

Dollar Thresholds for Purchases Under the County Purchasing Act

Effective July 19, 2018, the competitive bidding amounts for purchasing property and services under the County Purchasing Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ [23-3101](#) to [23-3115](#)) were increased. Such changes were enacted by [LB 1098 \(2018\)](#).

Except where purchases are exempt from competitive bidding, purchases of personal property or services by the county board or purchasing agent must be made as follows:

- (a) \$50,000 or more (previously \$20,000 or more) - Competitive sealed bidding process is required;
- (b) \$10,000 or greater and less than \$50,000 (previously \$5,000 or greater and less than \$20,000) - By securing and recording at least three informal bids, if practicable; or
- (c) Less than \$10,000 (previously less than \$5,000) - By purchasing in the open market if the estimated value of the purchase is less than \$10,000, subject to section 23-3112. In any county having a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants and in which the county board has not appointed a purchasing agent pursuant to section 23-3105, all elected officials are hereby authorized to make purchases with an estimated value less than \$10,000. Section 23-3108(1).

NOTE: In no case shall a purchase made pursuant to subdivision (1)(a), (b), or (c) of this section be divided to produce several purchases which are of an estimated value below that established in the relevant subdivision. Section 23-3108(2). All contracts and leases shall be approved as to form by the county attorney, and a copy of each long-term contract or lease shall be filed with the county clerk. Section 23-3108(3).

For additional information, see:

- [County Purchasing Act Handout](#);
- [Administrative Services Materiel Division](#); and
- [Lowest Responsible Bidder Considerations](#).