



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 in the valley. 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, Assistant 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 A. 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 its nearly 60 year history, the department has grown to include its own jail, canine, bicycle patrol and detective units. Originally served completely by the county, the Eureka Police Department now contracts for only communications services.