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(Middleton, MA) – Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan is pleased to announce that the Town of Middleton has received the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FY 2022 budget. This is the first time the Town has received the award.

The award represents a significant achievement by the Town. It reflects the commitment of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity 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
- ☐ 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 an excellent step forward for the Town’s financial management team and indicates that our budget serves our elected officials and community members and their ability to conduct Town business with accurate and clear information,” said Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan. “I also wish to acknowledge **Finance Director/Town Accountant Sarah Wood** for her hard work and dedication on creating a budget document that meets these national standards.”

“I am very proud of this accomplishment and grateful to the GFOA for presenting us with the budget award for the first time,” said Finance Director/Town Accountant Sarah Wood. “I’m looking forward to using the feedback from GFOA to improve our budget for future fiscal years.”

According to the GFOA, there are over 1,700 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.

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 they serve.