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PC1-101 DEFINITIONS


1. “ADVANTAGEOUS” means in the best interests of Pinal County as solely determined by the Director except as otherwise specified in this Code.
2. “ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING (A/E) CONSULTANT SERVICES” means services of an architect, engineer, land surveyor, hydrologist, geologist, appraiser, archeologist, assayer, landscape architect, or other related professional, whose services are required to provide planning, design, or construction management support for Pinal County and its governmental units.
3. “ADDENDA” or “ADDENDUM” means a document attached to, and made a part of, the original contract. The language can override terms and conditions, or it can provide clarity to items that may not be spelled out.
4. “AFFILIATE” means any person whose governing instruments require it to be bound by the decision of another person or whose governing board includes enough voting representatives of the other person to cause or prevent action, whether or not the power is exercised. The term applies to persons doing business under a variety of names, persons in a parent-subsiary relationship, or persons that are similarly affiliated.
5. “AMENDMENT” means any change to previously agreed upon terms/conditions of an executed contract.
6. “AWARD” means the final execution of a contract by the County representative as authorized by the County Board of Supervisors.
7. “BID” means an offer to perform a contract for work and labor or supplying goods or services at a specified time.
8. “BID BOND” means a form of security, which indemnifies the County against a successful respondent’s failure to execute the contract documents and proceed with performance.
9. “BOND” means a form of security in compliance with the Arizona Revised Statutes which indemnifies the County from various events.
10. “BRAND NAME OR EQUAL SPECIFICATION” means a specification that uses one or more manufacturers’ names or catalog numbers to describe the standard of quality, performance, and other characteristics needed to meet Pinal County requirements, and that provides for the submission of equivalent products.
11. “BRAND NAME SPECIFICATION” means a specification limited to one or more items by manufacturers’ name or catalog numbers.
12. “BUSINESS” means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture or any other private legal entity.
13. “CAPABILITY” means respondent’s ability to fully perform the contract requirements at the time of award.
14. “CHANGE ORDER” means a written change to the contract documents and agreed to by the County’s authorized contracting officer or Procurement Officer, contractor, architect or vendor. It may change the contract sum, time of performance, quantity, degree of services contemplated in the original contract’s intent.

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15. "CLARIFICATION" means written or oral communication with a respondent, including demonstrations or questions and answers, for the sole purpose of information gathering or of eliminating minor informalities or correcting nonjudgmental mistakes in a bid or proposal. Clarification does not otherwise afford the respondent the opportunity to alter or change its bid or proposal.
16. "COMMODITIES" means all property, including equipment, supplies, printing, insurance and leases of personal property, but does not include land or other real property interests.
17. "COMPETITION IMPRACTICABLE" means a procurement requirement which makes compliance with State and County competitive purchasing statutes impracticable, unnecessary or contrary to public interest but which is not an emergency.
18. "CONSTRUCTION" means a process of improving, altering, remodeling, or demolishing of any public structure, highway, bridge, building or public improvement of any kind to any real property. Construction does not include the routine operation, routine repair or routine maintenance of existing structures, highways, bridges or public property.
19. "CONSTRUCTION AGENCIES" means a Pinal County Governmental Unit, duly authorized to issue contracts for construction and consultant services for construction.
20. "CONSTRUCTION-MANAGER-AT-RISK" means a procurement method where two contracts are awarded for the design and the construction of a project. Design and construction may occur sequentially or concurrently.
21. "CONTRACT" means all properly executed agreements, regardless of what they may be called, for the procurement of commodities, services, construction or the disposal of materials.
22. "CONTRACT MODIFICATION" means any written alteration in the terms and conditions of any contract accomplished by mutual action of the parties to the contract.
23. "CONTRACTOR" means any person who has a contract with a County department.
24. "COOPERATIVE PURCHASING" means a procurement conducted by, or on behalf of, more than one public procurement unit.
25. "COST" means, for the purposes of the Code, the actual amount paid or incurred by a contractor to provide a commodity or service exclusive of any profit or markup.
26. "COST ANALYSIS" means the evaluation of the cost data for the purpose of arriving at costs actually incurred or estimates of costs to be incurred, prices to be paid, and costs to be reimbursed.
27. "COST DATA" means information concerning the actual or estimated cost of labor, material, overhead, and other cost elements that have been actually incurred or that are expected to be incurred by the contractor in performing the contract.
28. "COST-PLUS-FIXED-FEE-CONTRACT" means a cost-reimbursement contract that provides for the payment of a fixed fee to the contractor, in addition to costs which are reasonable, allowable and allocable in accordance with the contract terms and the provisions of this Code. The fixed fee, once negotiated, does not vary with the actual cost but may be adjusted as a result of any subsequent changes in the scope of work or services to be performed.

