

The La Crosse mayor is the boss. At least the boss of the fire department. That's the opinion of city attorney Stephen Matty regarding mayor Matt Harter's directive to fire chief Gregg Cleveland last week to suspend overtime use in the department. The city council asked whether the mayor had the authority to issue such a directive. The opinion from Matty says state statutes give the mayor that authority and that can only be changed through a change in city ordinances.