

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Yes

February 22, 1951

To General Spaulding Bisbee, Director, Civil Defense & Public Safety
Re: Appropriations by Towns

Letter of inquiry addressed to you by O. C. Benson, Selectman and Clerk of the Town of Minot Civil Defense, is received in this office. The inquiry concerns what appropriation can properly be made by a political subdivision of the State for defense and public safety purposes.

In interpreting Section 11 of Chapter 298, Public Laws of 1949, we are of the opinion that the voters of any city, town or village corporation may appropriate money to be used by their local organization for Civil Defense and Public Safety for expenses of maintaining its office with its incidental supplies and for the purchase of such services, equipment, supplies and materials for purposes of Civil Defense and Public Safety as shall be specified by amount and purpose in such appropriation.

If a town puts articles in its town warrant calling for the appropriating of certain amounts to stockpile non-perishable food, buy fuel, cots, blankets, first aid supplies, for instance, and the voters of such town favor such purchases by their votes and the same does not exceed that town's debt limit, such purchases are authorized by the Act referred to.

There is a provision in the same section of law for acceptance of these items by gift, should they be offered by the Federal Government or by any person, firm, or corporation.

Neal A. Donahue
Assistant Attorney General