



## **City of Oak Grove, Police Department Officially Receives Missouri Blue Shield Designation**

Oak Grove, MO (May 6, 2025) - The City of Oak Grove Police Department officially received the Missouri Blue Shield designation from the Missouri Department of Public Safety. This prestigious honor recognizes Missouri communities that demonstrate a steadfast commitment to enhancing public safety and supporting law enforcement.

The Missouri Blue Shield Program, created by Governor Kehoe in January 2025 through Executive Order 25-03, recognizes local governments that make significant efforts to reduce crime, foster law enforcement collaboration, and build strong community partnerships for public safety.

“Public safety is the foundation of a thriving community and state. It affects everything from families feeling secure to businesses having the confidence to invest and grow,” said **Governor Kehoe**. “We designed the Missouri Blue Shield Program to recognize communities that go above and beyond in creating a place where people want to live, work, and build their futures. A Missouri Blue Shield designation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of local governments across Missouri who are leading the way in making public safety a priority.”

“The Department of Public Safety is proud to work alongside communities like Oak Grove, that have shown exceptional dedication to enhancing public safety,” said **Mark James, Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS)**. “This program fosters collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Our goal is to support these efforts, providing resources and guidance to help communities build sustainable, long-term solutions for crime reduction and public safety.”

### **Eligibility and Program Details**

Communities are eligible for a Missouri Blue Shield designation based on their dedication to reducing crime, making substantial investments in public safety, and developing strong collaboration with law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders. Each participating community’s commitment will be reviewed annually to ensure continued alignment with the program’s goals.

### **Participation Incentives**

Communities that earn a Missouri Blue Shield designation will receive grant funding for law enforcement training and equipment as part of Governor Kehoe's Recommended Budget for the State Fiscal Year 2026. Communities will also be featured on Governor Kehoe's social media pages as well as the DPS website to highlight their participation in the program.

### **About Oak Grove's Efforts**

The City of Oak Grove earned a Missouri Blue Shield designation due to its exceptional commitment to public safety. This designation affirms the Oak Grove Police Department's effort to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live and work here.

Here is a list of accomplishments over the past couple of years:

#### ***Investments in Public Safety and Crime Reduction:***

- The city invested in 6 FLOCK license plate readers, which have been instrumental in recovering missing and abducted children and adults, locating and arresting wanted parties, and recovering several occupied stolen vehicles.
- Expanding the department's less-lethal equipment to include new Tasers and beanbag-designated shotguns.
- Addition of a School Resource Officer through a Federal COPS grant and a partnership with the Oak Grove School District
- State traffic grants – cost sharing with state grant funding to combat hazardous driving and impaired drivers (drug and alcohol)

#### ***Community Policing Initiatives:***

- A continued partnership with the Oak Grove Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders.
- National Night Out
- Shop with a Hero

#### ***Anti-crime task forces and organizations:***

- The Oak Grove Police Department has a detective assigned to the Jackson County Drug Taskforce and our Chief of Police is an active board member.
- Our criminal investigators are working with other agencies to restart the Missouri Rural Major Case Squad.
- Crime Analyst regional networking group coordinating with MIAC and the KC Regional Fusion Center.