



**Government Finance Officers Association**  
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February 19, 2020

The Honorable Lee Ann Jones  
County Judge  
Panola County  
110 South Sycamore Street  
Suite 216A  
Carthage, TX 75633

Dear Judge Jones:

We are pleased to notify you that your comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2018 qualifies for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

When a Certificate of Achievement is awarded to a government, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for its having earned the Certificate. This award has been sent to the submitter as designated on the application.

We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement, and that appropriate publicity will be given to this notable achievement. A sample news release is enclosed to assist with this effort.

We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting.

Sincerely,

Michele Mark Levine  
Director, Technical Services Center



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

02/19/2020

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(Chicago, Illinois)--The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to **Panola County** by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

*Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 20,500 members and the communities they serve.*