In 2003, Streator’s police, fire and municipal pension funds already faced a shortfall of $6.1 million. That meant every Streator household, on average, was on the hook for $1,058 in future taxes just to eliminate that shortfall.

Streator 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>2003</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City (taxpayer) contrib to pensions</td>
<td>$0.50 million</td>
<td>$1.87 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of city general budget for pensions</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the ramp-up in city payments over those 16 years, Streator’s pension debts didn’t decrease. Instead, they jumped by 4.3 times!

By 2019, the shortfall in Streator’s police, fire and municipal pension funds totaled $26.5 million. That means each Streator household, on average, is now on the hook for $4,606 in debt.

Everyone loses under Streator’s pension crisis:

- **Taxpayers are tapped out**: Streator residents are paying more and more into a broken system. City taxpayers in 2019 contributed 3.7 times more to pensions than in 2003, yet city debts are 4.3 times larger.

- **Pension costs are devouring the city’s budget**: Streator pension contributions have grown to consume 14.8% of the city’s budget, up from 8.3% in 2003. That’s crowded out spending on public safety, roads and other core services.

- **Streator worker retirement security is collapsing**: The health of Streator’s local pension plans have worsened despite those increased taxpayer contributions. In 2003, the plans had 68.9% of the money they needed. By 2019, that had dropped to just 43.4%.

- **Streator’s crisis will only get worse**: Streator has fewer active government workers available to help pay for a growing number of retirees. In 2003, there were 0.98 active workers for every pensioner. By 2019, there were 0.89 active workers per pensioner.
Streator received an “F” grade in 2019. The city’s total score dropped from 66 in 2003 to 45 in 2019, a decline of 21 points.

Streator 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.