

The La Crosse fire department may soon be able to save some money. By hiring new firefighters. A city council committee has given the okay to allow the department to start filling lingering vacancies. It's those vacancies that are costing the department record amounts of overtime. But those same vacancies take time to fill, says fire chief Gregg Cleveland. He says the department, with the number of openings it has right now, would be hard pressed to fill all those openings immediately. New hires in the department have been frozen to this point by mayor Matt Harter.