



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

**FY 21**

*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 FY21 line item budget submission.**

The total budget proposed for Legal Counsel is 8% below that for FY20. This change reflects substantial completion of union contract renewals, which were ongoing during a 12 month period during FY19 and FY20. Accordingly, the personnel and labor relations line is where the reductions are located.

It is the Town Administrator's opinion that shifting from the incumbent Sullivan Hayes and Quinn Associates to KP Law for personnel related matters has resulted in more responsive labor counsel guidance at a lower overall cost to the Town and the present arrangement of using KP for both general and labor counsel will continue in FY21.

**2. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY20? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?**

N/A

**3. Did you receive funding for a discretionary account in FY20? What have you purchased to date, at what cost? Looking forward in FY20, what do you expect to purchase at what cost?**

N/A

**4. To-date in FY20, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.**

Completion of union contracts was a major accomplishment that benefitted substantively from counsel support. The greatest improvement was consolidation of services under one roof.

**5. Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY20 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.