

To make it very clear, La Crosse mayor Matt Harter didn't suddenly change his mind about filling several empty positions on the police department. He says, there was actually work to be done making that decision. The mayor tells us he had to do some ride-alongs, have some discussions with the police chief, and plan for the upcoming year's budget before deciding that the jobs should be filled.

Frustrated with the mayor's pace of decision, police chief Ed Kondracki was ready this week to bring his hiring requests to the city council before Harter decided the city could afford two days ago that La Crosse could afford the new officers. The chief says, even with filling the vacant jobs, he'll still be short on people because most of the jobs will be filled with internal candidates.