

http://www.messenger-inquirer.com/mclean_county/news/gradd-survey-falls-short-in-livermore/article_6086a87e-433d-521e-85fb-fce37c36ac0f.html

GRADD survey falls short in Livermore

By Seth Dukes McLean County News sdukes@mcleannews.com 8 hrs ago

Officials are seeking a Community Development Block Grant to help fund a new fire station for Livermore and the McLean County Eastern Fire Department.

However, Livermore and McLean County Eastern Fire Department Chief Thomas Brown and Public Administration Specialist for GRADD Skyler Stewart say they are having difficulty obtaining the information required by GRADD.

Stewart says that a requirement of this grant application is a community survey that classifies a community as at least 51 percent low-to-moderate income, which a community must qualify as in order to be eligible for funding.

"We have had some apprehension from the community in the service area because the survey asks for the resident to check their income level," said Stewart, "which is causing people to refuse the survey."

Stewart says the refusals are upwards of 80, and with a requirement of 250 surveys to complete, it's becoming detrimental to the project.

"Any time a resident refuses the survey, we must classify that person as over income for either the number of people they check in the household, or the maximum number of people if they refuse the survey altogether, making the goal of 51 percent low-to-moderate income impossible," said Stewart.

Brown says that he understands the reservations the residents might have about providing their household income on the survey.

"People get uncomfortable with it, and I totally understand that," said Brown. "If they get nervous, the easy thing for them to do is back out and say no thank you."

However, Brown says that their intentions are purely to benefit the community and increase response times as best as they can.

"We're just trying to make things better for the community and more efficient," Brown said.

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Brown says that their numbers came back just shy of 41 percent, so they are going to try and do the survey again next year in order potentially get the grant.

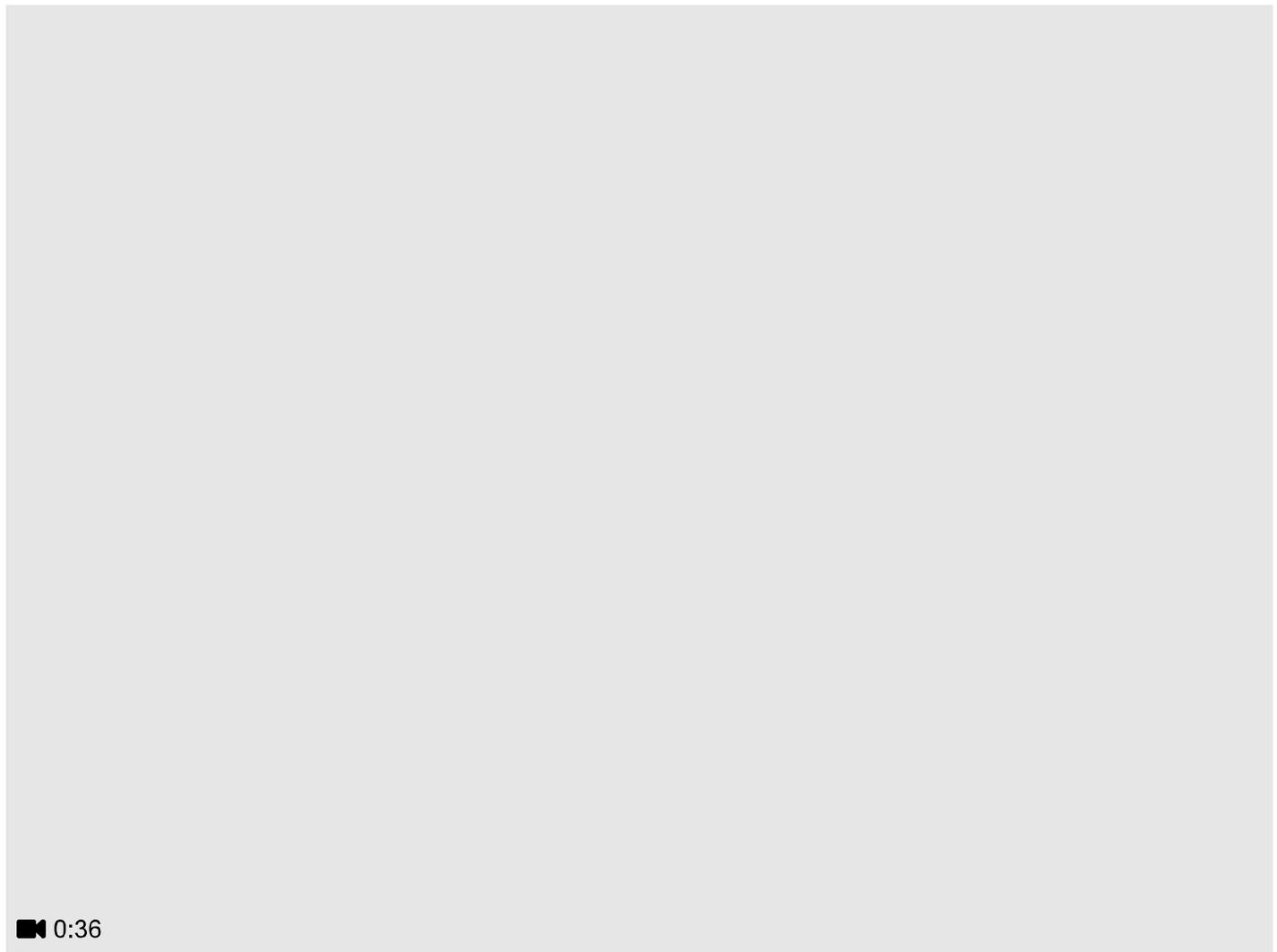
"I think we're going to give it another shot," said Brown. "I hate to give up on it. It's a great opportunity to get this money to help build a fire station. I really don't want to just throw this in the trash; I don't want to just roll over."

Brown says that they've already began the process of putting money away to help with the project, and they intend to put away as much as they can as time progresses.

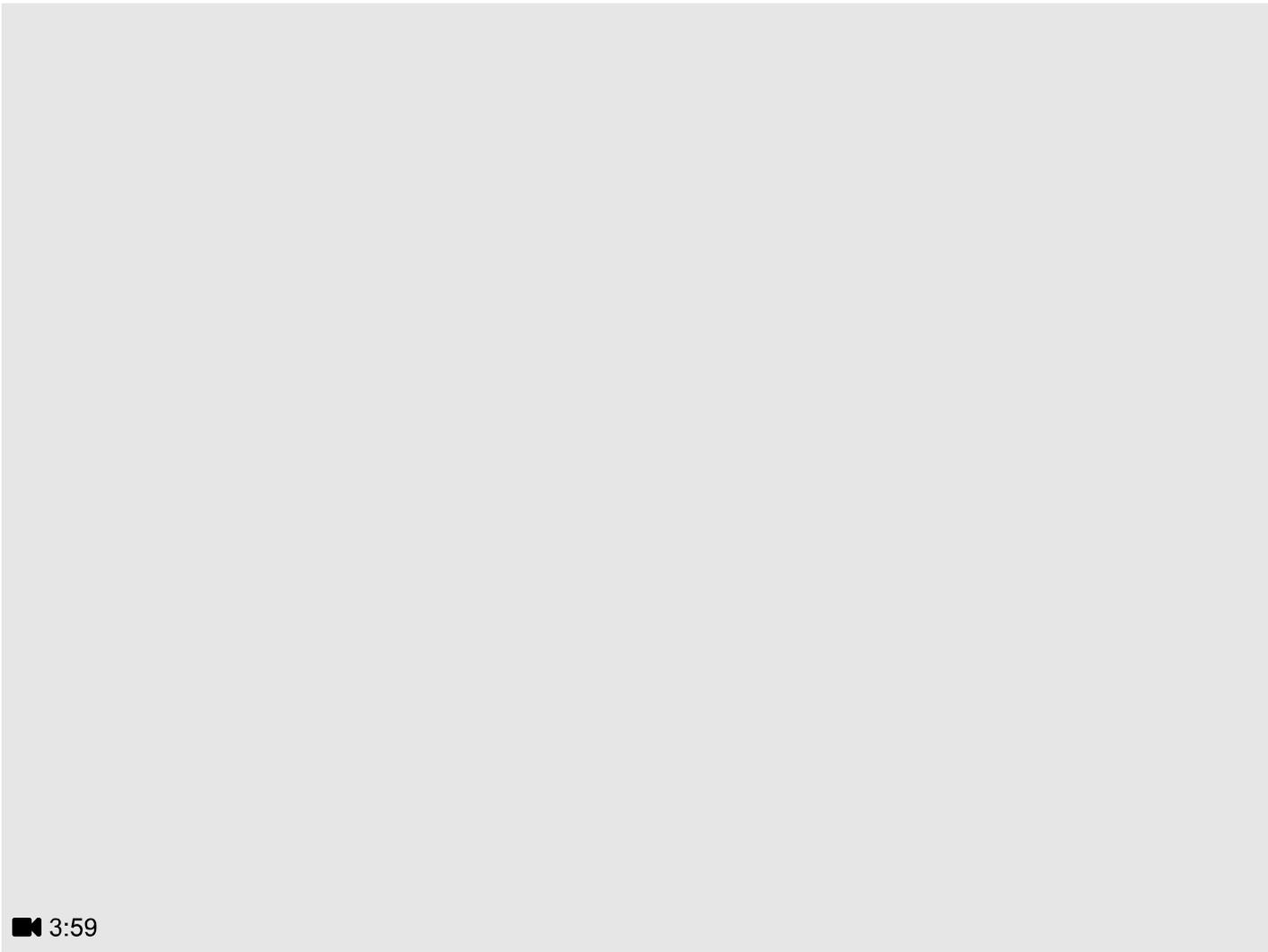
"There are some expenses that we have to pay for to stay up and running," said Brown, "but we're trying to hold as much as possible so that if and when we get this grant, there won't be a lot of money that we have to borrow."

