

Small Purchases \$10,000 to \$25,000

EXECUTIVE ORDER JML 24-114

Note: NSU reserves the right to implement more restricted policies when applicable.

Small Purchase Procedures

Section 1: All departments, institutions, boards, commissions, budget units, and agencies of the executive branch of state government, and the officers and employees thereof, (hereafter "agency") shall observe, be guided by, and implement the specific directives on small purchase procedures set forth in this Order. This Order in no way affects or changes the purchasing authority delegated to an agency by the chief procurement officer as defined in R.S. 39:1556. No provision of this Order shall be construed as a limitation on the number of quotations to be solicited prior to making a purchase or procurement. Louisiana businesses, especially certified small entrepreneurship and certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship should be utilized to the greatest extent possible when soliciting prices.

Section 2: Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the words and terms used in this Order shall be defined as follows:

- A. "Small purchases" means (1) any procurement of supplies or operating services not exceeding \$25,000, or (2) any procurement of those items listed in Section 5 of this Order, which are exempt from the competitive sealed bidding requirements of the Louisiana Procurement Code, as provided in that Section.
- B. "Small Entrepreneurship" means a business currently certified as a small entrepreneurship by the Department of Economic Development, in accordance with the Provisions of the Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative), R.S. 39:2006; or a business currently certified as a small and emerging business by the Department of Economic Development, in accordance with the Provisions of the Small and Emerging Business Development Program, R.S. 51:941, *et seq.*;
- C. "Veteran Owned Small Entrepreneurship" means a business currently certified as a veteran or service-connected disabled veteran owned small entrepreneurship by the Department of Economic Development, in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Initiative for Veteran and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran Owned Small Entrepreneurships (The Veteran Initiative), R.S. 39:2176;
- D. "Authorized dealer" means a company that is specifically authorized by the manufacturer to sell and/or provide service for its products; and

E. "Louisiana authorized dealer" means a company that satisfies the requirements of a resident business as defined in R.S. 39:1556 and is specifically authorized by the manufacturer to sell and/or provide service for its products.

Section 3: The following items are not subject to the procedures set forth in this Order:

- A. Those items covered by an existing state contract.
- B. Labor and Material contracts which exceed \$10,000; and
- C. Professional, personal, consulting and social (PPCS) service contracts.

Section 4: Except as otherwise provided in this Order, all small purchases shall be made in accordance with the following minimum procedures:

- A. No competitive process is required for purchases not exceeding \$10,000 per single purchase transaction.
- B. Price quotations shall be solicited from three (3) or more bona fide, qualified vendors for purchases exceeding \$10,000 but not exceeding \$20,000.
 - 1. Quotations may be made by telephone, facsimile, written, or other means and shall be awarded on the basis of the lowest responsive quotation unless such quotation is impracticable or unreasonable. Whenever possible, at least one (1) of the bona fide, qualified vendors shall be a certified small entrepreneurship or a certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship. Agency files shall document and list all solicited vendors and each vendor's contact person, summarize quotations received, indicate the successful vendor and state the reason why any lower quotation was rejected. Agency files should also contain written confirmation of the quotation from the successful vendor.
 - 2. When the price is determined to be reasonable, the requirement to solicit three (3) quotations may be waived when purchasing from a certified small entrepreneurship or a certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship. Reasonable is a best-value determination based on price, delivery, service, and/or any other related factors. This determination is to be maintained in the file.
 - 3. The requirement to solicit at least one (1) certified small entrepreneurship or certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship is waived for procurements posted on LaPAC, Louisiana's internet-based system for posting vendor opportunities and award information.
- C. Price quotations shall be solicited from five (5) or more bona fide, qualified vendors for purchases exceeding \$20,000 but not exceeding \$25,000.

