

Legal services worksheet

County Local small firm

Total Budget 30,000,000

Legal fees FY15 43,000 Budgeted FY16 55,000

Per Cent of Budget .12% of actual .185% of budget

Town A Local Medium size firm (no labor unions)

Total Budget 17,000,000

Legal fees FY 15 21,000 Budgeted FY16 55,000

Per cent of budget .12% .32% of budget

Town B Local Firm

Total Budget 59,000,000

Legal fees FY 15 (general) 190,000 Budgeted FY 16 310,000

Per Cent of Budget .32%

Town C Large Off Cape Firm

Total Budget 56,000,000

Legal Fees FY 15 215,000 Budgeted FY 16 160,000

Per Cent of Budget .38% of actual .29 % of budget

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Town D Local small firm

Total Budget	31,000,000	
Legal Fees FY15	90,000	Budgeted FY16 86,000
Per Cen of Budget	.29%	

Town E Off Cape Cod Firm

Total Budget	35,000,000	
Legal Fees FY15	94,000	Budgeted FY15 70,000
Per Cent Budget	.275 %	

Town F Off Cape Firm

Total Budget	54,000,000	
Legal Fees FY15 (general)	155,000	Budgeted FY 15 240,000
Per Cent Budget	.275%	budget labor & land aqu.

Note: for this exercise the total Town Budget includes the school budget. It should be noted that schools represent an Avg. of 38% of total Budget. If take out that amount the bottom line for % legal Services is much higher. However for this purpose I choose to leave in as most Councils represent School issues. Labor Council have been removed.

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Firms Hourly rate

- A. I surveyed 4 what I would consider medium/small size firms and averaged their hourly rate charges to arrive at the following:

Average billing Hourly Rate; 200.00

- B. I surveyed 4 what I would consider Large size firms and averaged their Blended hourly rate charges to arrive at the following:

Average billing *blended Rate; 414.00

*Note; large firms have various rates for partners and associates so for this exercise I averaged them to a Blended rate.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. No firm offer any sort of discount for use of in-house attorneys during a request for "special legal Counsel" ie; Environmental or Labor Council.
2. Every Town I spoke with has Legal Services Line item under close watch for Budget purposes. Those that have chosen large firms are re-thinking that move and exploring local council for "General Council" and use of "Special Firms "on an as needed basis.
3. If we are considering changing County Council at this time I would expect that the Commissioners INCREASE to Budget Line for Legal by the average of the % listed above. This would reflect increase for .185% to a .27% or budgeting from 55,000 to 81,000

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4. Barnstable County annual billable hours average 230. If the County were to switch to a larger Off Cape Firm at the average "blended rate" the annual Budget line for legal Services should be 95,225. (double the existing line item)

The system in which the County has in place to hire "special Legal Counsel" is the best for Budgeting purposes. Also it allows for change in Labor Council which is suggested practice in Municipal management.

This was best expressed in the recent action of Commissioners in selecting "Special Council" in the matter of Environmental Issues at the Fire Academy.

The County was able to go out for a RFQ and interview three potential Firms, selecting not only on Cost, but ability to move forward as desired by the Commissioners.

This would not have been the case had the County been limited to a Large Firm for full representation.

This item has been brought before the Commissioners at least 3 times in the previous year. The Commissioners at the last time when this was discussed agreed to table the issue until the new Administrator was hired and had input in this decision.