

What it Means to Participate in the Joint Purchasing Council Testimonials by Participants

City of Silvis – “I see no reason for any community NOT to participate in the JPC. You have done an awesome job and we appreciate all that you do.

I can think of three examples how the JPC has helped Silvis, Illinois. Last winter was a record for the number of water main breaks, so we went through 18 clamps. By participating in the JPC, utility supplies bid it saved us more than \$3,000 just in the price of the clamps.

Another example is with trash bags that we use in our parks. We under anticipated our needs and came up short about 12 cases in mid-year. The supplier honored the joint purchase price and sent us what we needed within three days. When we bought locally, a similar product was twice the cost.

Another example is with chemicals to treat our water. We used to be charged a fee for delivery, minimum order and a fuel surcharge and since we were participating in the JPC, we have saved more than \$700 in overcharges.

Since we are a small community, so we do not purchase large quantities of products, we do not have a staff to place orders and we do not have time to shop around. JPC has helped us to be better stewards of our funds.

Thank you for providing such a great service.”

Jim Grafton, City Administrator/Public Works Director

City of Bettendorf - “The Bi-State Joint Purchasing Council is invaluable to my organization and me. Since I am the only person in “purchasing” in my organization, I rely on the Joint Purchasing Council for almost everything the group goes out for bid on. Not only is this a cost savings, but a time savings as well. Knowing that the items we purchase have already been competitively bid, not to mention following the state statues concerning purchasing, I know I am doing my job to the best of my ability and getting the “best bang for your buck” for the City.

I came from a small municipality to the City of Bettendorf. I wish I had known how valuable the Joint Purchasing Council was when I was at a smaller municipality. The money I could have saved by participating would have been significant, especially to a small municipality.

I did a cost comparison on just our printer cartridges for a year. By purchasing off of the Joint Purchasing Council bids verses a local office supply store, I saved the City \$4,231.50. This is just one example of the significant savings that the Council provides!

Patty and her staff do an excellent job communicating with the members of the Council. I have been so impressed with the job she does; I had Patty speak at our annual Iowa Public Procurement Association on the benefits of joint purchasing.”

Lori L. Stock, CPPB Account Clerk

City of Rock Island, Library Department - “The Joint Purchasing Council Program has been hidden jewel to our department.

We have saved thousands of dollars since joining a few years ago.

With the money saved, we have been able to conduct very necessary remodeling projects on areas of our downtown location. The time saved has been most instrumental to our Buildings & Grounds team because it has freed us up to take on additional projects instead of having to use it for multiple ordering and dealing with multiple vendors. JPC has given us “one stop shopping” in many cases. The important thing for us, also, is the networking and communication that occurs between those participating and the dedicated staff (Thank you Patty and Peggil!) who tirelessly try to find our Council the best cost, service, and quality.”

Kelli Kerns, Business Office & Facilities

City of Rock Island, Golf - “Bi-State saves us the time of putting the bids together. This is our best savings, because it takes a lot time putting these all together and advertising. On some things, we are saving more money than when we were bidding the materials out ourselves, because of quantity of the joint purchase. Thanks.”

Tom Hergert, Golf Superintendent

City of Colona - "We appreciate being able to save money on janitorial supplies and office supplies. But mainly, we would like to thank your office for all work your office does in keeping track of all the many charts and reminding us when we pass a deadline.
Thank you!!!"

Linda Teichmann, City Clerk

Milan, Camden Centre - "As far as the Camden Centre is concerned, it (JPC) has saved us a great deal. Where we see the greatest savings is in our large heavy garbage bags. In checking around it saves us at least \$10.00 per 100 if we are able to find them. As a smaller business, it is sometimes hard to find the amount we need. We also are able to save on our plastic glasses. Some functions we can use 1000 12 oz. so that every dollar we save is important."

Pam Skelton, Camden Centre

Waste Commission of Scott County - "Using the services of the Bi-State JPC, the Waste Commission of Scott County has saved 40% on the cost of 100% post-consumer content recycled copy paper. That is over \$400 per year on copy paper alone. We appreciate the work Bi-State does developing specifications that allow for "green purchasing". It helps all local governments to purchase environmentally preferable products."

Kathy Morris, Director

Scott County Conservation Board - "There is a real value to joint purchasing that is not readily apparent. While participating in the bid process does make for substantial savings, an organization cannot always forecast all the needs. With the purchasing agreement, even if an organization was not a part of the original bid, we are aware of the results through Bi-State. Then if a need for that product comes up, we can go to that vendor and get the bid price. This can save thousands of dollars on a project that comes up where the need could not be foreseen. We also put together our chemical needs from our various sections and receive a substantial discount. Since we don't "shop" this requirement, the exact savings is not readily apparent. By using Bi-State, we know we'll get the rock bottom price so we don't have to expend the time and effort price shopping. Another advantage is that we do NOT have to take delivery of the full order at one time, but get the material as we need it or have space to store it. With other bid orders, you get one delivery, which can be problematic with storage or the material expiring before use. Putting the exact savings into dollars is one way to look at it, but the other advantages have significant value, and are overlooked."

Marc Miller, Deputy Director

The Joint Purchasing Council is a Program of the Bi-State Regional Commission serving local governments in Henry, Mercer & Rock Island Counties in Illinois and Scott & Muscatine Counties in Iowa.

City of Buffalo – The City is a new member of the JPC. They have purchased copy paper, and printer cartridges. They will be participating in the Sign Posts and Water Treatment Chemicals bids. Tanna indicated that they are currently paying \$.98/lb. for Chlorine and the 2014 JPC bid price for Chlorine is \$.31/lb. They are submitting over 1,000 lbs. for the 2015 bid. They will save over \$650 if prices remain close to the current year pricing.

The City is also starting to see savings on printer cartridges with a \$22.99 savings on each one purchased.

Information supplied by Tanna Leonard, City Clerk

Joint Purchasing Council Member Governments:

IOWA: Bettendorf; Buffalo; Davenport; LeClaire; Muscatine; Muscatine County; Scott County; Walcott; and Waste Commission of Scott County.

ILLINOIS: Aledo; Alpha; Bi-State Regional Commission, Carbon Cliff; Coal Valley; Colona; Cordova; East Moline; Geneseo; Hampton; Henry County; Hillsdale; Milan; Moline; Port Byron; Rapids City; Rock Island; Rock Island County; Sherrard; Silvis; i Wireless Center; and the Partners in Job Training and Placement.