

Purchasing Records

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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Reference Number:
MTAS-696

PURCHASING RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE		
Description of record	Retention Period	Legal Authority/ Rationale
O-1. Bids. Records showing bidder's name, complete description of item(s), delivery date, amount of bid, and any correspondence with the bidder. Includes any advertisements. Includes unsuccessful bids.	Retain 7 years after contract expires.	Based on statute of limitations for legal action based on breach of contract plus 1 year. T.C.A. § 28-3-109.
O-2. Contracts. Contracts between the city and other contractors.	Retain 7 years after termination of contract.	Based on statute of limitations for actions for breach of contract. T.C.A § 28-3-109.
O-3. Minutes of Bid Openings. Record of bid openings showing item, vendor, bid price, and whether bid was successful.	Retain 1 year after award.	Necessary in case of challenge to bid award.
O-4. Purchase Orders.	Retain 5 years after creation of the record.	Keep for audit purposes.
O-5. Requisitions and Requisitions for Purchase. Records for requests for supplies and equipment in cities with centralized purchasing departments or offices.	Retain 5 years after creation of the record.	Keep for audit purposes.
O-6. Street Contracts and Bonds. Contracts entered into between city and street contractors for the construction and upkeep of roads. May include bonds of contractors guaranteeing compliance with terms of contracts, showing names of principals and sureties, description, specifications, amount of consideration, dates of bonds, and signatures of principals and sureties, showing name of contractor, date, building specifications, and amount of consideration.	Retain contracts until expiration of guarantees. If no guarantees are involved, destroy 7 years after completion of the contract. Retain bonds 7 years after release, replacement, or expiration.	Based on statute of limitations for breach of contract actions plus 1 year. T.C.A. § 28-3-109.

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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