



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

Purpose: The Town of Stevensville takes care to ensure that we comply with federal and state laws and Town ordinances for all expenditures. The public can rely on us to make fair, competitive, and open purchasing decisions that are in the best interest of the Town.

Policy:

1. General Provisions:

- a) No employee will personally benefit from a contract or purchase entered into by the Town of Stevensville.
- b) No employee will use Town funds for personal purchases of any nature.
 - i) Authorized personal use of Town-provided cell phone, data devices, and internet usage is allowed in certain cases, according to the Town's phone and internet usage policy.
- c) No employee will receive a commission, profit, gratuity, or gift as a result of any contract or purchase made by the Town.
- d) Itemized receipts and invoices are required for all purchases. Details must be shown to ensure the public can determine EXACTLY what is being paid for, including individual units purchased and/or hours of service and the associated rate for each.
- e) All boards, committees, or other recognized entities of the Town of Stevensville wherein a Town employee is the authorized approver of the board's purchases must comply with this purchasing policy.



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

2. Transaction with employees and related parties:

- a) The Town does not contract with or purchase goods or services from employees or employee-owned businesses.
- b) The Town does not contract with or purchase goods or services from a business owned by an employee's spouse, ex-spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, child, step-child, or adopted child.
- c) Waiver of these employee and related-party restrictions can only be granted by the Town Council BEFORE the purchase or contract has been entered into. Such a waiver requires a publicly advertised hearing for that specific purpose, along with consideration of the circumstances and factors outlined in MCA 7-5-4109.
- d) Provisions for annual review and disclosure of employee-vendor relationships will be developed by the Treasurer, with disclosures on file in the Town Clerk's office.

3. Credit Card transactions: Use of credit card accounts can be advantageous to the Town. We seek to take advantage of the convenience of these accounts.

- a) Items charged to credit card accounts are subject to all existing purchasing and approval requirements.
- b) Cash advances are prohibited.

4. Meal and food purchases: Meal and food purchases are subject to all existing purchasing and approval requirements.

- a) All meal and food purchases must have receipts.
- b) Town of Stevensville Per Diem amounts follow the established State of Montana rates.
- c) The purchase of alcohol and tobacco with Town funds is prohibited.



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

5. Information technology software and hardware purchases: Computers, servers, telephones, cell phones, personal data devices, printers, etc. All technology-related purchases, both hardware and software, must be approved by the Mayor prior to purchase.

6. Prevailing wage requirements: Certain “public works construction contracts and other Town non-construction contracts over \$25,000 must pay Montana’s prevailing wage. Refer to Section 18-2-401 MCA for definitions of these services.

7. Documentation and selection of vendors:

a) Purchasing goods: i.e. supplies, materials, equipment, or other assets. The Town seeks the lowest life-cycle costs when comparing like goods. Estimated useful life and maintenance costs must be documented whenever they are factored into purchasing decisions.

i) Purchases up to \$500 per Department. The department may purchase at the Department Supervisor’s authorized signatory’s discretion.

ii) \$501 - \$1,500 per Department. The department may purchase at the Department Supervisor’s authorized signatory discretion. For new vendors, the Department Supervisor will get a minimum of two phone quotes (or other documentation, i.e. catalog price lists, online price listings, etc.) for the item. For existing vendors, the Department Supervisor will do an annual review of vendor pricing vs. their competition. Documentation must accompany the claim submitted for approval.

iii) \$1,501 - \$25,000 per Department. A minimum of two written quotes (on vendor’s stationary) is required. Documentation must accompany the claim submitted for approval. For existing vendors, the Department Supervisor will do an annual review of vendor pricing vs. their competition.

For purchases contained in the Department’s current fiscal year budget or the Town’s current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor’s need only get approval by the Mayor prior to purchasing.



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

For purchases not contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's must obtain prior purchase approval from the Mayor and the Town Council.

iv) \$25,001 - \$79,999. A minimum of three written quotes on vendor's stationary is required. Documentation must accompany the claim submitted for approval.

For purchases contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's need only get approval by the Mayor prior to purchasing.

For purchases not contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's must obtain prior purchase approval from the Mayor and the Town Council.

v) \$80,000 and up. All items in this range must follow the formal advertisement process as outlined in MT MCA 7-5-4302. All purchases in this category must receive prior Town Council approval.

b) Purchasing services: Contracts for services are awarded to the lowest most-responsible vendor or bidder. When determining which vendor or bidder is the lowest most responsible you may take into consideration generally available information regarding their skill, ability, their integrity to do faithful, conscientious work, and promptly, fulfill the contract according to its letter and spirit. (Including: qualifications, available Staff, references, delivery date, inspection, testing, quality and workmanship, etc.). All contracts for services must be approved by the Town Council.

i) For all Architectural, Engineering, and Land-Surveying services: Advertised Requests for Proposals or Requests for Qualifications must be made for services costing over \$20,000. Refer to Section 18-8-201 MCA for the procedures required for selection of these vendors.



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

ii) **Other Professional Services:** as per the Town's policy, any contract must be approved in advance by the Town Council. In regards to contracting for other professional services, including non-construction services as defined in Section 18-2-401 (9) MCA:

- Professional services totaling up to \$1,500 per agreement
 - The department may purchase at the Department Supervisor's authorized signatory's discretion
- Professional Services totaling between \$1,501 - \$25,000 per agreement:
 - At least three written quotes must be accumulated, with the lowest most-responsible vendor selected

For purchases contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's need only get confirmation by the Mayor prior to purchasing.

For purchases not contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's must obtain prior purchase approval from the Mayor and the Town Council.

- Professional Services totaling \$25,001 or more per agreement:
 - A published Request for Proposals must be made, with the lowest most-responsible vendor selected

For purchases contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's need only get confirmation by the Mayor prior to purchasing.

For purchases not contained in the Department's current fiscal year budget or the Town's current Capital Improvement budget, Department Supervisor's must obtain prior purchase approval from the Mayor and the Town Council.

ii)



Town of Stevensville Purchasing Policy

ii) Government Services (GSA, WSCA, etc.) Procurement: Supplies, equipment, and other professional services may be purchased from another government entity (including government purchasing programs) without bids or advertisements when done so at a substantial savings to the Town.

- It should be noted that these purchasing arrangements are often, but not always the lowest price available.
- Requirements for prevailing wages must still be met for public works construction contracts and non-construction contracts over \$25,000. Refer to Section 17-2-401 MCA for definitions of these services.

iii) Special Cases for Sole Source Purchases: In the case of some of the Town's information technology, building mechanical, public works utility, and other infrastructure, it is in the best interest of the Town to maintain a compatible and reliable system provided by a single vendor.

For cases where:

- There is only one source for the supply or service item, or
- Only one source is acceptable or suitable for the supply or service item, or service item.

Refer to specific dollar amount purchasing authority guidelines to determine Department Supervisor purchasing authority limits.

8. Approval of purchases: Payment for any goods or service purchased by the Town must be approved by the Town Council as part of the bi-weekly claims process. The following must appear on each claim submitted to the Treasurer:

- Authorizing signature: must be the Department Supervisor.
- To verify receipts of goods, packing slip and/or other shipping documents must be submitted to the Treasurer.

9. Emergency purchasing provisions: In the case of an emergency or disaster declared under Section 10-3-401 MCA, these purchasing rules may be temporarily suspended.

10. Violations of this policy: Violations of this policy are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Personnel Policy.