

About the Village

Incorporated on April 7, 1956, the Village of Savoy is a home rule Illinois municipal corporation with over 8,800 residents. For FY 2021-2022, the Village has an annual operating budget of \$5.14 M and an annual capital budget of \$1.58 M. The municipal corporation is comprised of the following offices and departments: Office of Management and Budget; Community and Economic Development Department; Public Works Department; Parks and Recreation Department; and, of course, the Fire Department. Law enforcement services are provided through the Champaign County Sheriff’s Office. Utilities are privately owned and operated by Ameren Illinois, Illinois American Water, and the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District.

Home to a diverse, multicultural, and growing population; a thriving business community; and beautiful parks, the Village of Savoy is a great place to live, work, shop, and to enjoy your family. The Village is also strategically located near the main campus of the University of Illinois, Willard Airport, various healthcare resources, and methods of transportation. As of the 2020 Census, the Village has the following demographic makeup:

Population	8,857
Persons under 5 years:	5.4%
Persons under 18 years:	20.6%
Persons 65 years and over:	17.5%
Black or African American:	5.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native:	0.0%
Asian:	19.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:	0.0%
Two or More Races:	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino:	3.1%
White (not Hispanic or Latino):	69.8%



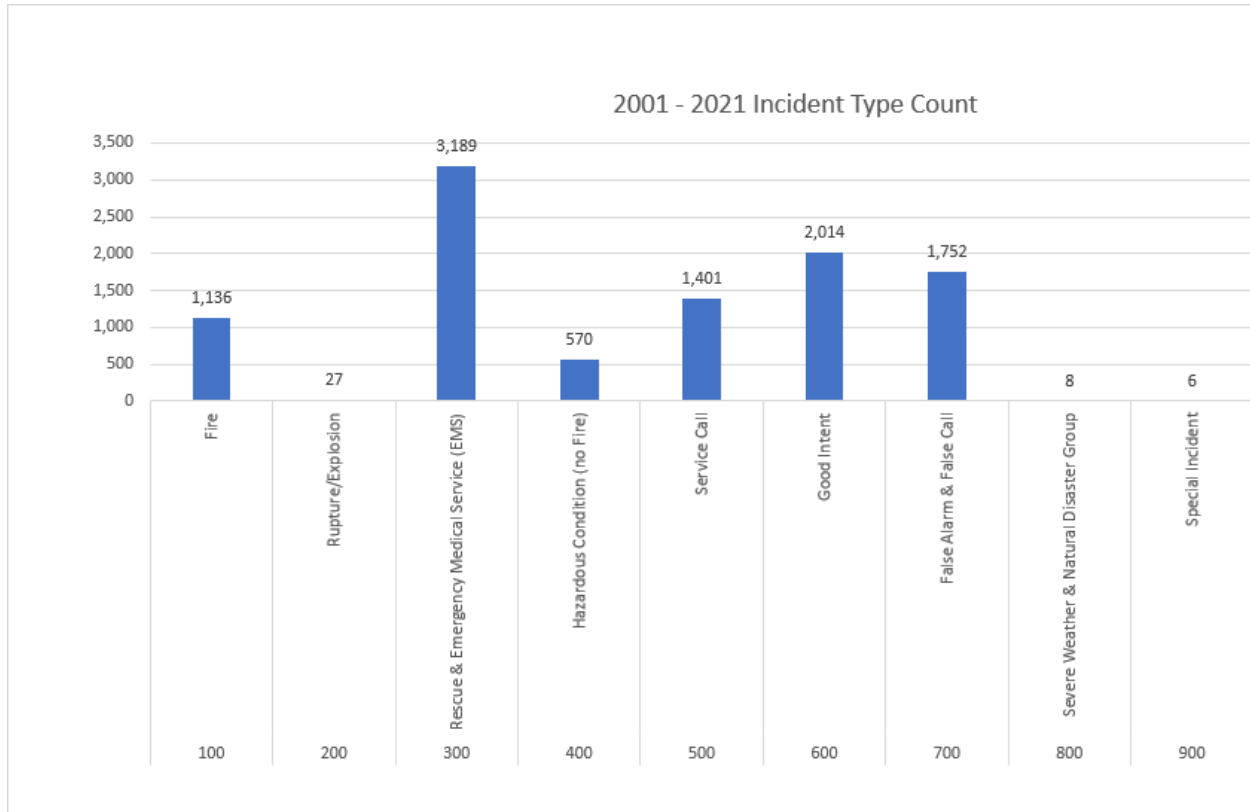
The Village is also bisected by United States Route 45 and the Canadian National Railroad. All crossings are at grade. The Village is currently working on a grade separation project that would see an underpass constructed at Curtis Road and US 45. Work on this project continues as staff seeks additional funding to ensure the project can begin. More information on the Curtis Road Project can be found [here](#).

