

GOVERNMENT

SPENDING SCRUTINIZED



KEVIN RIVOLI, THE CITIZEN

A World War I veterans memorial in the village of Moravia is seen March 27.

Audit: Moravia failed to seek competition in purchasing

THE CITIZEN STAFF

The village of Moravia failed to show that it sought competition for more than \$1.3 million in goods and services over the past two years, according to a state audit. The audit, published Sept. 18 by the office of New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, covered the village’s spending between June 1, 2024, and June 26, 2026. It said the village did not competitively:

- Bid for purchases totaling \$281,444;
- Seek competition for 13 professional services and insurance providers that were paid \$992,544;
- Or obtain written quotes for 16 purchases totaling \$100,176.

The village purchased more than \$5 million in goods and services between June 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025, according to the audit. That includes payments totaling about \$3.2 million for the renovation of its wastewater treatment plant.



VIEW: To read the full audit, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link.
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The goods and services that were purchased without competition included three vehicles, sludge removal services and chemicals at the plant, two sewer pumps, uniforms, supplies, ammunition and equipment rentals, the audit said. Municipalities should seek competition “to help ensure the best value for taxpayers, prevent conflicts of interest and maintain public trust,” DiNapoli’s office said. “Seeking competition also helps guard against extravagance and fraud, while allowing interested vendors to have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for the village’s procurement opportunities,” it continued. The audit included four recommendations that, if implemented, will improve

the village’s procurement of goods and services. In a response included in the audit, Moravia Mayor Christopher D. Fulton said the village is closely examining its results and recommendations. “We consider the audit process an important opportunity to strengthen our policies, procedures, and overall operations,” he said. “We are using this review to assist in preparing a revised procurement plan that will meet or exceed the Comptroller’s expectations,” he continued. “The Village is committed to fulfilling its obligations, maintaining accountability, and continuing to serve the public in an effective, responsible, and transparent manner. ... These efforts will be documented in a corrective action plan, which improve our processes and ensure the Village’s commitment to sound governance, accountability, and service to the public.”

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Cayuga County gets funds for crime prevention initiative

THE CITIZEN STAFF

Cayuga County is receiving funding as part of a statewide employment program designed to steer young people away from crime. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul’s office on Wednesday announced \$42 million in awards for the Youth Employment Program, which helps reduce gun violence and involvement in the criminal justice system by providing employment and training

opportunities to at-risk youth in parts of the state outside New York City most impacted by gun violence. According to a news release, Cayuga County is being awarded \$429,826 and Onondaga County just over \$3 million for the program. It is tied to the state’s Gun Involved Violence Elimination Initiative, which operates in 21 counties. The governor’s office said the program

supports local efforts to provide young people at risk of gun violence with year-round employment and educational opportunities in conjunction with services provided through the Summer Youth Employment Program as part of an effort to better prepare young people to continue their education and transition to the workforce. Research shows that vulnerable, unemployed youth can face struggles later in life, including poverty, dependence on

public assistance programs and criminal involvement, the governor’s office said. It added that young people exposed to trauma and violence may suffer long-term harmful effects later in life, including barriers to successful employment and financial stability. In the first two years of the program, participants have worked in school districts, libraries, restaurants, camps, child care programs and community organizations.