

DATE: September 26, 2025
TO: Williamson County Commissioners Court
FROM: Joy Simonton, Purchasing Agent
RE: Annual Exemption for Vehicle Equipment and Repairs



The Texas Local Government Code provides for the following exemption from normal bidding requirements for the purchase of vehicle and equipment repairs.

Sec. 262.024. DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS: (a) A contract for the purchase of any of the following items is exempt from the requirement established by Section [262.023](#) if the Commissioners Court by order grants the exemption:

- (11) vehicle and equipment repairs.

The Purchasing Department seeks an annual exemption of these services as allowable per the code. Approving this exemption brings the county compliant with the approval requirement of the Commissioners Court for said exemption.

If 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 related to the maintenance and repair of Williamson County vehicles and equipment:
 - a. "PARTS" – A replacement item required to return a County vehicle or mobile industrial equipment to fully operable status.
 - b. "REPAIR SERVICES" – Any service, other than those paid for under automobile insurance policies, required to return a County vehicle or mobile Industrial equipment to fully operationalstatus.
 - c. "VEHICLES" – Motorized equipment not operating on rails to include cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs. etc.
 - d. "EQUIPMENT" – An instrument that is typically mobile and not stationary, needed for undertaking or to perform a particular service to include 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 not be included in commodity totals and will be exempted from the \$100K bidding threshold. However, this does not negate the responsibility of the County to ensure that high dollar and high usage items and repairs are sourced primarily using Cooperative and Interlocal Agreements or

competitively sourced 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) General Counsel; before being submitted to Commissioners Court for approval.

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

a. The purchase of vehicles and equipment:

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

b. Brand specific items such as Caterpillar, Vermeer, Ford, Chevrolet, etc.:

Yes. These repairs would be included under this exemption as they are parts required to return vehicles and equipment to fully operable status.

c. Oils, grease, other lubricants, and fluids:

Yes. These repairs would be included under this exemption as they are parts required to return vehicles and equipment to fully operable status.

d. Tires and tubes:

Yes. These repairs would be included under this exemption as they are parts required to return vehicles and equipment to fully operable status.

e. Towing of vehicles and equipment back to Williamson County Fleet Department or another repair yard:

Yes. This would qualify as a repair service under this exemption as the service is needed to return inoperable vehicles or equipment back to the Fleet Department for repair to its fully operational status.

Towing does not include the tow 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 or repairs to include HVAC, Elevators, Appliances, etc.:

No. These repairs would not qualify for this exemption. The spirit of the exemption provided in the code does not indicate that it intended for items that are facility related.