



## Automated Fingerprint Machines

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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-348

While the purchase of automated fingerprint machines qualifies as nonrecurring general law enforcement expenditure, there are special statutory regulations pertaining to these purchases.

All agencies must set aside 20 percent of their Drug Fund revenues each year toward the purchase of an automated fingerprint machine until they actually purchase the machine or until they enter into an agreement with another agency that has a machine to do fingerprinting. These agreements most often occur between a city police department and a county sheriff's department. The 20 percent set aside can be accounted for in a separate reserve account, or it can be left in the Drug Fund special revenue account.

Once an automated fingerprint machine is purchased, or the city has entered into an agreement with an agency that has one of the machines, the city may use up to 20 percent of each year's Drug Fund revenues to pay for some operational costs of the fingerprint machine, including telephone line charges, software maintenance contracts and hardware maintenance contracts. These operational costs should be included in any agreement the city has with another agency to perform its fingerprinting.

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*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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