



# OZARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Charles R. Ward, Director & Chief of Department

Headquarters: 275 North Union Avenue, Ozark, Alabama 36360

**Michael Bryan**  
Deputy Chief  
Police Services

**Jason Maertens**  
Deputy Chief  
Fire Services

Deputy Chief  
Emergency  
Medical Services

## **\*\*Golf Carts on City Streets: Important Information for Ozark Residents\*\***

The City of Ozark has legalized the use of approved low-speed vehicles, primarily golf carts, on city streets with speed limits of 25 mph or lower. However, operating a golf cart on public roads is not as simple as hopping in and driving off. The integration of these small, low-speed vehicles alongside full-sized cars, SUVs, and large trucks necessitates certain responsibilities and adherence to regulations.

### **Inspection and Registration Process**

To operate a golf cart legally on city streets, the following steps must be completed:

1. Schedule an Inspection: Contact Captain Glenn Peters at (334) 774-2644 or via email at [g.peters@ozarkal.gov](mailto:g.peters@ozarkal.gov). Inspections can be conducted at your residence in Ozark or at the Ozark Police Department.
2. Pay Registration Fee: Pay the annual registration fee of \$75.00 in cash or by card at the Ozark Police Department. Upon payment, you will receive a registration decal, which must be affixed to the bottom driver side window. This decal is valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

### **Required Safety Equipment**

As outlined in City Ordinance, your golf cart must be equipped with the following safety features:

- Headlights
- Taillights
- Brake Lights
- Operational horn
- Red reflectors (one on each side and one at the rear)
- Parking brake



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- Windshield
- Seatbelts for each seating position (lap or shoulder)
- Vehicle identification number
- Valid driver's license
- Unobstructed rear visibility
- Mirrors (driver's side exterior, passenger side exterior, and interior rearview)
- Valid insurance (which will be verified during the inspection)
- Cart roof
- Operable brakes
- Steering wheel
- Tires in good condition
- Front corner amber reflector tape
- Rear corner red reflective tape
- 14" x 16" Slow Moving Vehicle reflective triangle sign mounted to the back of the cart
- City of Ozark annual registration sticker affixed to the bottom driver-side windshield

## Important Considerations

Carts must comply with all traffic regulations and are strictly prohibited on streets with speed limits exceeding 25 mph, as well as on, over, or across any state highways. This includes thoroughfares such as Broad Street, which is classified as a highway.

## Permitted Areas for Operation

Golf carts are permitted only on city streets with a speed limit of 25 mph or lower and on paved trails.

## Additional Information Regarding the Ordinance:

All carts must be registered with the City of Ozark to be operated within the city.

Carts are allowed only on City of Ozark-owned streets that have a speed limit of less than 35 mph or on paved trails.

Operators must be at least 15 years old with a state-issued learner's permit, accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age, or at least 16 years old with a state-issued driver's license.



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Do not operate a cart under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Golf cart headlights must be on at all times.

All occupants of a cart must wear seatbelts at all times.

All children must be in a child restraint as per Alabama law.

No person is allowed in the lap of a driver.

Carts must yield the right-of-way to overtaking vehicles.

All state and local traffic laws must be followed.

Carts cannot exceed 70 dB at a distance of 15 feet when at full throttle.

On paved trails, carts must always remain on the right side, not exceed 10 mph, and yield the right-of-way to all trail users.

A copy of insurance must always be kept on the cart.

The legal representative, parent, or guardian is held responsible for any violations by a minor while in a cart.

## **Fees and Violations**

An annual registration fee of \$75 is mandatory. Golf cart operators who fail to comply with established operating requirements may face fines.

For further inquiries, please contact the Ozark Police Department. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all road users in our community.