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DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL SERVICES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE VEHICLE CONTRACT AWARDED TO ELEVEN STATE BUSINESSES

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Central Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services (DCS) awarded the Statewide Vehicle Contract, effective December 14, 2009, to eleven companies across the state. The contract was awarded through the \$pend\$mart Oklahoma Program, an initiative designed to achieve savings and efficiencies in state government procurement. DCS anticipates the contract will result in an annual savings of approximately 5% or \$1,029,000.00 based on historical spend.

"The \$pend\$mart Oklahoma Program has strengthened DCS' commitment to continuous improvement of our purchasing practices for greater effectiveness and the best leveraging of taxpayers' money," said John Richard, Director of the Department of Central Services.

The scope of the State Vehicle Contract includes compact and mid-size cars; pickup, cab and chassis trucks; SUVs and vans; and police vehicles (cars, trucks, and SUVs). Individual contracts established with each company are published on the Department of Central Services website for easy reference.

The contract was competitively bid using a comprehensive Request for Proposal developed by a Commodity Council consisting of six state agencies. Strategies used to leverage cost savings included a reduction of available high cost options, incorporation of high use options to be factory-installed in the standard package, and utilization of Target Pricing to establish the best pricing possible. Flex fuel options were also added to the contract this year.

"A critical component of the \$pend\$mart Oklahoma Program is the networking and communication the Central Purchasing Division must do with the state agency Commodity Councils," said Scott Schlotthauer, State Purchasing Director. "The Commodity Councils ensure the cost and quality expectations of agencies are met," Schlotthauer stated. "The Council represents the leveraging of state human resources possessing collective expertise to achieve successful contracts."

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