

(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.

6-102. EXCEPTIONS TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

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 \$5,000;

(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 STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS THAT ARE ESTABLISHED BY A LEGAL COMPETITIVE PROCESS.

6-103. MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS.

WHEN IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COUNTY TO DO SO, THE COUNTY MAY CONTRACT TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES FOR PERIODS OF MORE THAN 1 YEAR IF:

(1) FUNDS FOR THE TOTAL COST OF THE CONTRACT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME THE CONTRACT IS EXECUTED; OR

(2) A CONTRACT REQUIRING THE PAYMENT OF FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATIONS OF MORE THAN 1 FISCAL YEAR IS APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS, AND IS NOT FOR MORE THAN A 3-YEAR TERM.