
Department of Transportation (DOT)

Agency: 405

Audit Report: 1001050

Finding Number: 001

Finding: The Department of Transportation did not comply with state contracting and purchasing laws.

Resolution: The Department is working to strengthen internal controls over purchasing and contracting in its Ferries Division to ensure compliance with state rules as well as internal policies and procedures. The Department took steps to improve oversight over purchasing by moving eight buyers from the Vessel Maintenance and Administrative Services Divisions into a new section within Finance and Administration at Ferries, and by reminding employees of their responsibility regarding purchasing rules. Two Ferries Division employees have completed public procurement training and achieved their Certified Professional Public Buyer certification.

Training sessions for Ferries Division purchasing staff were held, including joint training sessions with the Accounting expenditure staff which helps ensure consistency and compliance through the purchase to payment process. Additionally, headquarters staff conducted training classes on contracts for all headquarters and regional staff responsible for contracts and agreements, including Ferries Division employees, to ensure contract rules and regulations are followed throughout the Department.

The Ferries Division is in the process of phasing out the use of temporary employment agencies. Currently, there is only one temporary employee at the Ferries Division. A purchased services contract for temporary personnel was finalized to ensure the use of temporary personnel complies with state contract rules and regulations, should the need arise in the future. The contract was competitively bid.

In terms of the audit's recommendations regarding meals with meetings, the Department will continue to work hard to ensure compliance with state laws and rules in this area. Appropriate staff reviewed the meals with meetings rules and regulations to ensure future compliance.

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