



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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Bedford County Receives Prestigious Financial Reporting Award

Bedford County recently received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its work on the county government's comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009.

The certificates of achievement are awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada following a stringent review process.

All counties in Tennessee are required to prepare annual financial reports. However, in order to qualify for a certificate, counties must provide additional details about their finances above and beyond the information typically required under generally accepted accounting principles.

The additional information provided in Bedford County's financial report will be useful to bond rating agencies in evaluating the county's credit worthiness.

Certificates of achievement represent the highest form of recognition a state or local government can attain in the field of accounting and financial reporting.

Auditors from the Comptroller's Division of County Audit assisted Bedford County officials in preparing the financial report. The GFOA recognized the Division of County Audit and Robert Daniel, Bedford County's finance director, for their roles in preparing the report.

"This is a tremendous honor and I am proud of Bedford County for reaching this milestone," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I am a strong believer in disclosure and transparency in the reporting of public finances. I want to encourage more Tennessee counties to strive for this distinction, which is an indicator they have done far more than meet the minimum reporting requirements when preparing their financial statements."

"We want to recognize the efforts and many hours of work by Bedford County officials and employees as well as the efforts of the staffs from the Comptroller's Division of County Audit and the County Technical Assistance Service that helped make this certificate possible," said Jim Arnette, director of the Comptroller's Division of County Audit.

Bedford County is one of nine Tennessee counties to earn a certificate of achievement at least once since the association began awarding them in 1945. The other counties are: Anderson,

Blount, Bradley, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Rutherford and Shelby.

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