



State Auditor
Rebecca Otto

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

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1. Opportunity: Council on Local Results Open Seats

There are currently four open seats on the Council on Local Results and Innovation for four-year terms on the Council. The Council must appoint the new members. Potential candidates must have experience with local government performance measurement systems. In making the appointments, the Council must consider geographical balance and large and small entity size balance. There are no per diems or reimbursement of expenses when serving on the Council.

Anyone who would like to be considered for these open seats should send an e-mail by October 1 to Jim.Levi@osa.state.mn.us with their name and title, entity name, contact information, and experience with performance measurement systems. If you have any questions about the work of the Council, please send them to Jim at the above e-mail address.

The next phase of the Council's work is to review the performance measures and systems developed for cities and counties, and make adjustments to them as needed.

More information about the Council can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20100916.000>.

2. Deadline: 2012 Fire State Aid

The first certification deadline for 2012 fire state aid for volunteer fire relief associations is September 15. To be certified as eligible for receipt of fire state aid in the first round of

payments, all required 2011 reporting information for a relief association must be submitted, the review of the reporting information must be completed, and any identified issues must be resolved by that date. Relief associations that have submitted reporting forms but have been notified by Pension Division staff that additional information is needed are encouraged to submit the requested information as soon as possible.

Relief associations that do not submit all required reporting information and resolve any identified issues by the September 15 deadline may be eligible to receive their 2012 fire state aid during the second round of aid payments, in November. If you have questions regarding relief association reporting requirements, please contact the Pension Division at (651) 282-6110 or at pension@osa.state.mn.us.

3. Deadline: Forfeiture Reporting Form

September 20th is the deadline for law enforcement agencies to report final disposition of property seized subject to forfeiture for the month of August. To report final disposition of forfeitures, please go to:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/safes/>.

4. Avoiding Pitfalls: Monitor Contract Prices of Supplies

Public entities often enter into contracts to purchase supplies based upon the prices offered by the vendor on those supplies. When the supplies are actually purchased, the public entity should confirm that the prices charged by the vendor match the prices offered by the vendor when the original contract was signed.

Allegations have been made in other states that vendors switched government customers from one pricing plan to another plan without the customers' full understanding or knowledge. In the past, the Florida and Missouri Attorneys General entered into settlements resolving allegations of overcharging by Office Depot for office supplies sold to governmental entities. More recently, the State of Washington announced a \$4 million settlement agreement with an imaging vendor for overcharges on digital imaging equipment. Comparing the contract prices with the actual prices charged will help prevent overpayments.

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The Office of the State Auditor is located at 525 Park Street, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55103. Phone: (651) 296-2551 or (800) 627-3529 (TTY) Fax: (651) 296-4755. Web: www.auditor.state.mn.us.