

# Press Release

## Lea County Wins Budget Award

**Lea County Courthouse, Lovington, NM:** The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded **Lea County, New Mexico** the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2014 budget. Lea County Manager Mike Gallagher said "this award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by Lea County elected officials and staff. We consistently strive for a budget that is conservative and transparent."

Lea County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Gregg Fulfer comments "the award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of government budgeting." In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories.

Lea County Commissioner Rebecca Long congratulated "Lea County Manager Gallagher, the Lea County Directors and the Lea County Finance team of Sherri Bunch and Noah Hicks for their professionalism, hard work and dedication in winning the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award." The Finance Department is commended for their quality of budgeting and providing an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, D.C. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

The Lea County Finance Department has a history of winning accolades and awards for their work. The New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) selected Lea County for the 2011 annual Audit Accountability Award that was given out at its Legislative Conference in January 2012. The award is given in recognition of a large, mid-sized and small county that have done outstanding work on their audits and have sustained excellence with the highest audit opinions for the past three years.