



Meeting Date: June 21, 2023

Submitted by: Tiffany Farrell, Director of Corporate Services

Report No: CPS-33-2023

Subject: GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report CPS-33-2023, re: GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award 2023 be received as information.

Purpose:

To provide Council with the news that the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has presented the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the Municipality of Middlesex Centre for the presentation of its 2023 budget.

Background:

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities it serves in North America.

The GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting, and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

Qualifying governments—including states, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and more—have been recognized for transparency in budgeting. To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.

The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. According to the GFOA, award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Analysis:

Middlesex Centre staff applied for the GFOA's budget award in February 2023 for the 2023 budget. The award represents a significant achievement for a Municipality. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the budget award, Middlesex Centre has to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for an effective 2023 Budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

This is the second year in a row that Middlesex Centre has been successful in achieving this award for our budget presentation.

The award from the Government Financial Officers Association confirms Middlesex Centre has met and exceeded the important criteria needed to present the budget to our residents in a way that is open and understandable.

The Director of Corporate Services will be presenting at the Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA) this fall about this achievement for Middlesex Centre. The presentation will focus on the process of achieving this award and how other municipalities can learn from our experiences and improve their budget presentations to meet this national standard in budget presentations.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Municipal Government

This report responds directly to Objective 5.3 – Foster a culture of innovation, continuous improvement, and cost-effective services by sharing information and gathering input, by continuing our timely and effective communication to the public.

Attachments:

A1 Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation