

# APPLICATION



City Name City of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Population ☒ Under 10,000 ☐ Over 10,000 Specific Population 9,353

Supreme Court District ☐ Northern ☐ Central ☒ Southern

Category ☒ Public Safety ☐ Planning & Economic Development ☐ City Spirit ☐ Public Works

Title of Entry Bay St. Louis Police Department

Description of Project The City of Bay St. Louis built a new \$5 million police department facility, which opened in December 2023.

Project Summary (use additional pages if necessary) see attachment

Signature of Chief Elected or Appointed Official

Please provide the following information in case of questions about the application.

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Title City Clerk

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## **Mississippi Municipal Excellence Award Application**

### **CITY OF BAY ST. LOUIS NEW POLICE STATION**

The new Bay St. Louis Police Department, which opened in December 2023, marks a significant improvement over its predecessors. Prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Bay St. Louis Police Department was located at 310 Old Spanish Trail inside the Valena C. Jones building along with the fire department and public works for over 30 years. After Hurricane Katrina, the building sustained major damages and was declared as surplus property. This location now serves as home to the Hancock County Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast, and the City of Bay St. Louis provides this free space for this wonderful organization to operate.

The police department then operated out of an older Coast Electric building located at 698 Highway 90 until around 2017. Operations were moved again due to the building deteriorating. The police department split its operations between Bay St. Louis Fire Station One and Two and were operating out of small offices. In 2018, the deteriorating police department building was demolished due to mold. With operations split while at the fire departments, the police department moved its operations into the first floor of the Bay St. Louis City Hall, which was still less than 2,000 square feet of usable space. This space was utilized by daily patrol operations, investigators and administrators, but IT was nowhere near the space needed for adequate service to the public.

Mayor Mike Favre and city staff diligently pursued funding for the new police station, leveraging various source and received a lot of help from the coast State Legislative delegation. The new building is 10,000 square feet and provides modern and spacious home for the Bay St. Louis police officers for generations to come. The police department marks a significant advancement in public safety and law enforcement for the city of Bay St. Louis. The new building has room for daily patrol operations, a private citizen walk-in reporting office, a booking area, administrative offices, investigations division and interview rooms, a training room, space for event planning, evidence storage and processing rooms and many other tools used daily to provide public safety.

The project cost \$5.4 million and was funding with city general funds plus \$3 million in Gulf Coast Restoration Grant Funds. The facility was dedicated in honor of former Police Chief Douglas Williams, who was appointed as the first black police chief for the City of Bay St. Louis and served as chief from 1976-1984. In addition, the city placed two memorial stars in the sidewalk in front of the building to recognize Bay St. Louis Sergeant Steven Robin and Officer Branden Estorffe, who both died in the line of duty on December 14, 2022.

















