



WEST PLAINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TO: COMMAND STAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR SAM ANSELM, CITY CLERK KELLIE MAYERS

FROM: SERGEANT JOSHUA WICHOWSKI

SUBJECT: Governor Kehoe Announces Opportunity for More Missouri Communities to Earn Blue Shield Designation

Executive Summary

The Missouri Blue Shield Program is a state initiative that recognizes and rewards counties, cities, and towns for their dedicated efforts to improve law enforcement and community safety. It is part of Governor Mike Kehoe's Safer Missouri plan and is administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS). The purpose of the Missouri Blue Shield Designation is to highlight and recognize agencies and local government bodies who have through their courses of action and budget shown a significant commitment and extraordinary investments in public safety and reducing violent crime. Benefits of the Program include the opportunity to apply for the Blue Shield Designation Specific Grant in the amount of up to \$50,000 and state level recognition of our community for its commitment to excellence in policing.

Discussion:

Key Benefits for Designated Communities

- 1. Recognition and Public Acknowledgment**
 - Official designation as a Blue Shield community highlights the jurisdiction's commitment to public safety and effective law enforcement.
- 2. State Grant Funding**
 - In 2025, 201 communities earned the designation and received \$50,000 each to purchase law enforcement equipment and/or training.
 - For 2026, the proposed FY 2027 budget includes \$10 million in grant funding for additional Blue Shield communities to invest in equipment and training.
- 3. Equipment and Training Support**
 - Past grants funded items such as mobile data terminals, body cameras, license plate readers, ballistic vests, interoperable radios, and vehicles.
 - Funds can be used for both equipment upgrades and training programs to enhance law enforcement capabilities.
- 4. Encouragement of Partnerships**
 - The program promotes accountability, partnership, and collaboration between citizens, businesses, community organizations, and law enforcement.
- 5. Opportunity for Renewal**

- **Designated communities can apply to renew their Blue Shield status, ensuring continued recognition and potential access to future funding annually.**

Fiscal Impact:

The City of West Plains attaining the Missouri Blue Shield Designation would result in the West Plains Police Department being able to apply for and receive grant funding for law enforcement training and equipment as part of the Missouri State Governor Kehoe's Recommended Budget for the Fiscal Year 2027. In addition to Blue Shield specific grant funding the participation in the program will also benefit the agency in receiving additional grant opportunities through the Department of Public Safety. Communities will also be featured on Governor Kehoe's social media pages as well as the Department of Public Safety website to highlight their participation in the program and to provide recognition to our agency.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI, AFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY, ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE INITIATIVE TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME WITHIN THE CITY, AND AUTHORIZING THE PURSUIT OF THE MISSOURI BLUE SHIELD DESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of West Plains, Missouri, recognizes that public safety is a fundamental responsibility of municipal government and a critical component of a thriving, resilient, and prosperous community; and

WHEREAS, the protection of life, property, and the overall well-being of residents, businesses, and visitors is of paramount importance to the City of West Plains; and

WHEREAS, violent crime—including, but not limited to, offenses such as homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, and all forms of domestic violence—poses a significant threat to community stability, economic growth, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Plains acknowledges the dedication and service of its law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, and public safety partners who work diligently to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, effective crime reduction requires a collaborative approach involving law enforcement agencies, local government, community organizations, schools, businesses, and residents; and

WHEREAS, data-driven policing, proactive enforcement strategies, community engagement, and prevention-focused initiatives have been demonstrated to reduce crime and enhance trust between law enforcement and the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to ensuring that adequate resources, training, and support are provided to public safety personnel to effectively carry out their duties; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to foster a safe environment where families can live, work, and thrive without fear of violence or harm.

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri, through the Missouri Blue Shield Program, encourages municipalities to adopt enhanced standards for crime reduction, law enforcement support, and community safety; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to qualify for said designation and associated grant opportunities to further strengthen its public safety infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby establishes the following policies and goals to be followed and implemented by the City and its Police Department and law enforcement personnel:

- 1: Commitment to Public Safety

 The City of West Plains hereby reaffirms its unwavering commitment to maintaining and enhancing public safety throughout the community. The City shall prioritize policies, funding, and initiatives that support the prevention and reduction of crime, with a particular emphasis on violent offenses.

- 2: Goal of Reducing Violent Crime

 The City formally adopts the goal of reducing violent crime within its jurisdiction through measurable, strategic, and sustainable efforts. This includes the identification of crime trends, high-risk areas, and contributing factors to violence within the community.

- 3: Strategic Initiatives

 To achieve these objectives, the City shall support and encourage the implementation of the following initiatives:

 1. Data-Driven Policing:

 Utilize crime analysis, intelligence-led policing, and evidence-based strategies to allocate resources effectively and target areas with elevated crime rates.

 2. Proactive Law Enforcement:

 Increase visible patrols, targeted enforcement operations, and intervention strategies aimed at deterring violent criminal activity.

 3. Community Policing and Engagement:

 Strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the community through community-oriented policing and collaborative problem-solving efforts.

 4. Interagency Collaboration:

 Enhance cooperation with county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as regional task forces, to address crime comprehensively.

 5. Violence Prevention Programs:

 Support programs that address root causes of violent behavior, including youth engagement, mental health awareness, substance abuse prevention, and domestic violence intervention.

 6. Training and Professional Development:

 Ensure law enforcement personnel receive ongoing, high-quality training in areas such as de-escalation, crisis intervention, and modern policing techniques.

- 4: Resource Allocation

 The City Council commits to evaluating and, where feasible, allocating necessary funding, staffing, and technological resources to support law enforcement operations and public safety initiatives aimed at reducing violent crime.

