

First, it was vacant positions in the La Crosse fire department that were desperately needed to get filled. Then it was the police department. But should those vacancies remain.....vacant? That's what city council president, Audrey Kader and mayor Matt Harter are hoping to determine with the help of a consultant. Kader and Harter, almost never on the same side of any issue, are pushing a proposal for a consultant to study both fire and police needs in the city. Although the mayor has made it clear he thinks both departments can do more with less, he's also advocated for an evaluation of both. Meanwhile, Kader says she's simply unsure what the ideal staffing requirements for either department are. The council will vote on the consultant proposal next month.