

# WISCONSIN FIRE JOURNAL



July/August 2025

**Firefighter  
Collectors**

**Firefighters  
Classroom**

**Another Unnecessary  
Firefighter Fatality...**

**Swift Water  
Rescue**

**Dept. Profile  
Green Valley-Morgan  
Fire Company**

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OCCOINTO FALLS, WISCONSIN 54601



# DEPARTMENT PROFILE

## Green Valley/Morgan Fire Company



By Eric Johnson

Photography by Fred Loomis

Driving through rural areas of the state you might ask yourself this question; "I wonder whose fire area this belongs to. Fortunately, we still have quite a bit of "America's Dairyland?" left to enjoy and we can still take those Sunday drives if we want to. Driving on Hwy. 32 north of Pulaski or on Hwy. 22 north of Shawano and you will be in the Green Valley-Morgan Fire Company's territory.

You won't see any subdivisions, apartment buildings, or strip malls around these parts. The only change

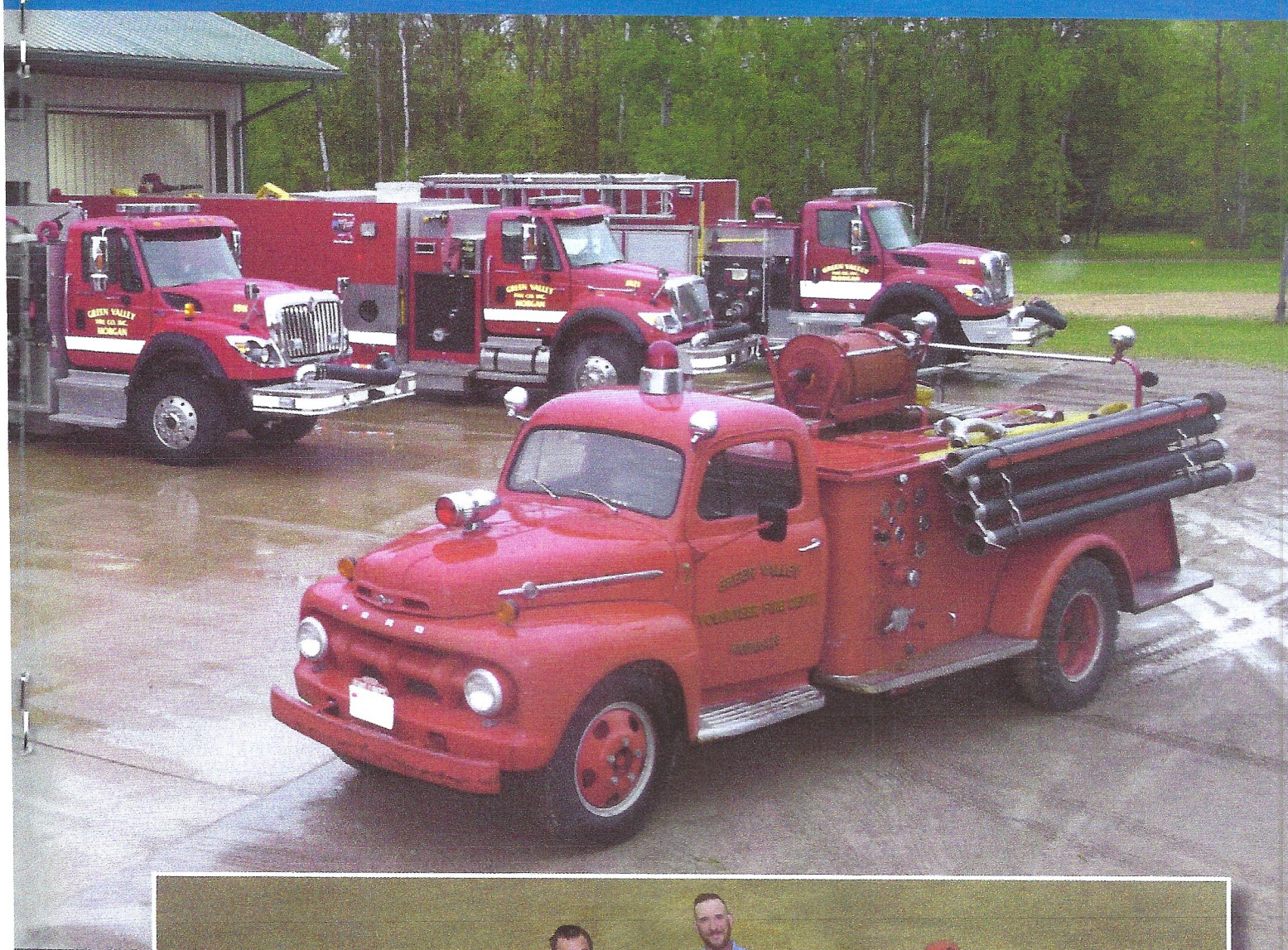
that is noticeable on the rural landscape is that there has been a transition from the familiar small family farms that had perhaps 40 head of cattle to the modern mega farms that can house thousands of dairy cows.

Perusing a chapter of the fire department in the Green Valley History Book Volume 1, the humble beginnings of the department are quite interesting. The department was born on April 22, 1929, with absolutely nothing but a dream and determination of some of the town's people. Below are some of the facts

derived from the history book.

