



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

November 24, 2025

Toni Merrill
Budget Analysis
Pinellas County, Florida

Dear Toni:

A panel of independent reviewers have completed their examination of your Annual budget document for the period beginning October 2024. We are pleased to inform you that your budget document has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by your organization. In addition to receiving the award, your entity's budget received the following special recognition:

Capital program

Special recognition is given when all three reviewers give the highest possible score in particular categories.

Your Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is valid for one year. To continue your participation in the program, it will be necessary to submit your next 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.

Your electronic award package contains the following:

- **Scores and Comments.** Each entity submitting a budget to the program is provided with reviewers' scores for each of the categories on which the budget document was judged along with reviewers' confidential comments and suggestions for possible improvements to the budget document. We urge you to carefully consider these suggestions as you prepare your next budget.
- **Budget Award.** A camera-ready reproduction of the Award is included for inclusion in your next budget. If you reproduce the camera-ready image in your next budget, it should be accompanied by a statement indicating continued compliance with program criteria. Please refer to the instructions for reproducing your Award in your next budget (also included in your award package).
- **Certificate of Recognition.** When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award.
- **Sample press release.** Attaining this Award is a significant accomplishment. The sample press release may be used to give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement.

In addition, award recipients will receive via mail either a plaque (if the government is a first-time recipient or has received the Award fifteen times since it received its last plaque) or a brass medallion to affix to the plaque.

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 can be found on GFOA's website at www.gfoa.org. If we can be of further assistance, please contact the Awards Programs staff at (312) 977-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Mark Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "L".

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services Center