

2007 / Fiscal Year 2008 Priorities

Funding Increases for Law Enforcement

To support law enforcement in Missouri, Governor Blunt recommends:

- \$8.1 million to begin implementation of a statewide interoperable radio system that will improve communication and public safety. The system will make sure law enforcement, public safety workers, and local officials can better communicate during an emergency or natural disaster.
- \$3.5 million to expand state crime lab services in the City of Springfield and Jasper County.

2007 Legislative Priority

Guaranteeing Missourians the Right to Protect Themselves

Governor Blunt believes strongly in our 2nd Amendment rights. Emergencies and attacks on one's home or vehicle are tragic and terrifying reminders of the need for self protection. Governor Blunt recommends legislation that:

- Expressly prohibits law enforcement from taking guns from law-abiding citizens during a state of emergency.
- Allows citizens to remain in their home or vehicle and defend it against attack if they believe their life, or their dependants' lives are in danger.
- Prohibits a property owner's liability for injuries and harm sustained by an attacker.

2007 Legislative Priority

Good Samaritan Protection for Volunteers in Emergencies

Licensed health care providers volunteering within Missouri may be deployed to provide health care at alternative care sites necessitated by a declared emergency. The Governor proposes legislation to ensure that deployed volunteers will not be susceptible to lawsuits for acts or omissions performed while they are serving in an emergency capacity, unless damages are caused willfully and wantonly.

2007 Legislative Priority

Death Penalty for Those Who Kill Law Enforcement Officials

Those who murder law enforcement officers should be held accountable to the highest level of the law. To provide a further deterrent to violent action against law enforcement, Governor Blunt recommends legislation that requires the death penalty as a mandatory sentence for anyone who murders a law enforcement official.

Protecting Missourians

“Our law enforcement officials help keep our children and communities safe from crime and drugs like methamphetamine. We are committed to providing the tools they need to protect Missourians.”

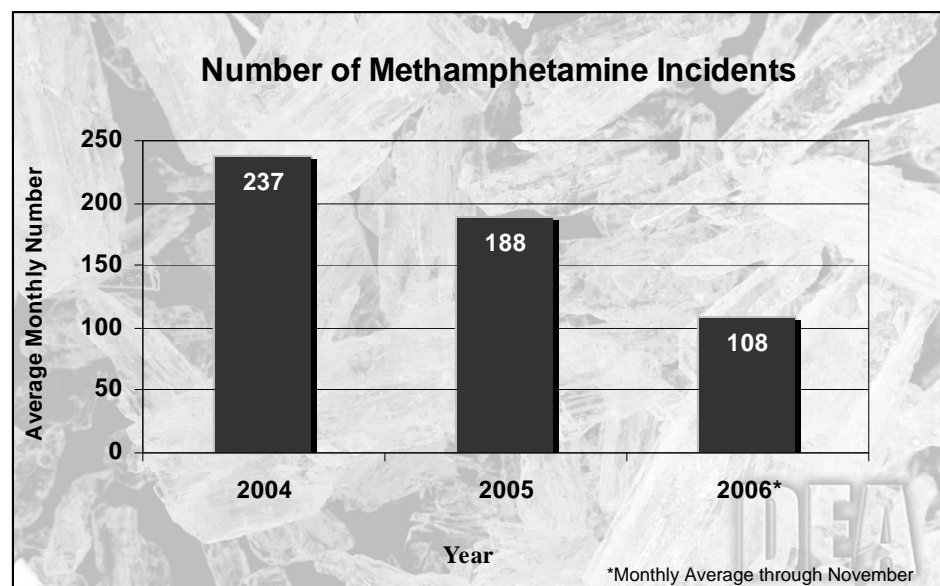
- Matt Blunt

2006 Successes

The Continued Success of Missouri’s Meth Law

In his first year in office, Governor Blunt signed legislation aimed at slowing and ending Missouri’s meth crisis by restricting access to the materials used to make meth, and enlisting the help of Missouri pharmacists to track who is purchasing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. Numerous law enforcement officials and other innocent adults and children had been lost to this crisis, and Missouri far outpaced the rest of the nation in meth incidents.

Now, a full year after the passage of Missouri’s new meth legislation, Missouri’s meth incidents have decreased significantly.



