



Deschutes County Board of Commissioners  
1300 NW Wall St., Suite 200, Bend, OR 97701-1960  
(541) 388-6570 - Fax (541) 385-3202 - [www.deschutes.org](http://www.deschutes.org)

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## **AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT**

### **For Board Business Meeting of May 4, 2015**

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**DATE:** April 10, 2015

**FROM:** Wayne Lowry. Finance X6559

**TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM:**

Presentation of Awards from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and for the 2015 Deschutes County Budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS DATE?** No

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The County participates in two programs sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The first is the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. This awards program evaluates the annual financial report known as the CAFR against a set of national criteria for government financial reporting. The second is the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This program evaluates the County's annual Budget document against a set of national criteria that include content related to budget and financial policies, financial planning, operations and communications.

Roger Dawes, the Controller for Washington County and the GFOA representative for Oregon is here this morning to present both awards. Roger is also a past president of the Oregon Government Finance Officers Association. He will be presenting the CAFR award to Jeanine Faria and the Budget Award to Teri Maerki, long time members of the Deschutes County Finance Department.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Continued participation in these programs enhances our financial reporting and budgeting practices and aids in the maintenance of the County's bond ratings.

**RECOMMENDATION & ACTION REQUESTED:**

Recognition of Jeanine Faria, Accounting Manager and Teri Maerki, Budget Analyst, for their efforts in financial reporting and budgeting for Deschutes County.

**ATTENDANCE:** Jeanine Faria, Teri Maerki, Wayne Lowry.

**DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS:**

None



Government Finance Officers Association  
203 N. LaSalle Street - Suite 2700  
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone (312) 977-9700 Fax (312) 977-4806

March 10, 2015

Wayne Lowry  
Finance Director  
Deschutes County  
PO Box 6005  
Bend OR 97708-6005

Dear Mr. Lowry:

We are pleased to notify you that your comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, qualifies for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Each entity submitting a report to the Certificate of Achievement review process is provided with a "Summary of Grading" form and a confidential list of comments and suggestions for possible improvements in its financial reporting techniques. Your list has been enclosed. You are strongly encouraged to implement the recommended improvements into the next report and submit it to the program. If it is unclear what must be done to implement a comment or if there appears to be a discrepancy between the comment and the information in the CAFR, please contact the Technical Services Center (312) 977-9700 and ask to speak with a Certificate of Achievement Program in-house reviewer.

Certificate of Achievement program policy requires that written responses to the comments and suggestions for improvement accompany the next fiscal year's submission. Your written responses should provide detail about how you choose to address each item that is contained within this report. These responses will be provided to those Special Review Committee members participating in the review.

When a Certificate of Achievement is awarded to a government, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for its having earned the Certificate. Enclosed is an AFRA for:

**Finance Department, Deschutes County**


Continuing participants will find a certificate and brass medallion enclosed with these results. First-time recipients will find a certificate enclosed with these results followed by a plaque in about 10 weeks. We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement, and that appropriate publicity will be given to this notable achievement. A sample news release has been enclosed. We suggest that you provide copies of it to local newspapers, radio stations and television stations. In addition, details of recent recipients of the Certificate of Achievement and other information about Certificate Program results are available in the "Awards Program" area of our website, [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org).

A current holder of a Certificate of Achievement may include a reproduction of the award in its immediately subsequent CAFR. A camera ready copy of your Certificate is enclosed for that purpose. If you reproduce your Certificate in your next report, please refer to the enclosed instructions. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year. To continue to participate in the Certificate of Achievement Program it will be necessary for you to submit your next CAFR to our review process.

In order to expedite your submission we have enclosed a Certificate of Achievement Program application form to facilitate a timely submission of your next report. This form should be completed and sent (postmarked) with three copies of your report, three copies of your application, three copies of your written responses to the program's comments and suggestions for improvement from the prior year, and any other pertinent material with the appropriate fee by December 31, 2015.

Your continued interest in and support of the Certificate of Achievement Program is most appreciated. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact Delores Smith ([dsmith@gfoa.org](mailto:dsmith@gfoa.org) or (312) 578-5454).

Sincerely,  
Government Finance Officers Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen J. Gauthier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Stephen J. Gauthier, Director  
Technical Services Center

SJG/ds



Government Finance Officers Association  
203 N. LaSalle Street - Suite 2700  
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone (312) 977-9700 Fax (312) 977-4806

03/10/2015

NEWS RELEASE

For Information contact:  
Stephen Gauthier (312) 977-9700

(Chicago)--The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to **Deschutes County** by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:

**Finance Department, Deschutes County**

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

## PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Certificate program thereby advocates that recipients be formally recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. If you would like a formal presentation of the Certificate of Achievement plaque, you should contact your GFOA State Representative. The contact information follows:

Mr. Jeff White  
Chief Financial Officer  
Marion County  
555 Court Street NE  
Suite 4247  
Salem, OR 97301  
UNITED STATES

Phone:  
(503) 373-4433

Fax:  
(503) 373-4379

Email:  
JDWhite@co.marion.or.us



**Government Finance Officers Association**  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

December 3, 2014

Wayne Lowry  
Finance Director and County Treasurer  
Deschutes County  
1300 Northwest Wall St. Ste. 200  
Bend, OR 97701

Dear Mr. Lowry:

A Panel of independent reviewers has completed its examination of your budget document. We are pleased to inform you that the panel has voted to award your budget document the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current fiscal period. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by your organization.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is valid for one year. To continue your participation in the program, it will be necessary to submit your next annual budget document to GFOA within 90 days of the proposed budget's submission to the legislature or within 90 days of the budget's final adoption. Enclosed is an application form to facilitate a timely submission. This form should be submitted with four copies of your budget accompanied by the appropriate fee.

Each program participant is provided with confidential comments and suggestions for possible improvements to the budget document. Your comments are enclosed. We urge you to carefully consider the suggestions offered by our reviewers as you prepare your next budget.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. Enclosed is a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation for:

### **Finance Department**

Continuing participants will find a certificate and brass medallion enclosed with these results. First-time recipients will receive an award plaque that will be mailed separately and should arrive within eight to ten weeks. Enclosed is a camera-ready reproduction of the award for inclusion in your next budget. If you reproduce the camera-ready in your next budget, it should be accompanied by a statement indicating continued compliance with program criteria.

The following standardized text should be used:

Wayne Lowrv

December 3, 2014

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The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to **Deschutes County, Oregon** for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2014**. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

A press release is enclosed.

The Government Finance Officers Association encourages you to make arrangements for a formal presentation of the award. If you would like the award presented by a member of your state or provincial finance officers association, we can provide the name of a contact person for that group.

We appreciate your participation in this program and we sincerely hope that your example will encourage others in their efforts to achieve and maintain excellence in governmental budgeting. The most current list of award recipients (with hyperlinks) can be found on GFOA's website at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org). If we can be of further assistance, please contact the Technical Services Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen J. Gauthier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Stephen J. Gauthier, Director  
Technical Services Center

Enclosure



**Government Finance Officers Association**  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

December 3, 2014

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Further Information Contact  
Stephen J. Gauthier (312) 977-9700

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Chicago--The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that **Deschutes County, Oregon** has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to **Finance Department**

For budgets beginning in 2013, 1,424 participants received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington D.C. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.