

Standard Department Narrative Form

Department Name: **Legal**

Department Number 151

Purpose of Department/Mission

The legal budget includes all expenses associated with the use of Town Counsel (Kopelman and Paige) and our labor attorney, (Sullivan & Hayes.)

Department Staffing

- None

Mandated Services

- Chapter 41: authority of Board of Selectmen to appoint town counsel to serve as legal adviser to the Town.
- Chapter 41, Section 26A: representing the Board of Assessors or the Selectmen acting as Assessors, before the State Appellate Tax Board.
- Chapter 41, Section 43A: defending the Tax Collector or Treasurer in legal actions for damages.
- Chapter 32, Section 20 (47): serving as legal adviser to the local retirement board, unless the board opts to retain its own counsel.
- Chapter 258, Section 6: defending all civil actions against town employees for injury, loss of property, personal injury, or death caused by their negligence, or wrongful act or omission.
- Chapter 268A, Section 22: issuing opinions on the conflict-of-interest law
- Chapter 150E: providing professional assistance in the collective bargaining process, and in the administration of collective bargaining agreements.

Other Programs/Services Provided

- Town Counsel is responsible for providing legal advice to all departments and defending the town in any lawsuits that are filed against it, with the exception of labor relations cases, which are usually handled by Sullivan and Hayes.
- Labor Counsel also negotiates all collective bargaining agreements for the town and assists in the administration of these contracts on an on-going basis. There are currently collective bargaining agreements in place with all three unions (DPW, the Montague Employees Association and the Police).

Revenues Generated

- None