Creating an AFP overlay from a letterhead, and attaching it to a printer file

Alternatively, scan to TIF and convert that to an overlay, but the below definitely gives better results. The key is to get everything into pure black before you start the format conversion.

Required software:

- Microsoft Word
- If available version of Word does not have Save As PDF capability, some sort of print-to-PDF program
- Microsoft Photo Editor or other image manipulation program with image balance Gamma capability. I have a zipped copy of Photo Editor that I can email if required
- iSeries Access AFP Workbench Viewer feature
- ImageMagick 4.6.6 or later (free download)

Add this printer: **IBM AFP 4028 on FILE:** (driver should be available on your PC if iSeries Access is installed; select manufacturer=InfoPrint, or =IBM on older Windows installations, when selecting from driver list.)

Detailed instructions:

1) Obtain a copy of the required letterhead in Microsoft Word format.
2) Use Word to convert all text to pure black.
3) For all graphics, from Word, Picture Format>Color>Black & White. If any of it disappears, undo format change, then copy and paste graphic into Microsoft Photo Editor, use Image>Balance to set Gamma to 0.10, copy and paste graphic back to same position/size as before within Word document, redo Picture Format>Color>Black & White.
4) Save Word document as PDF, or print to PDF.
5) Convert PDF to JPG using ImageMagick 6.4.4:
   "C:\Program Files\ImageMagick-6.4.4-Q16\convert" -density 576 <pdf-file> <jpg-file>
6) Launch AFP Workbench Viewer (from System i Access), open JPG in it.
7) File>Create Overlay. Take all defaults *except* set Image Options>Properties>Graphic Options to Basic.
8) Open resulting .oly file in AFP Workbench Viewer to check it looks OK – should be fine. Note that all this is pretty old technology, do not expect miracles.

You now have a .oly overlay file ready to deploy onto the i system.

1) Transfer the overlay file you just created to a shared folder on the i system. The example uses the shared folder called **MYFLR**, i.e. **/QDLS/MYFLR** from an IFS perspective, and assumes that the overlay is called **ovl.oly**.

2) Create a physical file on the i system to receive the overlay resource. Use the Create Physical File command as follows:

```
CRTPF FILE(MYLIB/MYFILE) RCDLEN(32766) LVLCHK(*NO)
```

3) Copy the overlay file from your IBM i shared folder to the file you just created, using the Copy From PC Document (CPYFRMPCD) command:

```
CPYFRMPCD FROMFLR(MYFLR) TOFILE(MYLIB/MYFILE) FROMDOC(OVL.OLY)
TRNTBL(*NONE)
```

6. Now, create the overlay resource MYOVL with the Create Overlay command:

```
CRTOVL OVL(MYLIB/MYOVL) FILE(MYLIB/MYFILE) MBR(MYFILE) TEXT('My
First Overlay')
```

Overlays can be merged with IBM i output via CRTPRTF, CHGPRTF, or OVRPRTF. Place the Overlay (MYOVL) name and Library (MYLIB) in the Front side overlay (FRONTOVL) or Back side overlay (BACKOVL) parameters, depending on whether your overlay appears on the front or back of your printed page. These parameters are followed by offset parameters for positioning the overlay on your page. Note that DEVTYPE(*AFPDS) must also be specified.