Stewart says that the survey process will start from scratch again, which means they will have 350 surveys to complete.

Video and Slideshows



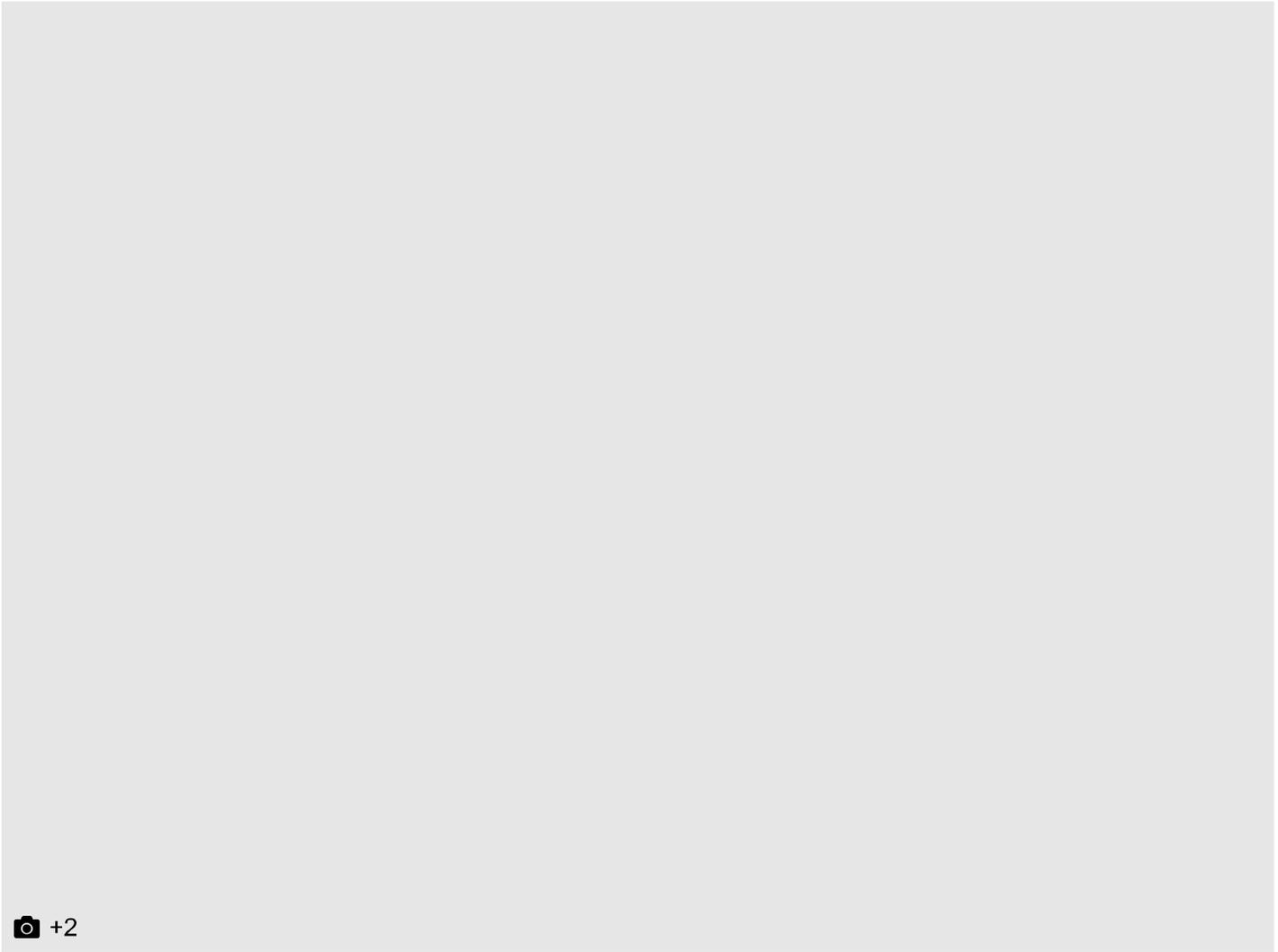
KSP jail incident