Implementation of Jessica’s Law and Global Tracking

Protecting children is one of the most important roles of any government. In 2005, Governor Blunt signed legislation establishing a global position tracking program for sex offenders. In 2006, the Department of Corrections began piloting global position tracking technology in supervising 90 high-risk offenders in 12 Missouri communities.

In 2006, the Missouri General Assembly passed, and Governor Blunt signed, Jessica’s Law legislation. The heart of House Bill 1698 is the creation of a mandatory minimum sentence for those who commit the most egregious of all felonies—forcible rape or forcible sodomy against a child younger than 12. Persons convicted of these crimes will receive a sentence of lifetime imprisonment with a minimum of 30 years served in prison, without eligibility for probation or parole. In addition to the mandatory minimum, persistent sexual offenders will be supervised for the duration of their natural lives by the Department of Corrections, and under this new law, suspended imposition or enforcement of sentence is not permissible for the crimes of forcible rape and forcible sodomy. This provision is particularly important. The Highway Patrol has record of more than 200 offenders who have received a suspended imposition of sentence for forcible rape or forcible sodomy. Some of these crimes were committed against children and some were committed with weapons. Many of these offenders served little or no time in prison. This is simply not acceptable and will not be allowed under the new law.

**Missouri’s sex
offender
website can
be found at:
www.mshp.dps.mo.gov**

HB 1698 also strengthens the sex offender registry. With nearly 11,000 people currently on the registry, the new law makes the registry a better tool for parents and other caretakers to protect their children. The bill requires offenders to report every six months and provide an updated photo each year. Additional information is being placed on the Highway Patrol’s sex offender registry website, including the nature and date of all the qualifying offenses, temporary and work addresses, and a description of offenders’ vehicles.

The new law specifies that the crime of sexual misconduct with a child can be committed over the Internet and adds the crime of attempting to entice a child. It does not allow offenders to use a defense that the victim was a police officer acting as a child. These changes, signed into law by Governor Blunt, provide comprehensive changes in Missouri law to keep our children and communities safe.

Missouri State Response to Natural Disasters

There were several major severe weather events during 2006. All were managed by the Governor and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). There were major thunderstorms during March 2006 that affected a large portion of Missouri. Only to be followed by tornadoes and further severe thunderstorms in early April 2006. Severe thunderstorms struck Missouri again in July 2006, wreaking havoc in St. Louis and causing over 500,000 households to lose electricity to their homes during an oppressive heat wave. Executive agencies helped to maintain public safety and coordinated the purchase and delivery of tons of ice, food, water, and generators to ease the suffering of citizens.

After a record snowfall on December 1, 2006 during extreme cold temperatures, the Blunt Administration proactively provided essential services and supplies to the St. Louis region, after over 250,000 households lost electrical power to their homes. The Administration provided 20 generators, tons of food, and truckloads of water and helped establish warming centers along with volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross and Americorps.



DNA Testing

The Department of Corrections took on a monumental task beginning January 2005. As directed by law, the department began collecting DNA samples from all incarcerated offenders and offenders under the supervision of Probation and Parole. During 2006, the department completed the collection process.

Through its collection efforts, the department has contributed to the investigation of 589 unsolved criminal cases, including the pillow case serial rapist in Kansas City. The department accomplished this massive collection of DNA samples with existing resources; no new funding was required.

Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS)

Information is just one of many important tools that law enforcement uses to keep Missourians safe. To provide greater access to information on offenders in Missouri, the Department of Corrections has recently developed, and put into operation, a notification system which is provided to local enforcement agencies throughout the state at no charge.



The LENS Program allows law enforcement to access Department of Corrections offender information (both institutional and community supervision) online. The department has received excellent feedback from local law enforcement agencies on this online service.

Improving Missouri's Move Over Laws

In 2006, Governor Blunt signed legislation that stiffened penalties for failure to yield to a law enforcement official or failure to comply with Missouri's Move Over Law. Several tragic incidents involving law enforcement officers who lost their lives during traffic stops or while directing traffic at the scene of an accident have occurred in the past few years. The families of the law enforcement officials who died in these tragic accidents served as vital advocates for the additional penalties for reckless driving and failure to comply with the state's Move Over Law. As our law enforcement officials put their lives on the line to protect Missourians, this new legislation serves as a reminder for all Missourians to slow down and yield to law enforcement officers working to keep our roadways and communities safe.