In 2003, Savanna’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of $0.6 million. That meant every Savanna household, on average, was on the hook for $360 in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

Savanna began contributing more money – taxpayer dollars – to pensions in an attempt to make the plans healthier. Over the next 16 years, city contributions increasingly crowded out spending for public safety, roads and other core services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City (taxpayer) contributions to pensions</td>
<td>$0.12 million</td>
<td>$0.34 million</td>
<td>Up 2.8X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of city general budget for pensions</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>Up 2.1X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Savanna’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 8.7 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in Savanna’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled $4.8 million. That means each Savanna household, on average, is now on the hook for $3,105 in debt.

Everyone loses under Savanna’s pension crisis:

**Taxpayers are tapped out**
Savanna residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 2.8 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 8.7 times larger.

**Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget**
Savanna pension contributions have grown to consume 26.2% of the city’s budget, up from 12.8% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.

**Savanna worker retirement security is collapsing**
The health of Savanna’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 89.5% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 48.8%.

**Savanna’s crisis will only get worse**
Savanna has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 1.00 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 0.58 active workers per pensioner.
Savanna received an “F” grade in 2019. The city’s total score dropped from 76 in 2003 to 53 in 2019, a decline of 23 points. Savanna was one of 102 cities to receive an “F” grade in 2019.

Wirepoints quantified the negative impact of local pensions by examining the finances of Illinois’ 175 largest cities from 2003 to 2019. The analysis was based on ten equally-weighted metrics. Cities were given an A through F grade based on a 100-point scale (10 points per metric).*

Communities in crisis: More than half of Illinois cities get “F” grades for local pensions.

*Savanna Key Facts

City demographics

City budget
- General revenues: 2003 - $926,501, 2019 - $1,305,769
- Total revenues: 2003 - $2,462,046, 2019 - $3,983,958
- Total property taxes: 2003 - $523,162, 2019 - $662,767

Pension health (police, fire & IMRF)
- Total pension assets: 2000 - $4,737,480, 2019 - $4,614,271
- Funded ratio: 2003 - 89.5%, 2019 - 48.8%
- Total pension shortfall: 2003 - $557,721, 2019 - $4,834,059
- Per household: 2003 - $360, 2019 - $3,105
- Active public safety workers: 2003 - 12, 2019 - 7
- Public safety pension beneficiaries: 2003 - 12, 2019 - 12
- City contributions
  - Per household: 2003 - $76, 2019 - $220
  - Percentage of city’s general budget: 2003 - 12.8%, 2019 - 26.2%
  - Employees’ contributions: 2003 - $51,655, 2019 - $64,004

Savanna Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police pension funded ratio</td>
<td>58.7%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter pension funded ratio</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal (IMRF) pension funded ratio</td>
<td>152.2%</td>
<td>119.8%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City pension debts per household as a percentage of median household income</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City contributions per household as a percentage of median household income</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City contributions as a percentage of total budget</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of city contributions to employee contributions</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage surplus/shortfall in actuarially-required city contribution (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset-to-payout ratio (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker-to-beneficiary ratio (Police &amp; Fire only)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total score: 76 | Grade: C