

# City of Bastrop, Texas

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## Purchasing Policy

Approved  
September 8, 2020



## I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Component Purchases** – Purchases of component parts of an item that in normal purchasing practices would be accomplished by one purchase. (Purchasing parts and assembling a finished product.)

**Pecuniary Benefit** – Any form of economic gain (money, gifts, etc.).

**Fixed Assets** - A piece of equipment with a value of \$5,000 or more and a life expectancy of two (2) year or more.

**Separate Purchases** – Purchases made separately of items that in normal purchasing practices would be accomplished by one consolidated purchase. (Multiple purchase orders of similar items to avoid bidding procedures.)

**Sequential Purchases** – Purchases, made over a period, of items in normal purchasing practices would be combined and bid as one purchase. (Similar to above but multiple purchases of the same items to avoid bids.)

## II. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the City of Bastrop that all purchasing shall be conducted strictly on the basis of economic and business merit. This policy is intended to promote the best interest of the citizens of the City of Bastrop, Texas.

The City of Bastrop intends to maintain a cost-effective purchasing system conforming to good management practices. The establishment and maintenance of a good purchasing system is possible only through cooperative effort. It must be backed by proper attitudes and cooperation of not only every Department Director and official, but also every Supervisor and Employee of the City of Bastrop.

The purchasing process is not instantaneous. Time is required to complete the steps required by State law. In order to accomplish timely purchasing of products and services at the least cost to the City of Bastrop, all departments must cooperate fully. Prior planning and the timely submission of requisitions are essential to expedite the purchasing process and to assure that the process is orderly and lawful.

This Policy reaffirms the City of Bastrop's commitment to strengthen purchasing and property controls to reasonably assure that assets are received and retained in the custody of the City of Bastrop.

2. Give each bidder same deadline for turning in bids.

City of Bastrop buyers must inform vendors that bids submitted are all inclusive. Any charges for freight and handling, fuel fees or other costs must be included in the bid. In order to obtain contract status, the Department Head is responsible for first adhering to the procurement requirements stated below. City Manager approval or his designee is required.

### **C. Purchasing Control**

Authorization levels established within INCODE for appropriations previously approved by the City Council are as follows:

- Directors' or their designee not to exceed \$9,999.99
- Chief Financial Officer or designee up to \$14,999.99
- City Manager or designee approving purchases exceeding \$15,000.00

All purchases requiring a purchasing summary must have an approved purchase order before placing the order.

### **D. Fleet Purchases**

The Finance Department will create a Fleet Appropriations List at the beginning of every fiscal year based on the adopted budget. A unit number will be assigned to each vehicle and equipment included on this list. This list will be distributed to each department with vehicles and equipment on the list.

Each department will complete and submit their purchasing summaries to the Finance Department, which should include the unit number assigned, as close to October 1<sup>st</sup> as possible. The purchasing summaries will be checked against the Fleet Appropriations List and reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Once reviewed by the Finance Department, the summaries will go to the City Manager for approval.

Upon approval by the City Manager, a purchase order will be created and authorized by the Finance Department for each approved purchasing summary. At the time of issuance of the purchase order, budgeted funds will be encumbered to prevent the funds from being reallocated.

Approved purchase orders will be sent to each department with authorized vehicles and equipment on the Fleet Appropriations List. Once the department has received the approved purchase order, fleet orders can be placed with the selected vendor.

### **E. Dollar Limitations**

The following dollar limitations should be used as a guideline. These limitations may not apply in all cases. Dollar limitations pertain to total purchase or invoice total not per single item cost. It is the Department Directors responsibility to insure Purchasing policies are being adhered to.



approval being given if applicable. It is the Department Director's responsibility to ensure the cooperative information is on file with the Finance Department.

**\$50,000+:** Except as otherwise exempted by applicable State law, requisitions for item(s) whose aggregate total cost is more than \$50,000 must be processed as competitive solicitations (e.g. sealed bids, request for proposals, and request for offers). Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter B, Section 252.021 defines the requirements for competitive bids.

The Code requires that sealed bids and request for proposals (RFP) are advertised in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks prior to the bid opening. All bids must be received sealed and turned in to the City Secretary's Office by the date and time listed in the bid. Any bids received after the stated time will be returned unopened. The bid opening process is open to the public and all vendors that respond to the specific are invited to attend. Questions concerning pricing will not be addressed at the opening. Contracts for services require Errors & Omissions coverage.

If purchasing through a cooperative purchasing alternative, i.e. BuyBoard, DIR, TXMAS provide only one (1) written quote; proof or identification that the quote is from a cooperative source, complete a Purchasing Summary Form and a purchase order. All cooperative vendor specific contracts should be on file with the Finance Department prior to final approval being given if applicable. It is the Department Director's responsibility to ensure the cooperative information is on file with the Finance Department. City Manager written approval is required.

**Rental Agreement:** Vendors who provide rental items to the city are required to carry insurance. The type and amounts of insurance required vary based on the item rented. The Chief Financial Officer must review all rental contracts before the contract is awarded.

## **F. Personal or Professional Services**

Under the Professional Services Procurement Act, a contract for the purchase of a personal or professional service is exempt from competitive bidding requirements. The City also provides exemption for the purchasing of planning services.

The City may not select providers of professional services based on competitive bids. In these situations, the City must make the selection and award based on demonstrated competence and qualifications for performing the services for a fair and reasonable price.

