



Town of Montague
Department, Board, Committee, Commission
BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 22

Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!

Department: Legal Counsel (151) Submitted by: Steven Ellis

1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY22 line item budget submission.

After consecutive years of decreased requests, including a mid-year reduction in FY21, the FY22 request includes an additional \$5,000 to support labor negotiations for the FY23-25 contract cycle, which will begin in earnest by Fall 2021.

2. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY21? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?

N/A

3. Did you receive funding for a discretionary account in FY21? What have you purchased to date, at what cost? Looking forward in FY22, what do you expect to purchase at what cost?

N/A

4. To-date in FY21, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.

We continue to make judicious use of counsel in an effort to keep costs contained, but also are certain not to bypass legal guidance as it becomes necessary to support Town decision making or planning.

5. Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY21 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.

No, I believe we have a sufficient legal budget to provide the ongoing support needed to conduct Town affairs and protect town interests. The change is requested because of the additional need for labor counsel engagement and expertise in FY22.