COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Finance	Presenter(s):	County Administrator Steve Rapson
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 27, 2014	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Presentation of the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award for Fayette County's annual budget document for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

Background/History/Details:

This is the 17th consecutive year Fayette County has received this award from GFOA. To qualify for the budget award, Fayette County had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well Fayette County's budget document serves as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.

GFOA is a prestigious nonprofit professional association serving over 17,600 government professionals throughout North America. It is considered the gatekeeper for monitoring and recommending improvements to government financial reporting and consistently influences changes in reporting standards that "raise the bar" for government entities.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Presentation of the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award for Fayette County's annual budget document for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	Yes	If so, when?	Last year
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

Only twelve (12) of Georgia's 159 counties, received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Fayette County is one of the twelve counties that have earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and therefore is among the 7.5% of all Georgia's counties to be honored with this award.

GFOA Award Winners by State/Province
Most Recent Results
Budget Years Beginning Fiscal Year 1/1/2012 - 12/1/2012

Name	State	Fiscal Period	Agency Type	Award Years	Special Perf. Measures	Special Capital Recognition
Albany	GA	Annual	MUN	21		
Alpharetta	GA	Annual	MUN	11		
Atlanta	GA	Annual	MUN	6		
Atlanta Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority	GA	Annual	SD	20		
Atlanta Public Schools	GA	Annual	SCH	4		
Chatham County	GA	Annual	CO	24		
Clayton County	GA	Annual	CO	10		
Clayton County Water Authority	GA	Annual	SD	8		
Cobb County	GA	Biennial	CO	23		
Cobb County School District	GA	Annual	SCH	24		
College Park	GA	Annual	MUN	4		
Columbia County	GA	Annual	CO	4		
Columbus Consolidated Government	GA	Annual	MUN	21		
Conyers	GA	Annual	MUN	21		
Decatur	GA	Annual	MUN	5		
DeKalb County	GA	Annual	CO	25		
Douglas County	GA	Annual	CO	14		
Duluth	GA	Annual	MUN	3		
Dunwoody	GA	Annual	MUN	3		
East Point	GA	Annual	MUN	2		
Fayette County	GA	Annual	CO	16		
Fayetteville	GA	Annual	MUN	7		
Fulton County	GA	Annual	CO	18		
Fulton County Schools	GA	Annual	SCH	12		
Gainesville	GA	Annual	MUN	21		TRUE
Garden City	GA	Annual	MUN	4		
Glynn County	GA	Annual	CO	11		
Gwinnett County	GA	Annual	CO	24	TRUE	
Holly Springs	GA	Annual	MUN	3		
Jackson County	GA	Annual	CO	11		
Kingsland	GA	Annual	MUN	14		
Lowndes County Board of Commissioners	GA	Annual	CO	7		
Macon	GA	Annual	MUN	21		
Marietta	GA	Annual	MUN	20		
Newnan	GA	Annual	MUN	23		
Roswell	GA	Annual	MUN	9		
Sandersville	GA	Annual	MUN	2		
Savannah	GA	Annual	MUN	29		
Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools	GA	Annual	SCH	22		
St. Marys	GA	Annual	MUN	1		
Statesboro	GA	Annual	MUN	9		
Suwanee	GA	Annual	MUN	7	TRUE	
Valdosta	GA	Annual	MUN	20		
Waycross	GA	Annual	MUN	17		
Winder	GA	Annual	MUN	3		

Counties in Georgia that received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	**12**
Total number of Counties in Georgia	**159**
Percentage of Counties in Georgia that received the award	**7.5%**

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

February 26, 2014

Mr. Sergio Acevedo
Budget Officer
Fayette County
140 Stonewall Avenue West, Suite 101
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear Mr. Acevedo:

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

Your award plaque 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:

Washington, DC Office
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 309 • Washington, DC 20004 • 202.393.8020 • *fax:* 202.393.0780
www.gfoa.org

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to **Fayette County, Georgia** for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2013**. 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. If we can be of further assistance, please contact the Technical Services Center.

Sincerely,

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

February 26, 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 **Fayette County, Georgia** 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 including fiscal period 2013, over 1,340 entities are expected to receive 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 nonprofit professional association serving over 17,800 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Washington, DC Office
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The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

presents this

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

to

Finance Department
Fayette County, Georgia

The Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to those individuals who have been instrumental in their government unit achieving a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest award in governmental budgeting, is presented to those government units whose budgets are judged to adhere to program standards.

Executive Director

Date **February 26, 2014**

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

Fayette County

Georgia

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2013

Executive Director