen and perpetuate that cherished has a long, strong tradition of respect for the environment; adding more dollars, in gasoline, in less environmental damage - add up. Wisconsin Multiply that by a lot of cars and a lot of miles, and the savings - in

BACK TO TOP

08/09/2004

and these new car purchases ought to be made with due care for both the The law, signed by Doyle in April on Earth Day, will promote the use of hybrid sport utility vehicle off the production line Thursday. Hybrid cars environment and the taxpayer. Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) is the vehicles. Cowles notes that, under federal guidelines, the state fleet must 15% of the 7,228 vehicles the state owned in February. Officials reckon Honda and Toyota make hybrid cars, and Ford Motor Co. rolled its first Eventually, the cars that remain state property will have to be replaced, generally cost a little more than comparably sized autos fueled only by environment-friendly autos to the state's defined list of alternative-fuel those 1,000 - actually, he found 1,073. That number represents almost gasoline. But because hybrid cars are typically powered by electricity hybrid-electric cars in the state fleet. Specifically, it adds these the 1,073 cars can be sold at auction for \$4.3 million or more author of a new law that would help achieve this objective. buy 75% of replacement vehicles from that list. radition. gallon. Оатом Оійегелсе Superior The OT BUILDING TO CALD THE REAL DODGE TOYOTA HONDA MISSAN MAZDA S NUX 出出 1004 G ROSSROADS mme.hat The Hmong RVICE MEMBER URNEY TO AMERIC RONALD REAGAN Award Contest analysis, opinion views on the new interactive Takes ERWIN GEBHARD Ø copery NEGUAL A DAILY QLA PARATE

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Past Features

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel August 19, 2004

State names 7 workers who paid mileage fees

Employees were ordered to reimburse taxpayers for personal use of cars

By PATRICK MARLEY pmartey@journalsentinel.com

Madison — The state Department of Administration released the names Wednesday of seven employees who were ordered last month to reimburse taxpayers for personal miles they put on state vehicles.

Topping the list was Nate Nez, a senior program specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs, who paid \$806.39.

The Department of Commerce had the most employees — four — who had not properly reimbursed the state for mileage. They were: Robert D. Bertram (\$22.02); Deb Clements (\$80.64); Tim E. Griswold (\$213.61); and William L. Winter (\$185.26).

Also ordered to repay were Peter Sammataro (\$247.04), a computer technician for the state Supreme Court; and Myra L. Stachowicz (\$449.00), a training representative for the Department of Workforce Development.

The employees were ordered to make the payments in July in the wake of a wide-ranging review of the state's fleet of vehicles that resulted in Gov. Jim Doyle tagging more than 1,000 cars and trucks for sale.

All of the employees have now repaid the state. None was disciplined.

The employees' names were

released in response to an open records request by the Journal Sentinel.

One other employee has paid \$107, but the worker's name was not released because he has told the department he plans to challenge the release of his name in court. If no court challenge is made this week, his name will be released Monday, according to a letter from state attorney John Rothschild.

Investigations of two other employees' vehicle use is ongoing.

Two Department of Public Instruction employees earlier thought to have not made their payments have been cleared of any wrongdoing, Doyle aide Dan Leistikow said.

Early in the review, 69 employees' reimbursement habits were questioned, but the vast majority of them were found to have acted properly.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel August 19, 2004

Grothman declines 3 debates with Panzer

By PETER MALLER

pmaller@journalsentinel.com

West Bend — Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer and her opponent Rep. Glenn Grothman are continuing to squabble over the number of debates they will participate in prior to September's primary.

Panzer said Wednesday that Grothman was trying to fly under the radar by refusing invitations to debates on a Milwaukee television station, a political Web site and a forum run by a Catholic fraternal organization.

"My position is we should do all of these debates so people can see the differences," Panzer said after learning that Grothman turned down the option of adding more appearances to the five already scheduled. "We owe this to the public."

Grothman said he's too busy getting acquainted with voters

in the 20th Senate District to take time for additional debates. His campaign is focused locally, and he sees no need to participate in events outside the district, he said.

"Five debates are plenty," Grothman said. "To say I'm 'ducking stuff' is ridiculous. She doesn't like the fact that I won't give an interview to some outfit in Madison."

Jeff Mayers, editor of Madison-based WisPolitics.com, an online political news service, said he was still negotiating with Grothman to take part in an interview that would be published on the Web site. Panzer had agreed to the interview, Mayers said.

WisPolitics.com plans to stream video from a Sept. 8 debate between Panzer and Grothman, which is being sponsored by the Ozaukee County Republican Party. The debate, at Ozaukee High School in Fredonia, will be broadcast at some unspecified time after the event, Mayers said.

Panzer said that Grothman turned down an invitation from WTMJ-TV (Channel 4) for a debate on "Sunday Night with Mike Gousha." The segment would have aired Sept. 5, she said.

Grothman also declined to appear at a candidates forum sponsored by the West Bend Knights of Columbus, she said.

Besides the debate in Fredonia, Panzer and Grothman have agreed to events on Aug. 26 at West Bend City Hall and on Sept. 7 at West Bend radio station WBKV-AM (1470).

Both candidates made backto-back appearances July 26 on a call-in show on Wisconsin Public Radio. They also were interviewed July 16 on Wisconsin Public Television.

Panzer said she will continue to press for more debates.

Grothman said that his time is better spent "getting to know people in the wider community."

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Wardens Trade Down To Taurus

Mild Winters No Longer Justify State-owned Suvs, Officials Say

Wisconsin State Journal :: LOCAL/WISCONSIN :: C1

Wednesday, August 11, 2004 Patricia Simms Wisconsin State Journal

Wisconsin prison wardens have lost their state-owned command vehicles to global warming.

The state Department of Corrections has told the approximately 20 wardens they will no longer be entitled to fully loaded SUVs as their state-assigned vehicle.

"A review of recent Wisconsin winters makes the justification for SUV/4-wheel vehicles untenable," said Steven Casperson, administrator of the Division of Adult Institutions. "My understanding is these vehicles will be culled from the state fleet."

State policy says prison wardens do not have to keep track of personal miles on their vehicles because they are 24-hour command posts. But a 1994 state Administration Department policy also forbids the use of such vehicles for vacation.

Corrections spokesman Bill Clausius said Tuesday that the reason for giving wardens four-wheel drive vehicles was to be able to get to work in poor road conditions during heavy rain or snow and ice.

"Winters in Wisconsin have been milder, and the technology for clearing highways and streets has improved to the point where having a four-wheel drive vehicle is no longer necessary," Clausius said.

He said the department is also trying to reduce the fleet by turning in the SUVs for sale. "Wardens' command vehicles will become Ford Tauruses, taken from our existing fleet of cars," he said.

The State Journal reported July 2 that Waupun Prison Warden Gary McCaughtry used his state gas card and a state-owned Ford Expedition for at least three vacations, including a Christmas week stop in Iowa, in the last 18 months. After that, state Corrections Secretary Matthew Frank said the wardens would no longer be allowed to take state-owned vehicles on vacation.

Frank also said he was reviewing department policies to see whether wardens will be required to reimburse the state for gas and personal miles for vacation trips. "This issue is still under review," Clausius said Tuesday.

The state is in the process of reducing its vehicle fleet by 1,073. In June, Gov. Jim Doyle ordered the sale of the vehicles after a state report found many employees who were assigned official vehicles didn't drive them enough to justify having them. The report also said dozens of state employees were using their official vehicles for personal travel in violation of state policy. Selling the vehicles would reduce the fleet to 6,155.

\ Contact Pat Simms at psimms@madison.com or 252-6126.

