

It looks like the La Crosse fire department will get the guys it apparently needs. Just not the way it had planned.

The city council was ready last night to agree to several new hires in the department over mayor Matt Harter's objections.

The council has now put off that decision after Harter says he's worked out a deal to allow most of the new hires as well as cutting loose overtime spending that he'd ended for the department last week.

The mayor also says he'll work with the firefighters union on staffing and other issues in the future.

The abrupt turnabout comes after two council meetings in which the mayor was pilloried for short staffing the department, potentially putting the city in grave danger.