Fire Department Historical Summary

Effective January 1, 1956, after a City Council vote in July of the previous year, the City of Champaign ceased all firefighting services outside of its corporate limits. This unfortunately included the then unincorporated community of Savoy. The Village’s incorporation on April 7, 1956 was entirely result of the need to provide and sustain fire services that were no longer provided by the City of Champaign. Since 1956, the Fire Department has grown in size and professionalism; from its volunteer origins to its current paid-on-call model. The Fire Department is currently an ISO Class 3 department. Below is a twenty-year retrospective of the total number of calls:



Total Number of Calls by Type - 2001 through 2021



Governance and Chain of Command

The Village is governed by its residents through a part-time Village President and six part-time Village Trustees; each of whom are elected at-large on 4-year staggered terms. The most recent municipal election occurred in April of 2021 where the Village President and three trustees were elected. The next municipal election will occur in April of 2023 where 3 trusteeships will be on the ballot.

The Village President is the Chief Elected Official and the Chief Executive Officer of the municipal corporation. As such, the Village President is statutorily empowered to manage and control all operational aspects of the municipal corporation. The Board of Trustees, which the Village President presides over, serves as the Village’s legislative body.

The Village President appoints, with confirmation of the Board of Trustees, a full-time Chief Administrative Officer, commonly referred to as the Village Administrator, to serve as the administrative head of government and to oversee and manage the day-to-day operations of the Village. All Department Heads, which includes the Fire Chief, are hired by and directly report to the Village Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Village President.



2021 Fire Department Study

In December of 2020, staff presented the Village President and the Board of Trustees with a request for proposals to conduct a long-budgeted study of the Fire Department. Initially, the Board of Trustees intended only to evaluate the need and location of a potential second station. However, after discussion with staff, the Board of Trustees decided to proceed with a full review of the Fire Department centered on the following areas:

1. A review of current conditions with an analysis of existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the Savoy Fire Department.
2. An evaluation of Savoy's forecasted community growth and service needs.
3. The development of recommendations that address the needs identified in the consultant's analysis. Recommendations must be compliant with National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) and Insurance Services Office (ISO) laws, rules, and regulations.

The Village President and the Board of Trustees reviewed proposals to conduct the study in February of 2021 and authorized a contract with the Illinois Fire Chief's Association on March 3, 2021. The complete 192-page IFCA Fire Department Study can be viewed [here](#). The IFCA PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#).

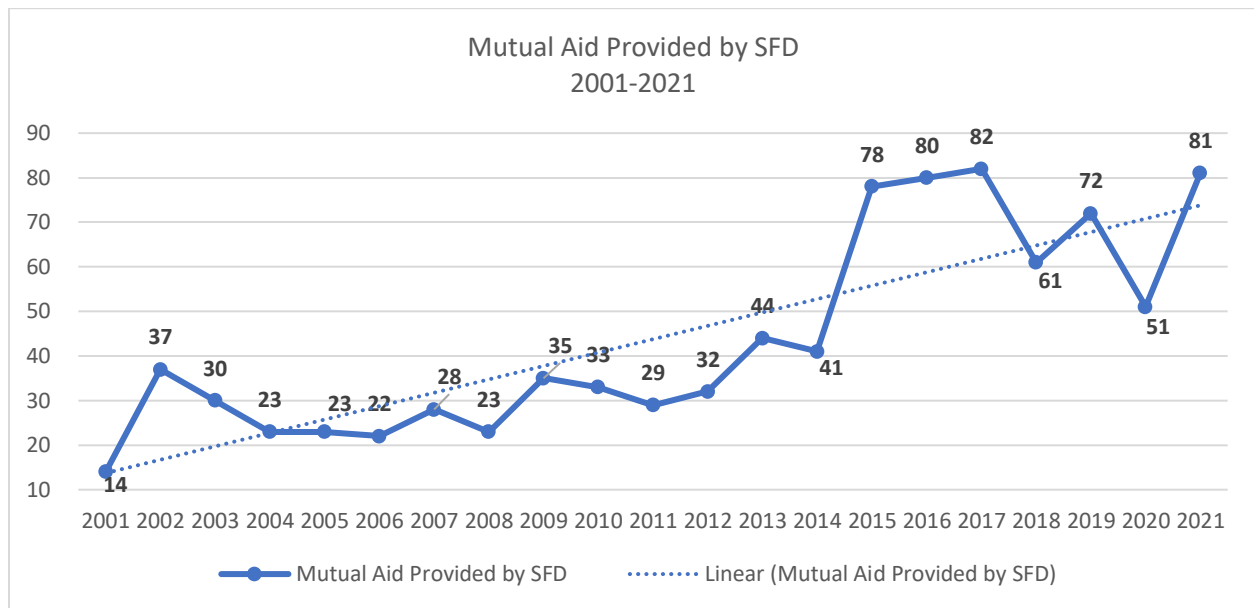
The Village's next Fire Chief will be tasked, among other things, with fully understanding the Fire Department Study and providing recommendations on implementation to the Village Administrator. Staff will then present these recommendations to the Village President and the Board of Trustees, for their consideration and future action.