1. Quotations may be made by facsimile or written means and shall be awarded on the basis of the lowest responsive price quotation received unless such quotation is impracticable or unreasonable. Whenever possible, at least two (2) of the bona fide, qualified vendors shall be certified small entrepreneurships or certified veteran owned small entrepreneurships. Agency files shall document and list all solicited vendors and each vendor's response, summarize quotations received, indicate the awarded quotation, and state the reason for any rejection of lower quotations.
2. When the price is determined to be reasonable, the requirement to solicit five (5) quotations may be waived when purchasing from a certified small entrepreneurship or a certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship. Reasonable is a best-value determination based on price, delivery, service, and/or any other related factors. This determination is to be maintained in the file.
3. The requirement to solicit at least two (2) certified small entrepreneurships or certified veteran owned small entrepreneurships is waived for procurements posted on LaPAC, Louisiana's internet-based system for posting vendor opportunities and award information.
4. A minimum of three (3) working days shall be allowed for receipt of quotations.
5. All written or facsimile solicitations shall include the closing date, time, and all pertinent competitive specifications, including quantities, units of measure, packaging, delivery requirements, ship-to location, terms and conditions, and other information sufficient for a supplier to make an acceptable quotation. Precautionary measures shall be taken to safeguard the confidentiality of vendor responses prior to the closing time for receipt of quotations. No quotation shall be evaluated using criteria not disclosed in the solicitation.

Section 5: The following items are considered small purchases and may be procured in the following manner:

A. No competitive process is required for the following items:

1. Repair parts for equipment obtained from the original equipment manufacturer or an authorized dealer. A Louisiana authorized dealer shall be used if practicable. This provision does not apply to the stocking of parts.
2. Equipment repairs obtained from the original equipment manufacturer or an authorized dealer. A Louisiana authorized dealer shall be used if practicable.

3. Vehicle repairs not covered by a competitive state contract or the state fleet maintenance repair contract obtained from an authorized dealer. A Louisiana authorized dealer shall be used if practicable.
4. Vehicle body repairs covered by insurance recovery and in accordance with insurance requirements.
5. Livestock procured at public auction or from an individual which has purebred certification approved by the Department of Agriculture & Forestry.
6. Purchasing or selling transactions between state budget units and other governmental agencies.
7. Publications, including electronic publications, subscriptions, and web-based subscription services, and/or copyrighted materials purchased directly from the publisher or copyright holder.
8. Publications and/or copyrighted materials purchased by libraries or text rental stores from either subscription services or wholesale dealers which distribute for publishers and/or copyright holders.
9. Public utilities and services.
10. Prosthetic devices, implantable devices, and devices for physical restoration which are not covered by a competitive state contract.
11. Non-customized training, including educational instructor fees, and related resources (except equipment) used to enhance the performance of state employees and good standing of state agencies, including memberships in and accreditations by professional societies and organizations.
12. Procurements for clients of blind and vocational rehabilitation programs not covered by competitive state contract which are federally funded at a rate of at least 78.7%, regulated by Title 34, Parts 361, 363, 370, and 395 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and in accordance with OMB Circular A-102.
13. Materials, supplies, exhibitor fees, and exhibit booths for conferences, seminars, and workshops, or similar events (business, educational, promotional, cultural, etc.) for participation in promotional activities which enhance economic development or further the department's mission, duties and/or functions, with the approval of the department secretary, or agency equivalent, if not covered by competitive state contract.

