



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

**FY 23**

*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 FY23 line-item budget submission.**

Level funded budget requested based on recent and present budget demands.

**2. To this point in FY22, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe?**

The town legal budget has been essential to successful land transfers, including disposition of the future FRTA bus garage site on Sandy Lane, the sale of the Sandy Lane parking area to Judd Wire, and completion of the sale of the former Saint Anne's rectory on Sixth Street in Turners Falls. This budget has also supported important projects, such as the legal requirements associated with the 5<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge project and the many legal questions that have arisen in recent months of the pandemic. It will provide vital support to labor negotiations over the second half of the fiscal year.

**3. Are there presently challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY22 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.**

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. We believe the current budget to be sufficient to meet ongoing needs in FY22 and in FY23 as well.

**4. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY22? What is the status of those expenditures/investments? Does your department have any older special article appropriations that remain unspent?**

No special articles were provided for the purpose of this budget.