

PURCHASING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Purposes:

- A. Encourage procurement of goods and services for use by the City of Arkansas City on the basis of the best necessary quality at least cost (best value).
- B. Provide for ready availability of goods and services to support timely and effective service delivery, with a minimum of cumbersome procedure.
- C. Maintain a competitive private sector purchasing environment for the City of Arkansas City.
- D. Provide for appropriate budgetary control and financial oversight of the procurement process.

General:

In the interests of eliminating delays in service provision, the City will use a decentralized purchasing system subject to the control of this policy, and, within that, at the discretion of the Department Head. Departments of the City are encouraged and expected to coordinate the purchase of similar items. Bulk or large quantity purchasing is encouraged in those areas where storage space is available, and inventory can be controlled.

Any purchases made are to be approved by the Department Head, and are subject to the further general oversight of the Finance Director and the City Manager. The Department Head's signature shall be considered as an affirmative statement that they have reviewed all items entered on that listing. As such, the invoice is required to be signed by the Department Head or appointee in all cases. Staff involved in purchasing is expected to use common sense and good judgment in the application of these guidelines.

All goods must be verified as received prior to processing invoices for payment.

Initials on the invoice, and the Department Heads signature is an affirmative statement that the goods or services were properly ordered and received by the City of Arkansas City.

Goods and services purchased by the City are intended to provide services to the public. Diversion of materials or services purchased by the City to personal or private use (without public purpose) is considered to be mis-use, and will result in administrative and/or criminal justice system consequences.

Local Preference:

In order to maintain the most competitive environment, a formal local preference option is not provided. Specifically, there is no percentage price preference in bids or other competitive processes. However, local service, city efficiency, and other similar judgment factors may be used in determining whether a purchase provides the best value.

Competitive Bidding:

Written competitive bids or price quotations are encouraged for the purchase of any capital item; or minor construction or repair contract. Normally, a minimum of 3 bids should be solicited. Bids shall be opened by the City Clerk or designee and bid tabulation should be attached to the invoice prior to payment and filing.

Capital Items (Vehicles and Equipment, Buildings), minor construction or repair contracts, and non- routine group purchases, even if specifically scheduled in the annual budget, and for which the cost equals or exceeds \$20,000 in total, shall be approved by the City Commission.

Operating capital items of less than \$20,000 in total value which have been included in the annual budget may be purchased by the authority of the City Manager. Competitive price quotations, written or verbal, from at least three vendors are encouraged. If bids have been received, a copy of the bid tabulation should be attached to the invoice prior to payment and filing.

Construction contracts for capital improvements shall be approved by the City Commission prior to execution, as should change orders to existing contracts. In all construction contracts, a final architect's or engineer's estimate shall be obtained based on final design parameters, immediately prior to distributing the invitation to bid.

Contracts for professional services, or similar services or items of a nature which render development of detailed specifications difficult or impossible; may be procured through the use of Requests for Qualifications and negotiation of fees thereafter. The City uses a qualifications-based selection process for professional services.

Operational Purchasing

Generally, purchases of less than \$20,000 may be authorized by the City Manager or designee. Department Heads remain responsible for compliance with the annual operating budget for their own department. Staff is encouraged to use informal quotes or written competitive bidding for supplies or materials acquired in bulk, or whenever appropriate in their best judgment. If taken, a tabulation of quotes should be attached to the invoice.

Purchases of small items needed in the routine course of work may be made by employees subject to the discretion and review of supervisory staff. The department head has the discretion of assigning parameters for such purchasing authorization within individual departments.

Invoices for such material shall be reviewed and approved by the initial of the Department Head or designee prior to payment being rendered. Staff authorized by the Department Head may initial the invoices.

Purchases of items or material that equal or exceed \$20,000 in value, or when purchases of groups of items exceed \$20,000 in value, which items are of a routine operational nature and are regularly purchased by the Department, may be made by the Department Head, without prior approval of the City Manager. This specifically excludes equipment purchases, or purchases that are not routine needs of the Department. The City Manager shall receive regular reports on such operational purchases. Non- routine, non-budgeted purchases shall require the prior approval of the City Manager and, at his discretion, may be submitted to the City Commission for approval.

Purchase Orders

Purchase orders will be made on items which will not be received within 90 days, on City Commission items, end of year encumbrances, and specialty items which will not be received by mid-January of the following fiscal year.

Invoices which apply to purchase orders will be paid as received, rather than waiting until the PO is complete. The invoice needs to be initialed as received and approved for payment. This keeps the City in good standing with the vendors.