

Just what impact are jobs left unfilled having in the city of La Crosse? A question that a city council committee will begin trying to answer at a meeting tonight. The process spurred by the vacancies in the city's fire department. Vacancies that are leading to lots more overtime. But also requiring a change in mission of the department, says chief Greg Cleveland. He says the department is cutting back in areas like public education, assisting businesses in emergency planning and focusing on core functions of the department. Cleveland says it costs more to staff positions with overtime and it could lead to dangerous missteps for those firefighters who are now expected to work longer hours.