



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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Purchases Through State Contract Summary

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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Purchases Through State Contract Summary

Reference Number: MTAS-2027

The central procurement office may, upon request, purchase goods and services for any local governmental unit of this state. The cost of any purchase shall be borne by the local government unit concerned.

Local governments may, without public advertisement or competitive bidding, make purchases of goods or services included in federal general services administration contracts or other applicable federal open purchase contracts. Excluded from this authorization are motor vehicles other than those manufactured for a special purpose as defined in T.C.A. § 12-3-1208.

Municipalities may take advantage of so-called "state prices" regardless of any charter or general law requirements without public advertisement and competitive bidding. Not all prices quoted to the state are available to local governments. Unless restricted by local or private act, charter or general law, municipalities may purchase any item from local sources if:

1. The item is available for purchase through contracts or price agreements entered into by the central procurement office;
2. The item must also be available at the same or lower cost from such local sources;
3. And the local government is not permitted to purchase from an existing contract established by the department.

The items, along with price and vendor information, are available electronically from the purchasing division of the Tennessee Department of General Services, Central Procurement Office.

The T.C.A. citation for this topic is T.C.A. § 12-3-1201.

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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