



NEWS RELEASE

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Wakulla County Receives Distinguished Budget Award

Crawfordville, Florida – The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recently announced that Wakulla County has received the GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

This award represents a significant achievement by Wakulla County and reflects the County and staff commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. Wakulla County received the budget award by satisfying nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess an entity’s budget in four categories: How well it serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The budget documents must be rated “proficient” in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. “I can’t emphasize enough how far the County’s budgeting process and product has progressed during the past three years. There are approximately 54,000 local governments in the United States and only 2% will ever receive this award for excellence in budgeting. We are only the third county in Northwest Florida to earn this recognition. As the Board turns toward another year of making tough decisions during tough budget times, they can know that their process is rated A+ and we are proud of this achievement,” commented Benjamin Pingree, County Administrator.

In addition, Timothy Barden, Assistant County Administrator received a Certificate of Recognition for the Budget Presentation as he was primarily responsible for achieving this award. “This is a significant achievement for Wakulla County. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and acknowledges the openness and transparency of our government through our budget document,” said Timothy Barden, Assistant County Administrator.

For additional information related to this story, please contact Jessica Welch, Policy & Public Information Coordinator at (850) 926-0919.