

TOWN OF MAIDSTONE PURCHASING POLICY

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to create a process for purchasing goods and services that will increase efficiency, promote fairness, accountability and confidence and provide necessary supplies and services in a timely and cost-effective manner.

APPLICATION: This policy shall apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Municipality of Maidstone except where conditions of state or federal funds or conditions of a grant, gift or bequest mandate otherwise.

DEFINITIONS:

Major purchases are those purchases of goods or services in an amount of \$50,000 or more.

Regular purchases are those purchases of goods or services in an amount of at least \$2,001 but less than \$49,999.

Incidental purchases are those purchases of goods and services in an amount of \$2,000 or less.

Sole source vendor is a vendor approved by the legislative body to provide certain goods and service for the Municipality.

Emergency purchase are those urgent purchases of goods and services which are required to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

PROCEDURES:

- A. **Major purchases** require a formal bid process which shall include:
- Advertisements of the invitation to bid or request for proposal (RFP) for at least one week in a newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality of Maidstone.
 - Advertisement of the invitation to bid or RFP to specific providers at the discretion of the legislative body.
 - Direct notice of the bid or RFP to specific providers at the discretion of the legislative body.
 - Notice of the place and deadline for receipt of the sealed bids or RFP's.
 - A description of the supplies, materials, equipment or services required and information on how and where to obtain more detailed specifications and bid or RFP forms.
 - Information on insurance requirements for the bidder or proposer.
 - A statement of the right of the Municipality of Maidstone to reject any and all bids or RFPs if doing so is deemed by the legislative body to be in the best interests of the Municipality.
 - Public opening of the bids or RFPs by the legislative body at the time not less than 10 business days after the deadline for receipt.
- B. **Regular purchases** require competitive solicitation of bids or RFPs but may be done by the formal bid process. Competitive solicitation includes:
- Soliciting bids or quotations from at least two (preferably three) vendors unless a sole source vendor has been approved by the legislative body.

- Selection of vendor based on quality of the goods and services offered, cost, ability of the vendor to provide future maintenance and the ability, capacity and skill of the vendor demonstrated under prior contracts with the Municipality.
- C. **Incidental purchases** may be made without a formal bid or competitive solicitation. Such purchases may be made by designee of the legislative body. Incidental purchasing choices shall be made based on cost, quality of goods and services and best interests of the Municipality.
- D. **Sole Source Vendor:** The legislative body may approve a sole source vendor for regular or incidental purchases. Approval shall be made annually at the first regular meeting of the legislative body held in the Municipality's fiscal year and shall take into account general availability of the goods or services, quality and cost of the goods and services and the ability, capacity and skill of the vendor demonstrated under prior contracts with the Municipality.
- E. **Leasing Equipment:** The legislative body shall approve all leasing of equipment.
- F. **Purchase of Professional Services:** The purchase of profession services for the Municipality shall be exempt from the formal bid process. Such services include but are not limited to, legal counsel, insurance, engineering/architectural services and consulting services. The legislative body shall purchase such services according to the best interests of the Municipality.
- G. **Cooperative Purchasing:** The Municipality may enter into cooperative lease or purchase agreements with other municipalities at the discretion of the legislative body.
- H. **Emergency Purchases:** When an emergency threatens the health, lives or property of the residents of the Town or threatens the property of the Town or the delivery of necessary services to the residents of the Town, the legislative body, health officer, road commissioner, constable, service officer, emergency management chairperson and fire warden shall have the authority to purchase emergency supplies and services while acting in the best interest of the Town.

Date Approved: 1-14-2020

Bonnie Lowell Town Clerk

Donald Ford Selectboard

Paul Simon Selectboard

Bradley Mullett Selectboard

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate.