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**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL
SERVICES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ANNOUNCES NEW PURCHASE CARD PROGRAM

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Department of Central Services (DCS) is pleased to announce the award of the new Purchase Card (P/Card) contract to Bank of America (BOA). The contract was awarded by the Department of Central Services Central Purchasing Division as part of its new \$pend\$mart Oklahoma Program, an initiative designed to achieve savings and efficiencies in state government procurement. State Purchasing Director Scott Schlotthauer said “with the current P/Card program annual spend at \$192 million, the ability to maximize our savings and improve efficiencies is critical for State agencies.”

The Department of Central Services initiated and utilized a Commodity Council to evaluate individual agency needs for the new P/Card program. The Council included representatives from multiple state agencies and governmental entities including higher education. A survey was conducted in April, 2009, with state agencies and governmental entities asking what changes they would like to see in the program and what areas of the current program they wished to maintain. Schlotthauer said “these efforts resulted in a new contract with enhanced reporting features and extra options available, which were not available under the current contract.”

John Richard, Director of the Department of Central Services, also touted the availability of the P/Card program to other entities across the state. “Contracts may be used by other governmental entities, including counties, cities, and public schools, which will increase their efficiencies and offer rebate opportunities for them.”

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