Department Budget and Personnel

The Village of Savoy does not employ full-time career firefighters. The next Fire Chief will be the first full-time Fire Chief in the Village’s history. The Fire Department is a paid-on-call department that provides firefighting and rescue services. These services are provided to all residents within the Village’s corporate limits and in surrounding contractual service areas. The total service area is approximately 15 sq. mi. and the total population served by the Fire Department is approximately 15,000. ALS ambulance services within the Village are provided by Carle Arrow Ambulance. A staffed ambulance is stationed in the Village 24 hours per day.

The Fire Department operates four Engines, a Ladder Tower, a command vehicle, and a utility pickup. Additionally, the Fire Department operates an Air Replenishment Trailer for use within Champaign County or by request of any fellow MABAS Division 28 department. The Village has automatic mutual aid agreements with various fire departments and fire protection districts throughout Champaign County. Key among them is an automatic mutual aid agreement with the University of Illinois’ Willard Airport.



Current staff includes an Acting Fire Chief, an Acting Assistant Chief, an Acting Captain, four Acting Lieutenants, and a staff of approximately twenty-five engineers and firefighters. Additionally, an Administrative Assistant from the Office of Management and Budget is assigned to the Fire Department.

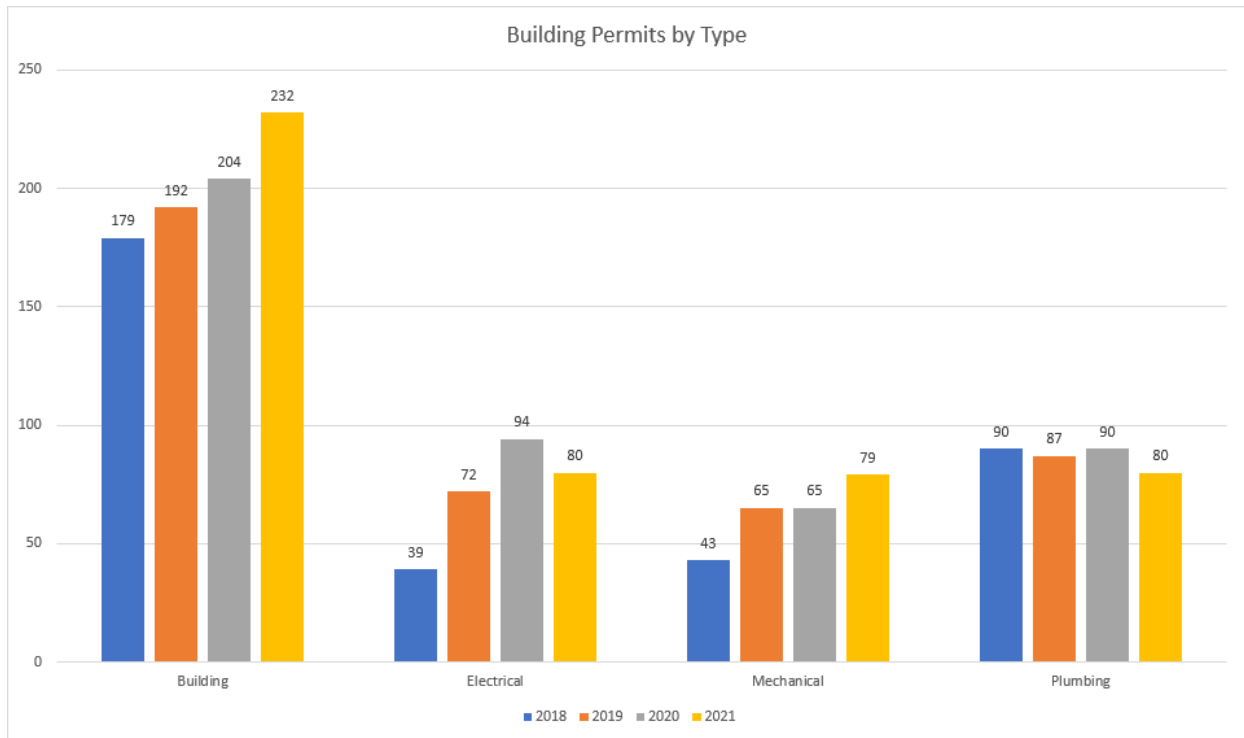
The Fire Department operates on an annual budget of approximately \$602,000. This does not include capital facility or capital vehicle replacement. Portions of capital asset management, including fleet maintenance and vehicle replacement, are managed by the Public Works Department in consultation with the Fire Department. The latest addition to the Fire Department fleet is the new Engine 452, ordered in April of 2021 and delivered in January 2022. This apparatus is a quint and replaced the former 452 after it served the community for over 20 years. The new Engine 452 will be paid-in-full by May 2022.