14. Wire, related equipment, time and material charges to accomplish repairs, adds, moves, and/or changes to telecommunications systems not exceeding \$2,500.
15. Working class animals trained to perform special tasks, including but not limited to, narcotics detection, bomb detection, arson investigation, and rescue techniques.
16. Food, materials, and supplies for teaching and per course training not exceeding \$25,000 where the purchasing, preparing, and serving of food are part of the regularly prescribed course.
17. Renewal of termite service contracts.
18. Purchase of supplies, operating services, or equipment for the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Aging and Adult Services, Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program. Although competitive bidding is not required under this paragraph, whenever practicable, three (3) quotations from bona fide, qualified vendors should be obtained. Whenever possible, at least one (1) of the bona fide, qualified vendors shall be a certified small entrepreneurship or a certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship.
19. Purchasing of clothing at retail necessary to individualize clients at state developmental centers in compliance with Federal Regulations for Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).
20. Health insurance for the managers of Randolph-Sheppard programs, as defined by 20 U.S.C. §107, et seq., and paid from income generated by unmanned vending locations.
21. Purchases made to resell as part of a merchandising program with the written approval on file from the secretary of the department, or agency equivalent, when it is not practical or feasible to obtain competitive price quotations.
22. Commercial Internet Service not exceeding \$1,500 per subscription per year.
23. Advertising, where permitted by law and the head of an agency or designee certifies that specific media is required to reach targeted audiences.
24. Scientific and laboratory supplies and equipment when procured by colleges and universities for laboratory or scientific research not to exceed \$25,000 per transaction.

25. Publication of articles, manuscripts, etc. in professional scientific, research, or educational journals/media and/or the purchase of reprints.
 26. Livestock sperm and ova.
 27. Royalties and license fees for use rights to intellectual property, such as but not limited to: patents, trademarks, service marks, copyrights, music, artistic works, trade secrets, industrial designs, domain names, etc.
 28. Equipment moves by the original equipment manufacturer or authorized dealer to ensure equipment operation to original equipment manufacturer specifications, calibration, warrant, etc., not to exceed \$25,000 per transaction.
 29. Mailing lists.
 30. Art Exhibition rentals and/or loan agreements and associated costs of curatorial fees, transportation, and installation.
 31. Registered breeding stock whose purchase price and quality has been approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry and a specialist of Louisiana State University to be designated by the head of the College of Agriculture.
 32. Other livestock whose purchase price and quality has been approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, provided that the cost per head does not exceed \$1,500, and.
 33. Parcel Services, including but not limited to Federal Express, United Parcel Service, Airborne Express, and Express Mail, when not covered by a competitive state contract.
- B. For the following items, when the purchase is in excess of the limit prescribed by Section 4 (A) of this Order, telephone, written, or facsimile price quotations shall be solicited, where feasible, from at least three (3) bona fide, qualified vendors. Whenever possible, at least one (1) of the bona fide, qualified vendors shall be a certified small entrepreneurship or a certified veteran owned small entrepreneurship.
1. Farm products including, but not limited to, fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, fish, or other perishable foods, when it is determined that market conditions are unstable, and the competitive sealed bidding process is not conducive for obtaining the lowest prices;
 2. Food, materials, and supplies needed for:

- a. Operation of boats and/or facilities in isolated localities where only limited outlets of such supplies are available and the cost of the food, materials, and supplies do not exceed \$25,000; and/or
 - b. Juvenile detention homes and rehabilitation facilities/homes where the number of inmates, students, or clients is unstable and unpredictable.
3. Convention and meeting facilities including security services if applicable, provided that any associated food or lodging must be in accordance with Policy & Procedure Memorandum No.49 General Travel Regulations;
4. Gasoline and fuel purchases not covered by competitive state contract.
5. Equipment for blind-operated facilities not covered by competitive state contract.
6. Feed commodities, including but not limited to soybean meal, cottonseed meal, and oats not exceeding \$25,000.
7. Seed commodities, including but not limited to rye grass, soybean seed, corn seed, cotton seed, etc. as well as related fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides when not covered by competitive state contract.
8. FAA PMA approved aircraft parts and/or repairs, inspections, and modifications performed by an FAA-certified mechanic and/or at an FAA certified repair station in accordance with FAA requirements with approval by the head of the agency or head of Office of Aircraft Services, Division of Administration.
9. Air and bus charters in accordance with PPM 49, including group travel that does not qualify for commercial rates available to individual travelers.

Section 6: In the absence of a good faith business basis, no purchase or procurement shall be artificially divided within a cost center, or its equivalent, to avoid the competitive process or the solicitation of competitive sealed bids.