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29. "COST-PLUS-A-PERCENTAGE-OF-COST-CONTRACT" means a cost-reimbursement contract that, prior to completion of the work, the parties agree that the profit fee will be a predetermined percentage of the total cost of the work. Such a contract is not permissible under this Code, PC1-302, unless it is only a portion of the contract and that portion is not under the control of the contractor and which shall not include labor.
30. "COST-REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT" means a contract under which a contractor is reimbursed for costs which are reasonable, allowable and allocable in accordance with the contract terms and the provisions of this Code, and a fee, if provided for in the contract.
31. "DATA" means documented information, regardless of form or characteristic.
32. "DAYS" means calendar days and shall be computed pursuant to A.R.S. §1-243.
33. "DEBARMENT" means an action taken by the Director to prohibit a person from participating in Pinal County procurements.
34. "DEFECTIVE DATA" means data that is inaccurate, incomplete, outdated or misleading.
35. "DEPARTMENT" means the Finance Department.
36. "DESIGN-BID-BUILD" means a procurement method in which sequentially a consultant under one contract designs a project, the project is publicly bid, and the lowest responsible and responsive respondent constructs the project under a second and separate contract.
37. "DESIGN-BUILD" means a procurement method where one contract is awarded for both the design and construction of a project. Design is normally accomplished prior to construction but, design and construction may occur simultaneously. There is a minimum project cost for horizontal projects specified in A.R.S. §34-603 before this procedure may be used.
38. "DESIGNEE" means a duly authorized representative of the Director.
39. "DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE" means information available in the ordinary course of business that shows the characteristics, construction, or operation of an item offered in a bid or proposal.
40. "DESIGN SPECIFICATION" means a specification that sets forth physical characteristics in definitive terms.
41. "DIRECT TRANSFER" means the transfer of surplus or excess property from one county governmental unit to another without physically moving the property to the designated surplus property area.
42. "DIRECTOR" means the Director of the Finance Department.
43. "DUE DATE" means the date and time set forth in the solicitation after which no bid, proposal, or other offer will be considered.
44. "EARTH MOVING, MATERIAL HANDLING, ROAD MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT" could mean a track-type tractor, motor grader, excavator, landfill compactor, wheel tractor scraper, off-highway truck, wheel loader or track loader, having a published manufacturer's minimum unit list price of \$50,000 or more and a minimum expected life cycle of three years.
45. "ELIGIBLE PROCUREMENT UNIT" means a public procurement unit or a public educational or public health institution.

