

For guys looking to pull in some big dollars on overtime on the La Crosse fire department, this week turned sour fast. After burning through almost an entire year's overtime budget already, mayor Matt Harter directed the department to start sending firefighters home. Harter says, there's nothing to fear by the move. He says, with a little collaboration among firefighters, Tri-state ambulance, the police department and emergency dispatch, people in the city of La Crosse should not be in danger. Eventually, Harter wants to change staffing minimums for the fire department so there won't be so much overtime used. A La Crosse city council committee meeting last night drew over a hundred firefighters, police and teachers who were expressed outrage over the overtime slight and the potential threats to residents of La Crosse.