

COMMERCE BANCSHARES INC /MO/

Form 8-K

October 25, 2004

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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**Form 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 22, 2004

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**Commerce Bancshares, Inc.**  
**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

Missouri

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0-2989

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43-0889454

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**(State of Incorporation)**

**(Commission File Number)**

**(IRS Employer Identification  
No.)**

1000 Walnut,  
Kansas City, MO

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64106

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**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**(Zip Code)**

(816) 234-2000

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**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

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**(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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SIGNATURE

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Item 8.01 Other Events

On October 22, 2004 Commerce Bancshares, Inc. issued a Press Release announcing actions taken by its Board of Directors in addition to the declaration of a regular quarterly dividend. The Board of Directors approved a 5% stock dividend to be distributed December 13, 2004 to shareholders of record on November 29, 2004 and also authorized the purchase of an additional 4,296,580 shares of the Company's stock which takes the authorization to a total of 5,000,000 shares.

The Board also determined, pursuant to the Company's By-laws, to maintain the Board at twelve directors and thereby eliminate the vacancy created by the recent retirement of Mr. L.W. Stolzer.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

COMMERCE BANCSHARES, INC.

By: \s\ Jeffery D. Aberdeen  
Jeffery D. Aberdeen  
Controller (Chief Accounting Officer)

Date: October 25, 2004