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Warden used state SUV on vacations, records show

10:45 PM 7/01/04 Patricia Simms Wisconsin State Journal

Waupun Prison Warden Gary McCaughtry used his state gas card and a state-owned Ford Expedition for at least three vacations, including a Christmas week stop in Iowa, in the last 18 months, state records show. <

McCaughtry Thursday denied that he uses his state-assigned SUV and state fuel card for vacations. <

But gas card receipts, compared to his recorded vacations, appear to show otherwise. <

After State Journal inquiries, Deputy Corrections Secretary Rick Raemisch told all state prison wardens Thursday they are no longer to take state-owned vehicles on vacation while the department investigates possible abuses. <

"Many of these policies go back years," Raemisch said. "It certainly is time to take a good hard look at them. Technology is a lot different in 2004 than it was in 1994." <

Corrections' policy was based on a need to be able to contact a warden quickly. That meant the wardens' vehicles were equipped with three types of radio, he said. <

State policy says McCaughtry and other prison wardens do not have to keep track of personal miles on their vehicles because they are 24-hour command posts, but a 1994 state Administration Department policy also forbids the use of such cars for vacation. <

Thursday's announcement comes as state agencies rushed to meet a July 1 deadline for lists of under-utilized vehicles, part of Gov. Jim Doyle's effort to reduce the size of the state vehicle fleet. <

Targeted are state vehicles assigned to state employees who drive less than 16,000 miles a year. <

Clausius said none of the wardens' vehicles were on the Corrections Department list. <

Meanwhile, state records show that during one week of Christmas vacation from Dec. 20-25, 2003, McCaughtry filled his vehicle three days in a row, putting in about \$40 worth of fuel each time on the state-paid gas card. He pumped gas at stops in Belmont on Dec. 21, 2003, Hanlontown, Iowa, Dec. 22, and Lac du Flambeau Dec. 23.

For a different vacation in northern Wisconsin on July 14-18, McCaughtry pumped state-paid gas into the vehicle on Saturday, July 12, in Woodruff; Tuesday, July 15, in Woodruff; and again Saturday, July 19, in Oshkosh, records show. <

On another vacation up north, McCaughtry put in gas Saturday, Feb. 14, in Minocqua, prior to a week's vacation Feb. 16-20, records show. He gassed up on the state card in Mosinee on Saturday, Feb. 21. <

The State Journal also found Kettle Moraine Warden Jane Gamble made similar gas purchases for her state-owned 2001 Jeep Cherokee during three trips to the Minocqua-Woodruff area during the same period while she was on vacation. <

It appears that Corrections developed its own policy for wardens' vehicles a few months after then-Administration Secretary James Klauser ruled in January 1994 that so-called "24-hour responders," which includes wardens, shouldn't use state vehicles for vacation. <

While the wardens don't have to keep track of their personal mileage because the vehicles serve as command posts, Klauser wrote: ". . . vacations are not included, and the vehicles should be made available to others when not needed on site." <

Six months later, Raemisch said, Corrections issued an internal policy that said "command post" vehicles should be made available to other individuals for business use when wardens leave for vacations. An exemption, the policy says, can be made for "special circumstances, such as a

heightened level of alert at an institution." <

Corrections Department spokesman William Clausius said that rule has "been interpreted to mean wardens are allowed to choose to have the vehicles with them in case they need to be contacted by their institutions." <

However, Administration Department spokesman Tom Solberg said that's history. "We would expect the policy would conform with the position we've taken that state vehicles cannot and will not be taken on vacation," Solberg said. <

Solberg said he had been unaware of Correction's internal policy. He also said he didn't know whether prison wardens will be asked to reimburse the state for vacation travel expenses. <

"We certainly do intend to be very clear about our policy," he said. <

Raemisch said he will also review the need for the wardens to have sports utility vehicles. Of 20 "command post" vehicles assigned to the wardens, 10 are Jeep Cherokees, two are Chevy Blazers, three are Dodge Caravans, one is a Ford Expedition and one a Ford Explorer. There are three Ford Tauruses. <

"The argument for them has been based on weather conditions and a need to have four-wheel-drive vehicles," Raemisch said. "That will be under review." <

Responding to questions by e-mail, McCaughtry wrote: "I do not use the vehicles for vacations. When I traveled to Canada and Montana, I did not use the vehicles. If I am in the area of the institution and I am able to respond to a call, I may use the vehicles. Essentially, I use the vehicle whenever I am required to respond to the institution." <

The Corrections policy also says trailer hitches will not be permitted on wardens' vehicles. McCaughtry has a hitch on his Ford Expedition. "The hitch came with the vehicle at purchase," McCaughtry said Thursday. <

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Lautenschlager, aide will repay state \$1,184 for use of cars

Both face \$250 fine for violating reimbursement law

By STEVEN WALTERS and STACY FORSTER swalters@journalsentinel.com

Posted: March 29, 2004

Madison - The attorney general and her top deputy will repay taxpayers \$1,184 for commuting to the Capitol from their homes in state cars and each pay \$250 for violating a law requiring those reimbursements, state officials announced Monday.

But, on a unanimous vote, the state Ethics Board did not refer the violations of Peg Lautenschlager and Dan Bach for criminal prosecution.

"Neither set out to obtain a dishonest advantage," and both apparently got bad advice that commuting in a state car was allowed, said R. Roth Judd, executive director of the Ethics Board.

Members of Wisconsin's Ethics Board - Chairman James Morgan and members Dorothy C. Johnson, Paul M. Holzen and David L. McRoberts - are appointed to staggered six-year terms by the governor. There are two vacancies.

Lautenschlager agreed to repay \$672 - 1,969 miles at 34.2 cents per mile - for commuting to and from her Fond du Lac home in a state-owned 1999 Buick since taking office in January 2003.

Bach will repay \$512 for driving 1,501 miles to and from his southeast Wisconsin home over the same period.

Lautenschlager's reimbursement amounted to one trip per month during her first 14 months in office - a result state Republican Party Chairman Rick Graber called an "insulting slap on the wrist."

Graber said a "double standard" exists, when Lautenschlager gets a "mild scolding," but former state Sen. Brian Burke was charged with eight felonies on allegations of falsely claiming daily expense stipends and former Republican Gov. Scott McCallum had to pay more than \$13,000 for taking state planes on personal trips.

But Lautenschlager, 48, said she had been "cleared of allegations of ethics law violations" and had only relied on poor advice from a senior staff member, Paul Vornholt.

"It was a mistake, and it's one I shouldn't have made," Lautenschlager told reporters.

The attorney general, who earns \$127,838 a year, and Bach, who is paid \$123,451, both told Ethics Board investigators that Vornholt had told them they could use state cars to commute. Vornholt told the investigators he doesn't remember giving that advice.

Judd said investigators computed the 1,969 miles after going through Lautenschlager's calendar. With the exception of commuting, Lautenschlager was careful not to use her state

State Attorney General



Photo/Michael Sears
Peg Lautenschlager speaks
with editors at the Journal

By the Numbers

Sentinel last week,

\$672

Amount Wisconsin Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager will reimburse the state for personal use of a state vehicle

1,969

Miles she said were for personal use among the 20,000 she put on a 1999 Buick since her election in 2002

\$250

Fine she will pay for not reporting the personal use earlier vehicle for personal errands or political appearances, he said.

Lautenschlager said, for example, that if she had an early speech in Green Bay, she might drive home to Fond du Lac the prior evening, then travel to Green Bay in the morning. To determine the personal mileage involved, the board subtracted the direct distance from Madison to Green Bay from that same trip distance if one traveled through Fond du Lac.

Lautenschlager said she isn't considering any discipline against Vornholt, the \$90,734-a-year administrator of the Department of Justice's Division of Management Services.

The board's report said Vornholt has provided statements to reporters and officials who supervise the state's vehicle fleet that are "inconsistent" with what he told Ethics Board investigators. Vornholt was not available for comment Monday.

Allegations that Lautenschlager had claimed her Fond du Lac home as her official headquarters are unfounded, she said. She never claimed that it was, nor did she ever sign a form to declare that her residence was her headquarters, Lautenschlager said Monday.

With Monday's settlement, which Lautenschlager had predicted in statewide interviews on Friday, the attorney general tried to end five weeks of controversy.

The review of her state car use grew out of her February conviction for first-offense drunken driving, which cost Lautenschlager her driver's license and a \$784 forfeiture. She also repaid 10 days' net salary, \$3,250, paid to have the damaged state car towed to Madison and will pay for repairs to the vehicle.

Lautenschlager's arrest triggered statewide debate over her drunken driving and her use of a state car, which she drove into a Dodge County ditch shortly before midnight Feb. 23. She said she had had two glasses of wine at a Madison bar earlier in the evening. A preliminary breath test measured her blood-alcohol level at 0.12.

