

An exercise for those contemplating operating a city on limited funds:

This is your problem: You've got a million dollars to spend. You need a new road grader for a quarter million dollars. And some new police cars, a two stage snow blower, a new fire truck and whole bunch of other stuff. Money goes pretty quickly, as La Crosse city public works director Dale Hexom can tell you. He's on the board of public works which has just this week shaved down city department equipment requests from \$2.5 million to an even million. Hexom says the police and fire departments don't necessarily get priority on their requests. Just depends, he says, on which city department has the greatest need.