

History:

The present site of the City of Eureka, Missouri, had already been a settlement for many years when, in 1853, a railroad engineer found a valley through the hill country and a construction site was set up on the site. The Missouri and Pacific Railroad surveyor used the name "Eureka", in the same manner as the early Greeks used the exclamation upon finding a precious gem.

Eureka was formally incorporated on April 7, 1954. In 1958, the City established the Police Department and enacted ordinances which allowed for an elected City Marshal. On June 1, 1958, Charles Branson was elected the first City Marshal/Chief of Police, a position he held until retiring in April, 1985 (27 years). Robert Maness, Asst. Chief of Police since 1966, was elected the new City Marshal/Chief of Police. On his retirement in 1987, the current Chief of Police, Michael Wiegand was elected to the City Marshal position.

The total patrol area now covers 9.35 square miles including the Six Flags St. Louis theme park. Over it's nearly 40 year history, the department has grown to include it's own jail, as well as Canine, Tactical, Bicycle Patrol, Motorcycle Patrol and Detective units. Originally served completely by the county, the Eureka Police Department now contracts for only communications services.