



News Release

For Immediate Release:

May 10, 2012

For More Information:

Susan S. Pollard

Director of Communications

Mobile: 804-641-9199

STATE SURPLUS STORE SAVES STATE AGENCIES, LOCALITIES, NON-PROFITS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC MONEY WITH PRE-OWNED MERCHANDISE

~ Governor's Cabinet Secretary Tours Surplus Property Retail Store ~

Wytheville, VA – Ever wonder where old state furniture and vehicles go when they are no longer needed? How about the items confiscated by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) at some of the Virginia airports? Is it thrown in a landfill, sold, or does it just fall into the universe's black hole never to be seen again?

The answers to those questions and information about the items available through the Department of General Services (DGS) Surplus Property Program were highlighted during a tour held this afternoon at the Wytheville Surplus Property Store/Warehouse located at 800 E. Main Street in Wytheville. The tour was held for the Secretary of Administration Lisa Hicks-Thomas in conjunction with Governor Bob McDonnell's "Virginia: Growing Strong" statewide tour that has taken place all this week.

From furniture including desks and chairs to filing cabinets and tables; from computers, printers, copiers, and notebook binders to tools and kitchen equipment, from pick-up trucks and fire engines to forklifts, cranes, and generators; a large variety of quality useable goods are available for purchase at a low cost. Numerous state agencies, localities, and non-profits have benefitted by purchasing items at a low cost through the Wytheville Surplus Property Store/Warehouse ultimately saving taxpayer money.

"It was like finding a hidden treasure," said Mellissa Clark, Administrative Assistant with the Department of Veterans Services. "Binders used to cost us [Virginia Veterans Care Center] \$11.00 plus dollars. We now purchase some through Surplus and spend only \$0.25 each. We have bought chairs from \$10.00 to \$20.00 where we were spending hundreds of dollars for one chair. Utilizing the Surplus Property Program has helped us provide affordable clothing and books to our residents.

(MORE)

The Wytheville Surplus Property Store/Warehouse is part of the State's Surplus Property Program which includes items from the state and federal government. It is a self-funding program averaging about \$9 million in revenue, which most is returned to the agencies. It provides a wide range of low cost pre-owned quality items to state agencies, local governments, qualified non-profits, and the general public.

Localities have also been able to take advantage of low cost pre-owned items, such as the Town of Wytheville. Approximately, 30 percent of Wytheville's snow removal equipment has been purchased through the program. "I'm proud to tell our Town Council that we saved about \$20,000 on the purchase of one vehicle by buying it from the State's Surplus Property Program," said Dennis Hackler, Director of Public Works for Wytheville, Virginia. "In recent years we [Town of Wytheville] have purchased more than 12 vehicles and two pieces of heavy equipment and I estimate we have saved over \$150,000 just by purchasing them through Surplus."

Mark S. Hollyfield, Executive Director with Coeburn – Norton – Wise Regional Waste Water Treatment Authority was able to purchase a crane through the Wytheville Surplus Property Store/Warehouse. This allowed the Authority to access proper equipment vital to facilities since they could not longer rely on a contractor. "One of the Authority's sewage pump stations failed and multiple days passed before a contractor with a boom truck could respond. To keep this from occurring again I contacted Surplus Property and requested assistance in locating a crane or boom truck that could lift heavy pumps, motors, and other treatment equipment. Not only did the Commonwealth locate and pick up a crane from a military base, they delivered it too. We have experienced tens of thousands of dollars in savings over the years."

For more information about the State Surplus Property Program go to <http://surplus.dgs.virginia.gov>. The Wytheville Surplus Property Store/Warehouse is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

###