



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

FY 19

Please complete this form electronically in its entirety!

Department: Council on Aging Submitted by: Roberta L. Potter

Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY19 line item budget submission.

There are no substantial changes

Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY18? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?

No

To-date in FY18, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.

In FY18, we scheduled additional fitness programs and hosted a very successful series of healthy aging classes sponsored by Life Path. We also successfully negotiated with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to use state formula grant money for technical instruction for elders. We continue working on our goal to make internet based services accessible to more seniors by providing free internet, public computers, and instruction. This has become a necessary service as more agencies (e.g. Medicare, Commonwealth Care, Social Security, and medical clinics) are promoting on line access and becoming more difficult to access by telephone or in person.

Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY18 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.

The Council on Aging is able to continue its existing programs quite successfully with the state formula grant at its current level and the municipal funds available. We can do this because we have a number of dedicated volunteers. Any future meaningful expansion of either social services or programming will necessitate a significant financial commitment on the part of the town. For us, these improvements might include purchasing and maintaining a van and funding a driver to assist elders with transportation, hiring an outreach worker to make home visits to elders, and expanding senior center programming into the evening. We are not asking to make these changes to our mission at this time. The public and municipal responses to the most recent senior center facilities study did not indicate a high demand for expanded COA services at present and we are fortunate that our area is so well served by LifePath and Community Action, agencies which both serve the elderly and low income county residents

Are there other areas of your budget where you wish advocate for change, such as stipends, materials, etcetera?

There are not at this time.