

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Item #13
12/7/21

November 30, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors
Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator
Mike Fennelly, County Treasurer
Kerri Tompkins, County Auditor

From: David Farmer, CPA Director of Budget and Administrative Services

RE: Presentation of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by GFOA for Scott County's FY2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR); Presentation of Scott County's FY 2020 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR); and Presentation of Scott County FY 2022 Annual Budget

Scott County has a long standing commitment to financial reporting, communication and transparency. To help accomplish those goals, County administration, with the support of the entire county has submitted public documents to the Government Finance Officers Association for peer review and comment. This year the reviews for the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, the 2020 Popular Annual Financial Report and the 2022 Annual Budget were all received in the same quarter. The County qualified for the "Triple Crown" of GFOA awards for the fiscal year 2020, by receiving the recognition of all three programs for 2020.

Please find attached a copy of a draft news release scheduled to be distributed following the notification of GFOA's Certificate of Achievement award for Excellence in Financial Reporting at the Board's next Committee of the Whole session on Tuesday December 7, 2021.

Attachment

Cc: Megan Peterson, Financial Management Supervisor
Wes Rostenbach, Accounting and Tax Manager

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SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA IS GIVEN HIGHEST AWARDS IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AND BUDGETING

Ken Beck, Chair of the Scott County Board of Supervisors, Kerri Tompkins, County Auditor, and Mike Fennelly, County Treasurer, jointly announced today that Scott County has been awarded awards for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Fiscal Year 2020), Popular Annual Financial Report (Fiscal Year 2020) and the Annual Budget Report (Fiscal Year 2022). The County qualified as a "Triple Crown" winner for the fiscal year 2020 by receiving recognition for all three programs for the same fiscal year. Scott County is one of two organizations in the State of Iowa to be recognized as a "Triple Crown" winner.

- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2020

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for Scott County's FY20 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) **for the thirty-fourth (34th) year in a row**. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

As of November 29, 2021 Scott County is one of only five Iowa counties to hold the Certificate of Achievement. Only 44 of the 1,553 governmental units in the State of Iowa currently hold this honor.

The CAFR report 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 Board of Supervisors has designated the continued achievement of this certification as a priority. The Board, County Treasurer, and County Auditor expressed their appreciation to David Farmer, CPA, MPA Director of Budget and Administrative Services in Administration; Megan Petersen, Financial Manager in the Treasurer's Office; Wes Rostenbach, Accounting and Tax Manager in the Auditor's Office; Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator; and the County's auditing firm of Baker Tilly, LLP for their work and professional guidance in helping the County to obtain this financial reporting honor.

- Popular Annual Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2020

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) **for the fifth time**. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government is evaluated on information presented, reader appeal, understandability, distribution, and other elements including the government's type and size and the creativity and usefulness of the report. The County must also

publish and Annual Compressive Financial Report (ACFR) and receive a Certificate in achievement in that program as well.

As of November 29, 2021 Scott County is one of only two Iowa counties to hold the Certificate of Achievement. Only 4 of the 1,553 governmental units in the State of Iowa currently hold this honor.

The PAFR report 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 PAFR.

The Board of Supervisors has designated the continued achievement of this certification as a priority. The Board expressed their appreciation to David Farmer, CPA, MPA Director of Budget and Administrative Services in Administration; Renee Luze-Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Chris Berge, ERP / ECM Analyst, Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator and all of the County departments for their work and professional guidance in helping the County to obtain this financial reporting honor.

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – Fiscal Year 2022

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for Scott County's current FY22 Budget.

Scott County is one of only three Iowa counties (Scott, Johnson, and Linn County) to hold the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The County has received this award for the last twenty-seven consecutive years. Only 13 of the 1,553 governmental units in the State of Iowa currently hold this honor.

Ken Beck stated that this award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the elected officials and management of Scott County and reflects their commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the award, Scott County had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as 1) A policy document 2) A financial plan 3) An operations guide 4) Communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive this award.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator, David Farmer, Director of Budget and Administrative Services and to the County's designated budget analysts and support staff for their work and professional guidance in helping the county to obtain this governmental budgeting honor.

The budget analysts and support staff members that developed the 2022 budget are listed below:

David Farmer	Director of Budget and Administrative Services
Pam Brown	Office Administrator, Sheriff's Department
Chris Berge	ERP/ECM Budget Analyst
Roland Caldwell	Operations Manager, Auditor's Office
Lori Elam	Community Services Director

Tim Huey / Chris Mathias	Planning & Development Director
Renee Luze-Johnson	Administrative Assistant, Administration
Ed Rivers / Amy Thoreson	Health Director
Sara Skelton	Operations Manager, Recorder's Office
Amber Sullivan	Administrative Assistant, Conservation Department
Megan Petersen	Financial Management Supervisor, Treasurer's Office
Kathy Walsh	Office Administrator, Attorney's Office

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 21,000 government finance professionals. The association produces a variety of technical publications in various fields of governmental finance, and represents the public finance community in Chicago, IL and Washington D.C.

For more information on this press release, please contact:

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