

## School Cops Defended by Chief Even With Staffing Shortages

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Shut down the lobby at the police department half the time, have some crimes only reportable online, get rid of half the crossing guards, but La Crosse police chief Ed Kondracki has limits to service cuts he's willing to make. School liaison cops, for example. Kondracki says they're very valuable at the schools in which they serve. La Crosse has five school cops that serve in the middle and high schools. Kondracki says if his staffing situation got really dire, he'd have to put those cops back out on the street. The city council will likely vote this week to authorize another round of hiring in the police department.