



DESAUTEL LAW

TO: EERMC
FROM: MARISA DESAUTEL, ESQ.
DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2020
RE: 2020 BUDGET INCREASE REQUEST

This memo discusses the EERMC's budget for services provided by Desautel Law for 2020. By email dated October 13, 2020, this office was notified that \$4,395.00 remains as a balance maintained by the EERMC for this office's service contract amount for 2020.

This office anticipates exceeding this amount by the end of this year for the scope of its representation of the EERMC. As a result, Desautel Law formally requests an \$8,000 budget increase to cover costs associated with billing months October-December, 2020. This request is based upon an average of this office's previous monthly invoices for 2020.

This additional amount will be necessary to handle several regulatory filings and appearances on behalf of the EERMC with the RI Public Utilities Commission, to provide counsel on questions that arise from the monthly council meetings, to provide contract review, and to provide ethics advice, among other tasks.

Following review of previous invoices, it is clear that several unanticipated and novel issues arose this year as compared to years past. These issues account for the underestimation of the number of hours billed by Desautel Law. Several council members had questions related to the RI Code of Ethics, which this office addressed through drafting of several memoranda, telephone communications, and e-mails. This office reviewed and revised several new vendor contracts that were not contemplated at the beginning of 2020. Also, questions regarding the Open Meetings Act's Executive Session requirements arose this year as an issue of first impression for the EERMC, which this office assisted on.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration in this regard.