- A dance was held on May 4, 1929, to raise money to buy a 40' ladder. This ladder was kept between the bank and hardware store on Main Street
- The following month a motion was made to purchase one dozen fire buckets (automobiles were few and far between as of yet)
- The first fire truck was purchased in 1936 and kept in a personal garage with ladders still stored between the buildings on Main Street





**Green Valley/Morgan Fire Company's team of dedicated firefighters**





**Fire Hose Training**

with ladders still stored between the buildings on Main Street

- Until the first fire station was built in 1949, firefighting equipment was stored in several different garages in town over the years
- In 1952, the Town of Morgan accepted coverage for fire protection from the Green Valley Fire Department and the name was changed to the Green Valley-Morgan Fire Department.
- On August 18, 1959, fire equipment that was stored in the small unincorporated town of Pulcifer was made part of the department

Over the years, the organization has changed their name back and forth from department to company but since August 10, 1997, the organization was officially incorporated as the Green Valley-Morgan Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. The Town of Green Valley and the Town of Morgan pay an assessment for a portion of the annual budget for the

company based on their valuation. Since day one, they have always been considered a private company. They are considered a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

The Green Valley-Morgan Fire Company Inc. has three stations spread out in the townships of Green Valley and Morgan. Each station houses a tender/pumper with 3,000 gallons of water on board as there are no fire hydrants in the district. Their automatic aid partners respond with their tenders to insure lots of water right away.

One aspect that is unique for

the department is that Green Valley is in Shawano County and Morgan is in Oconto County. This means they are in two different MABAS divisions and must also communicate with two separate dispatch centers. According to Chief Leonard Wahl, this has caused some communication glitches in the past but both agencies have ironed out most of the wrinkles and work together during an incident.

Like many departments across the state, the department relies on fundraisers to augment their budget. The annual picnic held the second Saturday in August includes a corn roast, raffles, a car show

and three different bands during the all-day event. I can attest that it attracts a lot of people! The success of the picnics has allowed them to purchase a new pickup truck last year and obtain a new skid unit earlier this year with the help coming from a grant they received from the DNR.

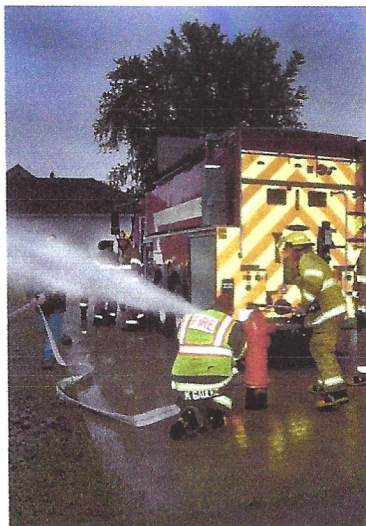




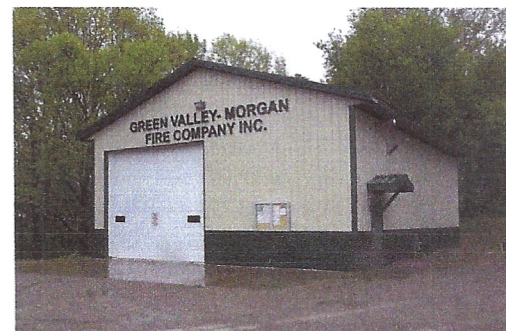
Chief Wahl, who has been a member of the company since 1988 and head of the organization for thirteen years, manages the department with that "we are here for them" attitude. He and his officers have, and continue to bring in new improvements to the organization.

Also new this year for the department is the upgrade to their hose and nozzle packages. They bought new Elkhart Brass smoothbore nozzles and backing them with Mercedes hose for all the pre-connects on the engines. Quite a difference from the fire bucket brigades of yesteryear. Another improvement this year was to contract with the Public Safety Training Center to provide in-house training at the monthly meetings.

Though much of the Green Valley-Pulcifer-Morgan area has changed little from the past, the fire department and its personnel that protects the people and property has. The Green Valley-Morgan Fire Company Inc. is proof that no matter if the department is career, volunteer, public or private, they are equipped and trained to answer the alarm.



**Fire Station #1**



**Fire Station #2**



**Fire Station #3**

## A Special "Thank You" From The Town Chairman



**Chairman Terry Tipton**



The Town of Green Valley ( Shawano County) and the Town of Morgan ( Oconto County) have shared support of the Green Valley Morgan Fire Company for 70 plus years. The department is made up of local volunteers that provide service to both townships. The townships contract with the volunteer service, which is a private non profit service that manages its own business, training, insurance etc. As chairman of the Town of Green Valley I know the value of the Fire Department. They respond to fires, accidents, lift assists for the ambulance services, help with storm damage situations, setup landing zones for helicopter ambulance service, plus much more. Neighbors helping Neighbors! Since they live here and own property here they understand the need to keep costs in check and do all those things at a contract cost that fits the budget both for the fire department and the towns.

*Terry Tipton*

Green Valley Chairman



## PHOTO GALLERY

### Green Valley/Morgan F.D.

