

City of Hanford

319 N. Douty St., Hanford, CA 93230



Press Release

Tel: (559) 585-2500 - Fax: (559) 582-1152

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Contact: Brian Johnson, Community Relations Manager
Email: btjohnson@hanford.city
Phone Number: (559) 302-6233

CITY OF HANFORD RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR BUDGET OF HIGHEST QUALITY

Budget document must excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communication tool

HANFORD, CA – Hanford City Council Members recently gave public praise to the City's Finance Department after the City received the Government Finance Officers Association's [Distinguished Budget Presentation Award](#) for its Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 [Budget](#). This is the first time the City has received the award.

“I know the countless hours that you all put into preparing the budget for the next two years,” Vice Mayor Mark Kairis told Finance Department staff. “To see (you) be recognized nationally is a huge honor.”

The City received the award for following nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device

To receive the award, these categories must be rated “proficient.”

“The award represents a significant achievement by the entity,” according to the GFOA. “It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.”

At last week's City Council meeting, Finance Director Chris Tavarez noted that employees Aubrey Carri, Destiny Borba and Penny Sutphin were “truly instrumental and key in the budget preparation that Council did adopt.”

“A national award isn't a small feat to come by,” added Tavarez. “Many kudos to the staff and to City Council.”

In another first, the City also received the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers' [Operating Budget Meritorious Award](#).

In addition to the 609-page document, the Finance Department also created a [digital budget book](#). It presents a budget overview, fund summaries, funding sources, department budgets and the Capital Improvement Program in an interactive and intuitive format.

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About GFOA

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.

About CSMFO

The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers serves all government finance professionals through innovation, collaboration, continuing education and professional development.