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46. "EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT" means a procurement occurring under a written declaration of emergency by the appropriate County leader.
47. "EMPLOYEE" means an individual drawing a salary from a county governmental unit.
48. "ERRORS AND OMISSIONS (E & O) INSURANCE" means liability insurance to protect those providers of services from claims arising out of negligent acts, errors or omissions, or breach of the contract during performance of the contractual duties.
49. "ESTABLISHED CATALOG PRICE" means the price included in a catalog, price list, schedule or other form that:
 - Is regularly maintained by a manufacturer, distributor or contractor.
 - Is either published or otherwise available for inspection by customers.
 - States prices at which sales are currently or were last made to a significant number of any category of buyers constituting the general buying public for the commodities or services involved.
50. "EXCESS MATERIALS" means any materials which have a remaining useful life but which are no longer required by the using department in possession of the materials.
51. "EXCESS FIXED ASSETS" means any personal property which has a remaining useful life but which is no longer required by the using department in possession of the fixed assets.
52. "EXPENDABLE COMMODITIES" means all tangible commodities other than fixed assets.
53. "FILED" means delivery to the Procurement Officer or to the Director, whichever is applicable. A time/date stamp affixed to a document by the office of the Procurement Officer or the Director, whichever is applicable, shall be determinative of the time of delivery for purposes of filing.
54. "FINISHED GOODS" mean units of manufactured product awaiting sale.
55. "FIXED PRICE-CONTRACT" means a price not subject to any adjustments by the contractor in performing a contract.
56. "FORBEARANCE" means the action of refraining from exercising the legal right, especially enforcing the payment of a debt.
57. "FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATION" means a specification that sets forth the specific operational requirements or results.
58. "GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT" means contracts awarded by the United States government general services administration.
59. "GRANT" means the transfer of funds, property or services to a county governmental unit.
60. "INCREMENTAL AWARD" means an award of portions of a definite quantity requirement to more than one respondent. Each portion is for definite quantity and the sum of the portions is the total definite quantity required.
61. "INFORMATION SYSTEMS" means a system of hardware, software or related support with a price of more than \$100,000 that process information, data or processing methods and devices.

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62. "INVITATION FOR BIDS" means, except for construction, all documents including detailed scope of work and/or technical specifications whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting bids in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section PC1-315.
63. "INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE" means a written solicitation for sealed proposals to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of unique goods or services described in the solicitation. The outcome of this process is selection of the response that represents the best value to the county in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section PC1-344.
64. "JOB-ORDER-CONTRACTING" means a type of "on-call" construction contract. This type of contract is limited to three years by A.R.S. §34-603.
65. "LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI)" means information submitted in response to a public advertisement and used by the County to identify firms for further procurement consideration, may also be referred to as expressions of interest.
66. "LIFE CYCLE" means the useful life of the material, equipment or systems to the original using department to perform the application for which it was initially procured.
67. "LIMITED SCOPE CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT" means statutory dollar limited construction with a simplified bid process.
68. "LITIGATION" means all judicial, administrative, alternative dispute and mediation proceedings or hearings.
69. "LIQUIDATED DAMAGES" means damages provided under a contract in a sum certain to be awarded to the County if a contractor fails to perform as agreed.
70. "MINOR INFORMALITY" means mistakes, excluding judgmental errors, that have negligible effect on price, quantity, quality, delivery, or other contractual terms and the waiver or correction of such mistake does not prejudice other respondents.
71. "MULTIPLE AWARD" means an award of an indefinite quantity contract for one or more similar commodities or services to more than one respondent.
72. "MULTI-STEP SEALED BIDDING" means a two phase process consisting of a technical first phase composed of one or more steps in which the respondent submits un-priced technical proposals to be evaluated, and a second phase in which those respondents whose technical proposals were determined to be acceptable during the first phase have their price proposals considered.
73. "NEGOTIATIONS" means an exchange of information or any form of communication during which the respondent and the County may alter or otherwise change the conditions, terms, and price, unless prohibited, of the proposed contract. Negotiations may be conducted in connection with Multi-Step Sealed Bidding, Competitive Sealed Proposals, Multi-Step Sealed Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, Request for Quotations, Review of Qualifications, small purchases, sole source procurements, emergency procurements, competition impracticable procurements, and special procurements or contract amendments.
74. "NOTICE OF AWARD" means a letter from a County governmental unit advising the respondent of the award of a contract.
75. "NOTICE TO PROCEED" means a letter from the County governmental unit authorizing the respondent to start the work specified in the contract.

