Choosing County Surplus Items Instead of Buying New Generates Significant Savings

Staff with the Contracts and Purchasing Division of the County Administrative Office is seeing the savings add up when county departments ‘shop’ at county surplus instead of buying new.

Over the last 15 months, Contracts and Purchasing workers have tracked the savings generated by departments when they have opted to use surplus items from other departments instead of making new acquisitions.

Below are savings by department from June 2010 through September 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COST SAVINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHERIFF</td>
<td>6/21/2011</td>
<td>$10,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHERIFF</td>
<td>6/22/2011</td>
<td>$4,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHERIFF</td>
<td>6/15/2011</td>
<td>$12,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHERIFF</td>
<td>10/21/2010</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OET</td>
<td>6/29/2010</td>
<td>$2,060.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSES</td>
<td>12/9/2010</td>
<td>$21,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHERIFF</td>
<td>12/11/2010</td>
<td>$7,293.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTIONS</td>
<td>2/16/2010</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are a variety of surplus items available to departments. Items that are not reused or offered to local non-profits eventually may be sold to the public at a surplus auction. These auctions take place a few times a year, the most recent one taking place this week.

### Auditor Hosts Workshop on Tax Developments Affecting Local Governments

The Monterey County Auditor-Controller’s office is hosting an informative workshop that would be of interest to city, county and special district employees involved with tax and/or year-end decisions.

On December 15th, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), Central Coast Chapter, will sponsor its annual Government Tax Seminar, which addresses recent federal and state tax developments affecting local governments in California. The seminar will be presented by White Nelson Diehl Evans LLP (WNDE).

Attendees will receive timely and interesting tax information as well as a tuition cost savings provided by the AGA sponsorship. The cost of the AGA-sponsored seminar is $175 per person, which includes the 2011 Government Tax Manual. WNDE normally offers this course for a charge of $275.

The 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. seminar will be held in the Monterey Room at the Monterey County Government Center, 168 W. Alisal in Salinas. Qualified participants will receive five hours of government continuing education credit (CPE) with the California State Board of Accountancy as well as the 2011 Government Tax Manual.

The seminar focuses on new developments affecting the following government-related tax topics:

- Employee vs. Independent Contractor
- De Minimus Fringe Benefits
- Expense Reimbursement Plans
- Transportation Fringe Benefits
- Fringe Benefits related to Autos
- Deferred Compensation Plans
- Group-Term Life Insurance
- Accrued Vacation/Sick Leave Benefits
Workers Compensation Benefits Contributions  Employer “Pick-Up” of Pension Contributions
Disability Benefits Programs  Supplemental Wages
Accident and Health Plans  Form W-2 Reporting
Cafeteria Plans  Form W-4 Reporting
Educational Assistance Programs  Form 1099 Reporting
Working Condition Fringe Benefits  Social Security and Medicare Reporting

This is the fourth year the Auditor’s office has offered this seminar. In past years, attendees have come from as far away as Santa Cruz to the north and Santa Maria to the south. Anyone interested in attending this annual seminar can contact Maria Papurello at 755-5084.

Thousands of Vote by Mail Ballots Arrive as the November vote nears

Monday, October 24th was the legal deadline to register to vote for anyone who is not already on the voter rolls in Monterey County. However, if you are a current registered voter who has moved and not updated your information with the Department, you can still vote provisionally on Election Day. This week, the database of voters will be updated in order to print the final Roster of Voters that is distributed to each polling place on Election Day.

On Wednesday October 19th, the Department participated in KION-46/KCBA-35 and Telemundo 23’s “Questions Center” which is a public call in center allowing the staff to answer questions about voter registration and voting during both the 5:00 p.m. and the 6:00 p.m. news broadcasts. The Department hopes to continue this outreach partnership in the future, especially during the upcoming Presidential election year.

Tuesday, November 1st is the last day for eligible voters to request a vote by mail ballot for the November 8th Election. Voters have received an application for this on the back cover of their Monterey Voter Guide that was mailed out the second week of October. Alternatively, an application is also available on the Department’s website by following the link for “Vote by Mail” under the tab “Voter Services.”

The Department has issued nearly 85,700 vote by mail ballots and received just over 9,000 voted returns. A reminder to voters, there are secure vote by mail drop locations in various City Halls, the Monterey County Government Center lobby, and also has a convenient 24 hour mail slot in the Department’s front door. The list of City Halls and hours of operation can be found in the Monterey Voter Guide. Voted ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.