Her refusal to take a blood test resulted in the automatic one-year loss of her driver's license.

Lautenschlager said she has undergone an alcohol assessment required after any drunken driving conviction, but declined to elaborate. She again said she is not an alcoholic.

If any good were to come of the incident, Lautenschlager said, it would be greater awareness among all drivers of the potential to make a similar mistake.

\$784

Fine she paid for drunken driving conviction in February

\$3,250

Net salary she repaid state as self-imposed punishment for driving drunk in state car.

Recent Coverage

- Reimbursement: Lautenschlager offers to pay for part of mileage
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 Lautenschlager forgo pay
 (2/27/04)
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- Arrest: Lautenschlager accused of drunken driving (2/24/04)

Arrest Report

Sheriff's department arrest report (pdf)

Arrest Video

Lautenschlager's field sobriety test

9-3-04

STATS FINDS MANY DNR BOATS IN DISREPAIR ... DNR inventory found] 1,179 worth an estimated \$3.9 million, but many were old or in disrepair and are to be sold as surplus property. The inventory released Thursday was requested by state Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay, who said the boat situation apparently wasn't comparable to the state motor vehicle fleet that was inventoried earlier. ... [DNR Sec.] Hassett said in a letter to Cowles that his agency will "immediately begin the process of surplusing and disposing of boats that are unused or in disrepair." DNR Admin. Rayburn predicted no new purchases, defended big engines, "It's difficult to just wave at boaters with fast boats, and have them pull over." By AP, GM TODAY

9-3-04 -- State to sell unused boats after finding more than it estimated ... DNR officials said Thursday that the agency owns 1,179 boats, or 443 more than had been estimated in June. The higher number resulted from adding canoes, kayaks and other small vessels worth less than \$1,000, officials said. Done at the request of state Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), the inventory placed the value of the state's boats at \$3.9 million, although the replacement costs would be much higher.

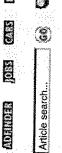


















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State to sell unused boats after finding more than it estimated

By STEVEN WALTERS

Milwaukee Wisconsin

Waukesha

swalters@journalsentinel.com

Washington Ozaukee

Posted: Sept. 2, 2004

than had been estimated and announced that it will begin selling off mothballed, unused vessels. Madison - Gov. Jim Doyle's administration said Thursday it has found more state-owned boats Crossroads Editorials Racine

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That prompted state officials to say they

and must be reassigned.

for boats, much as they have done for state vehicles, a fleet that would institute a better tracking system also is being downsized. DNR officials said Thursday that the agency owns 1,179 boats, or

9/7/2004

boats were assigned to the wrong facilities

Background

The inventory also found that some of the

state Department of Natural Resources

(E) 6/22/04: State vehicle inquiry shifts to DNR's 735 or so boats

JS Online: State to sell unused boats after finding more than it estimated





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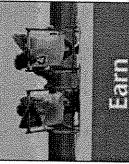




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resulted from adding canoes, kayaks and other small vessels worth 443 more than had been estimated in June. The higher number less than \$1,000, officials said. Done at the request of state Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), the inventory placed the value of the state's boats at \$3.9 million, although the replacement costs would be much higher.

been sold or otherwise disposed of, officials said, promising that an That inventory does not include about 50 boats that have already additional but as-yet-undetermined number will be eliminated soon.

research fish, wildlife and water quality cost \$100,000 to \$164,000 each, while dozens of other canoes and small boats have almost no The DNR reported that five specially equipped boats used to

specialized equipment needed to count yellow perch and other fish one large water research boat, the Perca, was outfitted with costly, More than half the 1,179 boats were valued at \$1,000 or less, but in Lake Michigan.

victims, officials said, the boats are used to patrol and manage 6.5 million acres of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior; 15,081 inland lakes that range from 1-acre ponds to the 137,708-acre Lake In addition to emergency searches for accident or drowning Winnebago; and 32,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Two-thirds of all boats are assigned to law enforcement and management of fisheries.

Downsizing planned

process of surplusing and disposing of boats that are unused or in disrepair." Although he said a In a letter to Cowles, DNR Secretary Scott Hassett said his agency will "immediately begin the "significant number" of boats fell in that category, he did not estimate the number Vance Rayburn, the DNR's administrator of customer and employee services, said Hassett was not saying that the agency has too many boats. "That's not our feeling at all," said Rayburn.

Instead, Rayburn said, DNR administrators were surprised at how many old, unused boats had been found that can now be sold as excess property.

Some of these boats are not water-ready," he said.

He said the DNR currently has no plans to buy any new boats, despite the fact that the fleet's oldest vessels date to the 1940s.

boaters, Hassett said, state taxpayers have also had to buy bigger engines for the boats used by game wardens and water safety officers who must catch drunken boaters and patrol the state's But to keep up with the rising number of higher-powered speedboats operated by private rivers and lakes.

"It's difficult to just wave at boaters with fast boats, and have them pull over," Rayburn said.

Savings sought

census, DNR officials had only a general idea of the number of boats the agency owns, Cowles Cowles praised Hassett for quickly demanding an inventory of state-owned boats. Until that

more than 1,000 unneeded state vehicles out of a fleet that stood at more than 7,200 a year ago. The senator also said it did not appear the problem with the number of boats rose to the level found with the state's vehicles. Doyle aides have begun auctioning off what they say will be

Doyle also has begun to downsize the number of state planes, selling or identifying for sale at least eight of the 27 planes in the fleet a year ago. With state government facing what still could be a \$1 billion budget deficit, Cowles said, state officials need to "squeeze every bit of savings that we can." To continue to cut costs, Cowles said, he will ask DNR officials to next inventory the number of ATVs and snowmobiles the agency owns. He said he has talked to "whistle-blowers" who insist 9/7/2004

hat the DNR also owns too many of those vehicles.

In the most detailed inventory of state-owned boats in years, officials found:

- 506 boats assigned to law enforcement. Conservation wardens use boats to patrol, investigate spills and fish kills, and look for accident victims. Most wardens are assigned more than one boat, so they can use a canoe for stream work and also use a larger boat with an engine big enough to catch speeders.
- 314 boats assigned to fisheries and habitat management. Those boats are used to monitor fish populations and to collect fish for hatcheries.
- 146 boats assigned to state parks and forests and used for patrols, rescues and shoreland management.
- equipment that can cost up to \$20,000 that stuns fish to the surface, so they can be counted or to • 125 boats assigned for research, including measuring fish populations, monitoring water quality and responding to fish and wildlife die-offs. Some of the boats have "shocking" harvest eggs, Rayburn said.
- 88 boats assigned to wildlife management and usually assigned to areas next to the Horicon, Theresa and Vernon marshes, the Mississippi River and Green Bay.

From the Sept. 3, 2004, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Patrick Marley of the Journal Sentinel staff contributed to this report.

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For More Information Contact:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 9, 2004

Senator Cowles or Todd Stuart at 1-800-334-1465

Cowles Praises DNR Comprehensive Review of Assets
Review of 600 state ATVs and snowmobiles will be completed this month

Madison — Today State Senator Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) applauded Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Secretary Hassett for their review of all DNR assets valued over \$1,000. The comprehensive inventory of all DNR assets is scheduled for completion by the end of this month, according to division administrator Vance Rayburn. Earlier this year, Cowles called for a comprehensive internal review of the state's boats and also secured an audit of the vehicle fleet by the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau. "I appreciate the review of all DNR assets to find taxpayer savings," said Cowles. "I am pleased the 600 state-owned ATVs and snowmobiles will be inventoried in a timely fashion."

Based on the information regarding the DNR's boat fleet, Sen. Cowles has been raising questions regarding the state's ATVs and snowmobiles. At the request of Sen. Cowles, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has been working with the DNR to create an initial inventory and explore the issue further over the last few months. The Fiscal Bureau has indicated the initial quality of the data regarding the state ATVs and snowmobiles is low and incomplete, so a more in-depth analysis is necessary to determine potential cost savings in that fleet. The DNR recently stated this review would be completed by late September.

"I think the taxpayers deserve this comprehensive accounting," said Cowles. "I am glad the administration is looking hard at all assets, including the snowmobiles and ATVs for savings."