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76. "ON-LINE BIDDING" means a procurement process in which public agencies receive vendors' bids for goods, services, construction, or information services electronically over the internet in a real-time, competitive bidding event.
77. "OPEN DATE" means the date and time set forth in the solicitation that the submitted proposals will be opened and recorded.
78. "PAYMENT BOND" means a form of security required to be provided by a contractor for the protection of claimants supplying labor and/or commodities to the contractor or their subcontractors.
79. "PERFORMANCE BOND" means a form of security provided by a contractor that secures the contractor's obligation to properly complete their work in accordance with the contract.
80. "PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION" means a specification that sets forth a predefined criteria or objective to be met.
81. "PERSON" means any corporation, business, individual, union, committee, club, other organization or group of individuals.
82. "PRICE" means, for the purposes of the Code, the total expenditure for a defined quantity of a commodity or service.
83. "PRICE ANALYSIS" means the evaluation of price data, without analysis of the separate cost components and profit as in cost analysis, which may assist in arriving at prices to be paid and costs to be reimbursed.
84. "PRICE DATA" means information concerning prices, including profit, for commodities, services or construction substantially similar to those being procured under a contract or subcontract. In this definition, "prices" refers to offered or proposed selling prices, historical selling prices, or current selling prices of the items being purchased.
85. "PROCUREMENT" means buying, purchasing, renting, leasing or otherwise acquiring any information, commodities, services or construction. Procurement also includes all functions that pertain to the obtaining of any material, service, or construction, including description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract, and all phases of contract administration.
86. "PROCUREMENT OFFICER" means any person duly authorized by the Director to engage in specific limited procurement activity acting within the limits of authority under this Code.
87. "PROFESSIONAL SERVICES" means services approved by the Board of Supervisors and listed in PC1-203.C as appropriate for procurement pursuant to PC1-354 which require the application of specialized or advanced training, experience, or skills or qualifications in a given field of science or learning that has been generally accepted as a profession and where the final product or result may not be accurately predicted.
88. "PROPOSAL" means a written offer, solicited or unsolicited, for consideration as a basis for awarding or modifying a contract.
89. "PROPRIETARY SPECIFICATION" means a specification that describes a material made and marketed by a person having the exclusive right to manufacture and sell such material and excludes other material with similar quality, performance, or functional characteristics from being responsive to the Solicitation.

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90. "PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTION" means any educational or public health institution, no part of the income of which is distributable to its members, directors or officers, as defined in rules promulgated by the Board of Supervisors.
91. "PUBLIC PROCUREMENT UNIT" means either a local public procurement unit, the department, any other state or an agency of the United States.
92. "PURCHASE DESCRIPTION" means the language used in a solicitation to describe the commodities or services to be acquired and includes specifications attached to, or made a part of, the Solicitation.
93. "PURCHASE REQUEST" means a document, electronic transmission, or verbal request, whereby a using department specifies a need, and may include, but is not limited to, the description of the requested item, delivery schedule, transportation data, criteria for evaluation, suggested sources of supply, and information supplied for the making of any written determination required by this Code.
94. "PURCHASING DEPARTMENT" means Pinal County Purchasing Division of the Finance Department or any County governmental unit delegated by the Director and approved by the Board of Supervisors to engage in specific procurement activity within the limits of authority under this Code.
95. "QUALIFIED PRODUCTS LIST" means an approved list of commodities described by the manufacturer by model or catalog numbers, that Pinal County has determined will meet the applicable specification requirements prior to a competitive solicitation.
96. "RAW MATERIALS" means goods, excluding equipment and machinery, purchased for use in manufacturing a product.
97. "REGIONAL AWARD" means the division of a contract for one or more similar commodities or services into geographic regions.
98. "REQUEST FOR INFORMATION" means a formal process used to gather data from the vendor community which may or may not be used in a future solicitation.
99. "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL" means the solicitation issued in accordance with PC1-328 through PC1-338.
100. "REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" means the solicitation issued in accordance with PC1-325 and PC1-339.
101. "RESIDUAL VALUE" means the guaranteed minimum value offered by the contractor at the end of the life cycle of the material, equipment or systems being procured.
102. "RESPONDENT" means any individual, corporation, partnership, or business entity, organization or agency which responds to a bid, proposal, solicitation, offer or any other invitation or request which Pinal County invites a person to participate.
103. "RESPONSIBLE RESPONDENT" means an entity having the capability to perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.
104. "RESPONSIVE RESPONSE" means the submission of a bid or proposal from an entity which conforms in all material respects.
105. "REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS" means the solicitation type set forth in PC1-354.D and PC1-504.

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106. "SAMPLE" means an item furnished by a respondent to show the characteristics of the item offered in the solicitation.
107. "SERVICES" means the furnishing of labor, time or effort by a respondent which does not involve the delivery of a specific end product other than required reports and performance. Services do not include employment agreements or collective bargaining agreements.
108. "SIMPLIFIED CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT PROGRAM" means construction limited to \$100,000 including all change orders subsequent to award. Invitations for Bids shall be sent to contractors listed on an annually updated construction contractor register.
109. "SMALL PURCHASE" means a purchase of less than five thousand dollars.
110. "SOLICITATION" means an Invitation for Bids, a Request for Technical Proposal, a Request for Proposals, an Invitation to Negotiate, a Request for Quotations, or any other invitation or request by which Pinal County invites a person to participate in a procurement.
111. "SOLICITATION CLOSING" means the date and time set forth in the solicitation after which no bid, proposal or other solicitation will be considered.
112. "SPECIFICATION" means any description of the physical or functional characteristics, or of the nature of a material, service or construction item. Specification may include a description of any requirement for inspecting, testing, or preparing a material, service or construction item for delivery.
113. "SPECIFICATION FOR A COMMON OR GENERAL USE ITEM" means a specification that has been developed and approved for repeated use in procurement pursuant to PC1-404.A.
114. "STANDARD COMMERCIAL MATERIAL" means material that, in the normal course of business, is customarily maintained in stock or readily available by a manufacturer, distributor or dealer for the marketing of such material.
115. "SURPLUS MATERIALS" means any materials or fixed assets that no longer have any use to Pinal County. This includes obsolete and scrap materials.
116. "SUSPENSION" means an action taken by the Director under PC1-902 temporarily disqualifying a person from participating in Pinal County procurements.
117. "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" means un-priced written information from a respondent stating the manner in which the respondent intends to perform certain work, its qualifications, and its terms and conditions as set forth in PC1-325 and PC1-339.
118. "TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS" means a system with a price of more than \$100,000 including but not limited to all instrumentalities, facilities, apparatus and services, for the transmission and reception of messages, impressions, signs, signals, pictures, sounds or any other symbols by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic or other similar means.
119. "TOTAL COUNTY COST" means costs to Pinal County for commodities, equipment, systems or services. Costs which maybe included are maintenance costs, present value of monies, vendor charges, energy, facilities, personnel, finance costs or other identifiable Pinal County costs.
120. "TOTAL LIFE CYCLE COST" means vendor charges, total County costs and financing costs throughout the life cycle of the commodities, equipment or systems being purchased less any applicable residual value.

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121. "TWO-STEP COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION" means the solicitation procedure as set forth in PC1-354.D 2.
122. "UNIT PRICE" means a price under which the contractor is paid a price for the selected unit for goods or service (e.g. pound, ton, hours).
123. "UNIT PRICE CONTRACTS" means a contract which establishes the basis for payment as a cost per unit. A unit price contract may incorporate a number of items each with a different unit cost. Unit price contracts are normally bid based upon an estimated quantity of work or units for each specified bid item. Actual payment is based on the total of actual units produced and delivered multiplied by the contract unit price.
124. "URGENT NEED" means requiring immediate attention.
125. "USING DEPARTMENT" means any County governmental unit which utilizes any goods, services or construction procured under this Code.
126. "VENDOR CHARGES" means costs of all vendor support, commodities, transportation and all other identifiable costs associated with the response to a solicitation.
127. "VENDOR SUPPORT" means services provided by the vendor for items such as consulting, education, maintenance, training, management of the information systems or telecommunications systems, systems planning, development and integration.
128. "WRITTEN DETERMINATION" means a written decision resolving a question or controversy, or finalizing a position within the limits of authority under this Code.

