

- (4) The quality of performance of previous contracts or services;
- (5) The previous and current compliance by the bidder with laws and ordinances relating to the contract or service;
- (6) Whether the bidder is in arrears to the county on any debt or contract, is in default on any surety to the county, or is delinquent as to any taxes or assessments; and
- (7) Any other information that may have a bearing on the decision to award the contract.

(d) If a contract is not awarded to the lowest bidder in price, the reasons for the decision shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting at which the contract is awarded.

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The following types of contracts may be awarded without complying with the bidding procedures otherwise required under this subtitle:

- (1) Purchases or contracts involving less than ~~[\$7,500]~~ \$15,000;
- (2) Purchases of supplies or services that are available only through one source;
- (3) Contracts for professional services such as those of attorneys, physicians, architects, engineers, accountants, consultants, and others possessing a similar high degree of technical skill and expertise, provided that to the extent appropriate for the particular service to be provided, an attempt is made to secure competitive proposals for these services;
- (4) Purchases or contracts made when the county commissioners determine that an emergency exists, provided that the commissioners publish an explanation of the circumstances deemed to constitute the emergency in at least 2 county newspapers; and
- (5) Purchases based on federal, state, county, or municipal contracts that are established by a legal competitive process.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

Approved April 14, 1998.