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For the fifth consecutive year, the City of Burleson has been awarded the Gold Leadership Award from the Texas Comptroller for financial transparency. The City's finance department was also honored with the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year 2013. The City has earned the GFOA award dating back to the 1980s.

City council presented a plaque from the GFOA and a certificate from the Texas Comptroller to Rhett Clark, director of finance for the City, at the July 7 council meeting.

The Leadership Circle program was launched in December 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas that strive to meet a high standard for financial transparency online. As a Gold Leadership Award winner, the City of Burleson has been tapped as one of the city governments that sets the bar when it comes to transparency.

Burleson has proven that it opens its books to the public, provides clear consistent pictures of spending and shares information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more detail. The Texas Comptroller's Office looks at the City website, [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com), to see that the official adopted budget, annual financial report or comprehensive financial report, and check register are posted. The City also has an Open Government/Transparency page, [www.burlesontx.com/transparency](http://www.burlesontx.com/transparency), to make the information easily accessible. To win the gold, the City had to include contact information for elected officials, public information request contact and instructions, budgets for the most recent fiscal years, visual representation of financial data, and current tax rates for local option taxes.

The GFOA budget award is presented when an entity's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories.