

3.0 PURCHASING PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

The process for making purchases varies depending on the total cost of the purchase. The intentional staggering of purchases as well as dividing purchases and/or contracts to consciously evade this policy is strictly prohibited. Any employee found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Purchase Cost	Authority Required	Purchasing Process	Competitive Requirement
Less than \$2,000	Department Head or Designee	Department Approval	Periodic Quotes or 2 Informal Quotes
Over \$2,000 and less than \$10,000	Department Head or Designee	Department Approval	3 Informal Quotes
Over \$10,000 and less than \$50,000	Finance Director	Purchase Requisition	3 Formal Quotes
Public Construction Over \$25,000	Public Works Commission	Memo	Formal Bid Process
\$50,000 and more	Finance Committee	Committee Presentation and Contract or Purchase Requisition	3 Formal Quotes or Formal Bid Process
All contracts greater than \$50,000	Common Council	Recommendation from Public Works Comm or Finance Committee	

3.1 PURCHASES LESS THAN \$2,000

Purchases under \$2,000 may be made with the approval of City Department Heads or their designees. When possible, at least two informal price quotations must be obtained prior to making the purchase. Quotations are not required for items purchased from a vendor that has offered the best price and quality on a category of items based on periodic bids/proposals solicited by the City at least biennially.

3.2 PURCHASES OF AT LEAST \$2,000 AND LESS THAN \$10,000

Purchases of at least \$2,000 and less than \$10,000 may be made with the approval of City Department Heads or their designees. Department staff are responsible for obtaining and documenting at least three informal price quotations for the proposed purchase. This information is provided to the Department Head. The Department Head reviews the request to determine compliance with the budget and purchasing policy. If the selected vendor does not offer the lowest price, the request should include an explanation of why another vendor is recommended.

Capital Outlay: non-recurring purchases in General Fund [01] that aren't part of ongoing regular expenses (e.g. laptop, furnishings, facilities repair).

Equipment, supplies, or repairs more than \$5,000 per item/event will be considered a potential capital asset and should be budgeted as part of a departments' Capital Outlay budget (account ending in -60).

Capital Improvement: additions, improvements, modifications, or renovations of a property that increases its value or prolongs its useful life; buildings, equipment, machinery, vehicles.

Assets with an acquisition cost of at least \$20,000 and an expected useful life of at least five years are typically acquired through the Capital Borrow Fund [05].

3.3 PURCHASES OF AT LEAST \$10,000 AND UNDER \$50,000

Purchases of at least \$10,000 and less than \$50,000 require the prior approval of the Finance Director or his or her designee. The Finance Director may also require that the purchase go through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process or a formal bid process.

Department Heads or their designees are responsible for obtaining and documenting at least three formal (written) price quotations for the proposed purchase. This information is provided to the Finance Director along with a Purchase Requisition that should include the vendor selected, a description of the item, and the account number where it was budgeted. If the selected vendor does not offer the lowest price, the request should include an explanation of why another vendor was chosen.

The Finance Director reviews the request to determine compliance with the City's budget and purchasing policy. If approved, the Finance Department will issue a purchase order to the department. This purchase order should be used when making the purchase and the purchase order number must be entered into miViewPoint when it is submitted for payment.

3.4 PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF \$25,000 AND OVER

Public construction projects with an estimated cost between \$5,000 and \$25,000 require a class 1 notice prior to execution of the contract.

Public construction projects with an estimated cost greater than \$25,000 require approval of the Public Works Commission and must be let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder as required in Wisconsin State Statute 62.15(1). Also, per statute 62.15, the Common Council may by a three-fourths vote provide by ordinance that any class of public construction project may be done directly by the City without submitting the project for bids.

The Mayor may waive the bid or RFP requirement for professional services if he or she determines that it is in the City's best interest. The justification for waiving the bid or RFP process should be presented to the Public Works Commission prior to their action to approve or deny the purchase.

Department Heads or their designees are responsible for conducting the public bid (prepare bid package, provide public notice and advertisement, conduct public bid opening, prepare bid tabulation report) or RFP process and providing the results to the Public Works Commission. If a contract is required, the department will work with the City Attorney to draft a contract for signature by the Mayor. The Finance Director will review the information to ensure compliance with the City's budget and purchasing policy. **The Public Works Commission will forward any recommended contracts totaling \$50,000 or more to Council for approval.**

3.5 PURCHASES OF \$50,000 AND OVER

All purchases of materials, equipment, and services more than \$50,000 require the approval of the Finance Committee prior to completing the purchase or signing the contract. The City requires an RFP or bid process for purchases of this size.

The Mayor may waive the RFP or bid requirement for professional services if he or she determines that it is in the City's best interest. The justification for waiving the bid or RFP process should be presented to the Finance Committee prior to their action to approve or deny the purchase.

Department Heads or their designees are responsible for conducting the public bid (prepare bid package, provide public notice and advertisement, conduct public bid opening, prepare bid tabulation report) or RFP process and providing the results to the appropriate standing committee. The department is required to prepare a memo listing the proposals received, which vendor is recommended and why, the budgeted amount for the item and any additional costs that may be incurred. If the selected vendor does not offer the lowest price, the request should include an explanation of why another vendor was chosen.

With a positive recommendation from the standing committee, the Department Head will place the item on an upcoming Finance Committee agenda and prepare a Purchase Requisition that includes the vendor selected, a description of the item, and the account number where it was budgeted. The Finance Director will review the information to ensure compliance with the City's budget and purchasing policy. If approved by the Finance Committee, the Finance Department will issue a purchase order to the department. This purchase order should be used when making the purchase and the purchase order number must be entered into miViewPoint when it is submitted for payment.

If a contract is required, the department will work with the City Attorney to draft a contract (see Section 7) for signature by the Mayor. **The Finance Committee will forward any recommended contracts totaling \$50,000 or more to Council for approval.**

4.0 PURCHASE CHARGES AND METHODS

4.1 SHIPPING AND FREIGHT CHARGES

It is the policy of the City to avoid paying shipping charges whenever possible. If the City is to pay shipping charges, it must be billed at the time of invoicing. Department Heads, when obtaining price quotations, should inquire into applicable freight charges. Any charges to be paid by the City will be regarded as part of the price quotation when selecting the successful bidder. Unless otherwise stated in the "notice of call for bids", all formal bid proposals shall include freight and delivery charges, if any.