The DNR review of boats was completed last week and it has highlighted two major issues. First, there were many boats that were either old or in disrepair that will now be sold as surplus property. DNR has not yet determined how many boats will eventually be sold off. Second, there was a need to establish a system to regularly inventory this equipment. "I think the boat fleet needs to be downsized," said Cowles. "I will ask the Legislative Audit Bureau to assess the DNR's findings, as I want the best possible deal for the taxpayer."

Cowles had called for a thorough review of the boat fleet, and the DNR completed a study including:

- An assessment of continuing needs, with resulting allocations to assure the most cost-effective deployment of state boats.
- A determination regarding any surplus boats and plan to sell them accordingly.
- Reviews of state purchasing practices to ensure boats are only purchased when appropriate and necessary.
- The development of an inventory system for state-owned boats.

-more-

Senator Cowles DNR Asset Review Page Two of Two

With the completion of the DNR boat review, Secretary Hassett has directed:

- DNR staff will immediately begin the process of surplusing and disposing of boats that are unused or in disrepair. Approximately 50 boats have been surplused and disposed of this fiscal year. DNR does not yet have an estimate of how many boats will ultimately be sold off.
- Review and implement opportunities to reassign some lesser-used boats to new, more effective locations.
- Maintain the watercraft inventory log at its current level of detail, including boats purchased for less than \$1,000, thus ensuring that the DNR will continue to have a full understanding of their fleet of watercraft.

"We need to sell off the boats and other assets that are sitting around collecting dust or that have fallen into disrepair," said Cowles. "But DNR needs to do this in a smart way, as we don't want to have a fire sale."

Sen. Cowles also wants to ensure effective environmental protection efforts to preserve Wisconsin's natural resources. "I want to ensure Wisconsin's conservation funds are effectively allocated to preserve our state's natural resources," said Cowles. "Proceeds from the surplus property should be directed back into the state's conservation accounts for fish and wildlife as much as possible."

"Do we need 600 snowmobiles and ATVs? Is this the most effective use of our resources?" asked Cowles. "It could be this off-road fleet is entirely justified, but I think the administration now needs to perform a thorough study. Depending on the findings of their internal review, we'll see if a Legislative audit is warranted."

Senator Cowles is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Item #	-	Sub Prog	Location Desc	Catego
1740	Code SE	SF	SO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	
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2389	NO	FR	CRANDON RANGER STATION	ALL TERRAIN \
2390	WC	LE	CHIPPEWA FALLS - WARDEN	ALL TERRAIN \
2391	NO	FR	FLORENCE RANGER STATION	ALL TERRAIN \
2394	WC	PR	BRUNET ISLAND PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
2396	WC	LE	EAU CLAIRE SERVICE CENTER GARAGE	ALL TERRAIN \
3470	WC	WM		ALL TERRAIN \
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2408	NE	PR	WHITEFISH DUNES PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
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2415	WC	PR	RED CEDAR TRAIL	ALL TERRAIN \
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3512	SC	FH	SCR-FIELD OPERATIONS	ALL TERRAIN \
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9598	SC	WM	SCR-HORICON	ALL TERRAIN \
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10391	NO	PR	INTERSTATE PARK/ST CROIX FALLS	ALL TERRAIN \
122	WC	WM	SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA	ALL TERRAIN \
250	NO	FH		ALL TERRAIN \
251	NO	FR	MEDFORD RANGER STATION	ALL TERRAIN \
364	WC	WM	VIROQUA DNR	ALL TERRAIN \
10209	NO	FR	BRULE RIVER STATE FOREST	ALL TERRAIN \
343	NO	PR	COPPER FALLS PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
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9371				*. *
9470	NO	FR	BARNES RANGER STATION	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386	NO NO	FR FR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY	ALL TERRAIN \
9470	NO	FR	BARNES RANGER STATION	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386	NO NO	FR FR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY	ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386	NO NO NO	FR FR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY	ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503	NO NO NO	FR FR WM	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN	ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503	NO NO NO	FR FR WM	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK	ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646	NO NO NO SC SC	FR FR WM LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500	NO NO NO SC SC	FR FR WM LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK  NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646	NO NO NO SC SC	FR FR WM LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473	NO NO SC SC NO NO	FR FR WM LE PR FR FR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500	NO NO NO SC SC	FR FR WM LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK  NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473	NO NO SC SC NO NO	FR FR WM LE PR FR FR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868	NO NO SC SC NO NO	FR FR FR FR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868	NO NO SC SC NO NO	FR FR FR FR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868	NO NO SC SC NO NO	FR FR FR FR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SC SC NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK  SCR-MONROE	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK  SCR-MONROE	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SC SC NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
9470 9386 10503 9394 9646 9500 9473 9868 10649	NO NO SC SC NO NO SE NE	FR FR LE PR LE	BARNES RANGER STATION LADYSMITH FORESTRY COUNCIL GROUNDS STATE PARK  SCR-MADISON WEST WARDEN SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS HAYWARD FORESTRY  SER / R.BONG REC AREA ROCK ISLAND PARK  SCR-MONROE	ALL TERRAIN \

ALL TERRAIN \ ALL TERRAIN \	WATER INSTITUTE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY	WM WM	NO SE	9599 9813
ALL TERRAIN \	ALMA STATION - WILDLIFE MANAGER		WC	9622
ALL TERRAIN \	BALDWIN SERVICE CENTER -WILDLIFE	WM	WC	9657
ALL TERRAIN \	GREEN BAY	LE	NE	9766
ALL TERRAIN \	GRIFFITH NURSERY - WISCONSIN RAPIDS	NU	wc	9748
ALL TERRAIN \	RHINELANDER RANGER STATION	FR	NO	9743
ALL TERRAIN \	SCR-HOOK LAKE	WM	sc	9727
ALL TERRAIN \	SCR-LAKE MILLS	WM	sc	9726
ALL TERRAIN \	MERCER	FR	NO	9746
ALL TERRAIN \	VIROQUA OFFICE - WILDLIFE	WM	WC	9768
ALL TERRAIN \	BRULE RIVER STATE FOREST	FR	NO	9858
		ĹF	SC	9771
ALL TERRAIN \		**************************************		
ALL TERRAIN \	WOODRUFF SERVICE CENTER	LE	NO	10549
ALL TERRAIN \	KILLSNAKE WILDLIFE AREA	WM	NE	9889
ALL TERRAIN \	WAUSAU SERV CTR-WARDEN	LE	WC	9871
ALL TERRAIN \	SPARTA WARDEN	LE	WC	9882
ALL TERRAIN \	PERSHING WLA	WM	NO	9869

9913	sc	FH	SCB MEVAN HATCHEDY	
			SCR-NEVIN HATCHERY	ALL TERRAIN \
9950 9970	SC	ER	SCR-FITCHBURG	ALL TERRAIN \
9970	SC	PR	SCR-GOVERNOR NELSON PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
10088	SC	CE	SCR-MACKENZIE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER	ALL TERRAIN \
10461	SC	PR	SCR-NEW GLARUS WOODS PARK	ALL TERRAIN \
7446 7445 7448 7449 7450 7453 7452 7454 7456	NO CO NO NE NO NO NO NO SC	FR SS PF FF FF LER FF L	ASYLUM BAY  LADYSMITH FORESTRY	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7458 7468 7466 7467 7464	NO WC NE SC NO	FH WT FH SL FH	JOHN F SULLIVAN ASYLUM BAY FISH STATION SCR-UNABLE TO LOCATE	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7475 7476 7470 7478	NO NO NO NO	FR FH FR FH	FLORENCE RANGER STATION PRENTICE RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW
7474 7472 7471 7479 7482 7483	NE SE NO SE SE NO	FH SF FH PR SF FH	PESHTIGO BIG FOOT BEACH HARRINGTON BEACH PARK NO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7484 7488	NE NE	FR FH	LANGLADE RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW
7487 7489	NO NO	FR FH	RHINELANDER RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW
7496	wc	PR	BRUNET ISLAND PARK	SNOW
7497 7492 7498 7495 7494	NO CO SC SC NE	FH LE PR PR LE	MERCER SCR-GOVERNOR DODGE PARK SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK OSHKOSH	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW

