

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Land's End Office Supply Store



I learn something every day. I had always thought local businesses bought office supplies from Walmart, Office Depot, Office Max, or some such local outlet that specialized in pens, printer cartridges, manila envelopes, staples, paper clips, desks, filing cabinets, and other useful gadgets.

Who would have thought to look for erasers at Victoria's Secret or Land's End? Now, don't get me wrong, I enjoy the Land's End catalog experience. It is just that I have never seen a section with anything about typing paper or desk pads, although you can get some nice clothes.

Thanks to a website called [SpringdaleFOI](#), I discovered that the Springdale Chamber of Cowbirds buys office supplies from Land's End, the catalog and online outfit up in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. A sample of [Perry Webb's American Express bills paid by the Chamber](#) show 15 different purchases of clothing from Land's End totaling \$2,772.75, but the Cowbirds claim these as office expenses, so who am I to argue? And, to be fair, they returned two items for a credit of \$123.49. Probably bought legal size instead of letter size typing paper and returned it.

Oh, and they did have one purchase of office equipment at Office Depot, listed as a "coffee maker" for \$902.04, at the Delray Beach, Florida, store, which must have been the "spring break special" on March 28, 2008. You'll find a much more complete listing of the economic development expenses paid for with city tax dollars at the [SpringdaleFOI](#) website, and the [Iconoclast](#) has been offering up the usually skeptical commentary on Cowbird schemes during the past week or so.