

DAS newsrelease

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For immediate release

Continuing the Malloy Administration's Modernization of State Government: DAS Surplus Vehicle Auctions Going Online *Significant Increase in Revenue Expected*

Starting February 26, 2013, state surplus vehicles will be offered for sale to the public through an internet auction website (copart.com). By making use of this marketing technology, the State expects to streamline the surplus property disposition process, increase opportunities for bidders all over the world to obtain surplus State property and increase revenue to the State.

The Department of Administrative Services, State Property Distribution Program is the legally authorized agent for the disposition of all State surplus property, other than real estate.

Until now State agencies have used a manual, physical process involving transport and storage of surplus property prior to disposition. As an agency decides that it no longer has use for a particular item of property, the DAS Surplus Property unit will offer the item to other State agencies, municipalities and non-profit organizations. Those entities have 14 days to claim the item prior to its being offered for sale to the public.

Items not claimed by those entities during that 14-day period are then offered for sale to the public.

For surplus automobiles, trucks and heavy equipment, this has been done by way of auctions conducted periodically at a central location, advertised in advance. This process has been inefficient and time consuming.

In the new online system bidders will log onto the auction website and will have a period of time prior to the auction date to review information about available vehicles. Bidders will have the opportunity, if they choose, to come to the central storage yard in New Britain to examine the vehicles and kick the tires.

At noon on auction day, the vehicles will then be offered one at a time on the website through the virtual auction which happens in real time over the course of a couple of hours. Anyone logged into the website can observe the bids as they come in and make a bid by clicking on the appropriate button indicating a bid amount. The amounts change as the bidding increases. When bidding ceases for each item, the item will "time out" and the highest bid will get the vehicle.

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The State's auction vendor will then handle the transaction with the successful bidder and transfer ownership. The successful bidders will be responsible for collecting their vehicle from the central storage yard.

The State's vendor has been selling surplus vehicles in this manner for almost a decade after using the traditional in-person auction method for many years prior.

By reaching a substantially larger market, the State expects to significantly increase its revenue from these sales. In this difficult era for the State budget, the DAS Surplus Property unit is proud to bring forward this welcome advance for the State and its taxpayers.

DAS Commissioner Donald DeFronzo commented further: "Together with fully automated online bidding for state contracts, the use of reverse auction technology and conversion to online application and certification procedures, the use of online surplus auctions is another step in the DAS modernization program."

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