7501 7499 7503	NO WC WC	PR LE WM	BIG BAY PARK  LACROSSE SERV CTR - WILDLIFE	SNOW SNOW SNOW
7505	NO	LE	LADYSMITH SERVICE CENTER	SNOW
7502 7509 7508 7506 7511 7517	NO NE NE NO NO	FR LE WM FR FR FR	EAGLE RIVER RANGER STATION PRENTICE RANGER STATION OCONTO FALLS RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
177 176 7515	NO NO SE	FR FR SF	KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST - PIKE	SNOW SNOW SNOW
7513 7514 7521 7518 7520 7522 7523	SE NE NO CO SC NO WC	LE FR SS PR FH PR	LAKE  WAUSAUKEE CHARLES E ZINSMASTER VACANCY GREGG QUINN VACANCY SCR-BLUE MOUND PARK  RED CEDAR TRAIL	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7525 7524	SC SC	PR PR	SCR-BLUE MOUND PARK SCR-AZTALAN PARK	SNOW SNOW
7528 7527	SE SE	SF SF	NO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST SO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	SNOW SNOW
7529 7531 7534 7532 7533	NO NO NO SC SC	FH WM LE PR PR	MERCER SCR-MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL SCR-GLACIAL DRUMLIN TRAIL WEST	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7530 7540 7537 7536 7541 7538	NO NE NE NE NE NE	WM LE FR FH PR FH	PEMBINE RANGER STATION RONALD M BRUCH ROCK ISLAND STATE PARK PESHTIGO SERVICE CENTER	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7539 7548 7543	NO WC NO	FR PR FH	LACROSSE RIVER TRAIL WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW SNOW SNOW
7547 7545 7546 2504	SE NO NO NE	SF FR LF SF	TEAM LAPHAM PEAK PARK  POINT BEACH FOREST	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7544	WC	WM	MENOMONIE OFFICE - WILDLIFE	SNOW
7549	NE	LF	WAUSAUKEE RANGER STATION	SNOW

	400	14/0	34134		
	482	WC	MW	MEAD WILDLIFE AREA	SNOW
	519	WC	LE	WHITING RANGER STA - WARDEN	SNOW
					$A_{ij}^{(i)} = A_{ij}^{(i)}$
	7550	NO	FR	TUSCOBIA TRAIL	SNOW
	7551	SE	SF	LAPHAM PEAK PARK	SNOW
•	544	CO	LE		SNOW
	3045	CO	AM		SNOW
	2291	WC	LE		SNOW
	2517	NO	FR	HAYWARD FORESTRY	SNOW
	2189 7374	SC SC	PR	WYALUSING PARK	SNOW
	737 <del>4</del> 7375		PR	SCR-SUGAR RIVER TRAIL	SNOW
:	7375 7440	SE	CF	LAPHAM PEAK	SNOW
	7440 7552	NE	LE	NEW LONDON	SNOW
		NO	FR	LAPHAM PEAK PARK	SNOW
	7412 7415	SE	SF	NO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	SNOW
	7415 7414	SE WC	SF	SO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	SNOW
	7413	2.5 (5.5 (4.5 (4.5 (4.5 (4.5 (4.5 (4.5 (4	FR	BLACK RIVER FOREST	SNOW
	7377	NO NO	FR	FLAMBEAU RIVER FOREST	SNOW
	737 <i>1</i>	NO	FH		SNOW
	7376		FR		SNOW
	7376 7441	NO	FR	MELLEN RANGER STATION	SNOW
	/441	SÇ	WM		SNOW
	7378	SC	PR	SCR-GOVERNOR DODGE PARK	SNOW
	7423	CO	SS	GREGG QUINN VACANCY	SNOW
	7379	NE	LE		SNOW
	3145	SE	LE	SER- PLYMOUTH	SNOW
an egy Amerikanski natural er et eller i tallat	3144	SE	LE	e a pero tre en el el come A elektro distinate e	SNOW
	7416	WC	PR	WILLOW RIVER PARK	SNOW
	7380	WC	LE	WHITING RANGER STA - WARDEN	SNOW
	7420	NE	LE	MARK D SHEPHERD	SNOW
	7421	NE	LE		SNOW
	7422	NE	LE	BENJAMIN R NADOLSKI	SNOW
하는 역시로 사용되었다. 사용되었다.	7417	WC	PR	WILDCAT MOUNTAIN PARK	SNOW
	7407	NO	FR	GORDON RANGER STATION	SNOW
	7405	NO	FR	BARNES RANGER STATION	SNOW
	7406	NO	FR	WASHBURN RANGER STATION	SNOW
	7381	WC	LE	WAUSAU SERV CTR - WARDEN	SNOW
	7382	WC	LE	WI RAPIDS SERV CTR - WARDEN	SNOW
	2159	NO	WM	BRULE DNR, DOUGLAS COUNTY	SNOW
	2327	NE	LE		SNOW
T.	2326	NE	LE	STURGEON BAY	SNOW
	2345	SC	LE	SCR-FITCHBURG	SNOW
	2344	NE	LE	DOUGLAS R BILGO	SNOW
	2335	WC	LE	DURAND OFFICE - WARDEN	SNOW
	2340	NO	LE		SNOW
	2328	NO	LE		SNOW
	2342	NE	LE	WAUSAUKEE	SNOW
					mer training

2331 2341 2343	NE CO SE	LE LE LE	NAVARINO SHED DAVID J SABROWSKY VACANCY LAPHAM PEAK STATE PARK	SNOW SNOW SNOW
2338	NE	LE	GREEN BAY	SNOW
2339 2347	NO NO	LE FH	TOMAHAWK RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW
2346	SE	LE	SHOULD BE TRANSFERED TO TIM PRICES INVEN	SNOW
2336 2337	NO NE	LE LE	ANTIGO SERVICE CENTER KILLSNAKE WILDLIFE AREA	SNOW SNOW
7427	NO	LE	WINTER RANGER STATION	SNOW
2193 2349 2161 2194 2160 7428	SE NE NO NE NO WC	SF CF FR PR FR LE	LAPHAM PEAK PARK POTAWATOMI PARK GORDON RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
2329	WC	ĹĒ	EAU CLAIRE SERV CTR-WARDEN (GARAGE)	SNOW SNOW
2330 10294	WC NO	WM FR	WEBSTER RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW
7408 7429 7431 7435	CO SE NE WC	SS CF LE LE	RHINELANDER-WILDLIFE GREEN BAY MICHAEL J DISHER HUDSON - WARDEN	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
2360 2357	WC WC	LE WM	AT GREENWOOD BALDWIN SERV CTR - WILDLIFE	SNOW SNOW
7369 7418 7432 7437 7430	NO WC SC SE NE	FR PR LE LE	CHARLES E ZINSMASTER VACANCY LAKE WISSOTA PARK SCR-GOVERNOR DODGE PARK-LE SHED WEST BEND MISHICOT FIELD STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7434 2358 7436 7433	WC SE CO NO	LE LE LE	ROY C KALMERTON VACANCY	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
4685 2164 7383 7425 7438 7391	WC NO NO NO NO SE	FR WM WM FR PR CS	BLACK RIVER FOREST  CREX MEADOWS  TUSCOBIA TRAIL  PATTISON PARK  SER-LAPHAM PEAK	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
7419 7394 7386	NO NE	FR LE LE	BRULE RIVER FOREST PESHTIGO	SNOW SNOW SNOW

