



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Cindy Cezat, Director, Financial Management and Planning
David Slowik, Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis

Re: Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget
Presentation Award

Highlights: For the seventh consecutive year, GLWA has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. To receive the budget award, GLWA 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.

Background: This award represents a significant achievement by GLWA, reflecting the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

In addition to receiving the award, GLWA's budget document received special recognition for Strategic Goals & Strategies. Special recognition is given when all reviewers of the document give the highest possible score in particular categories.

There are over 1,900 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award Recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Many groups, areas and teams throughout GLWA contribute to the development of the budget document. Leading this effort are Cindy Cezat, David Slowik, Robert Arbaugh along with CFO Executive Assistant Phyllis Walsh and the entire Financial Planning and Analysis team. The *GLWA FY 2026 and FY 2027 Biennial Budget & Five-Year Financial Plan FY 2026 through FY 2030* can be found on the GLWA website <https://www.glwater.org/financials/>.

Proposed Action: Receive and file this report.