

# 14-1. Authorized Purchases

a. **Determining whether a Purchase is Authorized.** An authorized purchase satisfies a current mission-related need at a fair and reasonable price that meets all legal and regulatory requirements. It meets the following five criteria:

1) **Lawful.** Purchase is funded and authorized by law or regulation, and the requested item/service fits the appropriation which is being used. See 48 CFR 13.301(a) and 31 USC 1301(a).

2) **Legitimate Government Need.** Request is for official purposes and not for the personal benefit of a Government employee.

3) **Bona Fide Need (Current Year Appropriation).** Request is for the need of the current year of the appropriation. This rule does not prevent maintaining a legitimate inventory at reasonable and historical levels. See 31 USC 1502.

4) **Minimum Needs of the Government.** Request should not exceed what is truly required. See FAR 11.103(c)(1).

5) **Fair and Reasonable Price.** Price charged is fair to both parties, considering the quality and timeliness of performance and delivery. Micro-purchases may be awarded without seeking competitive quotes if the CH or BO considers the price to be reasonable. Cardholders should obtain multiple quotes if they suspect that the price is not reasonable or if buying a supply/service for which no comparable pricing is readily available. See FAR 13.203(a)(3).

b. **Funding.** Funds must be committed and obligated prior to purchase. BOs must ensure that sufficient funds are obligated within the financial system before providing approval to the CH to make the purchase. CHs must screen the Purchase Request and Approval document to verify the BO has approved the requirement to make the purchase. Purchasing before obligation of funds is a violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act. For CHs who use GFEBS, a purchase request with sufficient funding must have L4 approval before the card is swiped.

c. **Contract Payments.** If a valid procurement requirement has resulted in the award of a Government contract, the GPC may be used as a method of payment against the contract, even if the acquisition would otherwise be for a GPC prohibited item.

**Parent topic:** [Chapter 14 - Prohibited and Restricted Purchases](#)