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OPD lip sync challenge

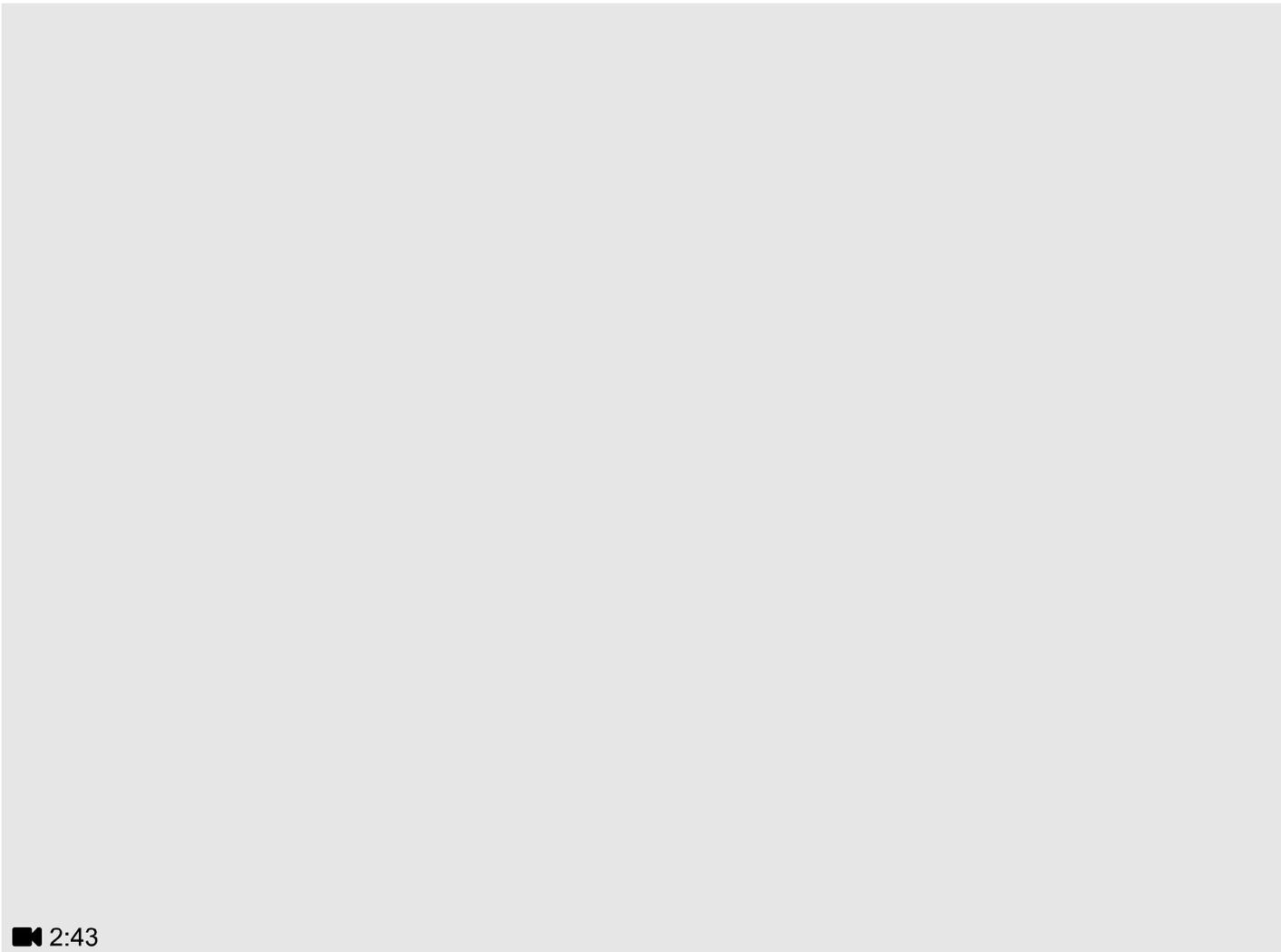




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County fair in full swing





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