



CITY OF HALLOWELL

ONE WINTHROP STREET
HALLOWELL, MAINE 04347

City Council

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POLICY 2026-01 *PURCHASING*

PURPOSE

- Encourage prudent use of public funds to obtain the best value for all City of Hallowell purchases of goods and services.
- Encourage competitive bidding, joint and bulk purchasing, advance planning and appropriate standards of accountability.

AUTHORITY

Charter of the City of Hallowell, as amended through November 2, 1999, Article VII, Section 13. Purchasing of Supplies.

- The City Manager shall act as Purchasing Agent.
- No purchase of supplies or services exceeding \$25,000.00 shall be made except through authorization of City Council.

GENERAL RULES

1. PURCHASE ORDER

- A. Required on all purchases of goods and services of \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) or above.
- B. Purchases of goods or services of \$4,000 (Four Thousand Dollars) or above must be approved by the City Manager.
- C. Purchases between \$4,000 and \$9,999.99 must have at least three (3) price quotes included to document best value, unless there is competent evidence that less than three (3) sources are available. Personal interview, telephone, or mail can be the method of requesting quotes. Quotes must be provided the department head /

representative and signed and dated by the person making the quote. All quotes must specify in detail the subject of the purchase.

D. Quote Acceptance

- a. The City Manager is not required to accept the lowest quote if one or more of the following conditions exist, based on past experience or knowledge:
 - i. Integrity, reputation, and character of the quote maker is questionable;
 - ii. The ability of the quote maker to perform as required is questionable;
 - iii. The ability of the quote maker to perform in a timely manner as needed is questionable;
 - iv. The financial ability of the quote maker to provide services as needed is questionable;
 - v. Preference may be given to a City of Hallowell business's quote provided their quote is no more than ten percent (10%) above the low quote.

E. Quote Rejection

- a. The City Manager has the authority to reject any and all quotes that have been submitted.

F. Department Heads are not to resort to multiple or separate purchases of \$3,999 or less in order to circumvent the intent of this purchasing policy.

G. For purchases of \$10,000 or more, a formal bid process (advertised at least one time in a local newspaper or direct mailing to at least three (3) businesses, sealed bids and approval by the City Manager up to \$25,000) is required. Preference may be given to a City of Hallowell business's bid provided their bid is no more than ten percent (10%) above the low bid.

H. The Finance Committee has authority to allow the City Manager to sole source or bulk purchase items with a cost between \$10,000 and \$24,999, in lieu of the formal bid process, and will report this to the City Council at its next regular meeting.

I. The City Council has authority to vote to allow the City Manager to sole source or bulk purchase items with a cost over \$25,000, in lieu of the formal bid process.

2. PURCHASE ORDER REQUISITION

A. A Request For Purchase Order form will be completed by the Department Head or designee, signed and submitted to the City Manager / Purchasing Agent.

B. City Manager / Purchasing Agent will review purchase order requests for accuracy, validity, within budget, and issue/sign purchase order/number.

- C. The City of Hallowell is under no obligation to reimburse or pay invoices on purchases, which were made without a Purchase Order and Number. Goods or services purchased without a valid Purchase Order and Number will be returned for a credit.
- D. Exception: The only exception will be emergency purchases when the City Hall is closed. Emergency is defined as the absolute necessity of a service or piece of equipment, without which, the department would be unable to perform their main duties (i.e. police protection, road maintenance, fire protection). On the next business day of the City Hall, the Department Head or designee will complete and submit a Purchase Order Request Form for the emergency event.
- E. In the event the City Manager / Purchasing Agent is absent, the City Treasurer is authorized to review and sign Purchase Order Request Forms.

Original City Council Approval Date: August 12, 2002.

Section 2 Amended: February 8, 2005.

Purchasing Thresholds and Document Enumeration changed, and Section 1.B added :
January 9, 2017.

Purchasing Thresholds and Quote Acceptance Criteria changed: February 9, 2026.

Approved by City Council: February 9, 2026

Effective Date: February 9, 2026

This Policy Number 2026-01 supersedes all previous purchasing policies.

All current City Charter and Ordinance sections remain in effect as written.