7387	NE	LE		ON ON
7392	NO	LE		SNOW
7393	NO	LE		SNOW
7388	SE	LE		SNOW
7390	SC	LE	000 50141	SNOW
7385	WC	LE	SCR-POYNETTE	SNOW
7303	VVC	LE	ELLSWORTH - WARDEN	SNOW
7371	SE	LE	PIKE LAKE	SNOW
7384	NE	LE	AMIE J EGSTAD	SNOW
7372	NE	LE	MISHICOT FIELD OFFICE	SNOW
7368	NO	FR	PATTISON RANGER STATION	SNOW
7395	NO	CF	SPOONER SC NORTH GARAGE #7	
2167	NO	FH	WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW SNOW
2166	NO	FH	TEAM WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW
2465	NO	<del>,</del>	TEAM	SNOW
2165	NO	FH	WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW
7000			TEAM	
7396	NO	LE		SNOW
7397	NO	LE		SNOW
7373	NO	FR	FLAMBEAU RIVER FOREST	SNOW
7399	NO	LE		SNOW
7398	NO	LE		SNOW
7402	NO	LE		
7403	NE	LE	SHIOCTON/WOLF RIVER BTMS	SNOW
7401	WC	LE	OTHOS TOTAL TAVELA BIMS	SNOW
7400	NO	LE	DADICEALLO	SNOW
489	NO	PR	PARK FALLS	SNOW
7442	NO	WM	COUNCIL GROUNDS PARK	SNOW
7411	NO	FR	PARK FALLS WILDLIFE	SNOW
10750	NO			SNOW
10750	INO	FH	WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES	SNOW
796	NO	PR	DID MOUNTAIN OTATE DADI	
9247	NO	LE	RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	SNOW
2118	SE	LE	TROUT LAKE FORESTRY HQ	SNOW
2119	CO		LAPHAM PEAK STATE PARK, RIDING STABLE	SNOW
2143		LE		SNOW
	NE	LE	FOND DU LAC	SNOW
2148	WC	LE	BLACK RIVER FALLS SERV CTR-WARDEN	SNOW
2149	WC	LE	MARSHFIELD - WARDEN	SNOW
2150	NE	LE	SHAWANO	SNOW
2146	NO	LE	3. D. 1417 (140	
2147	NE	LE	STURGEON BAY	SNOW
7409	NO	FH	WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW
				SNOW
7404	NO	CF	TEAM PHINELANDER DAID CERAGE SEATER	
3297	NE	PR	RHINELANDER DNR SERVICE CENTER	SNOW
	£ <b>%</b> !	L LZ	PENINSULA PARK	SNOW
2183	WC	LE		SNOW
718	NO	FR		SNOW
2192	WC	LE	@ AUGUSTA	SNOW
2184	SE	LE	BONG RECRATION AREA	SNOW
				SINON

2198 2200 2197 2196 2195 2201 9301 10462	NO NE NE NO NO WC SC NO	LE LE LE LE LE PH	OCONTO FALLS NAVARINO STORAGE MENOMONIE OFFICE - WARDEN MIRROR LAKE PARK SPOONER RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
1279	NO	FH	SPOONER RANGER STATION	SNOW
10797	NO	LE	CRANDON RANGER STATION	SNOW
4888 10589	NO SE	FR SF	GOVERNOR KNOWLES FOREST SER PIKE LAKE	SNOW
10407	sc	PR	SCR-GOVERNOR DODGE PARK	SNOW
3520 3521 3518 3522	NO NE NO WC	LE LE LE	PEMBINE WAUSAU SERV CTR - WARDEN	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
3517 3523 3524 3509 3327 3537	NO SE NE NO NO	LF LE LE LE FH	SER - PLYMOUTH  WINTER RANGER STATION WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS TEAM SPOONER RANGER STATION	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
3519 109	WC NO	LE PR	NORTHERN HIGHLAND AMER LEGION FOR	SNOW SNOW
173 88 101 102 115 8526	NO WC SE SE NO SC	FH NU SF PR FH LE	WOODRUFF FISHERIES BESADNY FISH STATION LAPHAM PEAK PARK KOHLER-ANDRAE PARK SCR-REEDSBURG	SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW
8527	CO	LE		SNOW
8525	CO	LE		SNOW
8524	CO	LE	PESHTIGO	SNOW
8523	СО	LE		SNOW
8522	СО	LE		SNOW

0524	00			
8521	co	LE		SNOW
8528	WC	LE		snow
116	NO	FH		SNOW
9411	WC	PR	HOFFMAN HILLS	SNOW
117	NO	PR	COPPER FALLS PARK	SNOW
142	NE	LE		SNOW
221	WC	LE	MENOMONIE OFFICE - WARDEN	SNOW
8369	NO	FR	BRULE RIVER FOREST	SNOW
10695	WC	LE	CHIPPEWA FALLS - WARDEN	SNOW
8402	NO	FH		SNOW
8510	NE	LE		SNOW
8511	NE	LE		SNOW
8512 8513	CO	LE		SNOW
8509	S.C	LE		SNOW
	CO	CF	SCR-FITCHBURG	SNOW
8516 8545	CO	LE		SNOW
8515 8514	CO	LE		SNOW
	CO	LE		SNOW
8431 8432	NO	LE	MEDFORD RANGER STATION	SNOW
8434	NO SC	LE		SNOW
0434	30	PR	SCR-GOVERNOR NELSON PARK	SNOW
8662	NO	FH	MERCER	SNOW
8687	WC	PR	PERROT PARK	SNOW
8689	SE	SF	NO UNIT KETTLE MORAINE STATE FOREST	SNOW
8683	NO	PR	BIG BAY PARK	SNOW
8684	WC	PR	BUCKHORN PARK	SNOW
8685	. WC	PR	WILLOW RIVER PARK	SNOW
8686	SC	PR	SCR-LAKE KEGONSA PARK	SNOW
8688	sc	PR	SCR-YELLOWSTONE PARK	SNOW
8879	NO	FH	MICHAEL T ZECKMEISTER	SNOW
8928	NO	FR	NO HIGHLANDS-AMERICAN LEGION PARKS	SNOW
8805	SC	PR	SCR-DEVILS LAKE PARK	SNOW
8846	NO	FR	JUDI A NIGBOR	SNOW
8900	NO	FR	BRULE RIVER FOREST	SNOW
8903	NO	WM	ASHLAND DNR	SNOW
9278	NO	LE		SNOW
9277	NE	LE	MISHICOT, WI	SNOW
9279	NO	LE		SNOW
9347	NO	LE		SNOW
9663	CO	CF	SCR-FITCHBURG	SNOW
8978	NO	FH	WOODRUFF TREATY FISHERIES ASSESS	SNOW
8960	NO	FR	TEAM MERCER DANCER OTATION	
		1 11	MERCER RANGER STATION	SNOW

10079	SC	PR	SCR-CAPITOL SPRINGS PARK	SNOW
10304	sc	PR	SCR-BLUE MOUND PARK	SNOW
8985 9906	NO NE	FR FR	WILLOW FLOWAGE PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST	SNOW SNOW
9708	NE	PR	GOV THOMPSON STATE PARK	SNOW
9782	NE	PR	PENINSULA STATE PARK	SNOW
10177	WC	PR	WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	SNOW
9393 9323	NO WC	FR CF	BRULE RIVER FOREST WTR - WCR OFFICE, SUM - AUGUSTA RANGER S	SNOW SNOW
9298 10691	SC WC	PR LE (	MIRROR LAKE PARK CORNELL RANGER STA- AT BRUNET ISLAND	SNOW SNOW
9381	NO	LE	WOODRUFF SERVICE CENTER	SNOW
10178	WC	LE	FRIENDSHIP RANGER STA - WARDEN	SNOW
10021	NE	LE	WAUSAUKEE RANGER STATION	SNOW
9353	WC	LE	LACROSSE WARDEN	SNOW
9422 10557	NO NO	FR FR	FLAMBEAU RIVER FOREST FLORENCE RANGER STATION	SNOW
9600	SE	LE	WATER INSTITUTE	SNOW
9741	NO	FR	LADYSMITH-WHITE	SNOW
9892	NE	LE	PESHTIGO	snow
9877	NO	FH	SPOONER	SNOW
9962	sc	CF	SCR-FITCHBURG	SNOW
9961	sc	CF	SCR-FITCHBURG	SNOW

### 9-11-04

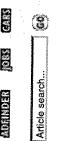
4 OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OR STATE VEHICLES ARE SHIFTED FROM THEIR JOBS; The top four administrators overseeing state vehicles have been moved out of their jobs, just months after Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle said he would shave more than 1,000 cars and trucks from the problem-plagued fleet. Three of the four have been transferred out of the Department of Administration division that manages the fleet. The fourth, Jeff Knight, has been demoted within the division, from bureau director to section chief. All four have retained their earlier salaries. By Patrick Marley, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

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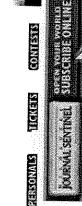


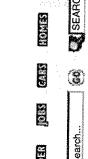


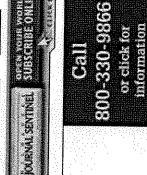














CONCORDIA

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Use of state vehicle for commute deemed acceptable by **Ethics Board** MLLWAUKEE

News

By LEONARD SYKES JR. Wisconsin Milwaukee Waukesha

sykes@journalsentinel.com

Posted: Sept. 8, 2004 Ozaukee

The state Ethics Board had concluded its investigation into state Parole Commission chairman Lenard Wells' use of a state vehicle, finding that he violated no laws while using the car to commute between his Milwaukee home and Madison. Washington Crossroads Editorials Racine

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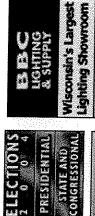
National Wire Weather

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Roth Judd, executive director of the Ethics Board, issued a statement in which the board determined that Wells' use of the state vehicle to drive between Milwaukee and Madison was "appropriate."

commute between Milwaukee and Madison without reimbursing the state Wells, a former Milwaukee police lieutenant, was using the state car to The Ethics Board began its investigation in July into allegations that for the miles he traveled.

