



Conor Baldwin
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
FROM: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer *[Signature]*
DATE: January 18, 2017
SUBJECT: FY2019 GFOA Distinguished Budget Award – City of Lowell

I am pleased to inform you that the Government Finance Officers of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced this past week that the City of Lowell has received the GFOA's 'Distinguished Budget Presentation Award' for the FY2019 operating & capital budgets. The award represents a significant achievement by Lowell city government. It reflects the commitment of the City Council and Administration to meeting the highest principals of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, Lowell had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective 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; and
- a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated as "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. Only about 1,500 municipalities throughout the United States and Canada have received the award this fiscal year; this is only the second time that Lowell has received the honor since the GFOA established the award program in 1984. According to the association, award recipients like Lowell have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

A copy of the award is included with this memorandum for your reference. The City Administration and the finance team have worked tirelessly to improve both the quality and the content of the city's annual operating and capital budget documents. The document is intended to provide to the taxpayers of Lowell the most complete picture possible of how public funds are spent. An electronic version of the budget document is on-line and can be accessed on the city's website at the following address: <http://lowellma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5532/City-of-Lowell-FY2019-Proposed-Budget>.

Producing the budget is a year-long process that involves the hard work of the entire city staff.