

City of Bastrop, Texas

Purchasing Card Policy

Approved

September 8, 2020



I. Purpose

The purpose of the Purchasing Card Program is to provide the City with an efficient and controllable method of making small dollar commodity, service, and travel purchases. This program is to be used to procure low-value maintenance, repair and operational expense items. By using the purchasing card, it will simplify the payment process and take advantage of the rebate program the card provider offers. The City will issue cards via the provider of its choice. This card policy is not intended to replace, but rather supplement existing purchasing, travel, and other City policies. The same restrictions that apply to other methods of purchasing also apply to the purchasing cards.

II. Eligibility

Department Directors and Supervisors can make a request to the City Manager for a purchasing card in their name. Department purchasing cards can be issued to each department and be the responsibility of the Department Director or his designee. Criteria for determining which departments should be issued a department card:

- Will the use of a Credit Card enhance productivity?
- Will the use of a Credit Card reduce paperwork?
- Will the Credit Card be utilized regularly for the purchasing of authorized (budgeted) goods, supplies and services?

III. Usage

Each card will have a daily and monthly limit. The daily limit on the Department Director cards are set by the City Manager. The Department Directors will provide to the Program Administrator in writing, the limits for Supervisors individual cards. The daily limit for the department cards is \$500. Limits can be changed on a temporary or permanent basis when warranted and a written request is received by the Program Administrator from the Department Director.

Purchasing Cards may be used for small dollar purchases which do not exceed the daily transaction limit established by the Purchasing Policy and that do not exceed the cards maximum limit.

Acceptable purchases are:

- Maintenance and repair of equipment
- Operational expense items (within the dollar limits stated above)
- Registration Fees
- Travel expenses (must adhere to the Travel Policy)

Purchases made on the purchasing card will be for City business only. The purchasing card is not a personal line of credit and must never be used for personal or private purchases of any nature. When in doubt as to whether a purchase is allowable under the City policy, the Cardholder should either contact the Program Administrator before making the purchase or make payment personally and seek reimbursement from the

The Program Administrator is the Chief Financial Officer of their designee. The Program Administrator manages the Purchasing Card Program and has the following responsibilities:

1. Establishing purchasing card accounts and authorized limits
2. Point of contact for any Purchasing Card Program questions
3. Ensure compliance with the Purchasing Card Policy and the Purchasing Policy
4. Reviews all purchasing card transactions monthly
5. Terminating cards as needed

C. Departmental Responsibility

The Department Director determines who will be issued a purchasing card and the daily & monthly limits assigned. The Department Director will also ensure that purchases are authorized and adhere to City policies. Departments may implement more stringent internal authorization procedures that its Cardholders must follow in order to make purchases with the card. Directors or their designee are responsible for approving receipts and making sure the statements for each card are reconciled and turned in to the Finance Department within 15 days of the statement date to facilitate timely payments.

V. **Purchasing Card Provider**

The Purchasing Card Provider will send the Cardholder and the City's Finance Department a billing statement once each month for all transactions that have taken place in the previous month's statement cycle. This statement can also be obtained online. All Cardholders should receive instructions on how to establish a login to their account. The Cardholder is responsible for reconciling their respective statement, matching each transaction with a receipt, as soon as it is received. If a transaction is listed which is not known to the Cardholder, the Cardholder is responsible for immediately notifying the Purchasing Card Provider and the Program Administrator of the disputed charge. It is imperative that each Cardholder promptly process the transactions and forward receipts to their Supervisor.

VI. **Transaction/Card Limits**

Each individual purchasing card will have transaction and/or spending limits. The Chief Financial Officer in coordination with Department Director has the authority to limit types of purchases, places of purchases, and hours of day purchases that can be made on individual cards. The total purchase price as printed on the individual credit card receipt is known as the "transaction amount". The purchasing card may be limited by the merchant type, transaction amount, and monthly transaction limit. Each Cardholder will be set up with limits for each of these categories and will be made aware of the limits. A card transaction will be denied when swiped if the transaction exceeds any of the limits. The card transaction limits may not exceed those set in the policy guidelines.

10. Any transaction that may cause or be perceived to cause damage to the City of Bastrop's reputation and goodwill, and/or reflect poorly on the ethical and moral decision-making of the Cardholder, staff, and elected officials.

11. Any other purchase specifically excluded in the City's Purchasing Policy.

B. Documentation

Supporting documentation must accompany each transaction including an itemized receipt signed by the Cardholder and Supervisor, when applicable. If a receipt is not obtained, a memo explaining the purchase must accompany the card statement.

C. Personal Use Restrictions

The card may not be used to pay spouse/family expense incurred while traveling. Only City business expenses are allowable, and the Cardholder must pay personal expenses separately.

X. Obtaining a Purchasing Card

A. Steps:

1. Department Director submits in writing requests for a purchasing card and determines the appropriate daily and monthly transaction limits.
2. The Program Administrator will request the Purchasing Card Provider to issue a purchasing cards with these established limits.
3. Upon receipt of the purchasing card, the Program Administrator will have the Cardholder review and sign the Purchasing Cardholder Agreement.
4. The new Cardholder receives copies of:
 - a. Purchasing Cardholder Agreement
 - b. Purchasing Card Policy
 - c. Purchasing Policy
 - d. Travel Policy

XI. Revocation of the Purchasing Card

The purchasing card is subject to revocation at any time at the discretion of the Department Director or Chief Financial Officer. When a card is revoked, changes are made online and take effect immediately. The Program Administrator is further authorized to temporarily suspend use of the card via electronic methods if unauthorized use is discovered and such use poses a threat to internal financial controls.