

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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October 04, 2022

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

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

RE: Presentation of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by GFOA for Scott County's FY2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), and Presentation of Scott County FY 2023 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 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the 2023 Annual Budget were all received in the same quarter. Additionally, 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. Scott County is one of two governments in Iowa and one of 317 nationwide for this distinction for the fiscal year 2020.

Please find attached a copy of a draft news release scheduled to be distributed following the Board's next Committee of the Whole session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

Attachment

Cc: Megan Peterson, Finance Manager  
Wes Rostenbach, Accounting and Business 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 2021), and the Annual Budget Report (Fiscal Year 2023). Additionally, 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 317 organizations in the nation to be recognized as a "Triple Crown" winner.

- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2021

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 FY21 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) **for the thirty-fifth (35<sup>th</sup>) 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 October 4, 2022 Scott County is one of only three Iowa counties to hold the Certificate of Achievement.** Only 24 of the 1,553 governmental units in the State of Iowa currently hold this honor.

The ACFR 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 ACFR.

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 Business Manager in the Auditor's Office; Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator; and the County's auditing firm of Baker Tilly US, LLP 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 FY23 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-eight consecutive years. Only 15 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, CPA, MPA 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 2023 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
Amanda Orr	ERP/ECM Budget Analyst
Roland Caldwell	Operations Manager, Auditor's Office
Lori Elam	Mental Health Region CEO, Community Services
Chris Mathias	Planning & Development Director
Renee Luze-Johnson	Executive Assistant, Administration
Deborah Dierkes	Executive Assistant, Administration
Amy Thoreson	Health Director, Health Department
Sara Skelton	Operations Administrator, Recorder's Office
Amber Sullivan	Senior Administrative Assistant, Conservation Department
Megan Petersen	Finance Manager, Treasurer's Office
Kathy Walsh	Office Administrator, Attorney's Office

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 22,500 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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