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For immediate release

April 14, 2010

The City of West Jordan receives GFOA award for new 'program-based' 2009-10 budget

(West Jordan, UT) – The City of West Jordan recently received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2009-10 FY budget. The award will be presented by the Finance Division and Office of the City Manager to the budget team at tonight's City Council meeting.

According to the GFOA, the award represents a significant achievement and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the city 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

For the fiscal year 2009-10 budget, City Manager Tom Steele implemented a new program-based budget rather than the traditional department budget. The goal is to allocate revenues and expenses to each of the city's 80-plus "programs" so elected officials, residents and city staff can evaluate the true cost of city services and make decisions accordingly.

"It's at the program level that work plans are developed, resources are allocated, and performance measurements defined and reported," said Steele. "This format will help us track why we do things and more accurately measure costs and outcomes."

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving over 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America. For budgets including fiscal period 2009-10, 1,214 entities received the award.

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