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Wells started using the state car to commute in February when Gov. Jim

Doyle appointed him chairman of the Parole Commission.

Use of state cars came under increased scrutiny shortly after Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager was penalized for using a state car for personal business without reimbursing the state.

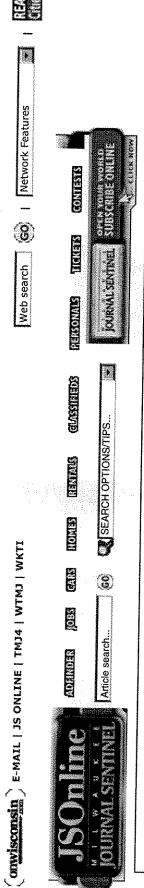
into a ditch in February and was arrested and charged with driving under The attorney general's use of a state car was investigated after she drove the influence of alcohol. Lautenschlager later agreed to reimburse the state for damages and for mileage.

In a letter to Wells, Judd said the board "found no reason to second-guess the Parole Commission's designation of Milwaukee" as his headquarters At its meeting on Sept. 1, the Ethic Board cleared Wells of wrongdoing. while he served as chairman of the Parole Commission. Wells also worked out of his Milwaukee home.

personal car for state business and not seeking reimbursement," Judd said "The Board noted that for some months you have been using your in the letter to Wells, Wells said Wednesday he plans to continue to use his own vehicle until a more coherent state policy on the use of its vehicles is put in place

'I'm waiting for a policy that I can respect before I use a state vehicle again," Wells said. "Until a policy is issued, I'm putting myself at risk Ising a state car." The Ethics Board told Wells it believed he may use the state car for travel to Madison.

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ON WISCONSIN: 35 ONLINE: NEWS: WISCONSIN:

# 4 officials in charge of state vehicles are shifted from their

MISCONSIN By PATRICK MARLEY

Milwaukee

Waukesha

Ozaukee

Wisconsin

News

pmarley@journalsentinel.com

Posted: Sept. 10, 2004

Madison - The top four administrators overseeing state vehicles have been moved out of their jobs, just months after Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle said he would shave more than 1,000 cars and trucks from the problem-plagued fleet. Washington Crossroads Columnists Obituaries Editorials Racine

Letter to Editor National Wire Weather

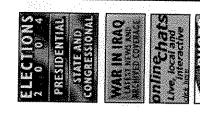
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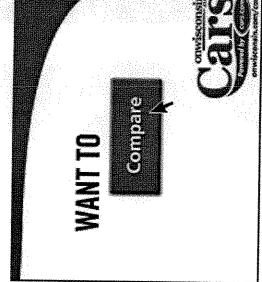
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Three of the four have been transferred out of the Department of Administration division division, from bureau director to section that manages the fleet. The fourth, Jeff Knight, has been demoted within the

All four have retained their earlier salaries.

Special Features





described the changes as lateral moves made in anticipation of Doyle's upcoming two-year budget, which will be introduced early next Administration Secretary Marc Marotta, Sean Dilweg, the executive assistant to

"We're just kind of lining them up with their "We're just realigning skill sets," he said. talents."

broad management changes would not lead to The management shake-up is not in response managed in the past, he said. Dilweg said the to displeasure with how the fleet had been

> From the Archives

a loss of institutional knowledge.





fleet after questions were raised about the operation. Their investigation found that more than

500 vehicles were underutilized, and they proposed that the state sell more than 1,000 of its

roughly 7,200 cars and trucks. Sales have already begun, and Doyle has put a freeze on

vehiclepurchases through the end of the year.

The four fleet administrators were the key people on a team this summer that overhauled the

"My understanding is there's not going to be a learning curve here where we have no idea of

what's going on with fleet," he said.





had improperly reported wages to the Internal Revenue Service because of how it accounted for The review also found rampant record-keeping problems and revealed that the state for years employees' mileage on state cars.

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Administration officials have described any tax liability as slight. They will meet with IRS officials later this month in hopes of reaching an agreement on the matter.

The recent management changes reconfigure the top four spots overseeing the fleet:

ranking official with a direct hand in fleet operations. Last month, she and Deputy Revenue • Laura Engan, the deputy administration secretary appointed by Doyle, was the highest9/14/2004

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Secretary Gina Frank-Reece switched positions. Doyle spokesman Dan Leistikow said at the time the change was not a reflection of any dissatisfaction with how the fleet was managed. Engan retained her salary of \$108,914.

- moved to the Division of Enterprise Technology as an information technology manager. She • Sari King, the State Agency Services administrator who reported to Engan, was recently kept her \$93,381 salary.
- Knight, the longtime Bureau of General Services director, is slated to move down a notch sometimes-controversial stable of airplanes at one point, but he lost that authority in recent later this month, to section chief. In addition to vehicles, Knight also oversaw the state's

boxes from the Republican administrations of former Govs. Scott McCallum and Tommy G. Knight's position also put him in charge of state records management, including the 129 file Thompson that were inadvertently destroyed earlier this year.

Though he now has fewer duties, Knight's pay of \$89,912 was not cut.

Division of Energy. The energy post is a temporary assignment, as was his fleet job, said • Gary Gorlen, who held the position Knight will take over, was moved Tuesday to the department spokesman Scott Larrivee. Gorlen received \$67,503 at both jobs. Engan and King did not return phone calls, and Gorlen could not be reached. Knight declined comment.

familiar with an organizational chart that shows his new job one step below his current position. switching jobs so he could work more closely with the University of Wisconsin System and its Dilweg, the administration official who fielded questions about the changes, said Knight was fleet. He said he did not view Knight's job change as a demotion, but conceded he was not

### Intent unclear

personnel might make fleet administrators more responsive to financial considerations, but also said he wanted to make sure the people most responsible for any problems were the ones held State Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay), who earlier this year secured a legislative audit of the fleet of cars, said he was unsure what the management changes meant. He said shuffling

accountable.

"Is it their fault or the people above them who make policy?" he asked. "Are they just implementing policy? Probably. "There was a complacency there. I don't want to blame any administration. I think it was in the culture, the bureaucratic culture." Cowles said he expects the legislative audit will find more fleet improvements that can be made. That audit is expected to be completed early next year.

Resources announced earlier this month that it would sell off some of its 1,179 boats after Cowles is also looking into other assets owned by the state. The Department of Natural conducting a review of that fleet requested by Cowles.

snowmobiles. Once counted, the stock will be compared to records, and administrators will then see if any should be sold, said Vance Rayburn, the department's administrator of customer and This week, the department said it would soon conduct a review of its all-terrain vehicles and employee services.

The count should be complete by the end of the month, and the agency is hoping to identify which boats, snowmobiles and ATVs it will sell off by November, Rayburn said. Preliminary records from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau show the agency has about 600 ATVs and snowmobiles.