Professional services may include:

- Accounting.
- Architecture.
- Landscape architecture.
- Land surveying.



be purchased from the original supplier. The following items are necessary to provide sufficient justification for sole source purchase:

1. A memorandum to the City Manager with a statement must be attached to the Purchasing Summary Form that says a sufficient number of vendors have been contacted to determine that only one practical source of supply exists or states the reasons only one source exists. This memorandum should include the City Manager's signature signifying his approval.
2. A bid from the sole source provider on company letterhead.
3. A letter from the vendor stating they are the sole supplier of the good.

A Purchasing Summary Form and purchase order is still required with the above information attached.

### **I. Change Orders**

According to purchasing law, the City of Bastrop may make changes to plans, specifications or quantities after award of the contract, if necessary. However, no increase may exceed 25% of the original contract amount and any decrease of 25% or more must have the consent of the contractor.

Increases that cause a change in dollar limitations or purchasing law may supersede the 25% rule:

Example: If a contract is awarded for \$45,000, the allowable increase under the 25% rule would be \$11,250. However, this would cause the new price to exceed \$50,000, which by State law requires sealed bids and advertising. Increase would be limited.

Any change in a purchasing contract that exceeds 25% of the original amount will void the original contract.

### **J. Making the Purchase**

City of Bastrop buyers are responsible for making sure that the purchased good or service is received as specified. Under no circumstance should a buyer accept more goods or services than ordered. Employees are only authorized to purchase items that have been approved by their Department Head. A purchase over the original amount requires additional approval.

### **K. 30 Day Accounts Payable Cycle**

Texas law requires municipalities to pay invoices within 30 days or be subject to the payment of interest.

- 200.318 – General Procurement Standards
- 200.319 – Competition
- 200.320 – Methods of Procurement to be followed
- 200.321 – Contracting with Small & Minority businesses, women business enterprises & labor surplus area firms
- 200.322 – Procurement of Recovered Materials
- 200.323 – Contract Cost & Price
- 200.324 – Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity review
- 200.325 – Bonding requirements
- 200.326 – Contract Provisions

## **V. ASSET CONTROL**

### **A. Inventory Control**

The purpose of inventory control is to create and maintain a record/inventory of all fixed assets of the City of Bastrop. Fixed assets include all items over \$5,000 with a life expectancy of two (2) or more years. “Minor Capital Outlay” items must also be inventoried. These items will include assets purchased for \$1,000 to \$4,999.

When a fixed asset is received by the city, it is tagged with a City of Bastrop property tag (if feasible) and added to the Departments master list.

Each Department shall keep an inventory list of all fixed assets permanently assigned to employee.

A wall to wall inventory of all fixed assets shall be performed every year or as deemed necessary. It is recommended that Departments perform an annual fixed assets inventory of equipment permanently assigned to employees.

### **B. Use of Property**

City of Bastrop employees should be aware that the use of City property for personal gain is strictly prohibited. City vehicles should only be used for official City business. City Personnel Policies list theft and unauthorized use of City property as grounds for immediate dismissal.

In addition, employees are not to use personal property for the performance of their job or at their work site. Personal items such as radios, coffee pots, picture frame, books, etc. is permissible; however, the City of Bastrop is not responsible for damage to or theft of these items.

### **C. Disposal of Surplus Materials and Equipment/ Donations**

City surplus materials and equipment (a/k/a ‘surplus items’) includes any City owned personal property such as furniture, fixtures, equipment, computers, vehicles, tools,



Once approved by either the City Manager or Council, as appropriate, in order to document the disposal, sale, trade-in or donation of surplus items a Disposed Fixed Asset Form must be prepared and submitted to the Finance Department in addition to providing the license plates for any vehicles or equipment disposed of. The Finance Department manages the change of ownership and the receipt of funds.

City decals must be removed from all surplus City vehicles, machinery, and equipment before disposal, donation, trade-in or sale.

City employees may participate, on their own time, in public auctions for the purchase of surplus City items.

#### **D. Lost Property**

After conducting an annual inventory and property is discovered to be lost, an explanation for the lost must be provided immediately to the Department Head using the Fixed Asset Form. Property losses that come to the attention of the employee before the annual inventory should be reported within 24 hours using the Fixed Asset Form.

All thefts are to be reported to a supervisor or Department Head as soon as possible. The City of Bastrop, Police Department must be notified immediately. Stolen fixed asset must be removed from the Master Inventory List and a copy of the police report attached to the Fixed Asset Form.

#### **E. Security Measures**

All equipment will be kept in a secure area when not in use. Access to this area will be limited to the employees assigned to the secure area. In case of theft, the security of the area should be evaluated to determine if changes or re-keying of locks should be necessary.

### **VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES**

#### **A. Department Heads**

1. Monitor and approve overall purchases to ensure that funds are spent judiciously and that budgeted resources are within their control and available for all procurement.
2. Reject requests for purchases that do not have proper authorization or include required documentation.
3. Approve all purchases up to \$9,999 excluding budgeted capital.
4. Adhere to the Purchasing Policies and the Code of Ethics.
5. Place cooperative agreements and RFP's on file with Finance and monitor purchases to ensure that supply agreements are used.
6. Ensure that sole source requests meet the guidelines and include required documentation.