



May 01, 2025

Purchase of Used or Secondhand Goods

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-954

T.C.A. § 12-3-1202 (formerly § 12-3-1003) authorizes cities and counties to purchase used or secondhand goods, equipment, materials, supplies, or commodities from private individuals and entities without public advertisement and competitive bidding as long as the purchasing government documents the general range of value of the item through a listing in a nationally-recognized publication or through an appraisal by a licensed appraiser and the price is not more than 5% higher than the highest value of the documented range. For a discussion of what constitutes a nationally-recognized publication under this statute, see Op. Tenn. Att'y Gen. 13-44 (June 10, 2013).

This statute also authorizes cities and counties to purchase used or secondhand goods, equipment, materials, supplies, or commodities from any federal, state, or local governmental unit without public advertisement or competitive solicitations. Also see T.C.A. §12-2-420 (formerly T.C.A. § 12-3-1005) regarding transfer of surplus property among governmental entities.

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