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PC1-102 APPLICABILITY


- A. This code applies to every expenditure of public monies, including federal assistance monies, except as otherwise specified in Article 10, by this County, acting through a County governmental unit under any contract, except that this Code does not apply to contracts between this County and other political subdivisions or other governments, except as provided in Article 10 of this Code. This Code also applies to the inventory and disposal of County commodities. Nothing in this Code or in regulations or policies and procedures adopted under this Code shall prevent any County governmental unit from complying with the terms and conditions of any grant, gift, bequest or cooperative agreement.
- B. The provisions of this Code are not applicable to contracts for professional witnesses or experts, if the purpose of such contract is to provide testimony or advice relating to an existing or probable litigation in which this County is or may become a party or for contracts of special investigative services.
- C. The provision of this Code are not applicable when Pinal County is the recipient of funds from another entity (public or private), and when as a condition of the receipt of such funds, all or a portion of the funds are sub-contracted out to a prior designated person, the resulting sub-contract(s) shall not be subject to any of the competitive procurement requirements of this Code.
- D. Agreements negotiated by legal counsel representing this County in settlement of existing or probable litigation are exempt from the provisions of this Code.
- E. Revenue contracts shall be procured with such competition as practical.

PC1-103 WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS

- A. Each written determination shall specify the reasons for the determination.
- B. The Director is authorized to prescribe methods and operational procedures to be used in preparing written determinations.
- C. Each written determination shall be filed in the applicable solicitation or contract file, and the timing of such filing shall be determined by the Procurement Officer.

PC1-104 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- A. If a respondent believes that a bid, proposal, offer, specification, or protest contains information that should be withheld from public disclosure, a detailed statement advising the Procurement Officer that explains and supports the respondent's claim shall accompany the submission and the statement shall specifically identify everywhere this information appears. The respondent's claim shall include the period of time the information will remain confidential.
- B. The Director shall make a written determination, within a reasonable time, whether the respondent's claim shall be honored.
- C. If the Director determines to reject the respondent's claim, the Director shall inform the respondent in writing of such determination.

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PC1-105 CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. The County Manager, or the Director, are authorized to: (1) settle and compromise lawful claims against or in favor of Pinal County, its boards, commissions, agencies, departments, officers or other related County entities in amounts not to exceed \$50,000 and to (2) execute and sign binding contracts on behalf of the County without prior Board of Supervisor approval in amounts not to exceed \$250,000 and each settlement and compromise or each contract authorized hereby shall be presented to the Board by the County Manager or Director and be reflected in its records as its next regularly scheduled meeting when such is possible or the next regularly scheduled meeting thereafter.


- B. Except as provided in provision “A” above or specifically authorized elsewhere in this Code, all contracts must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

- C. All purchases of goods and services, including professional services, must be requested through the Purchasing Division of the Finance Department. The only exceptions are for the following non-biddable goods and services in which a payment request shall be requested from the Pinal County Accounts Payable department:
 - 1. Subscriptions/Dues
 - 2. Cellular Phone Bills (not equipment)
 - 3. Conference/Seminar/Training Registrations
 - 4. Jury/ Witness fees and transcripts
 - 5. Public Health professional service providers
 - 6. Per Diem Advance
 - 7. Travel Reimbursements
 - 8. Permit Refunds
 - 9. Phone Service Bills
 - 10. Postage (not for postage meters)
 - 11. Procurement Card Expenditures
 - 12. Public Fiduciary payments
 - 13. Salaries and wages
 - 14. Tuition Reimbursement
 - 15. Utilities (does not include non-city garbage pickup or bottled water)
 - 16. Cable/Satellite and Internet Service

Other exceptions for non-procurement purchases may be determined by the Director.

- D. A Procurement Officer shall not incur an obligation on behalf of Pinal County if sufficient funds are not available.

- E. In addition to any other approval required, the following purchases must have the approval stipulated below:
 - 1. Director of Fleet Services must approval all vehicle and radio specifications.
 - 2. Director of Information Technology Department must approve all computer-related specifications.
 - 3. Director of Facilities Management must approve all repairs to or maintenance of buildings and other facilities.
 - 4. Procurement and hiring of Attorneys in non-criminal matters must be consented to and approved by the Pinal County Attorney.

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PC1-106

COUNTY EMPLOYEES OR PUBLIC OFFICER USE OF COUNTY CONTRACTS

County employees and public officers shall not purchase materials or services for their own personal use from contracts entered into by the County unless authorized in writing by the Director. The determination shall state how the purchase will further the interests of the County.