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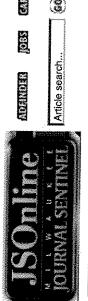
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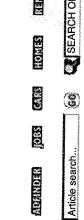






















ON WISCONSIN: JS ONLINE: NEWS: WISCONSIN:

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## State to track calls on staff cell phones

Milwaukee Wisconsin

System will allow checks on personal use, abuses

By PATRICK MARLEY pmarley@journalsentinel.com

Waukesha

Ozaukee

Posted: Sept. 20, 2004 Washington Racine

Madison - The state has no system for tracking whether nearly 10,000 taxpayer-funded cell phones are being used for personal calls, a problem administrators hope to fix soon. Crossroads Editorials

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Dilweg, executive assistant to Administration The Department of Administration later this Secretary Marc Marotta. The agency started looking into the issue about a month ago, he year will implement a computer-tracking system that will identify fraud and other abuses involving the phones, said Sean

Special Features















Oshkosh), co-chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Audit.



next year.



VIDED OVER

after an internal review found hundreds of underutilized cars and trucks, vast record-keeping This summer, Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle ordered more than 1,000 state vehicles to be sold problems and vehicle usage that had been improperly reported for income-taxing purposes. That review found that the vast majority of employees properly reimbursed the state for personal trips, finding just eight employees who had failed to do so.

The legislative audit of vehicles is expected to be more thorough because of the depth of the

investigation and because it is being done by an outside agency.

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For the phone review, auditors will look at a year's worth of data, most likely for the 12-month period that ended June 30, Mueller said. They will examine contracts the state has with

providers and whether employees are reimbursing the state for personal calls, she said.

departments have established their own rules says cell phones cannot be used for personal Administration will issue new cell phone policies in about a month. Current policy adding that such policies will get a close that allow limited personal use, he said, reasons for most employees, but some Dilweg said the Department of

prepare to launch a review of the cell phones in the wake of questions that have emerged The changes come just as state auditors over state vehicles.

"It's a natural extension of looking at the other equipment," said state Sen. Carol Roessler (R-

The phone audit will begin soon, State Auditor Janice Mueller said Monday. She said there had

been no indications of problems with the phones but added that she felt the matter warranted a

review as part of the vehicle audit, which is already under way and expected to wrap up early

9/21/2004

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"The dollar amount will be far smaller than what we're looking at with our fleet audit," she said.

Marotta, the administration secretary, said the outside review was a good idea.

"Cell phones could potentially be abused, and having a second set of eyes on the matter is always helpful," he said.

### Cuts already made

As of March - the most recent month with up-to-date data - the state owned 9,520 phones, down from a high of 11,100 in September 2002. The 14% reduction was a result of a push to drop underused phones, Marotta said.

Costs dropped about 9% as a result of the phone reduction, from \$240,763 to \$219,004 per

each call. An internal review has found that rate to be cheaper than plans available to the general For most phones, the state pays a flat fee of \$4.75 per phone a month, plus 9 cents a minute for public and those used by the governments of New Hampshire, Nebraska and Illinois.

would cost more than \$20,000 for those phones because of high flat fees, the internal analysis For a sample group of 267 phones, the state pays \$6,820 a month. Using a consumer option found. Most of the phones receive service from U.S. Cellular, but 1,063 get service through Alltel and Cellular One.

In the past, the state has not maintained a system to watch for abuse, but new software will be implemented in coming weeks to identify fraud, Dilweg said. The software will track unusual calls, such as those made to out-of-state numbers and those made outside business hours. A number of legislators have asked the Legislative Audit Bureau to review cell phones because who secured the vehicle audit and has gotten the Department of Natural Resources to perform of problems with the vehicle fleet. Among them is state Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), internal reviews of its fleets of boats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.

He welcomed the review of the phones Monday.

JS Online: State to track calls on staff cell phones

"It's funny how one thing will lead to another thing will lead to another thing will lead to another thing," he said. "It just keeps going."

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ZOTZICO

Posted Sept. 23, 2004

## Editorial: Hold state workers accountable

Planes, Cars. Boat phones.

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Front Page

Planes, Cars. Boats, Snowmobiles, All-terrain vehicles, Cell Issue phones.

State property

Our view

"It's funny how one thing will lead to another thing will lead to another thing. It just keens

to another thing will lead to another thing. It just keeps going," said Sen. Rob Cowles, R-Green Bay.

Cowles should know. A member of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Audit Committee, he's been at the forefront in trying to restore state workers' accountability for

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how they use taxpayers' property.

accountable for use of taxpayers' property.

Workers must be

ago, when former Gov. Scott McCallum used a state plane and \$2,600 in public money to fly The first hint of something amiss occurred a couple of years 40 miles from Madison to Janesville. The state subsequently concluded that it had too many planes and reduced the size of its fleet.

when she drove her state-owned car into a ditch while driving drunk late at night on her way Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager brought a new system failure to light earlier this year, home to Fond du Lac.

The crash raised questions about how workers were using more than 7,000 state-owned



Contacts & Info

vehicles and prompted Cowles to ask for an audit.

An internal review found hundreds of underused cars and trucks, huge record-keeping problems and vehicle use improperly reported for income-tax purposes. The state subsequently sold 1,069 vehicles to reduce its fleet.

A legislative audit is pending.

That led to taxpayer-owned boats — 736 of them, including a 44-foot lobster boat and three 30-foot outboard Boston Whalers. Again, there was sloppy record keeping, evidenced by the Department of Natural Resources' inability to come up with purchase prices on 153 of the boats,

The results of internal reviews of the DNR boat, snowmobile and ATV fleets are pending.

Now it's cell phones — nearly 10,000 of them — costing taxpayers almost \$220,000 a month.

The state has no system for tracking whether state workers are using them for personal calls or other non-business purposes.

announced that it soon would use a computer-tracking system to identify cell-phone abuse With state auditors poised to review cell-phone use, the Department of Administration and would issue new cell-phone policies for all state employees. With so many audits in the works and so much evidence of sloppy record keeping, Cowles had the right idea when he said that one thing will lead to another thing will lead to another thing will lead to another thing.

After such widespread taxpayer abuse, there's no other way to regain the public trust.

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### Oshkosh Northwestern September 24, 2004

### EDITORIAL

### Politicians don't snap to attention on accountability

here is Bill Proxmire , when you need him?

Almost 10,000 cell phones cost taxpayers \$220,000 a month and the Joint Committee on Audit finally is getting around to reviewing the matter. The issue is getting its "the process"

A legislature should lead the charge for accountability over tax dollars. It shouldn't be late for duty on this issue.

issue is getting its "due process." But it's the way that the review came about that should provoke wonder.

Gov. Jim Doyle brought to attention that price tags should be put on more than 1,000 state-owned vehicles that were underutilized. It was that review of vehicles that led to another review, the one of the cell phones. And the discovery was surprising: State government didn't use a way to track calls that were not for government business.

This isn't the first time abuses of the tax dollar have been found. Audits have been done of the Department of Natural Resources fleet of boats, all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. The Doyle administration cut its airplane fleet.

Again, the issue is getting its due process in the hands of the Audit committee, but the sequence of these events suggests what else is wrong here. The governor's administration pointed out the problem about the cell phones. The Legislature later decided, yeah, it was a good idea to get on board.

Why aren't there more elected officials who have an interest in a situation that potentially could be abused. The state that featured U.S. Sen. William Proxmire announcing a Golden Fleece Award for federal pork has few legislators who expose poorly spent tax dollars at the Wisconsin level. State Rep Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, used an education budget issue to say people don't "get it" that the state has budget problems. His dilemma, though, is that his party controls those spending decisions. In the words of the old Wendy's commercial, "Where's the beef?"

There's also room at the local level for this degree of scrutiny. Winnebago County supervisors want a courthouse renovation, offices relocated into that building and a pie-in-the-sky \$20 million new Park View Health Center. The bureaucrats say we need these things. But on the outside, it looks like nobody is in charge.

Supervisor Bill Wingren confirms this. He calls county government "rudderless" for lacking a list of priorities.

Wisconsin has a reputation as a frugal state, according to the practices of our businesses. Government here, however, leaves room for more frugality.

A legislature should lead the charge for accountability over tax dollars. It shouldn't be late for duty on this issue.

Likewise, a county government should promise to protect taxpayer dollars first. Interests are misplaced when county bureaucrats are more concerned with which project they want their name affixed to next.

We need elected officials who defend the tax dollar from being spent, not politicians who defend the continued spending of them.

Where is Bill Proxmire when you need him?

The Final Thought: State and county government are showing a high degree of carelessness about what happens to the public dime.