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Vehicle and Equipment Repairs Exemption 9/10/19

Section 262.024 (a) (11) of the Texas Local Government Code provides an exemption from normal bidding requirements for “Vehicle and Equipment Repairs”. If annually approved in Commissioners Court, this exemption will be administered using the following definitions to better clarify which items may be excluded as part of the exemption.

1. Definitions for “Vehicle and Equipment Repairs” required for the maintenance and repairs of Williamson County Vehicles and Equipment:
 - a. **“PARTS”** is defined as “Any County purchased replacement item required to return a currently owned County Vehicle or Mobile Industrial Equipment to fully operational status.”
 - b. **“REPAIR SERVICES”** is defined as “Any service, other than those paid for under automobile insurance policies, required to return a currently owned County Vehicle or Mobile Industrial Equipment to fully operational status.”
 - c. **“VEHICLES”** is defined as “Motorized equipment not operating on rails (including cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATV’s, etc.)”
 - d. **“EQUIPMENT”** is defined as “An instrument that is typically mobile and not stationary, needed for undertaking or to perform a particular service” (including Heavy Machinery Equipment, Generators, Portable Water Pumps, Mowers, Chain Saws, etc.)” **The basic intent of this definition would include items that could be daily rented from a local industrial equipment rental center.**

These items will no longer be included in commodity totals and will be exempted from the \$50K bidding threshold. However, this **does not** negate the responsibility of the county to ensure that high dollar and high usage items & repairs are sourced primarily using Co-Op and Interlocal agreements, OR competitively shopped to ensure “best value” is achieved.

In addition, **any contracts required for the procurement of either goods or services covered under this exemption must still be reviewed** by the following departments: (1) Purchasing, (2) Contract Audit and (3) Legal; **before being submitted to Commissioners Court for approval.**

2. What about these items? Do they qualify under the exemption?

a. Are the purchase of vehicles and equipment exempted?

No. This exemption is for the maintenance and repair of county vehicles and equipment and does not include either the original purchase; or installation of accessories.

b. Brand specific items (Caterpillar, Vermeer, Ford, Chevrolet, etc.):

All of these would be included under this exemption, as they are “parts required to return Equipment or Vehicles to fully operational status”.

c. Oils, grease, other lubricants and fluids:

All of these would be included under this exemption, as they are “parts required to return Equipment or Vehicles to fully operational status”.

d. Tires and tubes:

All of these would be included under this exemption, as they are “parts required to return Equipment or Vehicles to fully operational status”.

e. Towing (of vehicles and equipment back to Wilco or another repair yard):

This would qualify as a repair service under this exemption, since the service is needed “to return the Vehicles or Equipment back to its fully operational status”. This type of towing would be exempted to “get our equipment home” and does not include towing of a car to be impounded by the Sheriff’s Office since it is not property owned by the County OR being returned to fully operational status.

f. Facility related parts and /or repairs (HVAC, Elevators, Appliances, etc.):

These would NOT qualify for exemption. The spirit of the exemption provided in the code does not indicate that it intended for items that are facility related.