- 5: Community Partnerships

The City encourages active participation from residents, businesses, schools, and civic organizations in promoting public safety. The City shall work to develop partnerships that foster shared responsibility and collective action against crime.

6: Accountability and Transparency

The City shall promote transparency by periodically reviewing crime data, evaluating the effectiveness of implemented strategies, and providing updates to the public regarding progress toward reducing violent crime.

Section 2. The City Administrator and the Police Chief are hereby authorized to pursue a Missouri Blue Shield Designation for the City of West Plains and to seek grants from the State of Missouri that are awarded to designated agencies.

Section 3. Effective Date

This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately following its passage and approval as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20____.

CITY OF WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI

MAYOR MICHAEL TOPLIFF

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK KELLIE MAYERS



April 1, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter as verification of the investment that the community of the City of West Plains has invested in our police department including the personnel, operating, and capital expenses.

From 2022 to 2026, the community's investment in public safety increased \$964,925 or 29%. The city continues to complete salary market surveys each year to ensure we pay officers at a competitive rate and the city has also invested in the L-6 tier of LAGERS retirement plan for our law enforcement personnel requiring no contribution from employees. For our police officers, this translates to a retirement contribution of 16.8% of police officer salaries. The city also covers 100% of the health insurance plan for employees.

The community invests in replacement of police vehicles, radios and laptops each year and pursues grant funding for DWI and HMV overtime expenses and related equipment.

Description	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Salaries and Overtime	\$ 1,663,267	\$ 1,759,860	\$ 1,942,572	\$ 1,987,719	\$ 2,338,010
Taxes and Benefits	\$ 674,827	\$ 765,040	\$ 834,329	\$ 864,670	\$ 1,018,230
Supplies and materials	\$ 243,827	\$ 253,038	\$ 352,823	\$ 296,063	\$ 208,940
Vehicle maintenance and fuel	\$ 108,227	\$ 133,010	\$ 135,720	\$ 138,420	\$ 104,000
Software	\$ 43,520	\$ 42,000	\$ 39,400	\$ 60,930	\$ 65,330
Contracted services	\$ 77,160	\$ 75,113	\$ 37,527	\$ 34,636	\$ 36,110
Training and memberships	\$ 60,093	\$ 62,065	\$ 41,800	\$ 60,000	\$ 72,390
Utilities	\$ 29,067	\$ 46,780	\$ 30,340	\$ 30,400	\$ 28,340
Capital - vehicles and equipment	\$ 394,939	\$ 580,180	\$ 610,210	\$ 464,369	\$ 388,500
	<u>\$ 3,294,925</u>	<u>\$ 3,717,086</u>	<u>\$ 4,024,721</u>	<u>\$ 3,937,207</u>	<u>\$ 4,259,850</u>

Thank you for your support of the West Plains Police program. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at earlene.rich@westplains.gov or by calling 417-256-7176 ext. 2209.

Regards,

Earlene Rich

Finance Director - City of West Plains, Missouri

Description	2026 Budget
Salaries and Overtime	
SALARIES	\$ 2,428,010
OVERTIME WAGES	\$ 146,000
R-7 CONTRACT REVENUE	\$ (175,000)
LABOR SALES	\$ (61,000)
	<u>\$ 2,338,010</u>
Taxes and Benefits	
FICA	\$ 195,640
LAGERS	\$ 62,500
LAGERS-POLICE	\$ 366,130
MEDICAL INSURANCE	\$ 379,700
DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 11,460
LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 2,800
	<u>\$ 1,018,230</u>
Supplies and materials	
UNIFORMS	\$ 40,500
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 4,700
BREAKROOM SUPPLIES	\$ 2,000
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 900
HARDWARE AND BLDG SUPPLIES	\$ 700
PHOTO SUPPLIES	\$ 1,500
PRINTED MATERIAL	\$ 1,500
SMALL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,000
SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES	\$ 8,000
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPLIES	\$ 93,980
DOG FOOD AND EXPENSE	\$ 7,500
SWAT	\$ 9,930
PRISONER MEALS AND EXPENSE	\$ 17,000
MULE STATION EXPENSE	\$ 7,730
BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS	\$ 1,450
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	\$ 2,250
SIREN MAINTENANCE	\$ 7,000
POSTAGE	\$ 300
	<u>\$ 208,940</u>

Description	2026 Budget
Vehicle maintenance and fuel	
VEHICLE & LARGE EQUIP MAINT	\$ 20,500
TIRES AND TUBES	\$ 8,500
GAS AND OIL	\$ 75,000
	<u>\$ 104,000</u>
Software	
SOFTWARE LICENSE AND MAINT FEE	\$ 64,330
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,000
	<u>\$ 65,330</u>
Contracted services	
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 454,000
GRANT REVENUE	\$ (440,890)
BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINT	\$ 17,500
VETERINARIAN EXPENSE	\$ 2,500
PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$ 2,000
PHYSICALS	\$ 1,000
	<u>\$ 36,110</u>
Training and memberships	
DUES AND MEMBERSHIPS	\$ 57,390
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 15,000
	<u>\$ 72,390</u>
Utilities	
PHONE AND INTERNET	\$ 21,840
UTILITIES AND REFUSE	\$ 6,500
	<u>\$ 28,340</u>
Capital - vehicles and equipment	
NON-CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 10,000
MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT	\$ 10,000
EQUIPMENT	\$ 46,710
VEHICLES	\$ 276,000
LEASED EQUIPMENT	\$ 45,790
	<u>\$ 388,500</u>

Total 2026 Budget - Police Department \$ 4,259,850