

Competitive Bids/Proposals (Mod. CM-Council)

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Competitive Bids/Proposals (Mod. CM-Council)

Reference Number: MTAS-1650

Competitive prices for all acquisitions and public improvements must be obtained whenever possible, in accordance with regulations, which must be established by ordinance. The lowest responsible bidder must receive contracts or purchases. The municipality may reject any and all bids.

Formal sealed bids must be taken in all transactions of \$10,000 or more. These transactions must be confirmed by written contract submitted to and approved by the council.

The charter authorizes the council, upon written recommendation of the city manager and by unanimous resolution of those present at the meeting, to authorize non-competitive contracts where it is clearly to the advantage of the municipality not to contract with competitive bidding.

The council may authorize public improvements or other municipal work to be done by any municipal department or agency without competitive bidding.

"Competitive sealed bids" generally means both sealed bids and sealed proposals. Sealed proposals should be used if the criteria for vendor selection can be clearly defined, the selection process will benefit the municipality, and the process is approved by the municipality's board of commissioners. See "Purchasing through Competitive Sealed Proposals [1]".

Links:

[1] <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/purchasing-through-competitive-sealed-proposals>

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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