Residential and Commercial Development

The Village is one of the fastest growing communities in Illinois. Residential and commercial permits and inspections are managed by the Building Safety Division of the Community and Economic Development Department. The Fire Department manages business pre-plans and coordinates with the Building Safety Division’s two certified fire inspectors on completing required life safety inspections. General development information is below:

Building Permits Issued by Type - 2018-2021



Additional Information

Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019	53.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019	\$233,000
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2015-2019	17.5 Minutes
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$72,785

Source: U.S. Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/savoyvillageillinois/PST045221>



The Ideal Candidate

The Village seeks a dedicated, highly collaborative, and passionate leader to serve as its next Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is a visible member of the Village President's Senior Staff and requires well-developed leadership abilities and management skills that are based upon loyalty, trustworthiness, professionalism, consensus building, and problem-solving.

The Village seeks:

- **Leadership:** Be dedicated to becoming an effective servant leader and building collaborative and positive relationships with employees, colleagues, and community stakeholders. Have strong and confident communication skills, excellent relationship-building abilities, an accessible leadership style, and a calm demeanor. Be one who can establish trust quickly with others. Have thorough knowledge of the principles of personnel management including recruiting, training, promoting, and coaching.
- **Experience:** Specifically, in the areas of fire operations, emergency management, capital vehicle and equipment planning, and large-scale events planning. Business acumen and experience with effective budgetary control and conservative fiscal management are crucial.
- **Innovation:** Bring fresh ideas to the organization and offer unique perspectives and experiences. Have knowledge of how to effectively manage change and generate buy-in from staff.
- **Energy:** Provide enthusiasm and bring focused energy to all projects and a passion for service to the community. Be one who is highly motivated and can develop and articulate a long-term plan for the fire department with the charisma to lead the team to an even higher level of excellence. Be a highly motivated, visionary, goal-oriented leader with a proven ability to gain cooperation and communicate clear direction.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate degree in Fire Science or a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- 5 or more years of progressively responsible experience, in a public, private, or federal fire department of similar or larger size, at a company officer position or Department of Defense equivalent.
- Advanced Fire Officer or Chief Fire Officer Certification as established by Illinois Administrative Code.
- Fire Investigator certification as established by the Illinois Administrative Code.
- ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300 and ICS 400 (also offered as Command and General Staff), ICS 700, IS 703b, IS 706, and ICS 800 certifications.
- Valid Non-CDL Class B Illinois driver's license or the obtain one within 30 days of hire.
- Must be able to respond to calls-for-service and emergencies within 15 minutes of initial dispatch.
- Valid Basic Emergency Medical Technician license issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Current American Heart Association Basic Life Support certification or the ability to obtain it within 30 days of hire.



Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree, from an accredited college or university, in Fire Administration, Fire Science, Public Administration, Emergency Management, or similarly related field.
- 10 or more years of progressively responsible experience, in a public, private, or federal fire department of similar or larger size, at a command officer position or Department of Defense equivalent.
- Executive Fire Officer (EFO) certification from the National Fire Academy (NFA) or Chief Fire Officer certification from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE).

Compensation and Benefits

The annual salary range for this position is \$75,000 to \$100,000 depending on qualifications. The Village also offers a competitive benefits package including health insurance, retirement, and paid time off. Village residency is preferred but not required.

How to Apply

The position is open until filled. Interested applicants should provide a cover letter, resume, and contact information for five (5) professional references to christopher.walton@savoy.illinois.gov. Only electronic applications will be accepted.

The Village of Savoy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

