

Food Truck Financing & Acquisition Checklist

1. Financing Strategy

- [] Define total funding need: truck purchase/build-out cost, equipment, permits, insurance, licenses, 3 months operating capital + 15% contingency
- [] Select primary financing vehicle: equipment loan, SBA loan, business term loan, or line of credit
- [] Explore vendor leasing/sale-leaseback options
- [] Identify fallback options (sub-650 FICO lenders, microloans)

2. Creative Funding Sources

- [] Research and list crowdfunding platforms (Kickstarter, GoFundMe)
- [] Identify grant opportunities (SBDC, minority/veteran funds, incubators)
- [] Draft pitch for private investors or revenue-share partners

3. Loan Preparation

- [] Clean up credit profile: pull reports, dispute errors, pay down balances
- [] Polish business plan with executive summary, market analysis, and financial projections
- [] Assemble documentation: tax returns, bank statements, equipment quotes, licenses
- [] Shop & compare lenders: rate sheets, fees, prepayment penalties
- [] Practice your pitch with key metrics, timeline, and ROI story

4. Acquisition Decision: Buy vs. Lease vs. Rent

- [] Evaluate Buy: cost, customization, depreciation benefits
- [] Evaluate Lease / Rent-to-Own: monthly budget, customization limits
- [] Evaluate Short-Term Rental: flexibility, cost

5. Truck Selection Criteria

- [] Choose format: truck vs. trailer vs. concession cart
- [] Confirm power requirements: propane, electrical, generator specs
- [] Verify workflow layout: sink stations, prep zones, service window, equipment placement
- [] Check local code compliance: health, gas, electrical, fire-suppression
- [] Inspect new vs. used: warranty, refurbishment budget

6. Vendor Vetting & Purchase Process

- [] Shortlist fabricators and manufacturers with permit expertise
- [] Research online marketplaces (Roaming Hunger, Used Vending)
- [] Schedule pre-purchase inspections: kitchen and mechanic
- [] Obtain condition report and equipment list from seller
- [] Negotiate price, turnaround time, and permit services
- [] Review and sign purchase agreement with clear payment milestones

7. Final Preparations

- [] Secure insurance quotes (liability, auto, equipment)
- [] Lock in storage or commissary arrangements
- [] Plan marketing launch: signage, social media, launch event
- [] Schedule training and dry-runs for staff
- [] Set up accounting tools and POS system