



County Technical Assistance Service

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Purchasing at Public Auctions

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily 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 e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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Purchasing at Public Auctions

Reference Number: CTAS-943

Under T.C.A. § 12-2-421 (formerly § 12-3-1006), counties are authorized to purchase new or secondhand articles, including materials, supplies, commodities, and equipment, at publicly advertised auctions without public advertisement and competitive bidding. This law requires the county legislative body to establish written procedures to govern purchases at public auctions. CTAS has developed a **sample set of policies and forms** that a county may use as an example in developing its own procedures. Each county's procedures should be tailored to the purchasing laws under which that particular county operates.

If a county purchases any materials, supplies, commodities, or equipment at a publicly advertised auction, the statute requires that the purchasing official report the following information to the county legislative body:

1. Description of materials, supplies, commodities, or equipment purchased
 2. Auction where items were purchased
 3. Purchase price of items
 4. Vendor of items
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