

Frequently Asked Questions about National Finance Awards

GFOA Awards that the City of West Linn has currently received

Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting Award. For every year since 2008, West Linn Finance has received the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* award from the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Finance Reporting* is a prestigious national award that recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports. In order to receive this award, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized audit document (i.e. CAFR) whose contents conform to program standards and satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable legal requirements.

Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award. Also for every year since 2008, the GFOA has given their *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting* for the City of West Linn's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting* is a prestigious national award that recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. In order to receive an *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting*, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The City also receives the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for its budget documents with every budget period since 2009. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental entity, its financial staff, and its management. The award program is an international one established in 1984 to encourage exemplary budgetary practices and to provide peer recognition for government finance officers who prepare budget documents. They rate a budget's proficiency in four major categories: as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and a communications device.

Q1: Does the City pay for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awards?

A1: No, GFOA grants the awards only if the document meets all of the criteria.

Q2: Is there an application fee involved?

A2: Yes \$225 to \$435 depending upon the type of document and size of the City.

Q3: Does everyone get an award that applies?

A3: No, the submitted document must meet a comprehensive checklist of items ensuring that it has completed all financial reporting requirements.

Q4: If an Agency does not receive an award, does it receive the application fee back?

A4: No, it represents an application fee into their program whether an award is received or not.

Q5: Can an Agency apply for an award without paying the application fee?

A5: No, the application would be returned incomplete if the fee is not included.

Q6: What national GFOA awards has the City recently received?

A6: A summary of the three types of awards received by the City are summarized above.